



June 1969

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If the Church went on strike

We had a dream.

In it we saw a vast crowd in Trafalgar Square being addressed by the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.

We saw Wembley stadium full of people listening to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

There were massed rallies from Cornwall to Cumberland gathered to hear the Leaders of the Free Churches.

And everywhere the message was much the same.

"Brothers, we are calling you together as the result of the continued exploitation of the churchgoing man by the people of this country. For too long we have been the victims of abuse and criticism. We are undervalued members of a society which will take all we have to offer without acknowledging its debt. Brothers, we are being victimised—we have only one course of action left open to us. We must strike . . ."

There is thunderous applause and unanimous approval. The strike is on. The churchgoer stops being active in society.

A month or so later the effects of the strike are making themselves felt.

A great deal of voluntary work is at a standstill. Many charities have ground to a halt. Key politicians are missing from Parliament. The courts are short of judges

and magistrates. Executive desks in many top industries have no one behind them. Schools are severely affected by shortage of staff. The number of Youth Clubs operating in the country have been halved.

We hear a television reporter speaking from outside Lambeth Palace in News at Ten:

" . . . I have just spoken to the Archbishop. The strike is to continue. No one can doubt that this is serious. Already churchgoers have shown that like the Communist Party in the Trade Union movement, they play a part in society that is quite out of proportion to their numbers. It is said that we never really value something until we have lost it—perhaps now the people of Britain are realising the tremendous part that churchgoers play in the life of our nation. We hope it is not too late . . ."

It could never—should never—happen of course. Christians should not be too touchy about being undervalued and criticised. The servant is not greater than his Master.

But a strike would force the critics to acknowledge that churchgoers play a vital part in the affairs of the world. They would no longer be able to accuse them of being pious idealists living in escapist backwaters out of touch with real problems and issues.

Comprehensive?

ALL OR
NOTHING
AT ALL?



SOAPBOX

HINDUS just will not slay their sacred cows. Neither will politicians.

Right now your child at 11+ is part of the sacred cow "Secondary Education".

For some of our decision-makers it's going comprehensive that is too holy to touch. For others it's avoiding going comprehensive. Either way it's your child at 11+ who is at stake.

A comprehensive system of education means no selection at the end of primary school years. All children in an area go forward to the same school of over 1,000 pupils—all with equal chances and the same provisions. There is no distinction, no grammar-school type; certainly no public-school image. It is the dream of some politicians.

At present it is a paper dream.

But it could soon become reality. Or could it? Should it even?

There are many who don't agree that comprehensive education is the best. They want selection at a certain age so that the bright boys and girls can go on streaking ahead while the others have their own chances at their

own level. This would mean keeping something like the present set-up of public school, grammar schools . . . and others.

You can argue and fight for either of these alternatives. You can support a known and tried system, which has shown a great deal of success. Or you can introduce an unknown, idealist and very, very expensive replacement.

These are sacred cows which can both earn their keep. The merits of both of them can be defended on educational grounds.

What you can't do is to try the cross-breeding in the middle which some of our Local Education Authorities are breeding up. This is a half-way house, some sort of compromise scheme to retain selection and grammar schools while tacking the name "comprehensive" on to all the rest.

This may be paying lip-service to going comprehensive, but it is an impossible fake. Only where a secondary school has all the children in a whole area can it be comprehensive. Just lumping the selection failures and near-misses together does not make a comprehensive school.

And let's not forget that wherever, as in Holland Park, London, comprehensive schools have been allowed to have this sort of chance, they have had a staggering all-round success.

There is no room now for woolly thinking on this issue. The decision must be made.

You can be for or against going comprehensive, but if our system is going to be comprehensive, let it be comprehensive in fact, not just in name. And let us be prepared to pay for it.

LETTERS

How God got His orders

ON GOOD FRIDAY I attended part of a three-hour service in what shall be an unnamed church. I arrived in time to hear the clergyman giving God His instructions for an undefined period. It was reminiscent of a Victorian lady interviewing the housemaid. God was to provide warmth for people who were cold, food for the hungry, jobs for the unemployed (personally I thought it would have been better to tackle Harold Wilson on the last point). The only thing the parson forgot was to tell God what to do if He'd got any time left over after accomplishing these chores.

In a later bout of prayer we started on this awful gory laundry business of begging to be washed in the blood of the lamb and thus to be made whiter than snow. What magic indeed to be able to achieve this feat!

But the last straw was when we started to call God off from ill-treating the dead. We begged him to be merciful and just, so presumably he was giving them one hell of a time. It seemed to me that we were making ourselves gods in thinking we had the power to call Him off from this viciousness.

Maybe I lack the poet's mind, but this puny, vicious, little god who was expected to take orders from human beings—and orders given dictatorially and without a "please" or "would you mind?"—didn't appeal to me very much. I wonder if this is why He doesn't seem to appeal to many other people today. When will the churches give us a god who knows his own mind and who isn't worse than the best of us?

Sarah Verney.
17 Anderton Park Road,
Moseley,
Birmingham 13.

Why not foster?

I HAVE READ with interest Dee Dover's article entitled "An Only Child" in the April 69 edition of "The Bridge". One comment Mrs. Dover makes is "One could always adopt, but it might complicate life too much". O.K., but has she thought of fostering?

When I lost my second baby, I was very despondent, and it was a midwife who called to see me who said "You won't get over this until you have a baby to mother". I applied to Winchester Council and became a foster mother, for short stay periods only, to young babies. I began to use all the equipment I had got together for my own child's use, and loved every baby who came to us.

There is a great need for foster-parents. I had young babies, some for six weeks or so, and others just for a weekend, when a mother was taken ill suddenly and had to go to hospital without being able to contact grandparents. I always kept in mind that they would eventually return to their own parents.

Thank God I was granted another baby of my own—and another, but I am still on the Council's books as a foster mother for young babies needing short-stay care.

After I had my second baby, when the baby-equipment was needed for my own, I had toddlers, of a comparable age to my first-born. This showed Clare that she had to share toys, my time, etc., and certainly helped her to accept the arrival of her sister.

If one applies to be a foster mother, one's background is gone into thoroughly. For instance, the Council must know that the woman is not doing it for financial gain. One is given monetary help with foster-children, but the amount is deliberately kept small so that women who just want to do it for financial reasons are kept out. And, very important, the husband must agree too.

One has problems with fostering. For instance, we were careful to explain to Clare that the first baby we had was 'only borrowed'. She became difficult, and we eventually found out that she was thinking she might be 'only borrowed' and would one day go away. At the age of two this line of thought was understandable. She soon realised she was our own little girl, and then loved the foster babies as we did.

To any woman or mother, and particularly to mothers of an 'only child', I would strongly recommend fostering. The Council will get in touch before placing baby, and if it isn't convenient, one just says "Not at the moment".

Philomena Sheppard.

Hursley Road,
Chandlers Ford.
Hants.

An only child?

I HAD to read Dee Dover's article in the April issue of Compass twice, and I was surprised at the last paragraph.

She says that it is better for a child to grow up with brothers and sisters. She says that a child should have love but should be encouraged to be independent and self-sufficient. She ends up by saying that she would never have chosen to be an only child, and that the reason she has only one child is one of those 'maddening medical mysteries'. One could always adopt, she writes, but that may complicate life too much.

I have some personal contact with adoption, and I would have thought that that would be an ideal answer to Dee Dover's only child problem. Before I go further, I would like to point out that it is not easy to get a child to adopt.

There are always more would-be adoptive parents than there are children for adoption. If Dee Dover applied to an Adoption Society, complete with the details of her 'maddening medical mystery', she may be lucky enough to get a brother or sister for her son. Adoption Societies go to great lengths to sort out all the details of family background, education, and environment, and attempt to match the children to the adopting family.

Of course there will be problems, but with the right treatment, these can be overcome, and the result would be a very happy family.

I am inclined to read the last sentence as 'It seems much more selfish to me to be philosophical about the whole business and to love one child and smother him with excessive emotion'.

F. J. DOWNES

30 Fairfield Road,
Ipswich,
Suffolk.



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DEPRESSION

ONE DAY last autumn, I suddenly realised I was suffering from a depression, and had been for some years.

This came as more of a relief than a shock to me, as I was aware that for some time I had been a very trying person with whom to live. I knew that I was relatively lucky, in that I have a good husband, a son and daughter I had always wanted, a comfortable home and no financial worries. Yet in spite of my husband's exhortations to "count my blessings," "snap out of it" and "enjoy life," I still went on feeling dreary, extremely irritable and very tired. I would sometimes sit and cry in the evenings because I knew I had been too impatient with the children during the day. At times I felt I should see my doctor about it, but was not sure why.

THIS WAS ME

Depression is always at its worst first thing in the morning. One wakes wondering how on earth one is going to get through the day. At times it took tremendous effort to compose a shopping list or plan a meal, often bringing me to the verge of tears. More than once I gave myself lectures on "pulling myself together," but to no avail.

Then, quite by chance I read an article in a magazine describing depression and suddenly realised that, good heavens, this was me!

Even the happiest and most extrovert of people can get depressed occasionally, and it may easily be thrown off by the acquisition of a new hat.

