

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE 6d.

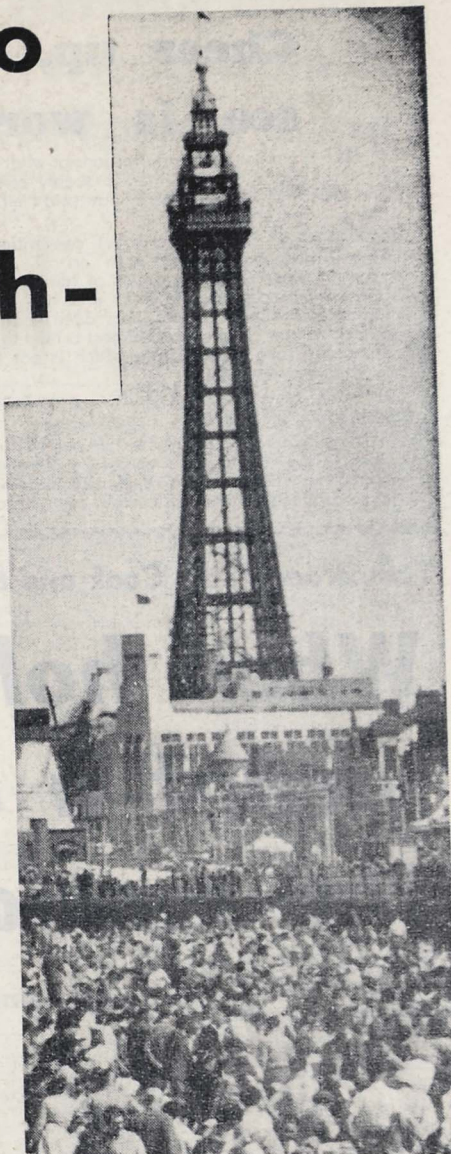
August, 1965

Incorporating National Christian News

Bistro or beach-



We save for them.
We plan them carefully.
We look forward to them.
NOW THEY'RE HERE !
So have a wonderful
time, whether you're
sitting it out in a
continental bistro,
stretched out with
the masses at
Blackpool, climbing
mountains, fishing,
snorting about in
traffic jams, or



Have a great time !

staying home to
decorate the living
room.

Inside, Kenneth Fielding
looks at the beginning of
the annual holiday convention
(page two). On page five we
present the views of some
people we met in the street
about their Ideal Holiday.



PAGE 5: THE IDEAL BREAK

PAGE 6: IS YOUR HONEYMOON REALLY
NECESSARY?

D/EX 1758/2/8

COMMENT

Cheer up, suffering-by-the-sea is worth it after all

THERE are a good many definitions of what Hell is like, and most of them probably contain an element of truth. Bernard Shaw said Hell was like a perpetual holiday.

The annual holiday is a British convention to which thousands submit with an ill grace. Women, those grand sustainers of family traditions, will recognise the man who has to be forced to buy new clothes, persuaded that the garden will be all right, and almost bribed to put a cheerful face on any scene which is not that of home or work.

He is their husband, father, grandfather, brother and neighbour.

There is great toil, greater nervous toll, and gigantic mental strain, involved in a holiday. And there is little incentive. A man is leaving home comforts for the less certain comforts of a

boarding house or hotel. It says much for his selfless spirit that he will suffer so much for the sake of his family, whose greatest satisfaction comes when they take his picture paddling miserably in the small waves.

If any further argument were needed for the superiority of man, picture this man with his socks off and trousers rolled up and ask what other creature would give up his dignity so fully for the pleasure of his dependants?

All of which is prompted by the gleam of happiness seen in the eyes of a friend who told us that this year he was a wiser man. He had discovered, he said, that the only reason people take holidays is that they generally have such an abominable time that afterwards daily life at home can never look quite as bad again.

Have a good time !!

Temperance Tom Cook and the start of rail excursions

When holidays meant a day at the seaside

BRITAIN'S PREMIER line! That was the old Midland Railway boast — and justifiably.

It was first with the loco steam whistle and first to run third class coaches on all trains. It also built the first (and only) London station based on a barrel of Burton beer as the unit of measurement — St. Pancras. The first straight-off-the-board three cylinder compound loco was Derby built.

By Kenneth Fielding

Above all, it organised the first ever railway excursion and thus began popular holidays by the sea.

The beginning was small enough. In July, 1840, the Midland Counties Railway carried, at half-fare for a guaranteed party, a Nottingham Mechanics' Institute outing to Leicester. Leicester Mechanics' Institute had a return outing in the following week.

Young Tom Cook, a south Derbyshire temperance fan, persuaded the company to organise excursion trains from Nottingham and Derby to a monster temperance convention at Loughboro'. It

was a huge success, and the beginning of the world-wide, world-famed firm of Thomas Cook and Sons.

It also taught railway directors that excursions meant money. By 1850 the day trip, as we know it, had begun — even to the frequent "more than two hours late in arrival." But today the British Rail Executive would hardly do what some Midland Counties directors did in 1842—get on a light engine and steam out to look for an excursion train sadly overdue!

Sulphur

Seaside excursions were the next development. A look at Charles Rossiter's "To Brighton and Back for 3s. 6d." (in Birmingham Corporation Art Gallery) is a good way to catch the flavour of those trips. There were open carriages, sulphur smoke, and over-tired children.

Yet, for the first time, artisan families living inland were able to enjoy the sea air in large numbers.

For many years a day trip to the sea was all that a working class family could afford by way of an annual holiday.

Back in the thirties an old lady of 70 told me of the annual outing from the Derbyshire colliery village in which she lived as a girl.

"We were up at half past four, and we started at five, with grown ups carrying their babies, to walk six and a half miles to Mansfield station. We got the excursion to Skegness. We got back about midnight, and

then we had the walk from Mansfield. That was the holiday."

Her look added: "Today, you don't know you're born!"

In the 18th century gouty gentlefolk went by coach to "take the waters" at Cheltenham or Bath. By about 1800 the future George IV had started the fashion for visits to the sea. Brighton Pavilion is his legacy to the nation.

The coming of the railways extended the possibility of travel to hundreds of thousands of people. It meant that middle class folk in Lancashire, Yorkshire and the industrial Midlands could yearly have a break from the smoke filled towns where they made their money and follow the royal seaside fashion.

By 1900 a week at the seaside was possible for better-off working class families; at least in good years. Yet as late as 1902 in a Smethwick industrial area a new church was consecrated on July 25 "because it is holiday week and everybody will be able to be present."

The change

Nowadays, on the anniversary of the consecration, all one can see mid-morning in the main street through the parish is a relief milkman and a sleepy cat. There you have the measure of the change over 50 years.

Annual seaside holidays for a large part of the population puts this country among the privileged of the world. When you are enjoying yourself (or grouching about the weather and the prices) at Clacton-on-the-Sea or Desroches-sur-Tout, spare a kindly thought for Temperance Tom and the Midland Railway. They started it all!

Away from it all....

A nap and a dream can be as exotic as a plane or a boat to those far-away places...



Methodist minister de-bees a guard's van

WHEN a swarm of bees escaped from a hive in the guard's van of a London-Workington train, they sent for the Methodist minister.

The Rev. Ian D. Sutcliffe, of the Whitchurch (St.

John's) circuit, who keeps bees, was called in by the railway police at Crewe, who had been warned of the incident. Mr. Sutcliffe met the train and within a short time he had shepherd the bees back to the fold.

Crypt Club ousts 400 graves New book has 664 hymns

Dockland's newest and most unusual youth club was opened on July 7 by Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon.

The club is in the crypt of St. Paul's, the borough's mother church in Deptford High Street.

Where family vaults stood for more than 200 years, the Royal couple watched youngsters enjoying themselves, and met the Mayor of Lewisham, Councillor Frederick Fisk, the Bishop of Southwark, Dr. Mervyn Stockwood, and the Rev. Derek Brown, rector of the parish.

Grants totalling more than £8,000 from the old L.C.C. and Ministry of Education have made the club possible in an area with few youth facilities.

A coffee bar and hall have appeared where once were 400 graves. Permission had to be sought from the Church of England authorities before they could be moved.

A new hymn book is published by the Church Book Room Press Ltd. It is the "Anglican Hymn Book."

It is an excellent compendium of hymns containing, 42 new tunes, 21 new descants, 12 new settings or arrangements and 11 new hymns. In addition, many of the hymns and tunes have been adapted by the members of the Committee. A particular feature of the book is the provision of alternative settings for the last verse of some hymns. These will attract the more enterprising organists and choirs, although in every case the simple and unadorned version of the tune is included.

There are no "pop" tunes in the book. This is not due to any objection to the use of such tunes by the Committee, but, as a book of this nature is expected to continue in circulation for twenty or thirty years, such tunes, which are popular today, would be out of date long before the book was ready to be replaced.

The music edition contains 846 pages of music, plus a further 62 pages of indexes. The words edition contains 750 pages. There are 664 hymns and 594 tunes.

"YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE!"

The old challenge in a modern context. For we need more money to help our great work progressing

Also we need more people (18 and over) to do the work of caring for children. Can you help?

National Children's Home

Chief Offices:

Highbury Park, London, N.5.





Vicar Kelly waits for take-off with some of his soldiers.

Red devil vicar and a hoodlum called Tom

TOM'S father works only when there is no alternative way of being kept. His mother loyally supports this lack of zeal. From the age of nine, Tom truanted, ran away from home, stayed out all night and got into trouble generally.

