



MAY 1972

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AGAINST THE ODDS

In the strife which is Ulster, fuel often seems to be added to the flames by the partisan attitudes of some priests and ministers. There are other less newsworthy, men with more creative approaches who are in regular touch with each other in their effort to counteract the hatred between the two factions in Ulster. Outstanding are HAROLD GOOD, a methodist minister in the Protestant Shankhill Road area and Father Desmond Wilson of the Catholic Ballymurphy area.

Both these men are committed to work within their communities, concentrating on the elderly and particularly on young people with the faint hope of preventing them from becoming a generation who will mainly carry violence into the future. There are projects of visiting help and providing meals for the elderly, and running playgroups and holiday schemes for youngsters. In previous summers groups of Protestants and Catholics have been taken away together to discover a new kind of community in camps on the Austrian coast.

Father Wilson in Ballymurphy is helped by some Quakers and by four Indian nuns who have come to Belfast from the community in Calcutta made famous by mother Theresa. Yet the people are the young locals.

'Our efforts', says HAROLD GOOD, "have been directed to getting tough, hard young men and giving them positive alternatives to the gun. In community action for Catholics and Protestants together tough men are made to act in life, not afterwards. There is something positive they can do for others, especially for those they have been brainwashed to hate".

"You are God"

Chris Brodan calling



One freezing night in the shadow of the Himalayas two men went to a railway station. At the end of the goods sheds lived the refuse of humanity—200 refugees from Bangla Desh, dying the slow death of starved, frozen, unwanted rejects. Nobody else ever visited them.

One of the two men spoke their language and talked to them about life and death, evil and God.

"You are God", they cried. He denied it. But his friend saw something he couldn't see. There and then he was the goodness of God on show.

The friend tells the story in the Christian Aid News.

And this is the purpose of Christian Aid—to put the goodness of God on show in a situation which seems to deny it; to say that there is a God who cares behind the helping hand offered to the hurt and devastated.

There are other overseas aid agencies which also offer this helping hand. Christian Aid also works alongside them. There is no competition.

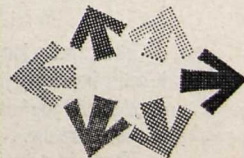
It is Christian Aid's special task to express for the Christians in its supporting churches that the helping hand can be offered in the name of God.

And, because it has its roots in the Christian church, it can carry out its task in a special way as well.

As it is the aid arm of local churches here, so it works abroad solely through local churches—Christians on the spot. It gives them some tools to get on with their job.

Back in India, in Calcutta this time, there is a converted buffalo shed where the Calcutta Urban Service, church-inspired and backed by Christian Aid, has set up one of its 22 groups to teach children and provide some medical services.

This is an outstanding example of the special efficiency of Christian Aid. The money has come from small groups of Christians in their country and is being channelled quickly through similar groups at the receiving end.



PERSONAL POSERS

My own personal devil

I was always brought up to believe in a personal devil. I have noticed a reticence among Christian readers to take in these terms. We believe in a personal God—why not a personal devil? What do you think.

A.D.S., Coventry.

Our Son is bored

Our seventeen year old son has just started work at a steady job. He has a motor bike and a girl friend he seems quite fond of, and we've tried to give him and his younger brother a good home. Yet he keeps saying he's bored stiff. What's wrong?

S.E.B. Aldridge.

From your point of view your son has everything in his favour, and it's difficult for you to see how anyone in that position can possibly be bored. Yet it's the people who seem to have everything going for them who are bored simply because everything is so easy. This is especially true if they are young.

There's nothing wrong with your son's dissatisfaction — if people were never dissatisfied then nothing would ever get done. But he is the only one who can do anything about it. If he says he is bored and then just sits back and waits

The figure of the devil is a pointer to man's experience of evil, to his awareness that there is a struggle between the focus of good and evil in himself and in the world. Christian leaders should not be reticent about that reality even if the divide between good and evil is sometimes hard to pin-point.

The devil is then a salutary and useful piece of imagery. That is not to say that he is 'a person'. That would be to imply that God, as the good creator of all things; had created an evil rival and so divided his nature.

for someone to entertain him then there will be no improvement.

There are lots of things he could do—leave home is one of them—but you can only encourage him, you can't make him do anything. But don't make life too easy for him and provide him with everything he wants—that is the sure way to boredom.



Have you got a problem? Readers are invited to write to "Personal Posers". Our special team of experts at 319, Gazette Buildings, Corporation Street, Birmingham, 4, will do their best to tackle your queries.

"LONELINESS & SUICIDE"

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

The article by Archie Hill on 'Loneliness and Suicide' which appeared in your March issue is very good except that he has got his facts and figures all wrong.

He states that "to-day it (the annual suicide rate) averages between six and a half and seven thousands". Further down he refers to "the increasingly large number of people who kill themselves."

What are the facts?

Professor Richard Fox, Consultant Psychiatrist at Severalls Hospital in a paper delivered to the sixth International Congress on Suicide Prevention held in Mexico in December last year, showed that the number of suicides in England and Wales had dropped steadily from a peak of 5,714 in 1963 to 3,939 in 1970, i.e. a drop of 34.4%.

Prof. Fox further stated that in town where a Samaritan Branch operated there was a drop of 5.8% in the last two years, while in comparable towns without Samaritan branches there was an

increase of 19.8%. He added "One likes to think it is no coincidence that the biggest of the year-by-year drop—431 in 1969-70—happened when the Samaritans had their biggest increase in new clients (17,119) and were larger and more effective than ever before."

In conclusion Prof. Fox stated "When I first wrote about the Samaritans in 1962 I said that the (then small) organization 'could represent a tremendous resurgence of practical Christianity.' It seems to have been just that. It seems also to have shown itself a most effective and, I believe, almost the only statistically proven agency working in preventive psychiatry."

Archie Hill concludes his article by saying "If we ignore the person crying in the wilderness, if we pass him by and will not lend a hand, we endorse his blasphemy".

This is all very well, but how can the ordinary man and woman help the suicidal unless he has had a little basic training in suicide pre-

vention and can operate through an organization like The Samaritans which exists specifically for this purpose?

Cyril W. Block,
Hon. Sec. The Samaritans,
Southampton and District Branch.

MIGRAINE

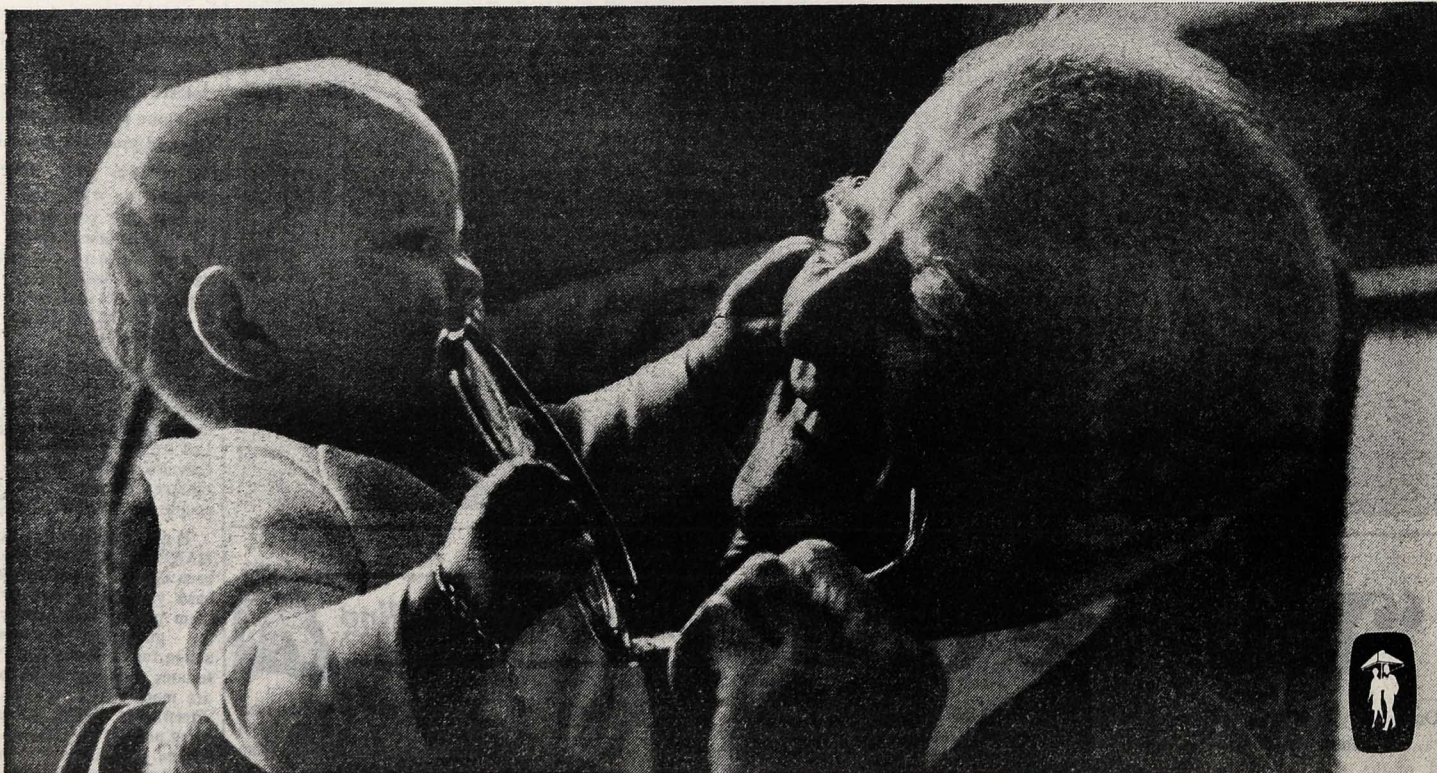
Dear Sirs,

Your otherwise excellent article on migraine in the March issue, leaves out one very important fact, namely the new anti-migraine drug cloridine-hydrochloride, sold as DIXARIT.

This was prescribed for me by my doctor on January 13th, since when I have taken it with 100 per cent success. The sense of liberation and renewed energy is indescribable. For 21 years I had migraine attacks of ever-increasing frequency, until latterly the symptoms came every day. Migril (ergotamine), which was mentioned in your article, would cure an attack, but never totally prevent one. Cloridine never allows an attack to begin; and there are no side effects.

I hope many of your readers who have migraine will share my happy experience.

Anne Grimwade,
Caversham, Reading.



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KALEIDOSCOPE

LOOKING IN ON THE POLITICAL SCENE



The most Inquisitive People in Britain

by Sam Napier

The people who ask the most searching questions are neither police officers nor investigators. They are the 630 M.P.'s at the Palace of Westminster.