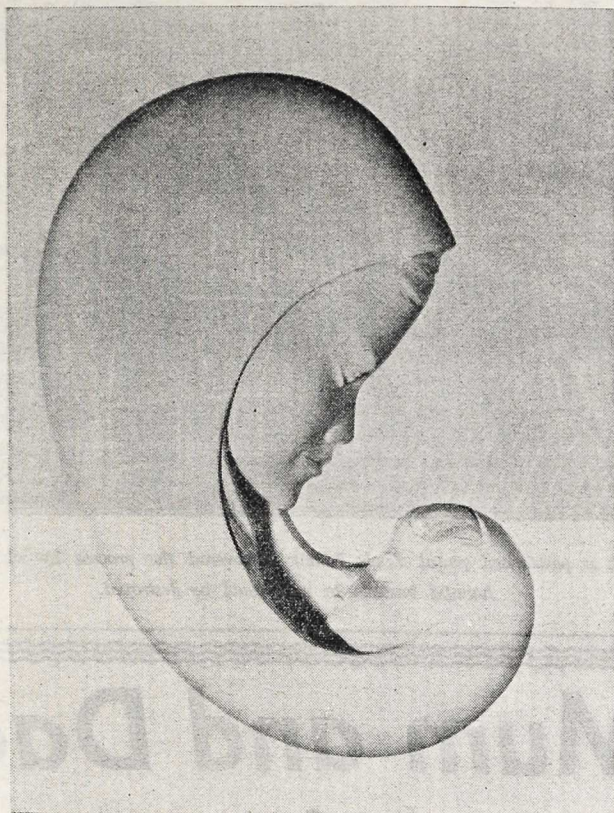
The type of depression from which many suffer goes much deeper and help must be sought from one's doctor, who may prescribe a course of antidepressant drugs, until the condition gains its own natural reprieve.

I have lived in various parts of the country but usually on the type of industrial housing estate occupied by people who have moved away from their own home towns. Here, depression amongst housewives in particular, appears to be at its highest proportions, as more than one G.P. has observed.

Depression is caused by loneliness, the insecurity and unsureness of oneself amongst total strangers, and tension, possibly caused through the strain of having to cope with a young family singlehanded. Many mothers stand sobbing at their kitchen sinks and scream at their children to go away and leave them alone.

DESERTION

Statistics have shown that there is more desertion by mothers of their children in industrial areas, because the families have moved to another town, than in rural communities, where young mothers live near their relatives in a more settled



Picture copyright of The National Child Birth Trust

Reprinted by permission of The National Childbirth Trust from their Journal "New Generation."

atmosphere.

The depression often commences postnatally, perhaps because the first baby the mother ever has close contact with is her own and she has no idea how to cope with it. The shortage of nursing staff in many hospitals may mean that there is not always sufficient time to brief the new mother on the handling of her baby.

The reason for the depression may go deeper, an unhappy childhood or adolescence, unsatisfactory relationships with those nearest and dearest to us. A psychiatrist has said that the patients he treats today were the babies of the Truby King era, with its rigid feeding time-tables.

When women first become pregnant they are usually warned to expect emotional upheaval, and that they may cry easily during the first few days of their babies' lives, but no-one is warned of the type of depression which is more prolonged, and is not shown by frequent bouts of tears, as was my own case. Often the G.P. is totally unaware of his patient's condition, as was my own.

I am considered to have an outwardly cheerful appearance, so my doctor was somewhat taken aback, when I walked into his surgery one day with my tale of woe, and at last, a bout of tears! Even now, he greets me with the remark, "How are you? I can't tell by looking at you, you always look so cheerful!"

I am lucky; mine is a comparatively mild case to that of others I know. Now, six months later, I am much better, and thank heaven, patient, and more competent, although I am still under medical supervision.

As I said earlier, a high proportion of women, in particular, are hampered by depression. Why should this be so, in our day and age when we have "never had it so good?" Our mothers had to cope with always at the back of their minds the dread that the next day might bring news of the death of their husbands fighting abroad.

Our grandmothers raised enormous families, with no idea of family planning, perhaps a drunken husband, and little or no money coming into the household.

The wives and mothers of today seem to find it increasingly hard to cope with the tempo of life. Perhaps it is because family ties are looser, little help coming from relatives in time of crisis, when distance intervenes. Perhaps it is because many of us are less religious today. We no longer willingly accept with resignation the difficult passages of life as being God's will.

TOO MUCH

Since commencing this article, one of my neighbours has been admitted to the local mental hospital, because

her depression became too much for her and she tried to take an overdose of the drug prescribed for her condition. She is the second in six

An illness peculiar to Modern Society

months living within yards of me to break down completely.

Neither of the husbands had realised the true state of their wives' mental health. One said, "if only I'd known, if only I'd realised!" Returning from taking his wife to hospital, he had suddenly noticed how their home had been neglected in the days just previous to the complete breakdown. There was dust everywhere, even a dirty nappy just shoved under a bed, quite out of character with his wife's usual fastidiousness.

The public must be educated and made more aware of the symptoms of this growing

sickness of our community. Most of all they must be made to realise that it is not a disgrace to have been in a hospital which cares for the mind rather than the body.

The discharged patient from a mental hospital fears the pointing fingers and whispers of the neighbours. This does not help the condition. What is needed most, is friendly sympathy and moral support, until the patient can take his or her place in the world again, confident, whole, and finally rid of that living hell, depression.

S.D.R.

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THEY'VE GIVEN US THEIR NAMES

Louis Pasteur

1822-1895

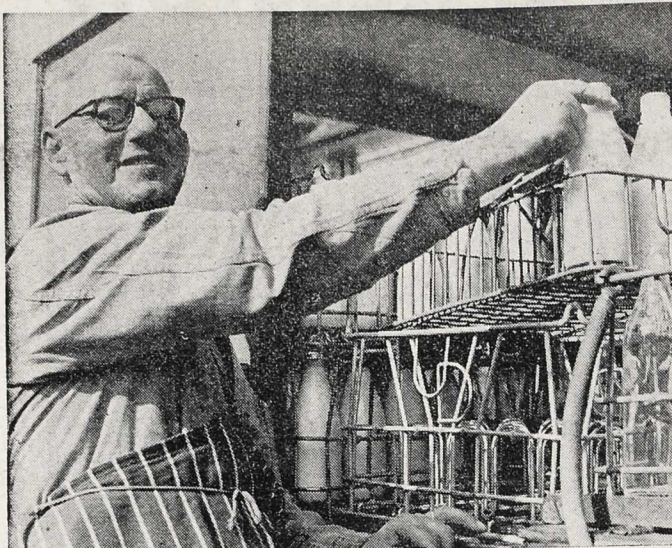
Nowadays, thanks mainly to the work of a brilliant French chemist, death from diseases such as diphtheria is practically unknown. Louis Pasteur's method of inoculation and pasteurisation rank as two of the greatest medical cures discovered in recent years.

One of Pasteur's early experiments dealt with the chemical act of fermentation. When a hitherto unknown disease nearly brought the French silkworm industry to a halt, he discovered the germ and inoculated the remaining silkworms. By his swift diagnosis, the industry was gradually restored.

Other facets of his work included the research of rabies disease in dogs, and the prevention of anthrax disease in cattle.

During his lifetime, Pasteur might have gained a personal fortune from his work, but instead he preferred the money should go into the furthering of his work. A direct result of this policy was the founding of the famous Pasteur Institute in Paris. In its surroundings the great man of medicine continued his research work and the training of others.

C. J. Francis.



Drink a pasteurised pinta! Louis Pasteur discovered the process by which harmful bacteria in milk could be destroyed.

CAR SENSE

PERSONAL

POISON

GAS PLANT

Carbon monoxide is a colourless gas without taste or smell. When the air you breathe contains a few per cent of it, the haemoglobin in your blood absorbs it in preference to oxygen. Result—less oxygen gets to the brain. Drowsiness, unconsciousness and death follow.

YOUR CAR ENGINE MAKES LARGE QUANTITIES OF IT . . .

Normally it is diluted with clean air as it leaves the exhaust pipe, and so becomes harmless. But not always . . .

'Draught free ventilation' is a modern selling feature. Know what it is? Simply that your car windows are so arranged that the motion of the car sucks air out instead of making it blow in. Hence you don't feel a draught.

But when air is sucked out, other air has to get in to replace it. How?

HOLES

Perhaps through your heater system (though not if it's the recirculatory type). But also through any small holes it can find, in floor or engine bulkhead, or around door edges.

Suppose your exhaust system's old: it has a hole or two. And one hole is near a hole in your floor—rust damage perhaps. A few hours' driving with the quarterlights open sucking air out, and that air can be replaced by undiluted exhaust fumes. Poison gas slowly filling your car—and you can't smell it . . .

For every hole that appears in your exhaust pipe there are half-a-dozen more nearly through. Patching may help in an emergency, but you'll have to do more patching soon enough . . . and more. It's better in the long run to put in a new pipe or silencer.

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Mum and Dad sort it out

Peter is a boy who finds it very difficult to believe the Bible is true. From time to time he argues things out with his Mum and Dad.

After seeing a painting of a cross country runner at a school exhibition, Dad thought he had an answer for one of Peter's objections. He tries to show that parts of the Bible are like a painting—not exactly true to fact like a photo, but able to illustrate the truth about something in a way a photo never could (see May editions).

Peter is not very impressed. He wants to know how to sort out fact from illustration . . . Photos from paintings.

A few days later Dad arrives at the house with a bundle.

Mum. What you got there Dad?

Dad. It's the stuff left over from Saturday's jumble. I said I'd take it up to the dealer and see what we can get on it.

Mum. Going to take it like that?

Dad. No, I'll have to sort it out first. You get more money on the wool if it's already separated from the other stuff.

Mum. I'll give you a hand.

Dad. Can't think why nobody bought these. Nice pair of lad's trousers those.

Mum. Be a funny kind of lad Dad . . . those are girls' slacks. Zip's down the side and there are no flies.

Dad. Clever stick aren't you?

Mum. Not clever—just a bit of common sense, that's all.

Dad. Now what'd you call this. It's neither one thing or the other. The coat's wool. The lining's silk. The buttons are leather. The collar's a sort of cotton. I don't know what pile you can put that in.