His shrewdness and intelligence won him a Grammar School place, but his cares at home put him at a serious disadvantage. Home work was impossible in the chaotic conditions in which he lived. He used his superior gifts to form a gang of his less intelligent neighbours. The rackets he devised were original and cleverly planned, particularly those involving theft from shops.

They played their rackets too hard, and Tom was placed in the care of the local authority, and billeted in a foster home.

by James
Rothwell

The next time I saw Tom was at a confirmation service. I had heard from the Children's Officer that his foster parents were giving him what he had lacked, a home where he was controlled, and that they were having him prepared for confirmation. He still, I noticed, had the exaggerated swagger

that protested, "I'm as good as anybody," but it was obvious that some of the rough corners had been sanded down.

After the service I talked to him. He spoke of no one but the Vicar. "I never knew they were so tough," he said. "He was a parachutist in the war. He didn't fight, like, he jumped with the Red Devils and stayed with them while they fought. He looks like a Vicar, but he's done everything. He goes potholing with the lads in the Yorkshire Dales, and he goes in further than anybody."

The Rev. Chris Kelly is Vicar of St. Oswald's, Knuzden, a parish between Blackburn and Accrington. He has just retired from a chaplaincy in the Parachute Regiment. It is typical of him to give up his holidays to mark his retirement by jumping with his unit over Aiden.

Cycles

Mild in manner — a parishioner says of him that he would thank you for hitting him on the head with a hammer — with a slight speech defect, he cycles round his growing parish, overcoming difficulties with the same determination that carried him through the war.

At a time when most men — he's 50 — are settling comfortably, he is running up mountains and diving into potholes with the youth club. He has three pretty daughters.

Tom is just one of many who will stop and listen to a man like this.

Parishioners of St. Catherine's, New Cross, London, have "adopted" a hospital in Portuguese East Africa by buying shares in it. They pay 5s. a quarter which goes towards the running of the hospital.

Staines Christian youth council plans to start a series of "coffee bar evangelism" evenings.

Dancing stops for five minutes at a Newcastle under Lyme Ballroom on Sunday evenings while ministers of various churches in the town give a nutshell talk. A large crowd of dancers, most of them young people, listened attentively to the first week's talk.

70-THIS WOMAN DARE NOT RETIRE

A WELFARE worker who has been "mother" to hundreds of lonely and frightened girls during the past two decades has had to postpone her retirement date because no one can be found to take her place.

Grey-haired Miss Lesley Hammick, who is more than 70, and has looked after the Kensington office of the Association of Moral Welfare for 23 years, said: "My friends and colleagues have given me a farewell party, but I cannot leave until a replacement arrives."

"I cannot allow all my work to be undone so I have been holding the fort for two months without pay."

At her office in Sirdar Road, Miss Hammick estimates she has helped about 3,500 unmarried mothers — mostly teenage girls.

They come to her in search of accommodation, adoption, advice and foster mothers for their babies. Many of the girls are Commonwealth students.

ONLY TEN

Miss Hammick said: "Of the 120 cases I dealt with last year, only 17 were local girls."

"My biggest problem is finding foster mothers. There were 140 registered foster mothers on the books when I first came here. Today there are 10."

Miss Hammick, who is a midwife, often entertains the troubled girls at her home in Kensington Park Road. At Christmas she receives dozens of cards and letters from mothers she has helped and even from the children of the mothers who are now grown up.

Rev. Brian Brown, of Haslingden, Lancashire, is Chaplain of the "Northern Pop Groups" — a number of the leading beat groups in the northern counties.

He took the job when he became interested in the problems which face young people when they set out on the road to fame. Now the groups are financing a fact finding trip to Russia for their minister. He will travel in the U.S.S.R. with a party of 27 youth leaders.

So that parents who rarely go out may attend Friday night social evenings in Priory Court Community Centre, Walthamstow, north London, a play centre is to be opened where children aged 10 and upwards will be supervised by adult helpers.

Regular worshippers at St. Mary's Beddington, Surrey, are being asked to take the forward seats in the church for the benefit of the stranger who comes in to find a "solid block of old faithfuls firmly rooted" at the back.

Norman is the friend from Halfpenny Lane

ENQUIRE about Norman Longbottom in Featherstone, Yorkshire, and the answer will be, "Oh, Norman, he's a great friend of ours."

Mr. Longbottom, former colliery official, professional dancer and now proprietor of several cafes in the area, has done much to help elderly people.

He believes the Welfare State does not go far enough. Older

NORMAN
LONGBOTTOM

Christaction

people who are in most need, he says, are often too proud to seek national assistance. "Naturally they have their independence. Ordinary pensioners are not big enough," he maintained, seated in his comfortable lounge at Halfpenny Lane, Featherstone. "In ten years or so almost everyone will have an additional pension from work, but not now."

At his cafes, pensioners can obtain a full course meal for

one shilling—a meal that costs other customers three shillings and sixpence. There is no patronage about it. It began when one of his old employees asked the price of a lunch at one of his cafes.

"Three and sixpence," replied Mr. Longbottom.

The old man shook his head. "Can't afford that," he commented.

"What can you afford?" asked Mr. Longbottom.

"One and sixpence," the man replied.

"You can have a dinner any day of the week for a shilling," Mr. Longbottom told him. "I realised that he'd feel embarrassed being the only one paying that, so I invited other pensioners to come along."

Now the cafes are regular daily luncheon clubs for up to forty older men and women. They enjoy a full meal, exchange local news, and retain that feeling of being part of the community because they are mixing with younger members of it.

Extra help

If a regular is missing through illness then Mr. Longbottom goes along to see him. Sometimes they need extra help. They may run short of coal and money is scarce to buy a further supply. Then a supply is arranged to tide them over.

"It's the least we can do," he says.

More than anything else the old people know they have friends who are interested in them as individuals, not merely pensioners.

H cards will bring help

White cards with the letter H within a sketch of a lifeboat on a white background have been distributed among 5,000 houses and flats in Eastwood ward of Southend, where many old people live.

When they see the card, members of Eastwood Good Neighbours' Association are pledged to investigate and provide every help. Postmen, milkmen and newsboys are joining in this H for help idea.

It is being organised by Mr. John Moss, of Bobsworth Road, Eastwood. Southend West Conservative Association is paying for the cards and any costs.

The Bishop of Blackburn, Dr. C. R. Claxton, attended an hour-long service at St. Alban's Roman Catholic Church, Blackburn. It was the first time the Bishop had attended a Roman Catholic ceremony wearing his robes. He entered the church with Mr. Harry Cross president of Blackburn Free Church Council and Blackburn's new Mayor, Coun. Lawrence Edwards, who had chosen St. Alban's for his civic service.

Curate and wife say it again . . .

The Rev. Michael Oatey, curate at St. Martin's Church, West Drayton, has married his wife for a second time. It was for the benefit of the church.

The Vicar, the Rev. Andrew Woodhouse, thought that arranging a wedding would be a good start to his two week "family mission" in the parish.

So Mr. Oatey and his wife agreed to be the couple. Mrs. Oatey said: "Fortunately I had not had my wedding dress cut up or altered into a cocktail dress or anything—which I was planning to do."

Mr. Woodhouse added: "We thought this was a way of getting across the pattern of family life — starting with a wedding."

The perfect host

IF he can say "time gentlemen please" in a fruity voice that combines firmness, regret, condolence, hope for the future and thankfulness for past mercies, together with the suggestion that it hurts him to say this more than the customer to hear it, then the landlord is set for success.

—Mr. W. E. Schofield, Chief Constable of Oldham.

Violets, lovely plastic violets...

WE are dogged by a vision of paved pedestrian clearways with "no waiting" signs, lengths of escalator and other railings, an Eros bordered by patches of plastic grass and tubs of hard-wearing shrubs, a wax image of Liza Doolittle beside a slot-machine from which for sixpence you can get a bunch of synthetic violets, chromium fronted snack bars and one-armed bandit galleries, neon signs approved by the Fine Art Commission, and loud-speakers appropriately singing "Goodbye, Piccadilly."

—The Town and Country Planning Association journal, on the proposed double-deck redevelopment scheme for Piccadilly Circus.

GROUP THERAPY FOR CITY

AS a result of the efforts of the Beatles and other similar groups, the gang troubles in Liverpool were reduced by 30 per cent. in a year or so. If a public-school man of 60 had achieved this, he would have got at least a knighthood.

—J. H. Fremlin, of Birmingham, in a letter to an editor.

Peril in the spotlight

I'VE lived in the same house for 10 years, had the same wife for 14, and if I had the chance of a certain kind of bright lights fame I'd reject it, if it carried the penalty of total exposure. The situation of those who live entirely in the glare of publicity is tragedy. There is no other word.

Patrick McGoochan, the star of A.T.V.'s "Danger Man."

ASK A CIVIL QUESTION...

THE United States might take Britain as the 51st State if they'd put the case civilly.

—Richard Starnes, columnist in the New York World-Telegram.

Mother tongue is punchy enough

THERE are enough words in the English language to provide punchy speech without resorting to blasphemy and obscenity.

—Mr. Sydney Newman, head of B.B.C. Television Drama.

chatstarters

Being recent quotes which are not necessarily Christian News views, but which could start useful discussions.

Colloquially speaking

N^{OO}, aw t'taxgitherers an' knockaboots crooded roond to hear Him, an' t'Pharisees an' t'Lawyers chuntered an' said, "this feller tek's up wi' good-fer-nowts an' eats wi' 'em."

—The opening of St. Luke's Gospel, chapter 15, according to a version by Mr. Kit Calvert, managing director of a Wensleydale cheese firm.