When you write to your M.P. asking him to query a Government decision you are, in all probability, adding to the cost of running the country. And the annual bill for these queries is staggering.

In a single session of Parliament providing the answers to the 20,000 and more Parliamentary Questions on almost any topic costs about £250,000.

Nobody would want to inhibit M.P.'s carrying out searching inquiries into Government decisions . . . even on the grounds of cost.

Rules of procedure permit each Member to take not more than two oral questions a day. They may range from foreign policy to local authority rents. But, in addition, each member can put down questions for written reply.

Sir Gerald Nabarro, used the technique of Parliamentary Questions to good effect in his campaign for purchase tax reform. By writing out about 40 variations of the same question and encouraging other Members to help, you can make things awkward for a minister.

And this is part of the gamesmanship. Pressing other questions arising from the Minister's replies (known as supplementaries) is a way of seeking to embarrass the Government.

Often the Minister's Civil Servants are ready and have marked his brief with anticipated supplementaries and their replies.

Providing the answers to the Parliamentary questions involves the time of Civil Servants as well as that of our members of the Government.

Select Committees, appointed by Parliament itself, have inquired into the Parliamentary Question procedure and have said "the exercise of this right is perhaps the readiest and most effective method of parliamentary control over the executive".

In 1965 it was calculated that the average cost for oral replies in the House was £10 10. with written replies costing about three guineas less each.

But . . . and here's the rub . . . working out the cost of each question cost another £2,000.

To-day providing a place for our M.P.'s to meet in and debate and servicing the Parliament costs more than £4 million a year and is still rising. But who would say this is a big price to pay for running a democracy like Britain.



The 1970 Conservative Party Conference

Cautious Conservatives

A lot of water has flowed under Westminster Bridge since Bobby Peel attracted the educated, wealthy middle class around him to form the new Conservative Party in 1841.

A lot of water. A lot of changes too.

Conservative policies have changed from time to time to try to keep up—and popular. The party spirit, though, still haunts their corridors of power: as someone has summed it up: caution, habit

tradition and a respect for people more than policies.

In this century this pattern has shaped itself mostly as opposition to anything smacking of socialism. But this has had to be done along with a nice line in moving with the times, for example, in accepting the Welfare State.

Party membership is still mainly middle class but about 30% of the working class vote goes Tory nowadays, probably as a sign that the hope for doing our own thing and owning our own things runs deep in the population. And this hope is within spitting distance of the Conservative "free enterprise" ideal.

Local Conservative Associations down in the constituencies elect their own committees, which choose the candidates. They raise most of their own election funds. (The party as a whole is well backed from the pockets of industry and commerce.)

These local Associations are linked up by the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations. Through the Conservative Central Office conferences are organised—especially the Annual Conference.

The Central Office is where the non-stop stream of Conservative publicity comes from. The leader of the party is directly in charge of the Office.

...

No. 3 in the series on Local Government has been held over to a later issue

KALEIDOSCOPE
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ON THE
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BRANCHES ALL OVER THE MIDLANDS

PROFILE

The Rt. Hon. Robert Carr M.P.

The eyebrows twitch. The determined eyes fix you with a stare that is all sweet reasonableness. The Secretary of State for Employment is daring you to claim that he doesn't know what he is talking about.

It's a toss-up whether this look and this determination come from 56-year-old Robert Carr's working experience or from one of his leisure time pursuits.

He is a keen tennis-player and umpire. He has umpired at Wimbledon, and anyone would need all the firmness and authority they possess to succeed there. If the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton, it might also be coming true that the battle against unemployment and economic decline could be won—or possibly lost—on the green courts of the All England Club. Mr. Carr's days off may prove to be that important.

Mind you, his working life must be coming in handy too. Already in 1948, as a Cambridge graduate and an experienced and qualified metallurgist (he is a Fellow of the Institution of Metallurgists), he became a director of the family firm which manufactures metal containers, plastic mouldings and aluminium alloys and castings. Since then he has shared himself out between Parliament, mainly with technical and labour responsibility, and his firm.



So he has a narrow, but concentrated, pool of industrial experience to draw on now.

The fact that it is so weighted on the management side plus the question-marks hanging over his Government's policy must still leave us with doubts about whether Robert Carr is going to be able to call "Game, set and match" over the problems facing him.

This article was written before Mr. Carr left the Department of Employment to become Lord President of the Council.

THE PLIGHT OF THE OLD PEOPLE

I want to tell you about Edna. I came across her by chance. She was hobbling down an Essex country lane, assisted by a walking-stick, and I pulled my car up and gave her a lift. From the outside her small terraced house looked quite neat, albeit in need of a coat of paint. The garden was neglected but colourful. But, inside, I thought I was back in the blitz. Rubbish everywhere. Piles of junk, piles of newspapers; two of the rooms were filled with rubble and plaster where the ceilings had fallen down. In every room rising damp had bellied and bulged the walls, and along rotting skirtingboards growths like mushrooms were thriving. Edna had bad legs, bad hands, bad heart. By 'bad' I mean crippled. She had seven different tablet bottles from which to obtain varying relief for varying symptoms. Her pantry was bare of all but the absolute minimums. Her one luxury was to have an oxo-cube in

hot water before going to bed. "They've gone up, you know. When I was a little girl, they were four for a nalt-penny".

Nothing to live for

The house was not only a death-trap for the spirit, it was a death-trap for the flesh. Electric cables swung crazily from light-fittings to electric iron. "Edna, it's dangerous to feed an iron from a light socket. The amperage won't stand it". "I don't know what you're on about. I don't understand these things". "You can kill yourself". "That might be for the best, mister. I've got nothing to live for". Everywhere, danger. An ironing board in one corner, scorched and burned, showed a near-miss where Edna had left the electric iron switched on and forgotten about it. In

the kitchen, (a potential death-trap as explosive as a hand grenade with the pin out), stiff gas-taps on the stove. Above the burners, a pile of clothes waiting to be aired. On the floor, old baskets and kitchen utensils to trip over.

Over all, inadequacy, bewilderment, confusion. "Do the neighbours ever drop in on you, Edna?" "Nobody ever comes here". "Don't they ever drop in to see if you're alright?" "Nobody ever comes here". "Do the welfare people come?" "They come sometimes. But they don't do anything, do they. I mean, what can THEY do? They come, they go. They don't ever DO anything". By her bed, resting on a table, was a small cow-bell. Almost a toy. This was Edna's means of communication with the outside world. If she needed help, she was to ring it.

Nobody heard the bell

"Ring it, Edna", I said, and went out into the street. I heard motor cars, children shouting and laughing. Somewhere, I heard a transistor radio blaring out something about Love. Overhead, I saw a jet aeroplane scream by, proud of man's achievement and progress.

I did not hear Edna's little bell.

A week later, Edna was dead. She had tripped in her cluttered house, and had lain for almost two days with no one to help her. Outside, the children laughed and played, the transistor radios and television sets blared, the jets screeched like ambition overhead, and nobody heard Edna's little bell.

At least 9,000 old people like Edna die each year from hypothermia in England. Hypothermia means that the body temperature drops to such a level that it cannot sustain life.

Hypothermia is a medical term. It states a condition. What it does NOT do is



state the agonies and tortments, the loneliness and despair, the sadness and hopelessness which leads—over a long period of time—to the condition.

Hypothermia is the fatal condition of the victim; but it is also a symptom of Society's indifference, selfishness, bloody-mindedness,

they are accident and fire-proof, the 'State' will not show them the warmth of friendship at a personal and humane level. The State as such cannot show them compassion and concern because these are products of the soul, and the State lacks soul.

We spend so much money on the restoration and preser-

The fact is that they are dead, and that they died in abject misery.

What miserable people we are, to let it happen.

Old people are YOUR business, and MY business—not just the specific business of this or that little group of dedicated people. It is OUR business to seek out the old people within our communities and to HELP them. Help them understand the rules and regulations of their entitlements under Social Security Allowances, make sure that they are not overlooked by Health Visitors, Meals on Wheels, home improvement grants, W.V.S. assistance, Voluntary Social Work Groups. It is OUR business to be 'nosey' if needs be. If some old person within our community seems suddenly not to be around anymore, we must go to his or her dwelling place and be assured that all is well. It is better to look a fool than feel ashamed.

Edna and thousands like her are dead now. More are yet to die in the same terrible circumstances. They are all ringing their little bells for help, but a noise of commercial progress and private differences drowns them out. So we end with lines from the poem of John Donne: "Do not ask for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for THEE". For all of us, the sound draws ever nearer.

Archie Hill investigates CAUSES FOR CONCERN

and attitudes of couldn't-care-less.

Society's Indifference

And it's no use kidding ourselves that the State will provide for them. The 'State' will not knock on their individual doors to see if they're alright, the 'State' will not keep them company, the 'State' will not check to see if

vation of old buildings—and I do not complain of that, I merely make a comparison. It's just that I wish Society in general could put as much enthusiasm and concern into the preservation of its old people. We call them Senior Citizens these days... I suppose those 9,000 who die each year from hypothermia find THAT title a great comfort, much better than 'old people'. What's in a name, anyway.

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CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, MAY, 1972—ON 2

May, 1972

THE NEWSPAPER OF ANGLICANS, FREE CHURCHMEN AND ROMAN CATHOLICS IN CAVERSHAM

Number 92

THE BISHOP'S INVITATION

The message from the Bishop of Oxford which is printed on this page throws open a challenge to us in Caversham. The Parochial Church Council considered this at a recent meeting and as reported elsewhere in this issue has invited a number of people to investigate the facts. But I hope this can become an enterprise in which many members of the community can take part. It is not just a Christian concern and in particular it should meet with response from our local residents associations at Caversham and Caversham Park

and by such bodies as the Townswomen Guilds and Women's Institutes. Mr. W. A. Vincent of 12 Albert Road would be glad to hear of individuals or organisations who would like to take part in this exercise as we try and investigate the environment in which we live. Public opinion ought to be mobilised against the misuse of our natural resources, and a parish which includes a long stretch of the Thames as well as farms and industrial undertakings is one which ought to be concerned about this matter. I hope that in a few months

time the Caversham Bridge will be able to report the result of the group's researches.

John Grimwade

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP OF OXFORD

The Bishop writes:

"Is it right that the world for which Christ died should be filled with poisonous fumes? Is it right that the springs and streams which nourish the earth should be used as open sewers? Is it right that even a tiny part of the ground upon which my children play should be a dump for enough poison to kill a million people? These are the questions which I shall be asking myself this Easter, and I invite you to join me. Will you take it upon yourselves to persuade your friends and perhaps your Parochial Church Council to investigate the environment in which you live and let me have the result of your enquiries? It may be that in your parish there is a cyanide dump, or an indiscriminate use of pesticides which are upsetting the ecological balance of nature. And it may be that you feel powerless to do anything about it. But if the diocese as a whole were to find out what is happening in the counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire, we might be able to mobilise public opinion in such a way as to prevent the kind of natural disasters that have happened as a result of soil erosion in Africa or water pollution in America.