Mum. Well, it's mainly wool Dad. Cut the other off and put it in the wool pile . . . stop dreaming and get on with it.

Dad. Hey Mum, I was just thinking. All this is a bit like what you need to do with the Bible. You've got to sort it out with a bit of common sense.

Mum. Like thinking a girls' slacks are like a lad's trousers?

Dad. Well, that's just it. If you don't bother to look closely you can make bad mistakes, and when you do look closely you'll find that it's not all that easy to sort out.

Mum. Like the coat — all different sorts of material?

Dad. Yes that's it. We try to make it all one thing or the other, when most of the time it's a bit of a mixture. We need to use some common sense and do a bit of sorting out.

Mum. Well you'll have to wait until Peter gets home to start on all that. In the meantime, let's get on with this lot.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

THE NEWSPAPER OF ANGLICANS
FREE CHURCHMEN AND ROMAN CATHOLICS
IN CAVERSHAM

No. 57

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BREAKFAST CONVERSATION

HOW many of us really missed our morning papers on May 1st? In many homes the one day strike meant rather more family conversation over the breakfast table. And perhaps the absence of the Daily Blare made some of us question much of the contents of many of our papers.

It is necessary that we should be aware of the sufferings of the people of Biafra and Vietnam. It is right that the many social problems of our day such as the growing number of abortions or the growth in drug taking should be put before us. It is one thing however to do this and it is quite another to report the frequent divorces of well known characters in the world of entertainment or to give space to the views on drug taking of personalities in the world of sport. Why is it thought newsworthy to publish the photograph of some T.V. personality after going through a form of marriage for a third or fourth time, while it is not news to report the Golden Wedding of an equally well known couple who have lived faithfully together all those years?

And what of the supplements of the Sunday papers? A careful study into the underlying philosophy that they preach might well be very revealing. Would it be unfair to suggest that the dominant gospel proclaimed in them is one of Self-interest?

There can perhaps be few more influential careers open to people than those of journalism and T.V. production. The man or woman who is responsible for deciding what appears on our T.V. screen or in the columns of our daily papers has an enormous say in shaping the opinions of millions of people. Behind such a programme as Blue Peter are some devoted Christian laity, and clearly this programme has a great influence for good on large numbers of children who watch it. But how often does a Christian see such work as a real vocation? If we are critical of the contents of the press we who are Christians ought to realise that we are ourselves largely to blame by too readily accepting what is presented to us.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is Good News. It is news of a life that is meant to be full and happy. The contents of so many T.V. programmes and newspapers is precisely the opposite. It is our hope in some very small way in the columns of the Caversham Bridge to spread good news—to report about people who in different ways are seeking to serve the local community in a positive and constructive way which is at heart Christian.

John Grimwade

P.S. I hope that if one month the Caversham Bridge failed to appear it would be missed. I hope so but I wonder if it would!

CAVERSHAM'S NEW CURATE



Wa'ton Adams

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Dawson and Jonathan

On Trinity Sunday, June 1st, the Bishop of Oxford is ordaining Mr. Frederick Dawson and he will join the staff of Caversham Parish. With their small son, Jona-

than, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson will be living for a few months at 7 Clifton Park Road until they are able to move into 25 Ikley Road on the departure of the Rev. Colin Scott-Dempster. Mr. and Mrs. Dawson both come from Derbyshire. Mr. Dawson took his degree at Durham University and is now completing his studies at Lincoln Theological College. Like the Rev. Roger Packer, Mr. Dawson is also a keen organist.

ALSO CHURCHWARDEN

By an unfortunate omission for which we apologise, the article about Mr. and Mrs. L. Hobday which appeared in our May edition, did not mention their devoted work for St. Margaret's Mapledurham. Mr. Hobday had served as churchwarden and Mrs. Hobday was at one time treasurer for the Parochial Church Council. St. Margaret's owes a big debt to them for the most generous service that they gave to the parish for forty years in so many ways.

Extra morning for Play Group

St. Peter's Wives who already organise play groups on three mornings a week in Balmore Hall are now starting a further group on Wednesdays. Mrs. Pyke of 26 Priest Hill (Tel. 75834) would be pleased to hear from any parents who have a child they would like to attend.

Piano wanted

Mr. Briggs, Manager of Balmore Hall needs a second hand piano for Balmore Hall. Anyone who has one to dispose of should contact him at 49 Woodcote Road. Tel. 73327.

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THOUGHTS OF THAILAND

by Martin Thorpe



Traditional presentation of food to priests.

—Martin Thorpe.

After finishing his course of studies — Martin Thorpe of St. Peter's Avenue Caversham, accepted the invitation of some family friends in Bangkok to visit them for 4 months. An eventful journey, during which an Arab at Beirut tried to persuade him to smuggle hard drugs back to England, took him to Thailand in October, 1968. There he enjoyed new experiences and old. A keen member of St. Peter's choir he hadn't bargained for the rector informing the Anglican chaplain at Bangkok of his singing ability! He soon found himself singing in the Chaplaincy choir, and mattins and evensong made him feel very much at home.

The glistening sea, the hot sand, dazzling reflections from scirling surf, the sun's rays pointing a burning finger from an ultramarine sky, children's laughter from the cool shade under the dontdarn and frangipanni trees, glasses of iced coconut water.

A blissful recollection of Thailand, of quiet peasants unhurriedly working in the paddy fields, of exotically dressed dancers, bejewelled temples, and a revered monarchy.

This romantic image is fast sinking beneath streets of concrete and glass buildings. The roads are jammed with cars, and overhead thunder U.S.A.F. jet bombers.

Western ways and standards are becoming accepted, but there is still much of the tranquil life with its—to us—strange customs. For example, ladies never sit with their legs crossed; gentlemen may do so discreetly, but must avoid pointing their feet at anyone, as this would give great offence.

According to the Thais, the feet are the lowest, most degraded, part of the body, and must be as unobtrusive as possible. On one occasion our hostess, before going for a swim, took off the Buddhist charm she wears round her neck. She put this charm in her handbag and entrusted it to her 8-year-old daughter with strict instructions to carry the handbag round, and not put it down in case anyone accidentally stepped over the charm, or sat with their feet above it.

On another occasion, one of the guests had to stop lying on a day-bed when our hostess put some candles on a low table nearby. These candles were to be presented to priests next day, and it would not have been correct to let anyone lie with their feet higher than the candles.

In the same way, the Thais believe that the head is the most exalted part of the body, and so it would be extremely rude to touch anyone on the head, or hold anything over someone.

When you are in the presence of "superiors" you ought to keep your head lower than theirs at all times, though this now seems to be kept less strictly.

Servants in traditional houses enter a room on their knees when their master is seated, in order to keep their heads lower than his. I have seen a servant crawl round a room balancing a tray of drinks and smiling all the time.

There is usually a short religious service at the opening of new business premises. While this is taking place, no one is allowed upstairs in the building, or they would be above the priests present, and that would be most offensive.

On the whole, in this country without a middle class, everyone seems satisfied with his position, even though many people are very poor indeed. However, no one need starve. There is plenty of rice and fish for all. But while they may have sufficient food, the peasants do not have long American cars and jewels on each hand. The communists are now exploiting this wealth disparity, using the classic Mao theory of gaining control of the rural areas first. At this moment there is fighting in the north east and in the south.

Thailand is looking to the United States to provide the support and materials necessary to keep a stable, slowly evolving pro-western government in power. There has been martial law for the last 10 years, and now general elections are being held. Democracy is making a hesitant return to a country that has been ruled by the generals for many years.

The one thing that most Thais seem to fear above all else is the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Vietnam, the undivided attention of the communists—communists not working through elections, but through fear and force.



The last meal of the day for priests—at noon! All food is given; the priests have no money of their own.

—Martin Thorpe.

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LAW NOTES

Q. I recently purchased a new dress whilst I tried it on in the shop. I was in a hurry when I got home, I could see it was not the colour I thought and I was not happy about the fit. I took it back to the shop and the assistant said they would change it, but there was no other dress I liked in the shop, so I asked for my money back. This was refused but I was offered a credit note. Am I entitled to my money back and if not how long is the credit note valid?

A. When you stated you would take the dress and paid your money for it the dress became your property. The shop was under no legal duty to exchange your dress or refund your money. This is an instance where the legal maxim of "let buyer beware" (Caveat emptor) applies. If you do not shop with your wits about you, the law cannot help you.

The law has little to say about credit notes. They are presumably valid for a reasonable period. It is suggested that three months would be such a period. Ask the shop for how long it is valid.

Q. I have been a tenant of my present property for the past five years and have put in a new fire place, repaired flooring in three rooms, and eradicated dampness which was coming through, in fact spent a good deal of money on the property. Now I have to leave the property because I am taking a job in Scotland. Have I a claim against my landlord for the money I have spent?

A. No. You could treat the fireplace as a tenant's fixture and take it with you, but if you did this you would have to replace the old one and it would certainly not be worth the expense. You have no claim for the other repairs you did. You should place the facts to your landlord and he may offer to pay you something at least as you have added to the value of his property.

Your tenancy agreement may govern this, but it does not do generally. Consult your landlord before you carry out work of this nature. You are more likely to come to an amicable arrangement at that stage.

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RANDOM JOTTINGS FROM AN R.C. LAYMAN

THE CRUCIFIXION

I wonder what you thought of the recent BBC television production of the Crucifixion? Were you shocked, or did the programme pull you up and make you really think of Christ's human personality and how he must have appeared to his contemporaries?