RAT RACE CASUALTIES

SOME people recoil from the effects of the relentless drive for power and retreat at the first rebuff. The most tough-minded ones usually forge ahead, but those who are left behind may feel they do not want to enter a rat race, and they adopt the attitude of "I couldn't care less." They hide their insecurity behind a defiant front.

—Dr. Samuel Neff, former Medical Officer of Health for Willesden in a book published after his death called "Search for Sanity."

Consider yourself flattened

THE photographs of the earth taken by "spacemen" are the products of camera lens distortion. The only thing that keeps me going is the hope that the younger generation will some day throw out the great mass of falsification we have been taught all our lives.

—Mr. Samuel Shenton, of Dover, secretary of the Flat Earth Society.

THE CHURCH IS FOR OTHERS

THE Christian Church exists not for the spiritual benefit of its members, but for the salvation of the world outside it.

—John MacMurray, a Quaker, in a new book, "Search for Reality in Religion."

Only war worth fighting

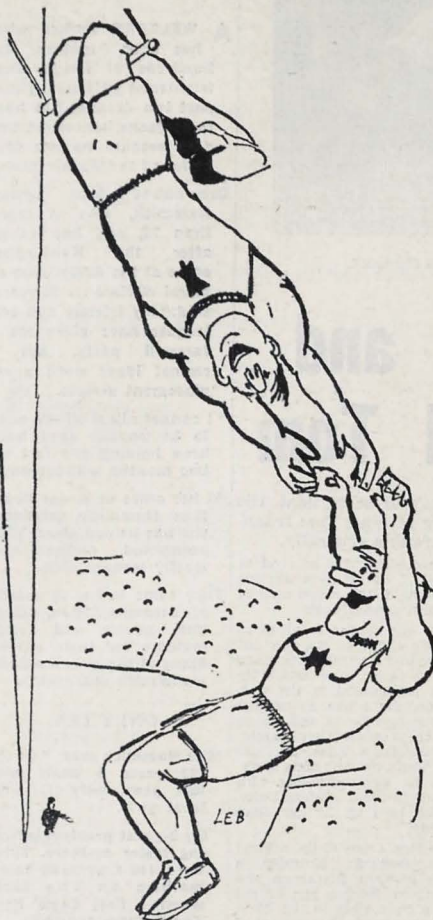
I HAVE been in both North and South Vietnam, and there is only one war worth fighting in the whole of South-East Asia. That is the war against poverty, disease and ignorance.

—Lena Jeger, M.P. for Holborn and St. Pancras.

For the sake of her faith...

I HAVE no regrets. Her last words to me were "No blood; no blood."

—Walter Stephens, a Jehovah Witness, whose 24-year-old wife died in Australia giving birth to twins. Doctors said a transfusion would have put complications right.



MIXED MARRIAGE—ROOM FOR HOPE

by Denis Rice, a Roman Catholic

RECENT debates about birth control have lacked depth when the debaters have forgotten the total context of what they are arguing about. The context for the use of sex is a meaningful personal relationship between man and woman. In Christian terms, to discuss sex is to discuss marriage.

Awareness of other sexual relationships is an important duty for the Christian; he must have understanding for the unmarried mother, the homosexual, the prostitute and the deviant. But it is in marriage that sexual expression achieves its complete meaning.

The R.C. Church consistently emphasises the religious significance of marriage. It recognises marriage fully as one of its seven sacraments by which God gives his love and life to men, and enables them to fulfil his purposes. A strict obligation

is laid on R.C.'s to contract marriage only in their own Church, before an R.C. priest. Thus the importance of marriage as a religious and social contract is marked; through the priest, the Church lays its approval on what the spouses have vowed to one another.

The rule is sometimes interpreted as indicating R.C. superiority and contempt towards marriages in non-Roman Church or register office. Contempt is not intended, nor superiority implied. What is meant by R.C. teaching about marriage may well surprise non-Roman readers.

Witness

The R.C. Church teaches that the sacrament of marriage is given not by the priest, but by the man and woman to one another. The priest is merely the Church's witness.

On a desert island a couple could marry without a priest! What makes the sacrament of marriage is the exchange of vows between two baptised persons, the vows being sealed

or consummated in the physical exchange of sexual intercourse. Refusal to consummate by one or other partner means no sacrament, however excellent the Church ceremony.

It is obvious why a blessing exists for the marriage bed—a blessing too little known; the giving of physical love is no less holy than the giving of vows before the altar.

The R.C. Church recognises as fully sacramental the exchange of marriage vows between baptised Christians of other denominations. The wedding of two non-Romans in their own place of worship, or in the register office, is a complete sacrament. Divorce of such a couple is as wrong in R.C. eyes as the divorce of two R.C.'s.

Fair-minded people concede that the deeply religious outlook on marriage maintained by the R.C. Church is one of its major contributions to Christian life and to human society.

Unfortunately this R.C. witness has sometimes been obscured for those confused about mixed marriages—between R.C.'s and other Chris-

tians. Marriage has been a major battleground for the denominations. It is inevitable, because it is in marriage that men, women, relatives and children are affected most personally by Roman rules.

Insisting that her members marry only in an R.C. Church, the Roman authorities may appear to monopolise the mixed marriage, and to reject what is religiously important to the non-Roman. The insistence goes further. If the R.C. disobeys and marries out of his own Church, his marriage is declared invalid, i.e. his Church states that no real marriage has taken place. This position leads to much personal suffering. It also produces the confusing "nullity" cases pronounced by the Vatican, and given much press publicity as "disguised divorces."

Once valid

One must note that this was not always the R.C. position. In Britain, until the famous *Ne Temere* decree of 1908, marriages of R.C.'s outside their Church were valid. As a result of current Vatican Council discussions, the pre-1908 position may soon be restored—the marriage e.g. of an R.C. to an

Anglican in York Minster would again be valid even if against the rules. This will be welcomed by most Catholics, and ought to meet with the approval of all Christians. As an aside, it is worth reporting that some examples have already occurred of R.C. and non-Roman clergy officiating jointly at mixed weddings.

The second main flashpoint of mixed marriages is that the non-Roman partner has to promise that children of the marriage will be brought up as R.C.'s. This is an immense problem in our open society of many faiths. I can say little more now than record one hopeful forecast.

Responsible R.C. commentators think that soon the Roman Church will not require the non-Roman partner to give promises. This will be a meaningful gesture towards Christian unity. But it is vain to think that it will remove the dangers to married unity that so easily emerge in a marriage between two persons who do not share their religious convictions. Mixed marriages are a problem not only for the R.C. Church but for the whole Christian family.



CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ANGLICANS
FREE CHURCH AND ROMAN CATHOLICS
OF CAVERSHAM

Holiday

MILLIONS of people in the next few months will be enjoying a holiday. This is as it should be: the housewife gets a break from the kitchen sink, and all of us benefit from a change of routine. For the town-dweller there is the chance to escape from the mad rush in which we all seem caught up. And perhaps something which we especially value today when we go on holiday, and which I notice people often mention on the many coloured post cards which reach the Rectory at this time of year, is the opportunity to be quiet.

But don't forget that the word "holiday" takes its origin from the practice of the Church in setting aside certain festivals as "Holy Days" when normal work did not take place—the holiday seasons of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun are a reminder of this.

Many people use a holiday to pursue some positive aim: the bird watcher goes off hoping to spot some rare species, the amateur painter relaxes as he paints some country scene. In so doing we find not just recreation but a re-creation of body, mind and spirit. And in this ecumenical age when more people than ever before travel abroad, a holiday may afford many Christians with a chance to learn something of the ways of Christians of other lands. Beyond finding chaplaincies in the main holiday centres the Anglican will perhaps take the opportunity of worshipping with Old Catholics in many parts of the Continent or with Swedish Lutherans with whom they also enjoy inter-communion. Roman Catholics may find sharp differences between their Church in Spain, France and England. Free Churchmen will find Reformed worship on the Continent has in it features not to be found in England: and even if we only travel to another part of England we may well find there is something we can learn from contact with the church of our own communion even though we are not many miles from home.

And for many people a holiday also provides a chance to do some reading. Most of us will want something light and look for the latest title by our favourite novelist. But with the mass of excellent paper backs can we not also take the chance of reading one book about the Christian faith? We need not even buy one for many of our churches have good libraries while the public library itself is well stocked not with dull works of theology but with exciting books about the Faith.

Have a good holiday. But when you've made up for missing sleep use it for some positive purpose.

John Grimdale

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Photo: Fred Walker
Miss Carole Barbara Simpson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Simpson, of 113, Chiltern Road, Caversham, and Mr. Nicola Paonessa, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Paonessa, of 193, Caversham Road, Reading, were married at St. James' Church, Reading, recently. They had their reception at St. John's Hall, Caversham.



'NO CHARITY RATE'—M.P.

We are very glad to be able to publish this reply from our Member of Parliament to last month's leading article. Mr. Peter Emery writes as follows:

THANK YOU for sending me a copy of your letter and asking for my comments for the July issue of "Caversham Bridge." May I say quite humbly, that I could not accept your suggestion and therefore I would not introduce a private member's bill to levy a voluntary charity rate. This may seem most unreasonable, so let me say why.

I do not believe that "charitable giving" should become a part or percentage of either government or national taxation. Nor do I believe that voluntary action to support local organisations, religious bodies, charitable concerns or even national non profit making bodies will benefit from becoming part of the bureaucratic machinery of government. Such action would sap much, if not all, of the natural enthusiasm of the people who form the driving force of these organisations. Also I think that there is a much better alternative.