May I suggest that you read one of these three books:

1. "Consumer's Guide to the Protection of the Environment". Jonathan Holliman. Pan Books.
 2. "The Environmental Revolution". Max Nicholson. Pelican Books.
 3. "The Question Mark". Hugh Montefiore. Collins.
- to get a general idea of the seriousness of the situation in which we live? Then watch the Oxford Diocesan Magazine for a list of simple questions to ask your local farmers, factories and councils—and perhaps yourselves—to discover whether we are being good stewards of the world we have been given to live in."

THE BISHOP OF READING IN CAVERSHAM



Walton Adams

THE BISHOP OF READING RECENTLY MADE TWO VISITS TO CAVERSHAM. On Friday, March 24th he was the celebrant and preacher at a special service of Holy Communion when some one hundred and eighty people who had been confirmed by him renewed their confirmation promises. Many of those whom he has confirmed are now members of the Church council, and the taking of the service was shared by a number of people whom he had confirmed. Dr. Beale read the Gospel, and Mrs. D. E. Gillings and Miss K. Harris the Old Testament lesson and Epistle. The intercessions were led by Mr. F. C. Moore. The offertory was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Knight and Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Nicholls, and at the organ was John Anderson of St. Barnabas. The four servers and the sidesmen were drawn from all the churches in the parish. After the service the Bishop met many of the congregation over refreshments in the Toc H building and was photographed by Caversham Bridge photographer Mr. John Anderson who with his wife was confirmed by the Bishop.

Then on March 29th the Bishop visited the almshouses in Westfield Road to confirm three of the residents, Mrs. Agnes Matthews, Mr. Joseph Rampton and Mr. Percy Wardel. A number of relatives attended the short service.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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CAVERSHAM'S OLDER RESIDENTS

Many Caversham people will remember the two charming young health visitors who came calling a year ago to collect details of the problems, if any, of people over 65. It was, you may remember, a pilot scheme organised by the Reading Department of Health and Social Services together with an operational research unit from Reading University, and the two visitors worked in co-operation with the local doctors.

In case you are wondering what happened to all the facts and figures they collected, you will be interested to know that towards the end of the year they brought out an interim report on their findings.

Caversham it seems, unlike some districts, does not in general neglect its old people. Miss Hall says: "Contrary to popular belief, kinship ties . . . are

relatively strong. The unit, consisting of family, friends and neighbours, provides a tremendous service both for the elderly and for the community". Heartening news indeed.

So too was the discovery that Caversham Bridge Social Service Scheme does such a useful job of work that on the whole other voluntary services are not needed.

Four distinct areas

Elderly people in Caversham tend to be reasonably contented though, alas, some are, or try to be, too independent and several needs did come to light, mostly because the person concerned was not making sufficient use of the help available. Mrs. Livingstone produced some interesting facts about the four distinct areas of Caversham. In Lower Caversham, it seems, the relationship within the family tends to be very close. Many of the houses could do with some modernising, but there were advantages, such as the proximity of the local bus services.

The older residents of Caversham Heights, on the other hand, tend to feel a little cut off from shops and sometimes from bus routes.

Loneliness

In general, both Miss Hall and Mrs. Livingstone were well received by those on whom they called, some elderly people actually welcoming the opportunity to discuss their problems. Even in Caversham, loneliness tends to be a problem, particularly with those who are house-bound.

Altogether the scheme seems to have been very successful and has no doubt provided very useful material for further research. Those of us who had the pleasure of meeting our health visitors will, I am sure, admit that much of the success is due to the young ladies themselves, their friendliness, tact and sympathy going a long way to put people at their ease.

W.D.

Around Caversham

MR. AND MRS. PAIGE

About five years ago Esther Fyson came from her home at Horsham to work at the BBC Monitoring Service and quickly became a very popular member of the staff, so it was with great delight that we heard of her recent marriage to Andrew Paige from Hampstead, who joined the BBC staff last year.

Already Esther has brought her husband, no newcomer to social welfare work, into the band of Shelter workers from Caversham, and no doubt much of their spare time will be spent on such activities, for they are a couple to whom the word 'involvement' really means something.

We hope they will still find time for their other interests for Esther, a member of Trinity Congregational Church, is very interested in the history of art, while Andrew's absorbing interest is music.

Couples like these are a very welcome part of our community; we send them our very best wishes and hope they will remain with us for a long while.

Caversham Winemakers' Circle

Over a hundred members and visitors at the monthly meeting on March 1st, heard a very instructive talk on growing fruit for wine-making by Mr. J. Fowles, Head of the Horticultural Dept. of Berkshire College of Education. Challenged by the Sandhurst and Crowthorne Circle to a competition in four classes of wine, sweet and dry in both red and white wine, Caversham were narrowly the overall winners.

On March 21st, forty members visited the vast complex of Associated British Maltsters at Wallingford. Guided by the production Manager, Mr. G. Taylor, the party saw the continuous process which converts the starch in the barley to malt.

Once again the Annual Social on March 24th, was a great success. Joined by visitors from six other circles, the hundred and fifty guests danced to Bill Brookes band and enjoyed a "Fur and Feather" cabaret put on by circle members and Pamela of the Eleanor Austin Dancing School.

SUNDAY EVENING AT THE ARTHUR CLARKE HOME

For over a year, on the second Sunday in each month, a small group of people have visited this home and organised a hymn singing session with the ladies there. The residents choose their own hymns, Miss Jean Sawyer from Caversham Free Church and Miss Daphne Gay from St. Peter's lead the singing, and Peggy Reeves, also from St. Peter's plays the piano.

It is a happy session, greatly enjoyed by the residents and it is an idea that others might well copy in old people's homes in their districts. Everybody loves the opportunity for community singing and it is a welcome change from Television on Sundays.

OXFAM SHOP

Our new Oxfam shop, reported on by us recently, is doing very well. They would like to stay open later on Saturday afternoons but are short of volunteers. Can anyone please help? Volunteers will be very welcome and, after all, Saturday afternoon is a very good shopping time.

THE FABRIC SHOP

Bob Gwyther tells us that he now has a dressmaking service at his shop and welcomes enquiries. He was very pleased to report the number of people who seemed to have read the article about his shop in a recent issue of the 'Bridge'. It makes a good talking point and adds to the already friendly atmosphere. For our part, we should like to say how much we enjoy his colourful window display.

W.D.

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WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT
PHOTOGRAPHS

Life depends on where you live

by Laurence Stevens

BRITAIN COLONISED!

JUST IMAGINE THAT THIS COUNTRY WAS COLONISED BY THREE DIFFERENT AFRICAN POWERS IN THE 1850's. They divided our land into three, drawing lines from the Thames to the Severn, and from the Humber to the Mersey. The three areas were then administered on different lines and in different languages. The landed gentry and the aristocracy whom they set in key positions would still hold power today.

Our iron and coal would have been shipped out for the booming industries of Africa, and our agriculture developed to feed their population and processing plants. No vital institutions such as the Stock Exchange, docks, railways, roads, schools or postal services would have been developed except in the interests of peace and efficient production. Some parts of the country would be better off than others with some hospitals and schools set up. We would not be beginning from scratch in a world dominated by Africans not disposed to make development easy for us.

THAT IS RATHER HOW IT LOOKS IF YOU HAPPEN TO LIVE IN AN "UNDERDEVELOPED" COUNTRY TODAY. EXPECT THAT THE BOOT IS ON THE OTHER FOOT. Britain and the rich nations of the West are the ones with most of the advantages.

Christian Aid Week (15th-20th May) is a reminder of the needs of the two-thirds of

the world which has only a tenth of the world's riches. In spite of all the aid, and the relief and development work that Christian Aid is doing, the gap between rich and poor nations is widening all the time.

Christian Aid is not enough

The situation becomes more potentially explosive with every month that passes. Christian Aid can only scratch the surface of the problem. Governments must be persuaded to alter such things as crippling tariffs on manufactured imports from developing countries, and to give more generous quotas, trade and monetary agreements and investment.

The Boss and the Typist

Although many British agricultural and manufactured products are protected by these tariffs, it is a waste of resources to continue to make or grow a product which can be acquired more cheaply elsewhere in the world. Take the example of the boss and his typist. He may be the better typist, but if he does his own typing, he will not have time to do those

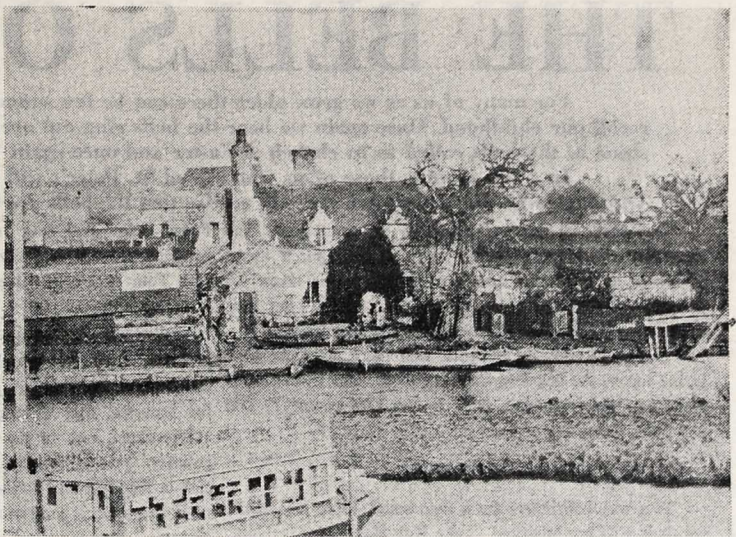
things which he does even better, such as marketing the product.

Britain stands to gain from an increase in world trade if tariffs and quotas against developing countries are lowered. Those who think that we give too much away should consider that although Britain gives only 7% of world aid, she receives 13% of aid generated orders. We in Britain have benefited from trade with our dependencies. We got rich; they did not.

A long struggle

What is needed now is a long struggle against world poverty. Christian Aid as a charity is not allowed to campaign politically, so The World Development Movement (69 Victoria St., London SW1) has been set up to press for governmental action.

Yet because politicians are wary of acting much in advance of public opinion, your gifts to Christian Aid can have a double effect. They will provide immediate help for the needy. And they will also demonstrate a concern which will strengthen the hands of those who want to see greater government aid for the developing countries.