At first I thought the programme was going to be dreadful, but after a while it caught and held me. I think at times it was played too long in the same key, rather like someone reading aloud with no change of tone or expression, but on the whole it was alive. It made Our Lord seem truly human and with a touch of humour too.

In ordinary day to day life surely Our Lord must physically have looked quite ordinary, and indeed in all small patterns of behaviour behaved in an ordinary manner. I think He must have appeared a rough, simple peasant type as otherwise surely He would have been completely out of character in his earthly setting. I don't know why I had never thought before very much about the physical Christ in his physical setting, though I had often thought of Pilate in his predicament.

It could be said it was a programme that shocked one into thinking.

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MASS IN KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL, CAMBRIDGE.

This is to be celebrated early this term, and will be the first since the Reformation. The Dean has said it will be a private affair just for members of the College. It would be a nice touch if the famous King's College choir sang.

ROOD SCREEN FROM ST. CHAD'S

Did you know this magnificent screen from St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham is now being installed in the Church of the Holy Trinity in Reading? I learnt this because recently I had Peter Anson staying here. As the author of "Fashions in Church Furnishing 1840-1940", he was agog to see it in its new setting in the Oxford Road.

Apparently Archbishop Dwyer of Birmingham decided to do away with the

screen and, evidently not thinking very much of it, it was dismantled and bundled away almost as scrap. I cannot help feeling the Victorian Society might have had something rather caustic to say over this had it not happily been acquired for Holy Trinity here. When we visited the church most of the screen had been re-erected. The foreman in charge told us it had been a fearful jigsaw puzzle disentangling the various pieces, but a really fine job is being done. I gather some regilding will eventually complete the work. I think it will look like some glorious bird of paradise which has taken refuge in a very simple cage.

"BEYOND ALL REASON"

This sounds a very interesting book on monks and nuns by Geoffrey Moorhouse. It has many illustrations and would appear good value for 63/-.

Mapledurham Parish Council

The monthly meeting of Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 10th April, 1969. The Chairman of the Council, Mr. B. A. Fowles, presiding at the meeting.

The Council have prepared a lengthy letter concerning the deplorable state of the road to Mapledurham village from Trench Green which is to be sent to the County Surveyor and the Chairman of the County Highways Committee. A vast amount of correspondence has passed between the Parish Council and the County Council on this matter, but it is the intention of the Parish Council to pursue this matter with a harder line.

The history of the state of the road has been detailed in the letter, from when the matter was first raised by the Parish Council in the middle fifties. This is about 14 years ago, and the conditions prevailing then have changed little, the main difference being the marked deterioration of the surface since then. The volume of traffic using the road has increased out of all comprehension. The County Surveyor has been reminded of the letter containing some 150 signatures

sent to him 2 years ago requesting urgent attention to the road, and to the visit made by County Council representatives last year following which it was anticipated some improvements would be effected.

The conditions along this road have been even worse this winter because of the very wet weather and the Parish Council is anxious to help those residents who are obliged to live away from a main road. Whilst there is no assurance that the road will be improved in the immediate future, the Parish Council feel it is only by publicising these conditions, conditions which in wet weather pedestrians have to walk through mud, that any improvement can be hoped for.

The Council were advised they had been unsuccessful in obtaining representation on the School Managers for Chiltern Edge School, despite requests that had been made to the Director of Education, Oxford, for a representative from Mapledurham.

The Council were informed that a bus shelter at Trench Green had been deliberately damaged towards the end of March by an unknown vehicle. Although the damage was severe, the shelter can be repaired, but it will cost the Council in the region of £20 for it to be made safe for those who use it.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, JUNE, 1969—THREE

Where . . . ?



Jeffrey Taylor, A.R.P.S.

Can you recognise this Caversham scene? This photograph dates from the early years of the present century. Some of the houses are still standing. Turn to page 5 for a photograph of this road as it is to-day.

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Biafra Emergency Ship

At the Christian Aid meeting on April 16th an appeal was made for high protein food, multi-vitamin tablets, medicines, blankets and light-weight clothes for Biafra. Miss Rosamund Essex, the speaker from Christian Aid Headquarters showed the film "Give Ye hem to Eat," the most recent World Council of Churches film about Biafra, and then leaflets about the Biafra Emergency Ship were distributed.

The following Sunday the appeal was publicised in the Anglican churches.

The response was staggering. By the end of the week—the dining room at the Rectory contained enough supplies to fill a least two Bedford vans.

St. Anne's School

The sisters who had attended the April 16th meet-

ing made an appeal in St. Anne's School, and the children brought to school a large quantity of tinned food, medical supplies, bedding and clothing.

The Anglican Churches

Again, there were many gifts in kind, but also, within a few days over £200 was handed in to the Rectory from all over the parish. It was possible to buy at wholesale prices medical supplies including 36,000 multi-vitamin tablets (£47), high-protein food (£160) and car batteries (£17).

It was estimated that the retail value of the goods dispatched from the Rectory on Saturday, April 26th, was £500.



Sorting some of the goods that were sent from Caversham to Biafra in response to the recent appeal.
—Walton Adams.

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CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

At the April meeting Miss N. Brown the Vice-Chairman was presented with a bouquet to mark the occasion of her birthday and musical honours were accorded her.

People who live in or near London very often know less about the metropolis than visitors including those from overseas.

This was the introduction by Mr. Charles Hard to an illustrated talk on Unknown London. He recounted many lesser known historical facts and legends connected with many famous buildings. A vote of thanks was given by Mrs. L. Grey.

A recital of music was presented by three Guild members namely Mrs. D. Eccleston—vocal, Mrs. J. Moore—piano, and Mrs. B. Stratford—violin. Miss E. Stratford accompanied the latter.

EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMAN'S GUILD

Canals, both as a means of transport and a pleasant and unusual way of spending a holiday, was the subject of the illustrated talk given by Mr. R. Denyer at the monthly meeting of Emmer Green Townswoman's Guild. Mr. Denyer is a member of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust and he spoke of the work being done to restore the canal to its former navigable state.

The Drama group now have two cups to their credit having been the winning group at The Townswoman's Guild Drama Festival and at the Shinfield Eisteddfod.

ROUND THE CLUBS

JUBILEE CLUB, MAPLEDURHAM

At our April meeting the Club were delighted to have a visit from Miss Beatty, Field Officer for the Oxfordshire Association for the Care of old people. They also welcomed two new members, Mrs. Bucksey and Miss Holland. It is hoped they enjoyed their first afternoon at the Club.

As this was the Easter gathering everyone received a posy of Spring flowers and a large Easter egg, the latter a kind gift to all from one of the committee members.

On Tuesday, April 15th nine members of the Club went over to Checkendon to share a very happy afternoon with the Autumn Leaves Club for the elderly. They watched a most amusing show put on by the village children, which lasted one and a half hours and was a great credit to them. Afterwards they enjoyed a wonderful home made tea. Several were lucky enough to win prizes in the draw and when the time came to say goodbye, all felt they had been given a grand afternoon out.

BLAGRAVE W.I.

At the April meeting Mrs. Sholl, the past president, welcomed Mrs. Wright at the start of her year of office. Birthday posies were distributed and happy birthday was sung for one member. Mrs. Hector offered to take charge of the competitions. The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting and also the County News Letter. Mrs. Griffith reported

on the Spring Council Meeting and an interesting talk was given by Mrs. Luttman of the S.E.B. on Deep Freezing, explaining how housewives can save on their budget by bulk buying when particular fruits and vegetables are in plentiful supply.

Competition prizes were won by Mrs. Sholl and Mrs. Batstone, Mrs. Menary the raffle and Mrs. Sholl the flower of the month competition.

MAPLEDURHAM W.I.

Mrs. Kathleen Lacey, the new president welcomed visitors from Tokers Green, Maplewood, Checkendon and Goring at the April meeting. Mrs. Stelling presented members with a birthday cake. Mrs. Crowther spoke about superstitions and their origins. Members also enjoyed a theatre visit to Guildford.

ROSEHILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The new President, Mrs. Green, presided over the April Meeting and welcomed two new members.

The report on the Spring Council Meeting was given by Miss Jackson.

A talk on dried flowers was given by Mrs. Smith also floral arrangements were made.

The competition for "3 Daffodils with any foliage" was won by Mrs. Booker, runners up being Mrs. Ellingham and Mrs. Bluring.

On May 6 an outing took place to Syon House.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

"The mind of man is largely sub-conscious, and the sub-conscious is highly amenable to suggestion." And how thoughts of happiness can be put into the sub-conscious mind and fears and phobias taken out was hypnotist Mr. John Matthews's theme when he spoke to Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild at their April meeting at St. Andrew's Hall. Mr. Matthews said that the conscious mind which reasons, argues, accepts or rejects, can be temporarily suspended so that the hypnotist talks direct to the sub-conscious and, after assuring his listeners that no-one would be made to look foolish or to do anything against their wishes, he proceeded to hypnotise six volunteers from his audience! All but one of his subjects responded, and two ladies went so deeply "off" that he had to bring them round twice! In describing the experience afterwards all the subjects said that it had been a most pleasant and relaxing experience, and Mr. Matthews's remarkable demonstration certainly made a great impression on his audience.

The Chairman, Mrs. V. Birtwhistle, welcomed Mrs. M. Major, Hon. Secretary of Berks and North Hampshire Federation of Townswomen's Guilds, who spoke during an informal half-hour.

During the month the Guild had held a very successful Jumble Sale, and thanks to the enthusiastic help of so many members this had resulted in a profit of £48.

Thank you Mrs. Loverock

— a big hit !

by "Newly-Wed"

That's the unanimous verdict of a series of courses being run in Caversham for couples on the fringe of marriage.