THE CHEST

In certain communities in various parts of the world there is a centralisation of all the charitable appeals under one committee. Many names are used; the one I like best, used in parts of New England, is "Community Chest." The work of filling the Community Chest is undertaken once a year for three or four weeks often during the month of October. All leading persons in the community participate and often every single person in a town is contacted. Here the points that you make in your letter come

into play. As there are no other flag days or appeal days, everyone is likely to respond. As every organisation is covered from the Red Cross to the Youth Clubs, the natural energy and enthusiasm that these bodies can engender for such an appeal is remarkable. When the period of appeal for funds is over, the "governors" of the Chest arrange for its distribution, by a judgement of need, to any organisation who asked to be considered before the annual appeal was started.

This scheme keeps the necessary voluntary nature, it ensures that people play a part in the appeal, it brings home to the community the extensive nature of the work and the large number of bodies carrying on public and charitable service and it frequently raises much, much more money than anyone would believe.

ACTION?

So, I am sorry that I reject legislation for charity. I only hope, however, that your letter having sparked off my "jumping into print" may initiate action amongst many other people.

PETER EMERY, M.P.

Frustrated teenagers?

WHILE NOT wishing to dispute many of the facts given in "That Teenage Problem" ("Caversham Bridge," June), I feel them to be incomplete and the conclusions drawn far from the truth.

"Young people are sexually mature at 16"; agreed, but is not adulthood as much, if not more, a question of mental maturity? For example is the motivation behind certain University "Rag" activities completely free of the factor of immaturity? Teenagers are thus sexually potent but not mature enough mentally to cope with the problems that, unfortunately, so often arise because of it.

The writer continues, "A teenager is sexually potent between the age of 14 and 17, but by present day standards is denied the use of these powers because he is still classed as a child. This is the cause of frustration: frustration leads to delinquency." As for the cause of frustration, the evidence would point us to quite the reverse. Teenagers who are labelled "delinquents" (dare I mention Clacton, Brighton or Great Yarmouth?) are so often found to have the most freedom, not the least. I am sure, too, that

the sexual freedom allowed to young people in Sweden is the major cause of the frustration and boredom so rampant there. In the same issue of "The Bridge" I read in the column headed "Talking Point": "Sex is exploited and made to become the means of animal self-gratification rather than what God intended it to be, the expression and fulfilment of abiding and unselfish love." Isn't this nearer the mark? The more sexual liberty that can be, and is taken because of the freedom given, the less the satisfaction that is obtained out of it.

The amount of freedom that teenagers should be given is difficult to define. If too little is allowed, a reaction against parents results, parental control is lost and the same situation as complete freedom is obtained. Somewhere between the two lies the optimum, but what rules can tie it down exactly? In fact, of course the problem is a very deep one, and the whole question of bringing up children from age nought becomes involved.

Yours, etc.

B. PILGRIM.

OUR LIBRARIES

UNDER the heading of "Natterbox" in last month's "Caversham Bridge," Katie Russell deplores the poor quality of the amenities of Reading. Amongst other things she complains of the "poorly stocked libraries."

Is she aware that for many years the amount spent by Reading out of the rates on books per head of the population has been considerably higher than that of the average library throughout the country? Obviously it is impossible for any one library to meet every demand, so each one, Reading included, is in

touch with all public libraries throughout the British Isles and can borrow from them any particular book it does not happen to stock: certain libraries specialising in certain subjects. This co-operative arrangement amongst public libraries, instituted many years ago, means that some five million volumes are available to any one library.

So cheer up Katie Russell, I hope you will sometimes have the library book you wanted under your arm when you "crow" along the banks of the Thames—Reading's ONE great asset.

R. H. HASLUCK.



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THREE HAPPY FESTIVALS

THE THREE June patronal festivals on the feasts of St. Barnabas, St. John and St. Peter were all happy occasions. Bishop Lash made a long journey from Truro to preach at St. Barnabas, while the following week his old friend who had worked with him in Poona, the Rev. Jack Winslow came for St. John's Day.

There was a wonderful congregation at St. Peter's with 229 communicants (in its history of nearly 1,000 years has this number ever been exceeded on this day?) and the Dean of Windsor's sermon on the ministry is one which deserves to provoke further study and discussion.

On all three nights our choirs worked hard and a special word of thanks is due to them and also to servers, flower decorators and caterers. These three Parish Communions showed Anglican worship at its best—both Catholic and also Congregational.

After leaving the Rectory 33 years ago it was good to see Mrs. Wood back again with many of her old friends. And who had the bright idea of giving us ices in Balmore Hall?

Don't forget there is still one more patronal festival when we come to St. Andrew's on November 30.

Holiday hints from St. Barnabas

AUGUST is the holiday month for most of us—especially those with families of school age—and so we sally forth hoping for good food, comfortable beds, lots of sunshine and no unpleasant insects!

May we suggest that members of the congregation do as many did last year—send us a post card (preferably coloured) of wherever they are holidaying? These will be displayed at coffee after the 9.15 Eucharist on Sunday mornings. This helps to emphasise our family connections as a Christian congregation—and also helps to have a little share in everyone's holiday. Please send your card care of the Priest-in-Charge at St. Barnabas' House.

There will be no meetings of the Mothers' Union during this month—nor of the Coffee Pot—nor of the Post Confirmation Group, except for Saturday afternoon tennis as announced in the weekly notices.

Improvements to St. Peter's Sanctuary

PLANS for improvements to the sanctuary in St. Peter's have been prepared by Mr. G. W. Judd, the church architect, and these will be considered by the District Committee at their next meeting. If they are adopted it is obvious that the sanctuary will be given a less cramped appearance, and the effect will be to lighten the east end of the church. One merit of the scheme is that no great expense is involved, but even so it is doubtful if, with the many other claims upon us both in the parish and beyond, we ought at this time to spend money from general funds. One or two kind offers have already been made and if more are forthcoming it should be possible to make these much needed improvements without more than a trivial expense falling upon district funds.



Photo: Fred Walker.

Busy month for St. Anne's Church

BLESSED Sacrament Procession: On June 17, the feast of Corpus Christi, the annual procession of the Blessed Sacrament from St. Anne's Church through the school grounds to the convent garden took place. On the convent terrace Benediction was given from a temporary altar decorated by the nuns, and the procession then re-formed and returned to the church.

Parish Garden Fete: Organised by the men of the parish, the Garden Fete was held in the school grounds and raised the sum of £180 which will swell the funds of the proposed Parish Social Centre. Though perhaps a little less financially successful than other fetes, the organisers can take great credit for the most socially successful event for many years. The children especially were well catered for with a Children's Corner and a trampoline, which was in constant use. There were races for

all ages from five-year-olds to grandparents. Teas, minerals and ices were provided and even the sun added its quota to the general enjoyment of a "parish get-together."

First Communicants: On Sunday, June 20, 49 children of the parish, instructed by Sister Marie Perpetua, made their first Holy Communion at the 9.30 a.m. Mass. Formerly, the children went as a class to Communion and later breakfasted together in the School Hall. For the last three years Family Communions have been introduced. Each child is accompanied to the altar rails by parents, brothers and sisters, and then returns home with the family. In this way the family share more closely in this great day of a child's life. One child, awaiting her father's return from France, received her first Holy Communion on Sunday, 27th. Another will attend a Ukrainian Mass at St. William's, whilst three more, laid low by measles will wait for July 11.

Certificates of First Communion were presented to each child by Reverend Mother. May the joys of their great day be with all the communicants throughout their lives.

Scouts in camp

St. Peter's Scouts have been busy in July preparing for their summer camp in Devon. And the successful Whitsun camp proved invaluable training in this respect. This year it was held at Bottom Farm, Mappedurham, thanks to Mr. Lindley who allowed us the use of his land. Once again the Troop was lucky with the weather. At the same time the Cub Pack went for a week's holiday, joining a Bristol Pack at Brent Knoll in Somerset. One result of this has been that several parents have remarked on the increase of the appetite of their sons.

Methodists at cricket

There will be a cricket match between Caversham and Caversham Heights Churches on September 6 at Kidmore End Cricket Ground — by kind permission of the Kidmore End Cricket Club. The match will start at 6.30 p.m. and refreshments will be served. There will be a collection (in true Methodist fashion) for the Galloway Tree Common Chapel Trust Fund.

Building new churches

The Sunday School will reopen after the summer break on Sunday, September 12.

The gross takings at the Summer Fair amounted to £182. After the deduction of £20 for expenses the remainder was given towards building new churches in the dioceses of Oxford and St. John's, South Africa.

IDEAS FOR ST. JOHN'S YOUTH CLUB

TEN members of St. John's Youth Club went to the Diocesan Youth Festival at Henley. In spite of heavy rain at the beginning it was a great success. Activities included a contest between group instrumentalists and singers, beat groups, judo, archery, trampoline and canoeing displays. The Mayoress of Henley judged a fashion parade of girls modelling their own work. There were also exhibitions of crafts and photography. Ideas are brewing amongst club members to take on one or two of these activities.

A happy day was completed by the Bishop of Oxford leading a procession through the streets to the Parish Church for a service of thanksgiving.

NO SMALL CHANGES NEEDED

A group of men and women have tried the study group material called "No Small Change" on themselves: to judge from the laughter the six sessions have not only been profitable but thoroughly enjoyable. Now some of them are relaxing, while others are hard at work changing it to suit the needs of St. John's. The next step will be for the original group to discuss their proposals with others from the rest of the parish, and to plan with them the course for use in the whole parish during part of the autumn. Meanwhile quite a large number of additional leaders must be found.