WILLOW COTTAGE—now only a memory. Walton Adams

IN MEMORIAM — WEEP FOR WILLOW

A cottage, which for two centuries, has been a familiar sight on the bank of the Thames near Caversham Bridge, was in two days during February reduced to dust and rubble. Originally the home of the Freebodies, a very old Caversham family, this flint and brick building, known as Willow Grotto, was in 1958 listed as a house of architectural interest. The loss of the cottage, around which so many changes have taken place, will sadden many readers.

Barges and Steamboats

In 1812 a member of the Freebody family owned a trading barge, a good investment because by 1835 the traffic in water borne goods totalled 50,000 tons. Road traffic accounted for a mere 100 tons. And there must have been great excitement in Willow Grotto on a day in 1813, when a steam boat passed through Caversham for the first time.

By 1831 sport had come to the river with perhaps the Freebody's playing a part. 1835 saw a race between two four oared cutters manned by Reading "Gents" and seven years later Reading held its first Annual Regatta, drawing a crowd of about 7,000.

Start of a Long Voyage

Willow Grotto and the old stone and brick bridge were probably the last glimpses of Caversham for 43 emigrants bound for America, as they boarded a barge for the first stage of the journey to Liverpool.

The Thames was then much purer than it is today. In fact a catch of salmon was recorded at the eel bucks (Bucksidge) in 1848.

Riverside Home

Spring and summer must have made the cottage a very desirable riverside property, with ample opportunity for the gardening so much enjoyed by Rose Dorothy Freebody when she lived there. Stones, forming part of the garden and its rockery, were excavated from the bed of the river during the building of the present bridge, and are believed to be part of the mediaeval chapel of Our Lady and St. Anne, built on the nearby island by the monks of Reading Abbey. Winter at the cottage would have been a different story.

Names with a History

The demolition of Willow Grotto marks the passing of an era, which may soon be forgotten as the new flats rise up in its place. Caversham Court has gone, so have the Priory and Caversham House, and now this simple home; all reminders of a time

when Caversham was a real village and not just a Reading suburb.

How much more of the old character of Caversham is to be taken away? Understandably, newcomers to the district may not feel deeply about such changes, but to those whose roots are in Caversham it is a sad passing. Let us hope that when the time comes, the new flats will be given names, forming a link with local history.

M.K.

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THE BELLS OF CAVERSHAM

For many of us as we grow older there can be few sounds more guaranteed to make us nostalgic than a peel of bells; they recall our childhood. Once again we hear the bells ring out over the fields as we took our country walks, we recall the spring sunshine as the bells called us to church at Easter and once again walk through the snow to midnight mass.

In a few months those of us who attend St. Peter's will be heard to remark: "It'll be nice to get the bells back, won't it?"

And those who don't already know will realise that the bells are being overhauled.

But that, for most of us, is as far as it goes. The Peggy, who died two years ago; I wonder how many bells and the ringers, tucked away in the church tower people knew she was secretary for 17 years and that she and Tom met when they were both bellringing at St. Laurence's.

Did you know, for instance, that there are eight bells in the tower, the heaviest weighing more than 13 cwt? Did you know that they date back to the 17th century? Did you know the name of even one of the ringers?

A family matter

In a way bellringers are a race apart. More often than not their gifts are inherited. Take Roy Harris, for instance, the ringing captain who joined the ringers after leaving the choir. His grandfather is 87 years young and still rings regularly at Sevenoaks in Kent after 70 years as a ringer. Then there is Douglas Beaumont, Deputy Captain, and his brother Joseph. Their grandfather, Mr. Burles who is 83, moved from Barrow-in-Furness to live with his family in Caversham and rings regularly at St. Peter's. Miss Ann Osborne, the tower secretary, is the fourth generation of a family of established ringers. Ann comes from Tilehurst with her father, Stan, to ring at St. Peter's. James and Alison Milford come from Shinfield to ring and are another father and daughter team; James learned to ring at Salisbury Cathedral in Rhodesia. There is Tom Lanaghan who was captain of the team for 15 years and still rings; most of St. Peter's congregation have happy memories of his wife

Tom himself first started ringing in 1923, and there are probably very few people in the district who know so much about bells and ringers as he does. He can tell you, for instance, that most of St. Peter's bells were cast at Whitechapel, one of the two remaining foundries in the country. Two of the bells, made in 1660 and 1637 were cast in Reading and unlike most bells bear little in the way of inscription; it is customary for bells to carry the names of donors, founders, date etc., inscribed round the rim; these two however were made at the time of the Civil War when the less said the better about the makers and they could only be traced by their foundry marks.

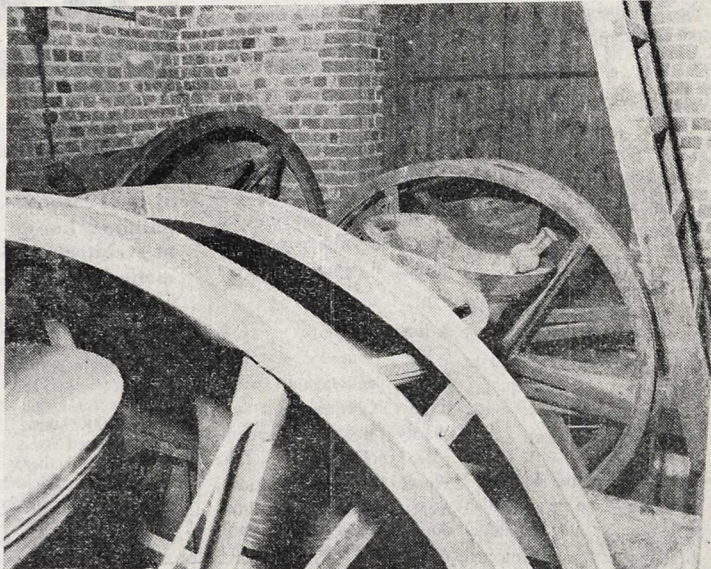
Chinese bells

Bells, Tom tells me, go very far back in history. Nobody knows when they actually began, but they were a feature of ancient China 5,000 years ago, they are mentioned in Exodus, and the first known British bells—a very primitive form—date from the Iron Age. Somewhere around 900 circular bells began to be cast, the original ones being made in monasteries. At one time they were used to give out news, to announce warnings, to celebrate victories and, of course, to call people to church. The Caversham bells were at one time famous all over the south of England.

Today alas they are not such a familiar sound, though Tom says there has been a renewed interest in ringing since the last war. There are today four other churches in Reading and district boasting a ring of bells, St. Lawrence's (12 bells), St. Giles (8), St. Mary's (8) and St. Michael's, Tilehurst (8). The team at St. Peter's consists of something like 14 members to whom we owe a great debt.

Visitors, both ringers and non-ringers, are always welcome at St. Peter's, both on Sundays or at Tuesday night practice. But — a word of warning — please don't go through the door at the top of the stairs when the bells are actually ringing; you might learn more about bells than you intend to.

Later we hope to bring you some more news about the history of St. Peter's bells, for it is all recorded in the minutes kept by the secretary. By then, we hope, the bells will be back in place and ringing out as proudly as they have done for centuries.



Walton Adams

Ringling a peal

Not that they see it that way; the bellringers have a great sense of team spirit and loyalty which is shown by their regular attendance over the years. I asked Roy Harris what the ringers did for special occasions. He said they would ring a peal. He explained that to ring a peal was an achievement as it involved all members of the band standing and ringing for three hours with deep concentration so that no mistakes were made and the peal lost. The band also rings quarter peals which take about 45 minutes. It is a sobering thought that the

HEARD — but not SEEN. A glimpse of the bells which will shortly be re-hung.

£1,200

The restoration of the bells which will start in June is to cost £1,200. Donations towards this work may be sent to Mr. Burton, 2a Matlock Road.

total permutations on a ring of 12 bells would take the ringers, ringing night and day, something like 37 years.

W.D.

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PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

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THURSDAY, MAY 11th, 1972

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6.30 a.m.—St. Andrew's.
7-00 a.m.—9.30 a.m.—St. Peter's.
10.00 a.m.—St. John's.

SUNG EUCHARIST

7.30 p.m.—St. Andrew's
8-00 p.m.—St. Peter's, St. John's, St. Barnabas.

The newly confirmed will receive the Sacrament for the first time on Ascension Day evening.
10.15 a.m.—St. Peter's Service for Schoolchildren.

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RANDOM JOTTINGS FROM AN R.C. LAYMAN

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

As I have been out of the country and in the Southern hemisphere for some time now, this column has been conspicuous by its absence. During my five weeks in Western Australia I only managed to get to Mass twice, due chiefly to distance, travelling around and the very great heat, (around 100°) for much of the time I was there.

While in Perth, however, it became apparent that the Anglican Dean is a forceful churchman who has managed to establish a rapport with the young. Without lowering in any way his standards, he is able to communicate with them and provide something for which there is a manifest yearning amongst them. This is shown in the number of young who consult him personally about their problems, and in the number of young who support any function in which he is engaged or any service at which he preaches. I myself heard him give a very serious talk at the University of Western Australia's Summer School on "Sex, Promiscuity and Love" to an all-age group. Not only did I admire the way he handled the talk but (and this perhaps was even more important), the commonsense way he handled the questions afterwards.

Every few weeks he organises a 'Rock' Mass in the Cathedral. The response to this has been so overwhelming that tickets in advance have had to be issued. Most of those attending are certainly young, but some older people do attend and, in spite of the deafening noise, are sufficiently impressed to return again and again. Before Communion it is announced that anyone may communicate, whether a member of the Anglican Church or not. There was unfortunately no 'Rock' Mass during my time in Perth.

NEW ZEALAND

On my way home, we called in at Wellington, N.Z. where we spent two days. On one of these I visited the church at Otaki.

The exterior of this church is very severe and deceiving. It gives no sign whatsoever that within its walls there prevails a dignity and eloquence all of its own. The decoration and carving inside show the highly individual skill and artistry of the Maori craftsmen. The huge gathering of

Maori tribes that celebrated the centenary of this church in 1950 showed that it has a unique place in the history of New Zealand.

The recorded history of Rangiatea church begins with the pioneering missionary, the Rev. Octavius Hadfield, and the church was completed in 1851. The name 'Rangiatea' means "The House of the Absolute". To the Maori of those primitive days the Supreme Being was known as "God the Parentless". His cult was the highest concept of Maori religion, which perpetuated the belief in twelve heavens. It was this belief that preserved for posterity the origin of learning as it devolved from the ascent of one Tanenulorangi to the superlative heaven, Tikiti-kiorangi.

In his journey to the top-most spiritual realm he was met in the eleventh heaven by the White Heron, which escorted him to his destination, Tikiti-kiorangi. It was there he beheld the awe-inspiring sign of the Abode of the Unbegotten. It was Rangiatea. Tanenulorangi entered the shrine and received from God the Parentless his quest: learning of the highest order for the edification of man here on earth. Mission accomplished Tanenulorangi returned to earth alone, his feathered escort remaining in Tikiti-kiorangi, making that his one and only flight to the sacred dwellingplace of the Supreme Being.