The scheme, organised and run by Marriage Guidance education counsellor Mrs. Joan Loverock, could prove invaluable to the many engaged couples who have taken part.

For years, one of the major tasks of the Marriage Guidance Council has been to deal with broken marriages, unhappy couples seeking divorce.

These courses are designed to introduce engaged partners to the problems they will meet in marriage, and give them the chance to discuss and interchange ideas. Mrs. Loverock makes a difficult task look easy, and with several Caversham successes behind her, she plans more courses for the future. Each will consist of three get-togethers in a homely, armchair atmosphere—"it helps people to talk more freely", says Mrs. Loverock.

SHY

As a shy, quiet bachelor close to marriage, I attended a course at the Chiltern Nur-

sery Training College, with reservations. I had no idea what to expect or what might be asked of me. I had a surprise in store, discovering that the whole course was based on the talk and ideas of the couples themselves. Mrs. Loverock prompted and brought up one or two suggestions for discussion, but it was the people engaged who really did all the work. Love, sex, money and all the problems and good moments in two people living together were chewed over by the "students" and the result was a first-class insight to marriage. Marriage—and I say this after only eight months—is something people really know very little about until they take the big step. This course helped my wife Rosemary and me to bridge the gap

between being single and married. We felt better equipped for the years ahead and the little problems which would surely accompany them.

IDEAS

Each couple have their own ideas—and what better preparation for marriage than to inter-change those ideas. Pre-marital discussions, with talk of the sexual act, can be touchy and, for some people, downright embarrassing. There were no red faces on this course, with Mrs. Loverock immediately gaining the respect of the couples and conducting the three meetings almost as family get-togethers.

First-class! An excellent, invaluable lead-up to marriage.

Where . . . ?



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Jeffrey Taylor, A.R.P.S.

UNUSUAL SALE AT EMMER GREEN

Lawn mowers, timber, paint, an oak over mantle and many other objects of this kind were sold recently at a Handymans Sale which raised over £100 for the renovation fund of St. Barnabas Hall.

Fixed your summer holiday ?



Newcomers to Caversham may not have heard about the Parish Holiday at Embley Park, near Romsey.

There are still a few vacancies in the first week—August 2nd—9th (apply to the Rev. and Mrs. J. Stevinson, 9 Southview Avenue, Caversham—71814) and in the second week—August 9th—16th (apply to the Rev. and Mrs. C. T. Scott-Dempster, 25 Ilkley Road, Caversham—72070).

Embley Park is a good way of getting to know people, and making new friends—and generally having a very good time at a surprisingly reasonable cost.

Embley Park School is just outside Romsey, Hampshire, and is within easy reach of the South coast and New Forest beauty spots. There are tennis courts, a squash court, a swimming pool and facilities for riding, fishing, croquet and table tennis.

Started by the Anglicans—all denominations are now welcome.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 24th, ST. JOHN'S DAY at ST. JOHN'S

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SUNDAY, JUNE 29th, ST. PETER'S DAY at ST. PETER'S

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ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

The Bishop of Oxford is coming to spend St. Peter's Day really seeing round the parish. June 29th falls this year on a Sunday. The Bishop will arrive in time to celebrate and preach at the Parish Communion at St. Peter's at 9-15 a.m. After chatting to members of the congregation over coffee after the service he will go to St. Barnabas for a special young peoples' service at 11-15 a.m. This service will be written and led by members of the St. Barnabas US group but Sunday school children from St. Peter's and St. John's will also be attending. The Bishop will then go on to St. Andrew's Hall to meet the children of St. Andrew's Sunday school; St. Andrew's Sunday school will be starting that morning at 11-30 a.m. fifteen minutes later than usual in order to fit into the Bishop's timetable. The Bishop will arrive at St. Andrew's Hall at about 12 noon.

In the afternoon the Bishop will attend the garden party at the Rectory at 4 p.m. and finally will preach at Festal Evensong at 5-30 p.m. There



will be no other Evensong in the parish that day and the parish choirs will combine to sing at this service, as they will also do at the Parish Communions on St. Barnabas' and St. John's Days.

St. Andrew's News

Return Visit

Nearly 90 people were in church on Tuesday, April 29th—the 58th anniversary of the Dedication of St. Andrew's—to hear the Rev. Guy Armstrong preach. A number of others who were unable to come to the service came into the Church Hall later in the evening. It was a pleasure to have both Guy and Rita at St. Andrew's again.

Bishop Huddleston

Since the publication of the last issue the Bishop of Stepney—the Rt. Rev. Trevor Huddleston — has agreed to open the Summer Fair on July 5th. Bishop Huddleston is one of the most well-known churchmen of our day. His work as a priest in South Africa did much to awaken

the conscience of Christians everywhere to the problems of apartheid. Later he returned to Africa again as Bishop of Masasi in Tanzania. Now, as Bishop of Stepney he faces one of the most challenging tasks in the Church of England.

Women Workers

As an introduction to the Summer Fair Miss Angela Butler and Miss Jean Hodges (now Warden of Church House, Stepney) will be speaking in St. Andrew's Hall on Wednesday, June 4th at 8 p.m. This meeting, which the Women's Group is kindly organising, is open to everyone. In particular all who will be helping at the Fair by running stalls, sideshows or other activities are invited to come. Publicity for the Fair this year is the biggest problem. June 4th is an opportunity to hear about the object of the Fair at first hand.

St. Andrew's Women's Group

The first Annual General Meeting of the above Group took place in St. Andrew's Hall in April. The Reverend R. Packer was in the chair. The Group is now well established and has had a successful first year. Besides talks and demonstrations, a Play Group had been started and support had been given to the Children's Homes in the district, Hospitals and the Wellclose Square Fund. Well over 200 toys were distributed at Christmas and stockings were also filled for the boys at St. Benets. The Group meets in St. Andrew's Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. and new members will be welcome.

Diamond Jubilee



Walton Adams

Caversham Bridge Heights Methodist Church has recently celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. A special banquet was held on Saturday, April 26th attended by members of the congregation and guests from other churches. Mr. R. Lascelles presided.

Lead Thieves at St. Peter's

About four years ago lead thieves removed a quantity of lead from the roof of St. Peter's. Water was found to be coming through the Church roof after heavy rain and this led to the discovery of more lead having been stolen recently from the roof of the north aisle.

Marrying off. This summer sees the wedding of many young members of St. Peter's congregation. Pat Lorenc leads the way on Sunday, July 20th, when she will be marry-

ing Paul Morrison. Norah Griffin follows soon after on Saturday, July 26th, when she will be marrying Colin Lancaster, and on Friday, August 8th, comes the wedding of Gerald Smith and Jennie Moore. All these couples have been attending recent discussion groups led by Mrs. Loverock of the Marriage Guidance Council. When last did three Church Councillors produce so many brides and bridegrooms from their families in such quick succession?

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ST. ANDREW'S HALL
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ST. BARNABAS' HALL
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ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Members of St. John's start a new life

St. John's congregation are getting used to saying good-bye. Parting always brings a pang to one's heart. But God's people are not to keep looking back with regret. God calls his Church forward into the future to a new life, to new forms of service, to new relationships. This month, St. John's have two great friends to thank, say good-bye to, and wish them well in their new life.

On April 26th, Mr. and Mrs. Moss moved into their new home in Tilehurst. Their home is one of a new block of flats specially designed for the elderly. Each flat is self-contained, but has the benefit of a full time warden, as well as such other services as they will need. On one side these flats look on a quiet courtyard, which will no doubt later be landscaped, where they can relax in peace and quiet; on the other side the flats open on to the life of the community around them. It sounds ideal, provided their Caversham friends make the effort to visit them from time to time. The Mosses were in fact the first people to move in, before even the Warden, so no doubt they were ready to give their future neighbours a warm welcome when they arrived.

St. John's is going to miss "Mossy" more than can easily be expressed. For years now, she and her family have played such a central part in the life and work of St. John's, in fact there can be very few people who can remember St. John's without her. Even after she retired after thirty years as vergier, she continued to look after the church keys, and

her home was used as a collecting centre for the Caversham Bridge. Until her illness last autumn, she was very active in the Old Age Pensioners Clubs, and was largely responsible for organising their annual holidays. Those going on the Parish Holiday to Embly Park are hoping she will be going too.

All members of St. John's will wish them both every happiness in their new life at Flat 1, 16 Helmsdale Close, Dee Estate, Tilehurst. Then on April 29th, Mrs. Kathleen Masters died peacefully, after a brief illness, which fortunately did not bring pain or great discomfort.

Sitting in church afterwards, one could not help being reminded of her generosity in devoting her time and skill in the service of God and his church. The curtains in the children's corner, those behind the High Altar and Lady Altar, as well as those by the organ

Residents' Association looks ahead

Obituary

FRANCIS SIMONS

"He was a real character". Such is the epitaph for old Mr. Simons of 30 Queens Road, Lower Caversham, who died in February. Certainly delivering his 'Bridge' became a real challenge; one had to be well versed in local politics, town and country planning and the rest of the news in general. The new precinct and car park being much against his wishes, he would reminisce on the Caversham he had known.

An avid reader, he would spend hours in the library, ordering all types of special books which he would sit at

SWIMMING POOL

It wasn't a dead duck after all. Voices were raised on all sides when it was learned that the swimming pool to be built at the new Highdown School was to be only learner size but it seemed that the protests were too late to be effective. However, a last minute concession was won and the pool is now to be built with a temporary end so that it can be extended when the money to do so is available. A number of Caversham organisations have already offered to raise funds towards this. Much of the credit for this must go to Alderman Mander who alerted the public about what was happening and when widespread support for a larger pool was revealed would not take no for an answer.