THANK YOU

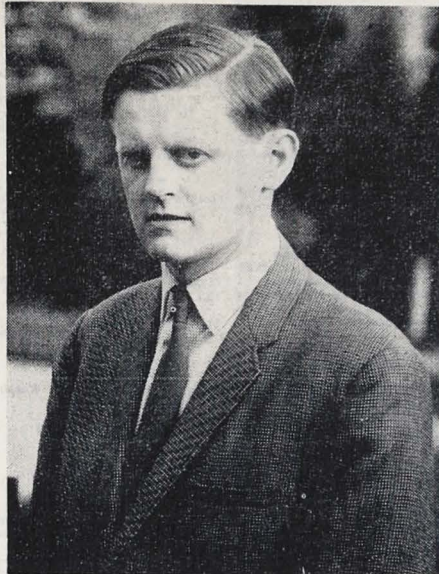
For health reasons Mrs. MacGregor has had to give up being Brown Owl of the St. John's Brownie Pack. We would like to place on record our appreciation of her past efforts for the Pack, and to wish her a speedy recovery to full health. We are glad to say that she will continue to help with the Brownies, and will in future be known as Wise Owl. Mrs. Nicholls is the new Brown Owl.

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU

It is with great regret we say goodbye to Winston and Joyce Chandler and their children, who are moving to Peterborough. But we congratulate Winston on his new post in the Hospital Service.

They have only been here three years, but in that time they have contributed much to St. John's. Winston has served on the P.C.C. and District Committee, he has been a most efficient secretary of this last since March; he has been a visitor and the Recorder of Planned Giving, as well as being a sidesman and the Junior Church organist. Joyce is a founder member and the treasurer of the Wednesday Group. Its members wish them both "God speed" in their new home and thank Joyce for all the work she has done for the group and in the Sunday creche.

THEY BRING YOUR 'BRIDGE'



Photos by Fred Walker.

Doreen Jobbins is Caversham born and bred, and lives in the same house in Donkin Hill that she did as a child. Before her marriage she was a Sunday School teacher; now she is busy looking after her two-year-old daughter, and delivering newspapers in Donkin Hill. She is an energetic member of the Wednesday Group.

Robin Smith lived in Shiplake until his marriage, where he sang in the choir as man and boy. He now lives in Mayfield Drive, and amongst other things delivers the "Bridge" in Valentine Crescent. He says he enjoys doing this, and that about half the homes in his beat take the "Bridge." He is also a Sidesman and a member of the Men's Fellowship.

NATTERBOX...

Have you noticed your housekeeping allowance buying less each month? One food that remains cheap is the egg. The problem is to find new and tempting ways to cook it.

I am offering a SAINSBURY'S 20s. gift voucher for the most interesting of your favourite egg recipes; and another 10s. voucher for the best way of using eggs and yolks separately in two different dishes.

Entries should reach me by Monday, August 23 and results will be published in the October edition of the BRIDGE. Winners will be advised by post beforehand.

Please mark each entry clearly with your name and address. There is no limit to the number of entries per person.

On the subject of eggs: I see that SAINSBURY'S are now packing ALL BROWN eggs in separate, labelled boxes. They tell me it's because of popular demand.

I gather that until the Company took this practical step, many women scrambled among the boxes and transferred eggs in order to get six brown ones, often causing damage.

The extra charge for ALL BROWN eggs? 2d. a dozen, quite a lot for the colour of the shell, and an increase brought on entirely by the whim of the housewife herself.

Foster parents are urgently wanted in Reading. This is one way homeless children can get a taste of family life and I would be the first to commend it as a vital job to be done in the community.

But the money offered to do this job is quite unrealistic. The borough Children's Department offers between 2 gns. to £3 10s. per week from the age of 0 to 18 to pay for food and clothes. To keep a child in a local authority hostel costs approximately between £8 and £10 per week. These figures are regional, not local: the borough has to keep in step with Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire.

These authorities must realise that 70s. a week is completely inadequate. A foster mother expends sufficient time,

energy and affection without having to be penalised financially as well. Fostering should be made at least as profitable as taking in lodgers, a job which takes far less effort. If foster mothers were paid 5s. an hour for an eight hour day, they would still be working a lot of hours free of charge.

I say pay a foster mother £8 a week — and let the Children's Officer weed out those who want to do it for money only. I don't think there would be many who would.

If you have any comments or views of your own, send them to me c/o The Rectory, Caversham. Katie Russell.

Round the clubs

Members of Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild were very pleased to be able to send a gift of £20 to the Samaritans resulting from a recent jumble sale.

The Guild does not meet during August but will be pleased to welcome new members on September 16 when Mrs. M. Crapnell will speak on "The Romance of Inn Signs."

THIS PLEA IS URGENT

The Borough Children's Officer has asked us to give publicity to the urgent need for more foster parents. The Children's Department has approximately 200 Reading children in its care. While the majority of these are already with foster parents there is a great need for more foster parents for children who are at present in children's homes, and also for parents who would take children who are in care for a short time only. Anyone who feels that they may be able to help should contact the Children's Officer, 22, Market Place, Reading.

SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Gladys Green who was accidentally killed on Friday, June 25. Our especial sympathy goes to Mr. Harry Green who at the time of writing is in hospital.

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David Stewart Cox, Caroline
Margaret Herbert, Joanne Hinton,
Tracey Patricia King, Kim
Valerie Kislingsbury.

St. Andrew's
June 13: Benjamin John
Nicholls.

St. Anne's
June: Linda Alice Mul-
cahy, Martin Joseph Durkin,
Claire Joan Berkeley, Anna
Maria Breadmore, David Shaw.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS
METHODIST CHURCH
June 27: Alison Jane Buck-
ley.

CAVERSHAM METHODIST
CHURCH
June 27: Peter David Mace.

MARRIED
St. Peter's
June 19: Edward Hortense
Yearwood and Jane Olwilde
Lewis.

June 26: Michael John Goss
and Margaret Susan Smith.

St. John's
June 26: Ronald William
Pocock and Sandra Patricia
Ward.

St. Andrew's
June 1: Clive Richard
Vaughan Thomas and Christine
Primrose Denne.

June 12: Frank Frederick
Hounsom and Vivien Sybil
Clarke.

June 19: Anthony Burton
Sanders and Diana Jones.

June 26: Martin Freeborn
and Elsie MacKinnon Mac-
Allister.

BURIED
St. Peter's
June 9: John Baylis.
St. John's
May 31: Edward Bunce.
June 17: Hester Maunders.

CAVERSHAM METHODIST
CHURCH
July 1: Gladys Geen.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St. Peter's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION
11.00 a.m. Matins
12.15 p.m. Holy Communion
(1st and 3rd Sundays)
5.50 p.m. Evensong (1st Sunday
5.15 p.m.)
11.00 a.m. Sunday School.
Infants - Hemdean
House School
Juniors - Balmore
Hall

St. John's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST
5.50 p.m. Evensong (2nd Sunday
5.15 p.m.)
11.00 a.m. Sunday School
Infants - Church Hall
Juniors - The Church

St. Andrew's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.45 a.m. Holy Communion
5.50 p.m. Evensong (3rd Sunday
5.15 p.m.)
11.15 a.m. Sunday School
Church Hall

St. Barnabas'
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST
5.50 p.m. Evensong (4th Sunday
5.15 p.m.)
9.15 a.m. Sunday School
Church Hall

St. Margaret's
Mapledurham
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
(2nd and 4th Sundays)
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION
6.50 p.m. Evensong.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St. Anne's
8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11 a.m. 7
p.m. Mass
Our Lady of Caversham
9.30 a.m. Mass
(except 1st Sunday
when at 8.30 a.m.)

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Sunday, after Morn-
ing Service 3rd Sun-
day
2.45 p.m. Sunday School

North Caversham
10.45 a.m. and 5.50 p.m. Worship
Communion after ser-
vice on 3rd Sunday

METHODIST
Caversham Heights
11.00 a.m. and 5.50 p.m. Worship
10.15 a.m. Sunday School
Senior Dept.
11.00 a.m. Sunday School
Junior and Primary
Depts.

Gosbrook Road
11.00 a.m. and 5.50 p.m. Worship
11.00 a.m. Sunday School

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CAVERSHAM

Aug. 1. Mr. L. R. Ash	11.00 Rev. E. R. Bishop
Mr. P. Smith	6.30 Mr. P. W. Button
Aug. 8. Rev. E. B. Wright (1)	11.00 Rev. D. Hindle
Rev. P. W. Luxton	6.30 Rev. E. B. Wright (1)
Aug. 15. Mr. R. A. Gray	11.00 Rev. E. B. Wright
Mr. E. M. Johnson	6.30 Mr. J. Wells
Aug. 22. Mr. D. Tomlinson	11.00 Rev. E. B. Wright
Rev. E. B. Wright	6.30 Mr. R. A. Gray
Aug. 29. Mr. P. W. Painter	11.00 Rev. J. O. Cochran
Rev. H. R. Tourtel	6.30 Mr. T. Joy

Notes: (1) Holy Communion

CAVERSHAM NORTH BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

PREACHERS FOR AUGUST

Morning	Evening
1 Mr. J. Marell	Mr. J. Marell
8 Mr. K. Woodham	Mr. P. Elford
15 Mr. L. Carter	Mr. R. Price
22 Mr. W. Prior	Mr. W. Prior
29 Mr. P. Colyer	Mr. P. Colyer

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11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

August
1—Rev. L. S. Lewis.
8—Rev. L. S. Lewis.
15—Rev. L. S. Lewis.
22—Rev. L. S. Lewis.
29—Mr. P. Warren.