A MOVE TO THE WEST COUNTRY

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham, has lost a stalwart member of the congregation now that Bob Coates has moved to Crediton in Devon with his wife Peggy and their two children Sandra and Robert.

Since they came to Mapledurham in the early nineteen sixties Bob has taken a very active part with the bell-ringers. He also spent a great deal of his time seeing to the Church clock, which as many people know, periodically "plays up".

For several years Bob was a sidesman and recently served as one of the church wardens. He was also recorder for the Stewardship Scheme run in the parish.

Peggy too has played her part bellringing and her floral decorations in church have always been much admired.

Their many friends are sorry to see them go and are grateful for all they have contributed to the life of the parish. Very best wishes to them for the future.

The Maori people are evidently extremely artistic and poetic. Since the days of Octavius Hadfield most of the incumbents at Rangiatea have been Maori, including the present pastor-in-charge.

A lady I visited in Wellington told me that there have been several Maori members of the New Zealand Parliament and that, almost without exception, these men had great powers of expression and their eloquence and command of language were far superior to the white members. She said it was a pleasure to listen to their speeches. She told me that the tragedy of the Maori people today is that although they can succeed best in the country districts where they can remain most truly their individual selves, all too often they come to the towns where our so-called civilisation and materialism swamps them unless their education and characters are strong enough to resist.

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W.I. COLUMN

MAPLEWOOD W.I.

At the Annual Meeting of Maplewood W.I. the election of the President and Committee resulted in the re-election of Mrs. Betty Lewis as President. Mrs. Bubb and Mrs. Osborne were elected Vice-Presidents and Mrs. Eleanor Alford and Mrs. Mary Clarke Secretaries. Mrs. Pam Briggs is the new Treasurer. There is to be a Coffee Morning in aid of Berkshire Blind people, at Mrs. Bubb's house on April 20th. The competition for decorated Easter Eggs was won by Miss Dormer. A concert by some members of the League of Friends in aid of local hospitals took place on March 25th. Members were invited to visit the new buildings at Battle Hospital on April 12th.

MAPLEDURHAM W.I.

At the Annual Meeting of the Mapledurham W.I. Mrs. Bramwell was in the chair. Mrs. Martin read the Minutes for the last Annual Meeting and these were duly signed. This has been a difficult year for Mapledurham, having had six months without a President, Mrs. Bramwell and Mrs. Mortimer standing in turn. Mrs. Deacon gave the financial report and Mrs. Curtis the V.C.O. from Checkenden presided over the rest of the meeting. The Committee was elected and Mrs. Bramwell made President for the coming year, which we hope will

go more smoothly. Mrs. Collard won the cup for Handicraft during the year and the vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Skinner. There was a raffle and the usual cups of tea and excellent scones and cakes.

BLAGRAVE W.I.

The Annual meeting took place in the Memorial Hall, Upper Woodcote Road. Mrs. Wright presided and welcomed Mrs. Ide VCO and Mrs. French her assistant. After the business meeting Mrs. Ide gave a talk on "The National Headquarters" and explained some of the functions of the various departments.

Mrs. Wright was re-elected President. Her new committee is Mrs. Bartless, secretary, Mrs. Moore, treasurer, Mrs. Day, Mrs. Menary, Mrs. Pert, Mrs. Price, Miss Reynolds, Mrs. Sholl and Mrs. Waite.

Mrs. Ide VCO won the raffle.

ROSEHILL W.I.

Mrs. Buckle, Vice-President, took the Chair at the Annual General Meeting. Mrs. Russell was re-elected President. Mrs. Ellingham read the annual report. Mrs. Sizer gave a short talk on the purpose of W.I. work. Mrs. Phillips presented the accounts for the year. A Jumble Sale was held on March 16th. The Competition for oldest pennies was won by Mrs. Watson.

ROUND THE PARISH

RETIREMENT OF DR. BEALE

After serving as Church Warden for five years, Dr. Eric Beale retired at the Annual Vestry Meeting and Mr. Gordon Page was elected in his place. Mr. C. V. Burnside continues in office. Tributes were paid to Dr. Beale by the Rector and Mr. Burnside who spoke of his great energy and the wonderful work he had done in particular both for the Caversham Bridge newspaper and the Bridge scheme of social service. Mrs. Beale was also thanked for the help she had given, particularly in supporting Dr. Beale through constant entertaining of members of the parish.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

The annual meetings this year were again well attended. At St. John's there was a frank discussion about the future of the church in face of growing problems relating to the fabric as it appears it will shortly be necessary to re-roof the church, while the east wall is suffering badly from damp and the organ is likely to be unplayable in a very short time unless extensive repairs are undertaken.

Three new district wardens were elected. At St. Peter's Mr. T. D. Birtwhistle takes office, at St. Andrew's Mr. Frank Beetham has retired after nine years in office and Mr. Arthur Burton was elected. At St. Barnabas as Mr. Gordon Page was nominated for Church Warden of the parish, Mr. David Miles was elected as district warden in his place. Other new members of the Church Council are Dr. D. Osbourn and Mrs. P. Coome (St. Peter's), Mr. P. Tipton and Mrs. Y. Miles (St. John's), Mr. D. Cooper and Mrs. P. Beabey (St. Andrew's) and Mr. O. Jewiss and Mr. D. Snell (St. Barnabas) while Mr. Stratford of St. Peter's returns after a gap of some years.

The newly elected Council held its first meeting on March 21st when among other business it considered the Bishop of Oxford's letter regarding pollution and set up a working party to try and discover facts regarding the local situation.

PARISH CONFIRMATION

The parish confirmation will be held in St. Peter's on Wednesday, May 10th at 7.30 p.m.

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The Methodist Missionary Society is concerned with development — Farm training centres and pioneering work in under-developed areas. Agricultural projects in Asia, Central, East and West Africa, and the West Indies. These schemes are often run in co-operation with other churches and local governments, and most of the relief and development agencies share in the work, especially Christian Aid Education — Adults, as well as children, are given the opportunity to read and learn, and special schools are provided for the blind, deaf, and dumb, and also for handicapped children.

HEALING

The churches share in leprosy relief and operate specialised projects such as measles prevention, where measles is a 'killer' disease. Mobile clinics and dispensaries are provided in remote areas. In Britain we have one doctor for every 830 people, Nigeria has one for every 37,000 and Ghana one for every 13,000.

INDUSTRY AND CITY LIFE

Country people need help in settling down in cities like Madras and the Zambian copper belt. There are lonely people in high-rise flats in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Accra. Much help is given in the slum areas of Calcutta, Haiti, and Kingston, Jamaica, where unemployment is rife. The different denominations work together in welfare centres, counselling centres, schools, community centres, and in training schemes.

EVANGELISM

The foregoing are ways to fuller life, but evangelism means offering the fullest life of all in the fellowship and service of Jesus Christ.

The Missionary Society assists nationals to reach the hearts of their own people, and still involves itself with pioneering in remote places — in Central America, Kenya, Dahomey, and parts of Rhodesia.

Whilst overseas churches do more and more to help themselves they still need our prayers and our financial help.

If you are unable to be present at the Concert on May 12th how about buying a ticket for the good of the cause, and giving it to an old age pensioner or to an interested student?

Good Friday Pilgrimage

The children of St. Peter's Church kept Good Friday by going on a coach pilgrimage. Stops were made at a number of places for games and prayers and the party entered St. Peter's just before the end of the Three Hour Service carrying a large wooden cross which was erected in the chancel.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

St. John's Wednesday Group, an informal weekly gathering of young mothers, has recently undergone a change of leadership. For the last 2 years Mrs. Audrey Beteridge has very ably convened the group and arranged its varied programme. Unfortunately she has to give up this role. St. John's is greatly in her debt for all that she has done. However, a warm welcome is extended to Mrs. Freda Savin, who has agreed to take her place. Anybody interested in being a member of the group should contact her at 17, Douglas Road, or telephone the priest in charge — 471814. Membership is open to any young mother whether a member of St. John's or not.

YOUTH CLUB

Meeting on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. in St. John's Hall, the youth club is beginning to develop a sense of identity. Members have now elected a committee which is assisting with the club's organisation. Evenings include a regular diet of table tennis, games, records and refreshments. An outing to see the Harlem Globetrotters in action has been arranged for an evening this month.

CHRISTIAN AID SALE

As a preliminary to Christian Aid Week a sale has been arranged for Saturday, 6th May in St. John's Hall starting at 10.30 a.m. Enquiries and offers of help should be made to Mr. P. Tipton, 73, South View Avenue — Tel. 474076.

GRAND CONCERT

on
FRIDAY, 12th MAY
at 8.00 p.m.

Estelle Beach, A.R.A.M.
(Soprano)

Denis Catlin, A.R.A.M.
(Baritone)

Horatia Raphael (Piano)
Stella Cooke, A.R.C.M.
(Oboe)

Clive Waterman (Organ)
Accompanist — David Jordan.

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WEEK

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Preacher:
THE REV. DEREK
NICHOLS.

Mr. Nichols worked in
Zambia for ten years and
was education secretary of
the United Church of
Zambia.

MOTHERS DAY AT GOSBROOK ROAD

The day dawned bright and sunny, but even though there was a chill wind this did not keep the mums and dads and children away. The church was overflowing, it was really nice to see such a huge congregation. The service included the Boys' and Girls' Brigade parading three baptisms and the annual handing out of posies to the mothers. The Reverend T. R. Harris gave a short talk accompanied by the babies and children and the morning concluded by the Boys' Brigade band parading in Gosbrook Road.

To end Mothers' Day the Women's Fellowship held their annual service in the evening. The preacher for the evening was Mrs. Myra Parsons and some of the Women's Fellowship sang an anthem and gave the reading. The friends from Gosbrook Road will agree that it was a very happy Mothers' Day.

To continue the annual Women's Fellowship weekend the ladies entertained friends at their holiday slides evening and all enjoyed a bread and cheese supper. The amount raised for Women's Fellowship funds was £5.58p.

SUMMER MARKET

The friends at Gosbrook Road invite everyone to their Summer Market on June 3rd. The afternoon will commence at 3 p.m. when Norman and Margaret Holley will be the Chairman and Opener. During the afternoon there will be stalls, sideshows, bowling, men's cake competition and many other interesting events. The afternoon will end with an entertainment.

GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST

The Caversham Methodist Church met a set back when it was learnt at a recent Trustees meeting that the repairs to the roof will cost the church nearly £800. The Gift Day Secretaries have agreed to co-ordinate money raising efforts over the next few months.