BUGGS BOTTOM

The property development company whose plans to build over Buggs Bottom were foiled by the Minister of Housing and Local Government put in another plan for building on a smaller area of the valley. The local planning committee rejected this application but it is clear that this valuable piece of land will be under constant threat unless or until it comes under a preservation order. The Residents' Association is asking John Lee, M.P., to look into this matter of a constant renewal of planning application for land on which the Minister has made it quite clear that he does not wish to see further building.

A NEW HOUSING ESTATE

Meanwhile there are plans afoot for another large housing estate in Lower Caversham. In this case, it is not on a beauty spot though any open space within the borough has a certain amenity value these days. But Caversham simply cannot cope with the resultant increase in population until there is an increase in educational, transport and drainage facilities, to mention only a few.

GROVE HILL

The desecration of Grove Hill continues at considerable public expense, whilst penny-pinching economies are made in other directions. What future generations will think of our order of priorities can only be imagined.

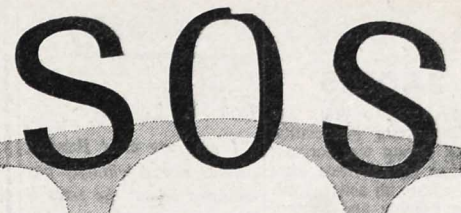
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Dr. E. V. Beale (North Caversham),
1, Brooklyn Drive, Emmer Green, 71644.

Mr. F. C. Moore (South Caversham),
52 Highmoor Road, Caversham, 72694.

Mrs. W. Evans (East Caversham),
33 Derby Road, Caversham, 71755.

Mr. P. H. Marsh (West Caversham),
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are her handiwork. She made both the white and the green altar frontals, altered the red one, made the complete set of white vestments and the white cope, as well as numerous smaller items. These things will continue to beautify the building and the Services for years to come.

But Mrs. Masters was not only concerned with "the visual aids" of worship. For several years she has helped in the Darby and Joan Club, which meets in Balmore Hall, and also acted as Treasurer to the St. John's branch of the Mothers' Union. In addition to her devoted service, what will be missed is her "cheeky" sense of humour, which was fun and appreciated by many people.

St. John's Good Friday Service

This year St. John's exported its Good Friday Service to Rotherfield Greys. It took the form of the Passion Story told by St. John, enriched with other readings from the Bible, and other books new and old, interspersed with hymns. Two lay people read the non-narrative parts. This was much appreciated at Rotherfield Greys, where they especially commented on the part the lay people took.

his own special table to read.

His television evenings would be shared by his friends and neighbours in the back room of the little shop which he kept by himself since the death of his wife in September 1966. They had no children.

He is sadly missed by all who knew him.

B.J.

BERT FLEET

The bells of the parish church were rung half-muffled recently to mark the passing of an old friend and colleague of the ringers, Mr. Bert Fleet, late of Upper Warren Avenue, who died at Eastbourne where he had gone to live.

During his years in Caversham Mr. Fleet was a very regular attendant in the church tower, where he rang for Sunday service and for the weekly practice, carrying out his duties with a characteristic smile.

Bert was one of the old school, with a great sense of loyalty, to his job, to his community and to his tower. All who knew him mourn his passing, and members of St. Peter's Band send their sympathy to Mrs. Fleet and her family. May he rest in peace.

Bob Minor.

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St. Peter's Scouts

Just over two years ago the Supporters Association for the Group was formed; its terms of reference were to help keep an active Scout Group running and to produce sufficient money to provide a Group headquarters. Under the chairmanship of Mr. George Turner the Association engaged in a round of fund raising activities including Jumble Sales, the sale of Christmas cards, and in 1968 the first summer fete. Mr. Turner has now retired from the Committee of the Association and all members of the Group should be thankful to him for all his hard work; the fact the building fund now stands at over £1,000 is largely due to his unstinted effort. Thanks are due also to Mr. Kenneth Ford who is retiring after two years very able service as treasurer.

The Association is now very much involved in preparations for the summer fete which takes place on June 21st at Caversham Primary school; the fete will open at 2-30 p.m. There is to be an impressive programme of events. Anyone willing to join the supporters association should contact the secretary, Mrs. J. Cuthbertson, 56 Conisboro Avenue.

Postbag

Dear Sir,

I am sure most Reading parents would willingly pay an extra 6d on the rates if this is necessary for our children's education.

However, most of us these days have a feeling of futility in the face of what seems to be the hopeless inefficiency of the Powers that Be.

If, as we are told, the town is so hard pressed for money, why do we have to have a modern civic centre costing I don't know what? No doubt Reading could have struggled on without it.

Why, because the lease of the Caversham Bridge Hotel has expired, is there talk of a Marina, to be built at Caversham? Will any public money go towards this? (I wonder if Caversham residents will be consulted about this and the change it will make to the character of Caversham?)

Surely the education of our future citizens should come before these, and many other such projects.

Yours etc.,

"Parent".

NICHOLAS

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June 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 (Holy Communion 3rd Sunday).
12-15 p.m. Holy Communion 1st Sunday.
6-30 p.m. Evensong (June 29th, 5-30 p.m.).

St. John's

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9-15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.

St. Andrew's

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9-15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
11-15 a.m. Holy Communion.
6-30 p.m. Evensong (not 5th Sunday).

St. Barnabas

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9-15 a.m. Family Eucharist.
6-30 p.m. Evensong (not 5th Sunday).

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays).
9-15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION.
6-30 p.m. Evensong (1st and 3rd Sundays).

SALVATION ARMY
Prospect Street

3-30 p.m. Young People
6-30 p.m. Adults.

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11-00 a.m. Morning Service.
6-30 p.m. Evening Service.

Caversham

11-00 a.m. Morning Service.
6-30 p.m. Evening Service.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St. Anne's

8-00 a.m., 9-30 a.m., 11-00 a.m., 7-00 p.m.—Mass.

Our Lady of Caversham

8-30 and 10-30 a.m.—Mass.

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The Rev. John Stevinson (Priest-in-Charge of St. John's) St. John's House, 9, South View Avenue. Tel. 71814.
The Rev. John Crowe, 2 Blackwater Close, Caversham Park. Tel. 75152.

BAPTIST

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Tel. 73633

METHODIST

The Rev. E. B. Wright, 17, St. Anne's Road. Tel.: 72223

PRESBYTERIAN

The Rev. George E. Shearer, 41, Highmoon Road, Caversham
Tel. 77490

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The Rev. W. O'Malley (Parish Priest)
The Presbytery, 2, South View Avenue. Tel. 71787

We record . . .

BAPTISED

St. Peter's

Apr. 20—Jane Faulkes.
Adam Mellor.

St. John's

Mar. 16—Mark Towner.

St. Barnabas'

Feb. 23—Ian Welland.
Sharon Cole.

St. Margaret's

April 13—Iain Tingley.

MARRIED

St. Peter's

Mar. 1—Michael Mullins and Veronica Stover.

Mar. 8—Leslie Murchison and Teresa Weston.

Apr. 12—David Bartlett and Jillian Hilton.

St. John's

Mar. 1—Malcolm Taylor and Denise Summers.

St. Andrew's

Apr. 12—Maurice Chapman and Ann Turton.

St. Barnabas'

Mar. 22—Victor Duckett and Pauline Humphreys.

John Weht and Nancy Potter.

St. Margaret's

Apr. 16—Duncan Upward and Jane Avis.

BURIED

St. Peter's

Mar. 27—Nathaniel Beldam.

April 22—Mary Worthington.

St. John's

Mar. 20—Betty Reid.

May 2—Kathleen Masters.

St. Andrew's

Mar. 21—Molly Denton.

St. Barnabas'

May 2—Albert Cross.

St. Margaret's

Apr. 28—Kathleen Bain.

Thoughts of a Roving Reporter

A reminder of "Granny" tragic accident several years ago which crippled her and reached us too late for inclusion in our last edition. She apparently a good time was had by all; they are very proud of her at the Arthur Clarke Home where she lives. I understand she has now given in to old age to the extent of having breakfast in bed every morning. Very best wishes from the "Bridge" to our oldest inhabitant.

Many Methodists will, no doubt, remember the Rev. T. Brian Coleman who was Methodist Minister at Caversham from 1959-1964. He and his wife went to the USA on 10th April as part of an exchange group. They will be going to Iowa Minnesota, Michigan and Illinois and will be back in England on the 10th May. The Rev. Coleman is now the chaplain of Truro School in Cornwall.

Many of you will remember Bob and Janet Baxter of The Mount, who adopted a baby boy a year ago. Janet and the baby, Richard, have now gone to death of Mrs. Wissotzky-town of Portsmouth, and as Toni. Her courage, particularly at the time of the with the Army.

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SUGAR—but no spoon

THE ARRIVAL in Japan of the first non-Roman Catholic missionaries took place in 1859. From the Church of England the Church Missionary Society sent its first missionary just 100 years ago. Fourteen years later my father was born, the second son of a poor Shintoist family.



Daniel Koike

Shintoism is Japan's native religion, combining nature and ancestor worship. My father always used to carry a small portable Shinto shrine made of paper in his pocket.

When he was a student of a teachers' training college, he heard of an Englishman living in the town. One day he, with one of his friends, called on the Englishman to ask him to teach them English. His name was Mr. Knight and he was a missionary from the Church of England.

He answered: "I have not come to teach English, but to teach the Bible. We can study the Bible in English." It was not long before they noticed that the Book had something different from other books. Then they were baptised.

TEACHER

My father, after graduation from the college, became a teacher of a school in a small village where there was no church.

One day the prefectural school-inspector came to see his class. My father found favour with him; he transferred him to the best school in the prefecture. At almost the same time Mr. Knight suggested that he turn from teacher to clergyman. A bright future was awaiting him as a teacher and the salary was about four times that of a clergyman. But he thought that it had been God's call-

ling and became a clergyman.