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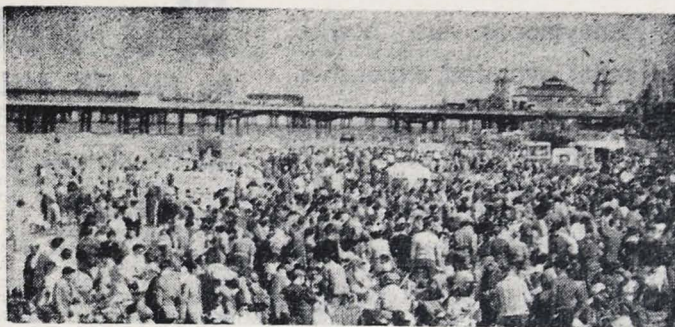
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LOOKING AT THE SEA . . .

AGE 57. OCCUPATION: INDUSTRIAL SECURITY OFFICER.

Says: My idea of a good time is to go to Cardigan Bay and take a boat trip all round it. We're going to Wales this year, and I shall simply put the cases down and go and look at the sea for two or three hours. It's the quietness I like — because it's a change from the city. I never saw the sea until I was 25, but it's my idea of complete relaxation—just to look at it.



NOW IT'S THE CHILDREN

AGE 26. OCCUPATION: MOTHER, HOUSEWIFE.

Says: A really good time used to be a round of golf. You don't get much time with the children to look after, but of course I don't mind that. We're off to Spain for two weeks with the oldest daughter. It may be costly, but you can count on the weather being fine.

HAPPIEST AT HIS WORK

AGE 56. OCCUPATION: MEDICAL X-RAY OPERATOR.

Says: Frankly I'm at my happiest when I'm working. That's my idea of having a good time, because I enjoy it so much. I suppose I'm just lucky, because there don't seem to be many people who enjoy their work. I am entitled to six weeks' holiday, but I never take more than two because holidays are a nuisance. We have a little place at Sandwich where we go for a holiday, and I've had my dream holiday—in Italy with my wife and two children. It was fine, but I was glad to get back to work.



Having a wonderful time — or are they?

Christian News staff went into the streets to ask passers-by about their dream holiday, and what they thought were the ideal conditions in which to relax.

None of them mentioned milling about on a beach, like the people pictured above.

But millions do it, just the same.

'Ain't life funny?



FISHING IS MY FANCY

AGE 19. OCCUPATION: TRAINEE ESTATE AGENT.

Says: Fishing is my fancy. The ideal holiday would be to go to Scotland and catch salmon and trout. Being with other people, at a party, say, is when I'm at my happiest. People round about my own age. On the other hand I can be just as happy fly fishing on my own.



DREAMS OF ISRAEL

AGE 21. OCCUPATION: COMPTONER OPERATOR.

Says: I've read the book "Exodus" and my dream holiday would be in Israel. I've heard so much about it and I'd just like to fly there and have a look. Second on the list is Scandinavia, which always sounds to me a wonderful area. Relaxation?—dancing, pop and ballroom, and walking.



GOING ROUND THE PUBS

AGE 18. OCCUPATION: BRICKIE'S LABOURER.

Says: A good time is having a drink with the boys in a pub. I like going round the pubs because they've all got different atmospheres, and different people. If I had a dream holiday it would be hitching round the Continent, especially Germany, because I'm told they have even better pubs there.



LISTENING TO RECORDS

AGE 25. OCCUPATION: STUDENT OF BANKING.

Says: When I relax I sit down and listen to records. Mostly pop records. If somebody told me I could have a fortnight's free holiday I'd go to Switzerland. I have friends there, and it's a wonderful country.



NEW PLACES, NEW PEOPLE

AGE 71. OCCUPATION: GRANDMOTHER AND HOUSEWIFE.

Says: If somebody put the money up I'd go to America. I've relatives there I haven't seen for years—that would be nice. There's nothing better for me than seeing places and meeting people.



WALK IN THE COUNTRY

AGE 21. OCCUPATION: CHARGEHAND, ON NIGHTS.

Says: I think of a good time as being able to get into a car and drive off to the country, and then have a walk around. I'm working too hard saving to get married to get out much. If I could I'd like to go to America and have a look at it. Can't think why, but it's just something I think I'd fancy.

Honeymoons are horrid, essential, overated, expensive, disasters, or the happiest time of a life.

ARGUMENT asked for two views for and against the practice of lengthy honeymoons.

And we asked the Marriage Guidance Council to referee...



After the glamour and excitement — the danger of anti-climax.

She never stopped crying...

by FRANK MILES

TO be absolutely practical about it, orthodox honeymoons are horrid, and the sooner we drop the practise from the catalogue of civilised institutions the better we shall all feel.

Here is a couple. They are, fortunately, marrying each other because they are in love. They have been sensible and saved up their money so that they have a home of their own and enough furniture to give them a start. Her mum cashed an insurance policy to pay for the reception and so forth.

And when they came to add up what they had left, they thought it would just about be possible to take a plane to Majorca for two

weeks to give their marriage what they thought would be the ideal start.

So they flew out, confetti in their hair, and stars in their eyes. It was the first time they had flown; the first time they had been abroad; the first time they had been together for longer than a day, and the first time they had been to bed together.

So much

And as she said when she got back: The first week I didn't really stop crying.

And as he said a year later: Honeymoon? Don't remind me of that!

The human system is built to stand only so much at any one time. It is asking too much of it to

undergo all life's disasters at once. And it is just as crazy to expect it to put up with all its joys at once, too.

Getting married is wonderful. Going abroad is wonderful. Having no work to do is wonderful. But put them all together and one of two things will happen.

(1) Trying to make the most of all three will lead to mental and nervous exhaustion.

(2) Enjoying one of the three will exclude full enjoyment of the other two.

Being married is normally so fraught with emotional side effects that most young couples don't mind where they are. Being abroad is so full of fascination that it ought not be masked by any

preoccupation.

Any lengthy holiday, at home or abroad, after marriage, is a waste of time and money. Marriage and holidays are two occasions which give the greatest pleasure to human beings. Too many disillusioned newly weds returning stunned from their honeymoon hotels prove that you don't increase pleasure by merely doubling its causes.

My recipe for a best start for a marriage?—a mere weekend away from home; then three months later a cracking good week in some exotic place.

It's easier on the nerves, the purse, and the memory.

Leisure is an essential...

by HAROLD JEFFREYS

YES, your honeymoon is really necessary—make no mistake about it!

Between the single and the married state there is a great gulf fixed, and no matter how well this man and this woman who are coming together in holy matrimony know each other—or think they know each other—there's the heck of a lot they both have to learn.

Most of this learning will be done in the early years of marriage, and some of the lessons won't be learned in a lifetime, but some of the basic things not only can, but should be learned, on a honeymoon.

I'm tired of hearing people on the defensive against the age in which we live saying that sex is not the most important side of marriage. They are wrong, because in the early stages it most certainly is. Not in itself, that's

absolutely true, but certainly in its influence on the total partnership.

A physically happy marriage is far more likely to weather cheerfully the squalls of two people adjusting themselves to the problem of living permanently under the same roof, than one that is physically unhappy.

Granted this, the honeymoon, for those at any rate who have reserved their experiences of love making for the married state, becomes a necessity and not a luxury. A necessity because you can't learn the art of physical love in a weekend; but you can clear up some of the basic difficulties in two weeks.

Why not two weeks at home?

Because this lesson needs to be learned in an atmosphere of leisure and relaxa-

tion. If things don't go too well in the first few days they are not helped by the additional frustrations and worries which accompany the early days of setting up a home.

Marriage is a spiritual and physical relationship and marriages are built, not issued as a free gift with the wedding ring. Like all buildings, it needs firm foundations, and it needs care. A rushed job is usually the first one to show cracks in the ceiling.

Humdrum

The prettiest time can be the transition from the glamour and excitement of the wedding to the humdrum round of routine existence. Immediately after a wedding most couples are pretty exhausted and there is a terrible danger of everything falling flat. A holiday where they can be con-

stantly together in their new relationship with nothing else to bother them, where they can savour the fun of the wedding and preserve some of its glamour, is surely just the thing that is wanted.

A good honeymoon comes as a perfect link between two very different types of existence and will long be remembered as something very special.

Of course the honeymoon has its dangers. People are often very stupid. They travel too far, spend too much and think everything is going to be bliss from the start. Too often it is looked upon as a cross between a status symbol and a sex orgy, and the real point is lost.

But for most happily married couples the honeymoon is something that is looked upon with great joy and gratitude — and not a few laughs.

Why follow the Jones's?

by ANGELA REED, of the Marriage Guidance Council

KEEPING up with the Jones's is a pretty silly occupation, and it has become even more widespread in the so-called affluent society. It is rather sad when it comes to affect personal affairs like weddings and honeymoons. It is however a hard fact that over £30 million is spent on weddings every year in this country — excluding the honeymoon, and several million more can be added on the bill for this item.

And where does this money go? Into the pockets of caterers, photographers, florists, dress-makers, hoteliers and travel agents. The very smallest share of all goes to the church or register office in which the only essential part of the wedding has taken place. It would be interesting to know how much money is spent on advertising the paraphernalia of weddings, and on inducing people who cannot afford it to have a white wedding and an expensive honeymoon because it is "the done thing."

It is so often forgotten that the only thing that really matters when two people marry is their happiness. The smallest and simplest wedding is just as important to the two people

concerned as the very largest and grandest, and whether or not they have a honeymoon is also entirely their affair. There is no need to have a honeymoon at all, but some couples think that they must do so as the rest do—often egged on by their parents.