The friends of the church are most grateful to the Revds. J. Grimwade and Peter Atkinson for the use of St. John's Church for Sunday morning services during the period when the chapel was under repair. Thanks are to be passed on to all the friends of St. John's who helped out during this difficult time.

BOYS' BRIGADE

The 1st Caversham Boys' and Girls' Brigade were well represented at the Reading Town Hall display on March 22nd. The Girls took part in an item called 'Exploring the World' with each company depicting a different country. Caversham girls played the part of Sunny Australians. The older girls took part in team games and came second in the competition. The Junior boys joined with other

companies to present Snow White and they were the very pretty fairies they made!!! Caversham was also represented in the Junior 5-a-side football final and they won the competition 1-0 and were presented with a small trophy. The 1st Caversham Band gave a good performance and all who have had a hand in training in the competition. The band are to be congratulated.

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T.G. COLUMN

Caversham Afternoon

The Chairman Mrs. C. Mitchell welcomed back Mrs. Barlow after a long absence due to illness.

A special tribute was paid to Miss Bussey on the occasion of her birthday and a bouquet was presented to her on behalf of the members.

The Education Chairman Mrs. A. Smith announced that the newly formed 'Working Party' has got off to a good start. Attendance is good and many new ideas are forthcoming.

'Reading Town Planning' was the subject of the talk which followed given by Mr. Day, an area planning assistant with the Town Planning Office. Many and varied questions followed showing the keen interest of the Guild members in this project. Miss A. K. Hind thanked the speaker on behalf of the members.

As the N.U.T.G. Floral Art competition this year is being held at Syon Park, Brentford it is anticipated that many T.W.G. members will wish to see the display on May 24th.

Caversham Heights

Henry VIII has been blamed for many things, and it appears that we can even trace local government organisation back to his times, for, by the sacking of Reading Abbey he left the local merchants in sole command of Reading's affairs.

Mr. C. S. McDonald, our Deputy Town Clerk, told us

this and many other fascinating facts when he spoke to the Guild this week on "The Future of Local Government in Reading."

Evidently we are about to go through another large re-organisation of local Government and by 1974 the Reading Council, as we know it to-day, will have lost much of its autonomy. Whether this is a good or bad thing does not seem to matter to the public at large. In fact a nationwide opinion poll tells us that, discounting those with connections at the Town Hall, the number of people who understand what does happen in local government is negligible, and the number of those who care, even less. None of us ever have correspondence with the Town Hall unless we have complaints. Since losing the Police Force, our officials hardly ever receive letters of commendation. 98% of us never even complain to the Town Hall, so we are either very satisfied or don't care. Mr. McDonald was unable to tell us very much about the future of Reading as so many points are still being debated, but if Gallop Poll comes to Caversham in the near future to ask about local government we should be able to confound the national averages!

Emmer Green

Mrs. M. Turnbull gave us a delightfully "Lighthearted History of Fashion", which she interspersed by a considerable number of sketches of fashions of the period concerned and short amusing quotations regarding them.

An Old People's Workshop stall was held at this meeting. The considerable skill shown by all the contestants for the Paper Hat Competition made judging very difficult. The winner was Mrs. F. P. Harvey.

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MAPLEDURHAM

PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 9th March, 1972. Mr. W. H. Wheeler, Chairman of the Council presided at the meeting.

The Council expressed its concern that many trenches that have been dug in various roads in the Parish to provide additional services have been left in a dangerous condition. Furthermore, many of the entrance driveways in Woodcote Way have not been properly reinstated after the laying of pipes by the Gas Board.

The Council were also informed that verges in Rokeby Drive were being ruined because of vehicles that park on the verges in that area. Upon all these items, and other subsidiary matters, the Clerk was requested to write to the appropriate authorities requesting that they should carry out some form of remedial work in these areas.

The Council again considered the need to keep under review the conditions that prevail along the B.479 between Greendene Hill and the 'Pack Saddle' PH, particularly having regard to the eventual opening of the Cane End bye-pass. As there were apparently no immediate plans for an improvement to be carried out along this particular stretch of the road, it was agreed that the County Surveyor should be made aware of the Council's constant concern regarding this section of roadway, and that he be asked for any relative information.

An application for boarding kennels at Nuney Green was considered; as there had been no local opposition received by the Council, no objection was raised to the application.

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CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, MAY, 1972—SEVEN



Walton Adams

Mr. Leach and Miss Winship were married at St. Anne's Church on Saturday March 18th

Caversham Park School
Family Service every Sunday 11.15 a.m.

House Communion at
2 Blackwater Close 10.30 a.m. Wednesday May 10th and 24th.

All contributions for the June edition of the Caversham Bridge should be sent to the Rectory by Tuesday April 25th.

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HIGHDOWN DRAMA CLUB

Two plays for Easter

"The Right Place" by David Campton and "Everyman" by a Dutchman who wrote it some 600 years ago. Come to think of it, the two plays in fact represent one whole—the first illustrating the thirst of "everyman" to get to "the right place" in a hurry and the second the reckoning which "everyman" rather reluctantly faces "at the end of the road".

David Campton's "basic magic of theatre"—that is that bare boards can portray a garden, the top of a mountain or a sea of treacle—has been known, of course, since the days of the Greek amphitheatre and successfully practised by the Comedie Francaise. Campton's theatre is what real theatre should be but what is now found only in experimental studios where everything is built around the actor and not around the decor, glitter and lights, for the purpose of study and criticism. This is a very absorbing kind of art, creating great pressure and tension for the players as well as for the audience and, therefore, not everyone's cup of tea. The blunders by the actors as well as producers cannot be disguised—they lay as bare as the boards under them.

Experimental theatre serves to find new ways of presentation as well as to fully develop the potential of its participants. Their success is measured by the extent of attention extracted from the audience. Considering that this was a performance by the Highdown School Drama, it was understandable that this should be its purpose. Glen Maslin as Adam, Robert Dicken as Hughie and Colin Taylor as Old Man in "The Right Place" had a task and I thought that Colin Taylor was particularly at home in this role as well as in the role of everyman in "Everyman".

I found it hard to believe that it was almost 40 years since I had seen "Everyman" for the first time and never again until now. I saw it staged in the open air with all the trimmings of a Bavarian village with the real beer-garden, a huge oak tree and a well in the centre of the square, flanked by the town hall on the one side and the church with an enormous bell tower on the other—opening up with a huge party, dancing and music, toasts and boasts by Everyman, the village potentate, and much hypocritical display of his guests. The appearance of Death at this merry-making was as chilling as the voice of God coming from the top of the lit-up church tower, the tolling of the bells and the radiance of the open church at the end of Everyman's "road" . . . At Highdown, it was not only the bare boards and the Shakespearian language that made it a difficult play but also the "medieval morality" which is questioned nowadays on every side.

P.G.

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STREETS AND TRAFFIC

An immediate result of the publication of the Residents' Association survey on street furniture was that the notorious post, standing unem-ployed in the middle of the pavement in Hemdean Road, was dug up and replaced by a small asphalt patch, which must have found itself in familiar company in that long-suffering road. Shortly afterwards another useless and ill-sited post, already leaning slightly, presumably from its encounter with the head of a well-known Caversham resident, was also dug up. This only leaves four useless ones and Alderman Stansfeld-Taylor, chairman of Highways and Drainage, tells us that these are soon for the chopper. Of course this still leaves a large number who could easily take over the job of a near neighbour without overtaxing their strength.

Alderman Stansfeld-Taylor was speaking on the occasion of a visit to a Residents' Committee meeting, and referring to the state of Hemdean Road, he could offer only cold comfort to the residents and users of that road. The predators which have, for the past two or three years, been tearing out the entrails, are expected to make several more attacks and it will be many more months before the ground will have settled enough for resurfacing to take place. The only consolation is that when this does happen it will be a thorough-going job as Hemdean Road is one of the older roads in the borough that have no proper foundations such as modern traffic requires.

There are many plans ahead to reduce traffic congestion in central Caversham, including the improvement and installation of traffic lights at the George Street-pavement in Hemdean Road, Gosbrook Road and Caversham Road-Richfield Avenue junctions and the replacement of the traditional type pedestrian crossing in Church St. by a Pelican crossing.

Of course the provision of a third bridge came up, and whilst it would be an exaggeration to say that one is planned, it is true to say that one is being seriously talked about at planning level. Consultations are going on with Berkshire County Council to assess the flow of traffic in East Berks now and in five years time to see where a bridge would best be sited. Further study is being made of the likely affect of the development of Area 8 (this means the Reading, Aldershot, Wokingham, Basingstoke complex) to see how this would influence the siting of a bridge, or even bridges.

Anti-social parking was another problem discussed and here the answer seems to be, if you're guilty, don't. However, if you are a lorry driver who takes unfair advantage of unloading concessions, take heed, for a blitz is about to take place.

OUR NEXT PUBLIC MEETING will be on the forthcoming BOUNDARY CHANGES and how they will affect YOU. We are fortunate in having as our speaker, Mr. W. H. Tee, the Town Clerk. The place, Church House. Date: Monday May 22nd, Time 8 p.m.

Following on the A.G.M. the following officers of the Committee were elected:

Chairman: C. E. Buck, J.P.
Vice-chairman: J. Verrall.
Secretary: Mrs. M. Casey.
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. M. Germain, 62 Westfield Road, to whom subscriptions, 25p per annum, should be sent.
M.C.

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The Rev. Peter Atkinson, St. John's House, 9, South View Avenue. Tel. 471814.
The Rev. Michael Atkinson, St. Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel. 472788.
The Rev. Frederick Dawson, 25, Ickley Rd. Tel. 472070.
The Rev. Denis Shaylor, 17, The Mount. Tel. 476988.
The Rev. Leonard Burn, St. Barnabas House, 33 Grove Road. Tel. 473095.
The Rev. Stephen Bartlett, 2 Blackwater Close. Tel. 475152.

BAPTIST

The Rev. Laurence Stevens 80 Balmore Drive, Tel. 478668.

METHODIST

The Rev. Terence Harris, 7, St. Annes Road, Tel. 472223.

PRESBYTERIAN

The Rev. George Shearer, 41, Highmoor Road, Tel. 477490.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev. William O'Malley, The Presbytery, 2, South View Avenue. Tel. 471787.

We record . . .

BAPTIZED

St. Peter's

March 5th—Simon Reeve.
March 12th—David Knowles, Julian Hawkins.

St. Margaret's

March 5th—Letisha Hiscocks.

St. John's

Jan. 9th—Clare Dickinson, Wendy Dickinson, Ian Buckle, Mark Duffin.

CONFIRMED

Westfield Road Almshouses.

March 29th—Agnes Matthews, Joseph Rampton, Percy Wardel.