He said on his 82nd birthday, knowing he had incurable cancer. "When I was young I had heard someone saying, 'The life of a Christian is like having a cup of tea with sugar but without a spoon to stir it,' and I did not understand what it meant then. But now I quite agree with him; as you come nearer to the end, it becomes sweeter. I have suffered and been troubled with many happenings, but I know now, recollecting them, that God has been acting in them. I am very happy." Next year he died.

He had four sons and three daughters. The eldest son became a clergyman; now he is the bishop of our diocese. The second son died when he was a student at theological college. I was then a boy of 10 years old. As my family used to say that the brother and I were much alike in character, mere child that I was, I began to wish to fulfil his intention and enter the ministry.

PRISON

During World War II Christians were persecuted by the militaristic government. Christianity was regarded as the religion of the enemy. Strict watch was kept over Christian churches and many clergymen were put into prison.

spoon

AN ACCOUNT OF A

JAPANESE CHRISTIAN

FAMILY BY DANIEL KOIKE

Almost every day men of the special political police or the military police called at our house to question my father or to search for proof that he was a spy. Many families left the Church and even some teachers at school denounced us as traitors or children of a spy.

We surrendered ourselves on August 15th, 1945. The British Army made an entry into my town as the Occupation Forces. Some of them joined in our Sunday services. The attitude of people towards us changed. They began to show friendly feelings for us Christians.

HELP

I had to finish a four-year course at University before going to the three-year course of the theological college. My father's salary was too low to allow me to go to a university, but I received some help

from another man.

After my training I was appointed chaplain of a boys' school in 1958 and was ordained a deacon. Next year I married and was ordained a priest.

When the former Bishop of our Diocese retired, the Diocesan Conference elected the Vicar of St. Mark's, Ashiya, who was my brother, as the next Bishop. St. Mark's had a big task to build a new church. They had prepared for it for 16 years by saving money. I was appointed Vicar.

SMALL

The group of Christians in Japan is small and let me venture to say that, strictly speaking, the group of Christians in England is small too. Let us believe that the work of reconciliation between God and man, and man and man is done through these small groups of people.



Don't tell him he's wonderful

"Just treat me like anyone else," says a partially sighted lady in the Church Information Office's attractive 7/6 paperback called "Seeing in the Dark."

It sums up the message of the compilers, members of the Church of England Children's Council's working party on the pastoral care of blind children.

Blindness, they explain, is not such a severe handicap as is often supposed. This may surprise you but they back it up with A to Z explanations of what it is like to be blind and what is being done for the blind. There is helpful guidance on such matters as official registration, schooling, preparation for employment and mixing with others.

This outline of the blind child's needs at all ages includes basic, simple details. It doesn't assume, for example, that everyone knows that the Royal National Institute for the Blind produce specially adapted games for blind children, or that Sunshine Homes nowadays are mainly for children with some extra handicap on top of blindness. This means the book is for the general public.

You will find there is a list of organisations serving the blind; the titles of some other books about the blind; the challenge of blind children's questions about God, life and their handicap; and five practical steps in approaching a blind person ("Don't tell him he's wonderful").

The book will benefit all blind people, and not only children, if its readers are led to take up a more natural and less protective attitude to them.

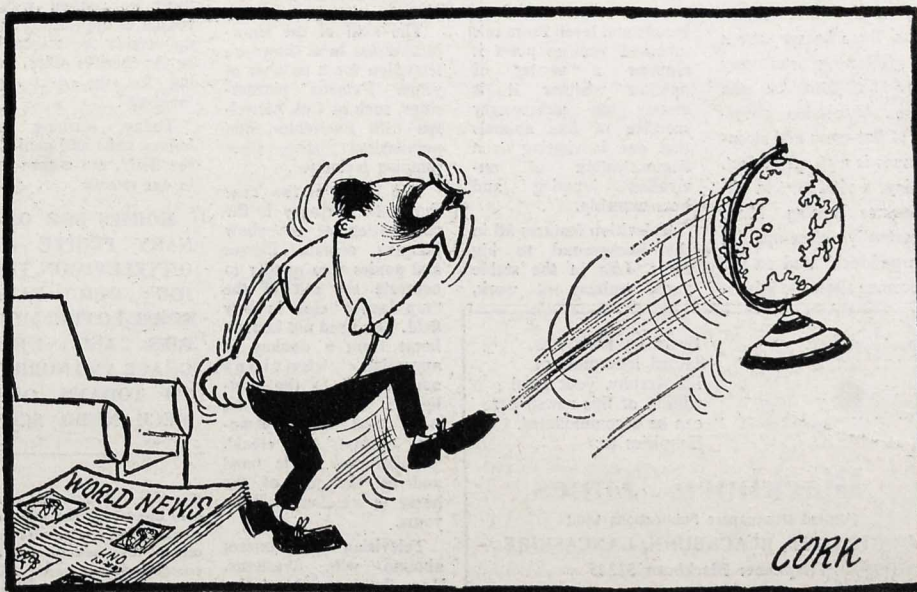
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Television by Diana Dewes

WORKING HORSES are not the familiar sight that they used to be. City streets, and country lanes have seen the gradual disappearance of numbers of them.

Many adults have memories of horses and ponies who were part of the daily routine. In towns—ponies pulled the milk-floats, a pair of heavy horses the brewery dray, a horse with a nose-bag the bakery van, a pony the playing-field mower. In the country—there were strong horses for farm work, a pony and trap for the local doctor, carthorses to draw the snow-plough, the canal barges and the roadmen's cart.

They did their day's work, and knew their job. They were a pleasant part of the daily background.

Inevitably the motor vehicle took over from the horse-drawn. Old horses were replaced.

Today, privately owned riding horses and ponies abound, but they cannot give the same general pleasure to the public.

City dwellers particularly, would be limited to the occasional passing of a mounted policeman for their equestrian enjoyment, were it not for the television. For television's equestrian offerings can be shared by millions.

In the world of sport, television cameras follow the fortunes of horses who are highly trained competitors, skilful and courageous. Race horses have a vast following who may never set foot on the course. Television coverage of flat races and steeplechases is nigh on perfect. It plays a vital part in off-the-course betting. More importantly close-ups in "the paddock" and on the racecourse show the inimit-

able eagerness and beauty of the racehorse.

UNIQUE

Television offers a unique view of the world's greatest steeplechase, the Grand National. A view sometimes, seemingly, from under the horses' hooves, sometimes from grandstand level. From this favoured vantage point it remains a matter of opinion whether it is merely an unnecessary sacrifice of fine animals that one is viewing or a demonstration of unrivalled jumping and horsemanship.

Television features fill in the background to big races. Life in the stable yard, trainers at work,



Star horses, glossy and brilliant, rearing and whinnying.

Stars on Four legs

stable "lads" exercising future winners, jockeys receiving riding instructions from their trainer and congratulations from the owner. Integral details of the most famous and ancient sport of the Turf. "The Sport of Kings."

JUMPING

The skill of the show-jumper has been shown on television for a number of years. Famous partnerships, such as Col. Llewellyn with Foxhunter, first popularised the show jumping technique.

The Horse of the Year show at Harringay is the culmination of the show jumping season. Horses and ponies who qualify to compete are out of the "top drawer" class in their field. You need not know a horse from a donkey to appreciate television's annual visit to the spot-lighted arena. By the week's end 'faults', 'jumping against the clock', 'parallel and triple bars' and all the rest of the horsey terminology will be yours.

Television programmes abound with Westerns. Here the horses steal the

show. The star horses are glossy and brilliant, they carry the cowboy hero, or the sheriff. They gallop dramatically down almost vertical hillsides, rearing and whinnying, as lassos and bullets whine. They get all the excitement of speeded up chases, while lesser horses in the cast must be content with a couple of appearances tied up outside the saloon bar or the sheriff's office, waiting for the next bank 'hold-up'!

Today, working cart-horses, cobs and ponies 'in the flesh', are a rare sight in our streets.

HORSES FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE ARE ON TELEVISION. THEY JOG OUR EARLY HORSE-LOVING MEMORIES AND LEND GRACE AND NOBILITY TO TODAY'S OVER-MECHANISED SCENE.

Your local news sheets can be attractively duplicated on both sides for very reasonable charges to fit neatly into the Christian News. Send for rates, stating quantity, to Sheffield Copying Office, 57/ Edmund Road, Sheffield, S21 4EL.

FAMILY

'Where do babies come from?'

WE LOOK AT A NEW BOOK OF SEX
EDUCATION BY JILL KENNER

WHEN IT comes to the sex education of their children, many otherwise excellent parents feel embarrassed and inadequate; often abandon the task altogether and hopefully leave it to school-teachers.

Mrs Kenner does not give such attitudes any encouragement and in the preface for parents (which can be cut out of the book before it is given to the child) she places the basic responsibility for this vital instruction squarely on the parents' shoulders.

She points out that it is as natural for children to wonder about babies as about flowers and aeroplanes and that it only becomes unnatural and embarrassing when adults make it so. It is important for children to be given true and matter of fact information in a natural way, before they learn it falsely and furtively in the corner of the school playground.

And so this little book, published by the Marriage Guidance Council at 3/6, is designed for Primary School children either to read by themselves or better, the author suggests, with their

parents. The material in this book was taught by the author to school children who asked the true to life questions in the second half of the book ranging from "Can you start a baby before you're married?" to "If you only have one testicle can you become a father?"

These are given straightforward answers by a woman whose wide experience in this field has taught her that nothing but a straightforward, un-bushy treatment of this subject can properly and happily satisfy children's natural interest; in it. Information about reproduction in rabbits will not do!