From a purely practical point of view it would be stupid for a couple to have a honeymoon if they can't afford it, especially if they are going to move into a home of their own. If they do this instead, then it's a good idea for them to have at least a few days away from work and really relax together. After all, the main point of a honeymoon is being married and being together and having the chance to get to know each other completely in an atmosphere of peace and quiet. But it doesn't matter where.

STRANGERS

The importance of a honeymoon is sometimes exaggerated in that couples are led to expect that their first physical union will give them joy and ecstasy beyond anything they have ever dreamed of. But two strangers meeting for the first time cannot find out all about each other in one

brief meeting and it is the same with the sex relationship.

When the bride and groom are left alone after their wedding, however long they may have known each other, they are strangers to the intimate relationship of marriage. Far from being led to expect a honeymoon with instant success in their lovemaking they should look forward to it as a time of getting to know one another physically, making love freely but unselfishly and not worrying too much if their first sexual experiences are not entirely satisfactory.

It will be quite natural if both are a little shy and clumsy. As Dr. Mary Macaulay says in the booklet "Sex In Marriage" it is very much like learning to dance. "If a man and woman have never danced together before, they are bound to take a little while before they can follow each other's movements perfectly, and in making love too it takes practice to make perfect."

Most couples will find that time and patience and consideration will cure any difficulties which they may have in the early days of marriage. If however this does not happen they would

be well advised to seek the help of a marriage counsellor through one of the 116 marriage guidance councils now scattered all over the country. They can get the address of their nearest council from the National Marriage Guidance Council at 58, Queen Anne Street.

DECISION

Whether or not to have a honeymoon is entirely a question for the couple themselves and it is a pity if they are led to think that they must have one just because nearly everyone else does. Unfortunately one can almost hear the gossip — "Fancy them not going away at all!" ... "He can't think much of her if he can't give her a honeymoon" ... "Her sister went to Majorca for hers."

This is one of the first of many decisions they will have to make in their life together, decisions about family planning, about money, bringing up their children. If they talk everything over in a completely frank and commonsense way and reach their own conclusions they will be far more likely to find true happiness than by following just wherever the Jones's may lead.



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BOOK LETTERS ONLY PLEASE

THE HIGH DRAMA OF SILENT FILM

THERE are people who would suggest that words have served us far from well. It is possible for quite simple statements to convey meanings contrary to the writer's intention. The clumsy use of words may convey less than what is necessary; and expert use of words may convey much more.

These thoughts occurred during a recent TV film in which there was an extremely long silence. It did not take any spoken utterance to jockey our emotions along, and in the end the screen's achievement was my forehead beaded with perspiration.

Do we in fact get nearer to true reportage where words are scarce and pictures dominate? The coverage of Vietnam immediately becomes realistic when the savage film comes through. There were complaints about news bulletins containing film of a rebel being executed in public.

SHOCKED?

The complainer said it shocked children. I don't think it did; children can absorb a good deal of that kind of thing. It is far more likely to shock adults, because they have evolved a defensive covering against ideas purveyed in words. Now that they come in pictures the strain

is almost intolerable.

On a lighter level, but just as significant, I find myself becoming more and more furious with television commentators who will not stop talking while the action moves along. If we had paid, for example, to go into Wimbledon, we would not thank anybody for chatting to us in moments of high tension. The drama speaks for itself. Words are an intrusion.

COMPLAINT

A friend remarked recently that when he turned off the sound during a cricket commentary he turned up instead seemed to bear no resemblance to the game that he could see on the screen.

He was all for writing to somebody to complain. But I can't believe that the skilled reporters were deliberately telling lies about what they saw, any more than football reporters really describe different games than the one seen from the terraces. It all illustrates the enormous care I must take in choosing words, and it illuminates the problem of communication where the only means of communication are words.

In the next life I am sure they order things differently.

WHERE TEENAGERS ARE A THREAT

MIXED-UP teenagers are a danger to young children being brought up in council run homes, says the children's committee of East Sussex County Council.

In a report the committee stresses that because of a shortage of places for psychiatric treatment "adolescents who are a danger to themselves and to other children have to be accommodated indefinitely in children's homes."

Miss Joan Copper, children's officer, said, "Some of the chil-

dren in need of psychiatric treatment — their ages range from 14 to 17 — are so emotionally disturbed that their behaviour is bound to have an effect on others."

Mrs. Rosemary Crawley, chairman of the children's committee which controls 14 homes for children aged from five to 17, said: "The real problem is that children who need psychiatric treatment need it at once and because of the shortage they cannot get it quickly enough."

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What should all that housekeeping money cover?

Asks Joan Best

HOW many husbands pay the heating and lighting bills? More often than not the housewife has the job of budgeting the family income for all necessary outlays, while the man is happy to take his pocket money and leave the routine payments to her.

I can't help feeling this is why there wasn't more of an outcry from domestic users when electricity charges in the Midlands went up by around 12 per cent, not long ago, or at the

recent announcement that they would be increased by about 11 per cent in the London area. As long as they had their pocket money, the breadwinners couldn't have cared less.

So as a housewife I'm glad to hear that at last there seem to

be signs that something might be done about it. It has been suggested that the increases in electricity charges might be referred to the Prices and Incomes Board.

Increasing

This is a revolution in consumer protection. I'll now it looked all too easy to run a microscope over any of the actions of a free-enterprise firm, but impossible to scrutinise a nationalised industry. It is argued that the responsible Minister, on our behalf, acts as watchdog, but if this is true, he does it so privately that no one can see justice being done.

Yet it is far more important that the nationalised industries' prices should be subject to impartial examination than those of free enterprise firms. Nearly all the State industries products or services are basic factors in the costs of the rest of industry. The increase in British Rail charges for carrying shellfish from the crofter fishermen in the Highlands and Islands, for example, puts a big load on a commodity which must in general go long distances to market.

The State industries' prices have an important effect on our cost of living: every time they force it up a little more, the housekeeping money stretches a little less far.

Look-on mums

WITH IT, switched-on and plugged-in, mums will soon be thinking about their daughters' winter wardrobe. One comparative newcomer on the designing scene has just presented her autumn and winter range of clothes for "people between the ages 2-5 years old." Elizabeth Designs is the name that young designer/mother Elizabeth Brett uses for her clothes.

Her latest collection is full of warm washable clothes that any small girl would enjoy wearing, and living in. There are tunics and clouses in off-boat colours; there is a raglan-sleeved dress with stitched dart detail on seams in white or fuchsia; there is a Jacmar wool dress with deep granny lace collar and cuffs — both detachable — in aubergine or chartreuse; and a white jacquard design on navy dress gives the effect of a fishnet overlay. For the five-year-olds who go for the skirt-and-top look, there's a Courtelle fleece cuddleskirt and for the trouser-suit gang — girls and boys — there is a battledress zip-front jacket, lined in cotton, there are long trousers, and a striped shirt to go with it.

If daughters want to follow mother's fashion tracks exactly they can do so in a tunic of specially-designed and dyed striped plazer cloth in emerald/purple or amber/purple on white; both are made in adult or child's sizes.

What are you having for tea?

WITHIN OUR OWN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (Note that, not from England or Australia with its plethora of food) has come the first step to overcoming poverty on its own efforts, a Tribal Poultry Co-operative.

"This started life as a despairing resolution on the Parish Committee Agenda. It is now a profit-making industry within people's capability, after some initial assistance. Did I say some? Acting as manager of a poultry farm of 500 layers has given me more sleepless nights than all the other health activities put together!"

The truth

And if that does not challenge you to think about your own work for the Family of God, does this story challenge your faith? "A deaf Brahmin boy in S. India who had learned photography, and built his own house put up over the door a picture of our Lord. His family tried to restrain him but he says he is going to worship what he knows to be the truth."

It is nearly ten years since he left the Christian School for the Deaf, so if he has come to this decision now it shows that he means it.

"We can never train what the world counts as leaders, but is it possible that boys like this may prove to be of even greater influence? I do not know. It may be THAT THIS IS WHAT WE ARE HERE FOR."

What are we here for?

A letter from Auntie Julie

DEAR children,

In many ways life is much easier now than it used to be for our great grandparents. They had to make the bread with dough, in ovens by the side of their fires. Now we have sliced bread delivered to the door!

They had to go and fetch water in buckets from the well. We turn a tap and there it is — and probably much safer to drink than it used to be! I am writing to you with a typewriter. Not very long ago I would have had to use a quill pen, and that would have taken a good deal longer!

One of the worst things about the old days, of course, was that they hadn't got very good lights in their houses. There were candles and oil lamps, but frequently the poorer people couldn't afford such luxuries. So they simply went to bed!

Think of that—having to go to bed at four o'clock in the afternoon because there was no light in the middle of winter! You would have hated that. Why, today, children's television programmes don't even start until five o'clock!

DIFFERENT

If you had been born 100 years ago your life would have been very different, and I don't believe you would have enjoyed it very much. But, of course, they didn't know how much nicer things were going to get. I mean, if you have never seen television you don't really miss it.

I wonder what children will think 100 years from now about us? An Auntie Julie yet unborn will probably write to them and say: of course, the poor children in 1965 only had television and radio controlled toys to play with; nothing like the times WE live in.

But the children of 1865 were very happy in their own way—and you can be sure they didn't waste a minute of their time, and were kind and helpful and considerate. They wouldn't have been children if they had sat around and moped all day!

All my love,

AUNTIE JULIE

Marjorie Moore's

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THAT FIGHT: ADKINS NEAR THE MARK?

Dear Sir,

It was very interesting to read what Ernest Adkins had to say about the Liston-Clay fight in your edition for July. This thought had occurred to me, that Clay had some kind of hypnotic hold over the man Liston which reduced him to a cypher.