MARRIED

St. Peter's

March 18th—Richard O'Nyons and Freda Stevens.
April 3rd—Roger Parsons and Susan Parrott.

St. John's

March 11th—Paul Gottwald and Angela Tullock.
April 8th—Philip Williams and Sheila Biddlecombe.

St. Margaret's

March 4th—Richard McDougall and Linda Johnson.

FUNERALS

St. Peter's

March 28th—Laura Clarke.
April 6th—Austin Kearey.

St. John's

March 23rd—Doris Miles.

St. Barnabas

March 30th—Freda Keeling.
April 14th—Barbara Morley.

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LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

by Dorothy O'Neill

It was an unpretentious room, simply furnished and homely. In the corner stood an old harmonium. Rows of grey, steel chairs fronted a table, behind which hung a green, velvet curtain.

It was a tiny chapel tucked away behind the front door of a rather special house. A humble place, yet charged with such an atmosphere of love and peace, that one realised that here was holy ground.

When I entered a woman was standing at the table talking to a small company of men and women. Simply, yet vividly, and with infinite understanding, she was telling them of God's love. Her listeners hung on her words like little children. Sometimes, too, like children, they murmured tiny comments of agreement, and nodded assent.

Outside in the street a bus ground to a halt—then started up noisily. The grinding of its

gears . . . the crude advertisements emblazoned on it, seen through the window, made no threads on our peace. We were inviolate, wrapped in such joy and gentleness that I was moved to tears.

I was visiting the Marjorie Black House in Adelaide, a house which is used for the rehabilitation of former mental patients. This compassionate work was started 17 years ago by Miss Marjorie Black, a former headmistress. It was pioneer work in the field of mental health work in Australia—the first after-care club for those discharged from psychiatric hospitals; a club where friendship, encouragement and practical help is mediated.

Marjorie Black's work began in a small way through a poetry reading group which she formed for women in a large psychiatric hospital. The group was popular. It was "different" from the more traditional forms of therapy. The women found it refreshing, and loved the friendly, smiling woman who came each week to take it.

The group came to an end with the introduction of modern drugs which transformed the treatment of patients in psychiatric hospitals and allowed many of them to leave hospital after having been there for years.

For some—among them the women in Miss Black's group—the experience was devastating. After so many years away from

everyday life, they found it almost impossible to adjust.

" . . . My poor women had no clothes, nowhere to go, not even things like toothbrushes and soap, because they'd been in hospital for so many years . . ."

comments Miss Black looking back on the situation. Some of the women went into city boarding houses, but could not settle. What could they do? Landladies were unable to help; hospital authorities were too busy with in-patients to cope with discharged ones. Who would befriend these lost ones?

They began to come, in their two's and three's to the one upon whose compassion they knew they could lean. They came, like little children, bringing only their need—and the warm heart of Marjorie Black went out to meet them. She knew that she must do something to help.

She began her work in the basement of a church, making it simply a room where her people could come for the "therapy of companionship". She enlisted the help of friends as drivers to bring them to the "club", and soon operation friendship was underway . . .

Today that small room has been exchanged for a pleasant eight-roomed house in an Adelaide suburb. This house—the Marjorie Black Club House—now caters for both men and women, former mental patients. It is open every afternoon and some evenings each week. For

the members their visit to the club is the highlight of the week. It represents a few hours when, in the warm atmosphere of friendship, they are made to feel they matter as people. Here they gain a sense of belonging . . . they are listened to and loved for their own sakes . . .

Our little informal meeting in the chapel had been preceded by afternoon tea. Before tea the club members had played table games, or simply sat at ease in the lounge chatting with each other or the club helpers. Later they resumed their games, until it was time to be taken home.

Now there are many voluntary

helpers, and it is quite moving to see how imaginatively they give themselves to this work.

"We try to make our people happy, socially acceptable, to look nice and enjoy each other's company", comments Miss Black.

"We give them laughter and love—these are the two most healing things, and love is their greatest need."

Marjorie Black was awarded the M.B.E. by the Queen for her work in the field of mental health. To meet her is an enriching experience.

Her warmth, humour and vitality are engaging; add to this

an amazing determination girded by faith, and one realises why this 77 year-old woman has been able to achieve so much in such a difficult field.

Here is one who cares enough to start a work which may well be unique in the world. She has travelled widely overseas, but has not yet encountered a similar club—a club where the members and not the workers are held to be the V.I.P.s. A club which offers equality; where no one is made to feel "different" or unwanted.

We, in South Australia, are proud of this club. It is Christianity in action.



A question of colour

by Ronald Adkins

Antigua, one of the loveliest of the West Indian Islands, has become a popular holiday resort. This is partly due to the stay there of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon and partly to the building of an aerodrome which has brought a large influx of American visitors.

In the nineteen thirties however, when I was there, it was completely unspoilt. I had come straight from Cambridge to join the staff of the Grammar School for Boys. I loved the tropical life and enjoyed my teaching. Most of the boys were blacks as the older English children were usually sent back to British schools.

These black boys often invited me to their homes and so I met their parents and, in some cases, their grandparents. It is one of these grandparents that I want to speak about now.

She was called Desdemona—the natives delighted in poetical names—and, like her namesake in Shakespeare's play, "Othello", was a delightful person.

She was always cheerful and I found it difficult to realise that she was slowly dying from cancer. She was a devout Christian and she liked me to read to her from the Bible stories about Jesus.

Desdemona's grandmother, whom she well remembered, had been a slave and, in her younger days, she had often been called by Victorian planters, and their wives, "black trash".

Insults never worried her but what did worry her, as she, in the end, confided to me, was the colour of Jesus.

"Will Jesus," she murmured, "think that I am black trash because I am not white like Him?"

"Of course not," I said, "You know,

Jesus was not born in England but in Palestine."

I saw a look of wonderment on her face. For her there were only the natives like herself and Englishmen like me. No other countries existed. Palestine meant nothing to her. It must, she thought, have been another West Indian Island.

"Isn't that wonderful," she whispered, "He must be black like me and yet the English pretended that He was white."

I looked down at those shining eyes set in that thin black wasted face and realised how much nearer she was to the heart of reality than I, despite my years at Cambridge and at one of the leading English public schools, was. I smiled at the dying woman, "Jesus," I murmured, "Was just like you, black."

She looked up at me supremely content but all she said was, "How wonderful."

Ten days later she died.

I missed her and I also was a bit worried about telling her an untruth so I told the whole story to a man I had both a great respect, and a great liking, for. He was a black man—a wonderful doctor, a brilliant surgeon and a great Christian.

When I had finished speaking, he said, "But of course you were right in what you told her. Jesus, as the Son of God, is Universal Man. Every colour that man is, He is."

He paused for a few seconds and then added, "I'll tell you something. When I have to perform a difficult operation I ask Jesus to be present and I seem to feel His hands lightly resting on mine and, when I look down, I seem to see His hands there and their colour is—black."

7p.

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GOOD HEALTH

POSTURE IN PREGNANCY

by Jean Fielding

WHEN a woman is expecting a baby, she should consider her general posture seriously. Unfortunately many mothers-to-be ignore this vital aspect of pre-natal care.

Even if you're the type who habitually sprawls around on low chairs or settees or drifts droopily without giving a thought to your stance normally, when you're carrying a baby it's time to consider the matter. For by adjusting any figure faults and learning to walk and sit correctly, your health and your child will benefit.

One young wife complained recently: "It's impossible to have a good body carriage with a protruding abdomen" but this is ridiculous. With the simple well-designed maternity clothes available cheaply today, any pregnant woman can look as smart as her unmarried friends if she is posture-conscious.

Some girls imagine that if they accentuate their tummy, this gives the baby more room to grow. But this exaggerated position may produce additional pressure on the lower back, always a vulnerable spot during the waiting months. Besides producing a nagging backache, failure to hold the abdomen in firmly will cause the tummy muscles to weaken and stretch unnecessarily, while the risk of producing varicose veins will be greater.

Immediately your pregnancy has been confirmed, take time to review the basic tenets of good body mechanics and practise constantly until you hold yourself in the ideal position automatically. Try this posture test for body-alignment.

Stand with your back against a wall, with head and heels touching the wall. Keep your feet parallel with the weight distributed evenly between both of your feet, and keep your knees straight, though not stiff.

Lift your chest high, keeping the shoulders low, then pull in your tummy tightly. This won't hurt the baby! Now try to tuck your hips under, while keeping your head up with your chin held in slightly.

Now smile. Don't you feel better? If you can maintain this position you will look better and far slimmer, too. Posture-conscious women who "walk tall" never look unsightly, even during the last month of pregnancy, while those who amble round lethargically resemble moving mountains.

Practise correct body-alignment all the time, for it promotes a feeling of well-being. You'll feel happier, more relaxed, and keep in better health. Never slouch about with rounded shoulders, but walk tall with your chest high for this keeps the tummy and hips in line.

Invest in a good supporting bra as the breasts increase in size, and a maternity belt is useful during the later stages, if it supports the abdomen from below and does not press inwards.

Discard high-heeled shoes which can strain abdominal muscles, except for special occasions. Shoes with a fairly low heel and thick soles are most suitable.

Don't believe the old wife's tale that a young mother should eat enough for two, for this is utterly false. Certainly you must eat a well-balanced diet but keep your weight under control, for unwanted pounds overtax your organs, ruin your appearance and cause extra pressure on your already overtaxed legs.

For your health and beauty's sake, carry yourself proudly. Walking is the finest exercise for a mother-to-be particularly during the early months, for it tones up the muscles, stimulates internal organs and revitalises the circulation. Practise deep breathing while walking for this is beneficial and relaxing.

Nowadays most women carry on with their normal sporting activities, if not too strenuous, until about the sixth month. At a local dance recently I noticed a pregnant girl dancing happily, and guessed she was nearly at full-term. Three days later her friend told me: Colleen's had a son today". But I wouldn't recommend this for common practice, as I think during the last month, rest is extremely important, and walking quite energetic enough.