The language and illustrations of the book give the proper impression that growing to adulthood and having babies is a natural, cheerful and exciting matter which at the same time is something to be treated seriously and responsibly. To read this book could be as illuminating and re-assuring for a parent, diffident about his responsibilities in the sex education of his family, as it will be found fascinating and simply written, by children.



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Junior Compass
by Brenda Holloway



Playing the game with a 12 bore

Sport, or should it be game-playing, is so much a part of the British way of life that the jargon of the playing field has become part of everyday vocabulary, nationally and even internationally understood.

A glossary of such terms would include: "Playing the game" (being fair); "fair play" (justice seen to be done); "hitting below the belt" (taking unfair advantage). The highest praise one can bestow upon another is to say "He played the game of his life like a real sportsman" (one of nature's gentlemen).

When recently one of our national games was on the receiving end of a good deal of adverse publicity, a member of the hunting set was at pains to explain to the general public that the true definition of a sportsman was a gentleman, used in the art of hunting, shooting and fishing, certainly not ball games.

The implication here was that the moral fibre of the nation was not in immediate danger of corrosion, as we had every right to believe.

SHOCK

Men who had previously frittered their lives away playing ball hastily turned to the dictionary, where with a profound shock they discovered that, in fact he was absolutely right, and they, the ball players, did not qualify.

A close examination of the activities of the "sportsmen" does, however, suggest that there is many a muddled oaf and flannelled fool who should consider himself grateful not to be so considered.

The psychiatrist informs us that our desire to play games is a form of sublim-



Sport, by
E. F.
Adkins

hind, or harmless otter, it is as a veritable knight errant that he seeks the villainous fox.

NATURAL

ated aggression or battle substitute, and the hunting instinct is perhaps the most basic of all.

It is safe to say that the need to hunt as a means of survival has not existed for some considerable time, yet the habit lingers on. It is, of course, a much more refined business now than when our ancestors stalked the forest to provide for the family with no more than strong hands or sharp stone to assist them.

ABSOLVED

A twelve-bore or pack of hounds is a much more detached method, it absolves the hunter from that personal contact that might conceivably awaken his conscience, and in any event, guarantees a greater measure of success.

Surrounded by a self imposed air of adventure, the "sportsman" is at his best when, acting on behalf of the community, he sets out to control the wild life of the countryside. The "pest" whose basic crime is that of being there, varies. But it really means any creature that can be classified as fair game. In this connection the fox is a natural.

Whatever qualms the sportsman may have in bringing to an end the life of the noble stag, gentle

When voices are raised against the actual kill, the hunter explains that to die in hot blood in its natural habitat against overwhelming odds is something the creature has been conditioned to from birth.

This is an argument that apart from being beyond the ken of most of us infers that man should on these occasions discard all compassion and descend to the level of the quarry.

NONSENSE

The non-sportsman's sense of fair play is similarly affronted at the custom of rearing thousands of birds with the sole aim of blasting them out of the air to provide a day's sport. The acceptance of this practise makes nonsense of the Britisher's well known abhorrence of the bull fight.

So much for the "sportsman" for those of us that can never hope to qualify for the hallowed title, perhaps the words of Ezra Pound are not inappropriate.

"When I consider the curious habits of dogs, I am compelled to conclude that man is the superior animal. When I consider the curious habits of man, I confess, my friend, I am puzzled".

AXE
MIXTH
STRXLLS
SPRAXLING
SPRXNTS
BOXNY
EXG

Put the correct letter in place of the X in each of the words above. Here are some clues to help you. 1. How old you are. 2. Merriment. 3. Walks slowly. 4. Spread out. 5. Runs. 6. Looks healthy. 7. Something to eat.

The correct letters read downwards make a word describing something you are doing every day, though you can't see it!

A dish of leaves

You'll need one young fresh carrot, one young parsnip and one young turnip. Cut about 1½ inches off the top of each (the end where the leaves grow), and stand these three tops in a small shallow dish with just enough water to cover the bottom of the dish. Cut off any dead leaves. Before long new leaves will begin to shoot from the tops. Remember to renew the water in the dish regularly.

Start a record sheet of all this. Put the date on which you started the experiment; the date when the leaves first appear; the colour and size of the leaves; how many on each top; how much each grows in a week, and so on until the plants have grown big and untidy and you have to throw them away. Enter that date, too, to close your record.

And what about you?

Find out the average length of a newborn baby or how long you measured when you were born. Get someone to measure you now, and if possible to mark your measurement on a wall. How much have you grown since you were born? How much have you still got to grow if you are going to be as tall as the shortest grown-up in your family? How much if you are going to be as tall as the tallest?

When you close your record of the growth of the leaves, get yourself measured again and see if you have grown at all during that time.

What can you do?

Make a list of the things you have learned to do since you were born, like learning to walk and talk, wash and dress yourself, read and write. Get a grown-up to see if you have left out anything important.

Did you know

If you are now ten years old, your brain power has grown to the full. That doesn't mean that you haven't anything more to learn. Sensible people go on learning right up to the time they die. But it does mean that you are now fully equipped with the brain to live and learn.

What Luke the Doctor wrote

Jesus grew big and strong and full of wisdom, and in favour with God and men.

Compass club members

Continue collecting points of the compass. Every time you send four different points to the Editor, with your name, address and membership number, you will receive a free ballpoint pen stamped with the name of the Club.

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Doctor Barnardo's

'DR. BARNARDO'S' is a household name associated with the care of children deprived of their normal home background.

It was 100 years ago that Thomas Barnardo began his work. An Irishman, he came to London in 1866 intending to accompany the great missionary Hudson Taylor to China. However he decided to remain temporarily in London to equip himself for missionary work by training as a doctor.

His experiences in London as a medical student, largely while helping with a cholera epidemic in the East End, brought him face to face with a missionary call nearer home.

Single-handed and despite ridicule and abuse he sold cheap scriptures and preached the Gospel around the pubs, lodging houses and mean streets of the East End and in addition started a free school in a disused donkey stable.

It was through this work that he first became aware of the hundreds, even thousands, of destitute children living as nomads in the Lon-

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don streets. Through speaking and through newspaper reports Barnardo took the lid off a problem of the time which people could hardly believe existed.

The story is told of Barnardo taking the incredulous guests at a fashionable dinner party to Covent Garden Market where, lifting tarpaulin covers, he revealed not only crates of vegetables but seventy - four sleeping boys!

ATTACK

The young Irishman was offered money and in 1870 he founded his first home for homeless boys in Stepney. But this was only one aspect of his attack on poverty and despair as it affected children. He ran a school for trade training, a mini labour exchange, Bible classes, a 'coffee palace,' a clothes club, a money lending scheme. And behind all this varied activity was the young missionary's burning desire to lead people to a knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Today variety is the keynote of the work of Dr. Barnardo's, a variety reflecting the needs of today.

There are more than a hundred homes for children who for one reason or another have no one to care for them. Numbers at these homes range between twelve and forty. The children are cared for in small family groups, living either in sep-

arate buildings or parts of a building, with a married couple or housemother as 'parents.' Everything is done to dispel any 'institutional' atmosphere.

When the time comes for a young person to leave the care of 'Dr. Barnardo's' on leaving school, help is given with finding a job and somewhere to live and the Barnardo Child Care Officer will visit the young people regularly, at least until they are eighteen.

WIDER

'Dr. Barnardo's' work among children is wider than the well-known provision of residential care, in this country and now abroad.

The organisation is keen to keep families together by helping children within their own families before the point is reached when children have to be taken into care. Barnardo Welfare Officers, calling as a friend of the family, give encouragement, advice and support to mothers and families who find it hard to 'cope.' Barnardo seaside flats can provide holidays for these families and financial help can be given in emergencies.

Some broken families—such as 'Cathy's'—are taken into the Barnardo Family Rehabilitation Centre, a series of flats to which a family may come, paying rent, for a period of six months or so and with help from Barnardo's, learn ways of responsible parenthood and household management before being rehoused by local authorities.

UNHURRIED

Dr. Barnardo's, an organisation totally supported by voluntary contributions, runs flats where unmarried mothers may live with their babies and make a calm and unhurried decision about their child's future, it runs residential schools for physically and mentally handicapped children and is concerned with arranging fostering and adoption of children.

Rooted in the same interdenominational Christian principles of its founder, 'Dr. Barnardo's' cares for what has been called the world's largest 'family'—about 8,000 children who have reason to be glad that Thomas Barnardo changed his mind about going to China!



CARED FOR IN FAMILY GROUPS

How much do we take out for ourselves?



We chop all the money we get into four unequal pieces. The heaviest piece we spend on teaching people new ideas. In Africa, South America, Asia, and India.

Our agriculturists teach farmers how to produce more food. And our family planning experts teach women how to have fewer children.

The second piece is emergency money.

Sending food and medical supplies to Biafra and Nigeria. Doctors and nurses to Vietnam.

And sending clothing, food, and engineering equipment to the victims of flood, earthquake, famine, and drought.

Refugees get piece number three.

Arabs in the Middle East, Ethiopians in the Sudan, Tibetans in India, and Chinese in Indonesia.

They need more than food and medicine. They need to get started again.

We help.

(We've taught Arab refugees how to build houses, how to make furniture, even how to service a radio set.)

Piece number four, the tiniest, is what we take out for ourselves. And it adds up to just over a penny in every shilling.

That covers all our expenses. Paperwork, rent, advertising, and the wages of people who work full-time for us.

But it doesn't cover our flag sellers. They rattle those tins for nothing.

We only hope you'll make sure it's not for nothing they rattle them.

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