I looked in all the national newspapers for a columnist who would expound this theory, but did not find one. It seems perfectly obvious to me that human events must be seen by professional commentators to fall into a pattern of preconceived expecta-

tions. Nobody is prepared to admit that forces are at work which they do not yet understand.

To dismiss a fight like this with cliché-type superlatives like "fantastic" or "unbelievable" and then forget about it leaves us fretting on square one.

Ernest Adkins is always worth reading, and often starts a useful argument in my local.

Yours sincerely,
A. E. REDMAN.

Leeds.



The power is there, inside us ...

IMPOSSIBLE? IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME

by Ernest Adkins

IT is gratifying to have Mr. Redman's comments. My thoughts about the Liston-Clay fight may properly be taken now into other areas.

When, in 1954, Roger Bannister became the first man known to have run a mile in less than four minutes, he did more than establish an athletic record; he created a new conception of man's physical capabilities.

Prior to Bannister's first sub four minute mile such an achievement was thought to belong to the realm of science fiction and boys' comics.

If, it was argued, such superb athletes as Wooderson, Haegg and Anderson could not break the four minute barrier then it must be an impossibility. Bannister demonstrated that the so called barrier was one of the mind and not the body, and once it was broken it ceased to exist. Superior training methods were held to be responsible for the initial breakthrough, but in retrospect this can not be so.

Commonplace

Training to the athlete is very much an individual process, and a variety of methods and techniques has now produced a list of runners who have reduced the sub four minute mile to the commonplace. Bannister's breaking of the mental barrier is the most dramatic single event in sporting history, and

it has resulted in a very interesting revision of existing standards.

In spite of what older people may say, man now runs faster and jumps further and higher than his predecessors. Indeed in every sport where it is possible to record these things he continues to surpass every previous best.

We are now beginning to realise that success on the athletic field requires more than physical prowess. The mind as well as the body must be conditioned for the task.

Scepticism

Michel Jazy, the record breaking Frenchman, speaks of being "mentally equipped" to run. Peter Snell and Ron Clarke have both made reference to the need to resolve inner problems and tensions before being able to achieve anything much on the track.

These are exciting times. A man may be as excellent as the challenge confronting him demands. Subconsciously, human beings will be able to push themselves to achievements which at the present time may be regarded with scepticism. If we want to do these things with sufficient urgency, the power is there, inside us, to get them done.

I believe that in my lifetime—I'm not 40 yet—we will see a three minute mile. Go on; laugh. Twenty years ago we'd have split our sides at what Jazy has just done to the four minute barrier.

AND THE IDEA OF EIGHT MEN DOING A SUB-FOUR MINUTE MILE IN ONE RACE WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED LUDICROUS.

Christaction

Funds totalling £3,500,000 are being sought by the World Council of Churches from its more than 200 Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox and Old Catholic member Churches to finance a new five-year Programme for emergency action in Africa.

**Never
again
will I
make
vows like
these**

by William
Marshall,
"Daily Mirror"

THERE I stood, near the font, vowing to renounce the Devil and all his works. And the carnal desires of the flesh.

The vows were being made in the name of a burbling baby at a baptism ceremony. They meant that I was becoming a godfather.

But never again. For I'm no angel.

And I find that, when weighed up coldly, the responsibilities so readily assumed by a godparent are shattering.

Staggering

I had solemnly undertaken to:

PRAY for the baby.
SET him a good example by my way of living (a show-stopper this).

SEE that he is brought up to follow the footsteps of our Lord.

ENSURE that he is taught the Faith.

TAKE CARE that he is brought to the bishop to be confirmed.

ENCOURAGE him to become a regular communicant.

A set of staggering responsibilities indeed. I am sure I will not be able to discharge them.

I am also sure that there are thousands of godparents who have felt as bothered about this as I feel now.

The vows and the solemn declarations are surely not meant to be taken lightly.

Yet does anyone seriously try to honour them?

A friend with similar doubts put them to a priest.

And the priest said a godparent could be sort of split down the middle as it were.

All a godparent had to do was try to show the child the correct path to take ... even if he himself had taken the wrong ones.

Saddened

My friend told me afterwards: "This was no answer."

"I never saw my godchild after the baptism."

"But years later, when I was reminded about her, it saddened me."

"I had done nothing for her."

"I had taken no interest in her."

"I have never become a godparent again ..."

I revealed my doubts to the father of my godchild. He said: "Yes. All true. But you've got a few principles."

"And I like the ones you have ..."

WOMAN IN FOREST HUT SHOCKS A COUNCIL

"I've been here ten years"

A 52-YEAR-OLD woman's home is just two miles from the centre of a busy Essex town, yet she lives in a "wilderness."

For ten years Mrs. Annie "Betsy" Buckley has lived deep in the heart of Thorndon Park estate woodlands; and a Brentwood Council public health official admitted: "We never knew anyone had lived in the forest for so long. This situation will have to be investigated."

Mrs. Buckley's home is a ramshackle, corrugated iron shelter with a blanket slung across the entrance and bricks and lumps of concrete on top of the roof to prevent it being blown away.

Old pram

During the day Mrs. Buckley trundles an old pram around Brentwood keeping her husband's rag-and-bone trade going while he recovers in hospital from a heart complaint.

Mrs. Buckley admitted: "I certainly wouldn't live under these conditions if I didn't have to."

"We were married 27 years ago and I started life like any other housewife. We had a house in Gravesend down in Kent."

"I was perfectly happy there for eight or nine years. There was shopping to do and neighbours to gossip to. Then we went on agricultural work in Wiltshire and after that we were never able to settle down."

Fell to bits

"We eventually landed in the forest here. We had a caravan at first but when it practically fell to pieces my husband built a shelter and here we have stayed."

Mrs. Buckley said her husband had permission to camp in the forest. "In return he acts as fire watcher," she said.

She went on: "But I would just love to get away from all this loneliness and be a normal housewife again. When I go on the rounds and see the happy wives in their nice houses I feel

a pang of regret and wish, with all my heart, I had never left that house in Gravesend."

Resigned

"But I am resigned to life in a forest now I am carrying on until my husband is well enough to come back."

"Perhaps some time in the future we will be able to buy a caravan ... but at the moment that's only a rather wild dream."

Mrs. Buckley has to walk a mile-and-a-half to get water. She has no electricity and cooks her meals on an open fire on the ground.

She added: "The only neighbours we have are foxes ... and they don't gossip."

A Grays solicitor would not name the owner of Thorndon Park Estate. Nor would he agree to contact his client for comment about the couple in the wood.

**Do you know
what they are
teaching your
kids?
It is important
that you read
the September
'Christian News'**

EX-LAG GIVES FREE GARDEN SERVICE

EDWIN LUDBROOK became a flower lover in Dartmoor while serving a six year sentence for housebreaking. Now he brings a little colour into the lives of old age pensioners by tending to their gardens—free.

"I feel I'm doing something worth while at last," says the reformed housebreaker who has spent ten years of his life in jail.

Mr. Ludbrook, aged 40, of Jardin Street, Camberwell, south London, has issued an "Open invitation" for old folk who have gardens they cannot look after to call on him.

"I think I can claim to know something about flowers," he says. "I studied gardening every day for six years."

"The Moor is a damp grey place and I was overjoyed when I was allowed to tend the prison garden."

One satisfied "customer" of Mr. Ludbrook is a 76-year-old widow. Another is a pensioner who lives with his invalid wife.

Mr. Ludbrook carries out his service for elderly neighbours during the day. At night he is a nightwatchman earning £11 a week.

Battery hen mothers?

A moral welfare worker says over-anxiety to help unmarried mothers denigrates women to the level of battery hens, with the baby receiving little thought.

Mrs. Eileen Cheeseman, a welfare worker for the East Bournemouth, Christchurch and Avon Valley area of the Moral Welfare Association criticises over anxious helpers in her annual report.

"They shower the girl with such an excess of attention and sentimentality that she could surely be forgiven for thinking that she has done a clever thing by producing an illegitimate child," says Mrs. Cheeseman. "And then they will arrange, if possible, for the baby to be taken away at birth and never to be seen by its mother. Thereby denigrating women to the level of battery hens."

The Consolidate Edison company of New York, which supplies gas for lighting and heating, is in danger of being misunderstood in a circular it recently sent to clergy, saying: "Here is a handy card with our rates of charges for religious gas service in New York City."

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DR. HAHN SEES HOPE FOR YOUTH

DR. KURT HAHN, founder of Gordonstoun, the Scottish school where the Prince of Wales is a pupil, said at Wolverhampton recently that he looked upon the young of today with great anxiety but also with great hope.

"I think we have to face the fact that the young today are growing out of a sick society," he said.

Dr. Hahn, who was addressing a rally of the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs, said they were surrounded by "tempting sedatives" of physical fitness, due to modern methods of locomotion; and of skill and care, due to a weakening of the traditions of craftsmanship.

They were also surrounded by

a decline in initiative and enterprise, due to the widespread disease of "spectatoritis"; in self-discipline, due to the ever-increasing availability of tranquilisers and stimulants; and, worst of all, a decline in compassion.

Resistance

It was the business of education to protect the young against those insidious influences to which they were inevitably exposed, and he believed it possible for schools to build up resistance in the young against those influences. Schools must widen and deepen their responsibilities.

In boarding schools it was easy, he said. It was their business to see that the surroundings of the young entrusted to their care provided incentives to prove themselves, to tap hidden resources, and to look back and remember what perhaps they would like to forget.