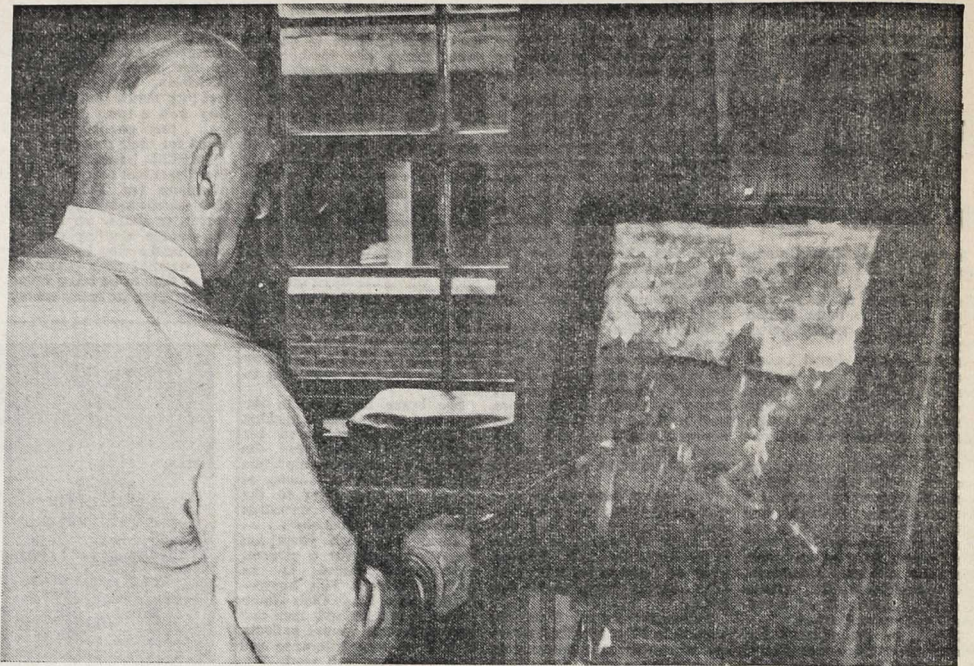
Try and have an hour's rest every day, with your legs raised higher than your head if possible. Even if you have one or two toddlers, insist that they rest at this time, too, then they will prove less exasperating near bedtime, when you're feeling tired, too.

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Preparing for Golden Leisure

BY MARIE SPINKS

Retirement should herald a most rewarding aspect of life. Now you'll have time to join a choir, take up painting, try your hand at exotic cooking, widen your social horizons and enjoy new friendships. Many retired people find their good intentions fade into loneliness and boredom. The cessation of full-time employment can leave the unprepared feeling as if they had been pushed aside from life. All kinds of delightful hobbies, formerly enjoyed mostly at weekends, now seem nothing more than stopgaps. Money is less plentiful in most cases and a sharp struggle to make ends meet in others.

Ask an older worker what he or she feels about retiring and you'll get answers that show a mixture of anticipation and fear. "Nice not to have to turn out in the cold winter mornings," will be brightly expressed, but it will probably taper off into, "But I wonder what I'll do with myself all day?" And, "I enjoy the crowd at work. It won't be the same when they're not around. I shall fill in a lot of time doing jobs around the house."

Successful retirement requires preparation if it is to be a time of golden leisure. To understand how to make the later part of life pleasurable a study was initiated by the National Old People's Welfare Council in 1955. The Council believed that many common problems of

ageing could be prevented by proper forethought. An outcome of the studies was the formation of a charitable organisation, The Pre-Retirement Association, head office, 35, Queen Anne Street, London, W1M 9 FB. The work of this Association is educational and the Committee gathers information on retirement, and as knowledge is accumulated, itself gives advice. Literature is published on different aspects of retirement and conferences are organised to attract the attention of management, trade unions and educational organisations. Training schemes are sponsored for tutors who will work with older employers. Many commercial firms are members of the Association and encourage their employees to attend courses.

The content of the courses is very wide and covers practical as well as recreational subjects. Talks are given about putting one's house in order while still on a full salary. Emphasis is given to the more expensive undertakings, such as replacing old bathroom tanks and getting the electrical wiring up-to-date.

Taking stock of linen and furniture, replacing worn articles before retirement is urged. Health is especially important and most courses include a 'Keep Fit' class, as well as instruction on preparing the cheaper nutritious foods attractively. The value of creative hobbies is stressed, especially group activities like singing and art classes. There is a vast pool of hidden talent among the country's older folk and surprisingly good results are obtained from painting classes. I went along to one of these classes held in London and was watching the

star pupil, Dorothy. She was completing a most pleasing still-life study of leaves and flowers against some blue china. "I've always wanted to do this but hadn't got the nerve to try. Thought I wouldn't be any good". Dorothy's remark highlights the shyness some older people have about learning new skills. This condition has been mentioned in a book by Mrs. Enid Hutchinson B.A., 'Learning and Leisure in Middle and Later Life.' Mrs. Hutchinson proved that those who suffer the most emotional trauma after leaving work are the people who left school early and never did any further study. These tend to lack inner resources, would often like to join a group to learn something new, but are actually afraid of the learning situation. With longer years at school, secondary education for all and day-release courses for teenagers at work, this problem will gradually disappear. When today's youngsters retire they will have many more hours of learning behind them.

When I interviewed the Association's secretary Miss M. Hubbard, she said that training for retirement should start about five years before the actual date. Individuals, as well as firms and statutory

welfare bodies can join the Pre-retirement Association for a small sum yearly. They may attend lectures on different facets and problems of retiring, and they receive useful literature at a reduced cost. Names and addresses of members with mutual interest can be made available.

The cities of Glasgow and Birmingham have been particularly active in their concern for the older citizen. An interesting development of pre-retirement education in Birmingham is the growth of the Friends In Retirement, known as the Fircone Clubs. These clubs unite people with similar tastes. Some specialise in art, music, handicrafts and gardening, while others arrange for members to learn a language.

Any person wanting to know more about preparing, perhaps for many years of golden leisure, is invited to write to the Pre-Retirement Association. And one's own welfare department can often put one in touch with the schemes.

An amusingly written book, "Retirement a Pleasure", or "Out but not Down", by Harry W. Yoxall, is obtainable at public libraries. Along with the laughs there is much down-to-earth information and commonsense.

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ODD GIRL OUT

In each of these groups of names there's an odd girl out. Can you find each one and say why she's odd? When you've found the answers, try the puzzles out on your family.

1. June, Doris, May, April.
2. Vanessa, Beryl, Ruby Pearl.
3. Florence, Elizabeth, Phyllis, Nancy.
4. Rose, Iris, Heather, Sheila.

(Answers below)



THE MEN WHO SAVED US PAIN

by Dorothy Windsor

It is less than 130 years ago since the first operation was performed under anaesthesia. Before that time, the patients were strapped to a table and the operation was performed without anything to deaden the pain.

Anaesthesia was not a sudden discovery, but was due to the patient research of scientists who were not afraid to be ridiculed.

As early as 1800 an English chemist stopped the pain of an infected tooth by inhaling laughing gas, and even published a paper suggesting that this gas might be used in surgical operations.

In 1823 an English doctor was so upset by the screams of his patients that he experimented with carbon dioxide on animals, but as he knew so little about the subject, he nearly poisoned his subjects fatally, and gave up his attempts.

One day in January 1845 a famous doctor in Massachusetts introduced to his students a man named Horace Wells, who claimed to be able to extract teeth painlessly. He was introduced with sarcasm and amid derisive laughter from the students. To demonstrate his methods, Mr. Wells told his patient to breathe out of a rubber bag held in front of his mouth. To the students' amazement and dismay they saw the man, who was very powerfully built, drop his head forward and become motionless. The forceps were applied, but the man let out the terrific screams usual in teeth extractions, and the students roared with laughter and shouted "Humbug". Later on Wells realised his mistake, and knew that a man of this type should have had much more of the gas to make him unconscious.

Wells then arranged for one of his own teeth to be extracted, and when this was done quite painlessly, he dedicated his whole life to perfecting his discovery.

A dentist named Morton found out about this discovery and realised what a great source of wealth it could be, since everyone fears pain. He persuaded the same doctor in Massachusetts to let him try the gas on a young man about to have a tumour removed from his tongue. This was just 21 months after Wells' fiasco and in the same operating theatre. The ridicule of the students was stunned into silence as the patient became unconscious while the doctor removed the tumour and finished the operation without the patient screaming in agony as they expected.

There was rivalry for years between these men who each claimed the discovery for himself. Wells became seriously ill through experimenting on himself, and at 33 years of age, he cut an artery in his leg and chloroformed himself—probably the first person to commit suicide under anaesthetic.

Morton died at 48, ruined financially because of his fight to keep this secret as his own private property.

Later on, anaesthesia was declared public property. Morton called the discovery "Letheon—drink of Forgetfulness", but Oliver Wendell Holmes called it "Anaesthesia", and this name stuck.

Meanwhile in Britain James Simpson was experimenting with chloroform, and after years of work, he was able to introduce his discovery in 1847, only the year after the first successful operation in America.

As surgeons were able to operate with their patients unconscious and completely relaxed, their knowledge and techniques could be improved, and great strides were made in surgery. Sir James Simpson—he was made a baronet in 1866—introduced remarkable improvements, especially in gynaecology.

Medical science has made great progress since those days, and most people during their life have cause to be thankful for this great discovery which is one of the marvels of modern life.



OLD HAT — MY FOOT

Look out for the name of pop star, Larry Norman, if you haven't seen or heard it already. Five years ago his first LP record appeared. His latest LP is called UPON THIS ROCK. It's dedicated to Jesus and Christianity, and is a best seller in the United States.

Larry lives with his wife Pamela in a small bungalow in Hollywood, and he's been a Jesus fan since he was five years old. Now he's become quite a rave in Britain since he started a tour here in March this year.

Reckon we'll hear more of this young man, who doesn't think Jesus is old hat!

The Merry Month May

The Romans invented a weird and wonderful collection of Gods and Goddesses. Jupiter, Mercury, Saturn, Mars, Neptune! And each one had a special job to do. A god of War, a god of the sea, a goddess of hunters, a god of woods and shepherds! You name it, they'd got it!

Mercury was supposed to have winged feet, and could travel around at terrific speed, so his job was to be messenger of the other gods. The name of Mercury's mum was Maia. And now we come to it! Our month of May is said to be named after her.

You can't please everybody

*Michael met a white duck
Walking on the green.
'How are you?' said Michael.
'How fine the weather's been!
Blue sky and sunshine,
All thro' the day;
Not a single raindrop
Come to spoil our play.'
But the sad white duck said,
'I myself want rain.
I'd like to see the brooklets
And the streams fill up again.*

*Now I can't go swimming,
It really makes me cry
To see the little duck-ponds
Look so very dry.'
But behold, next morning,
The clouds are looking black;
Down the rain came pouncing,
Said the duck,
'Quack, quack.
Ponds are full of water
Ducks are full of joy.'
But someone else is not pleased,
And that's the little boy.*



Something to do

If you can get some young carrots, young turnips and parsnips, and young beetroots, you can grow an attractive collection of leaves of different shapes and colours. You'll want a large shallow bowl or dish, into which you should pour about half an inch of water. Cut across your vegetables, about 2" from the top, and then place the flat ends of these tops in your dish or bowl. In a week or two the young leaves will begin to sprout. But you must remember to keep the water about half an inch deep in the bowl or dish.

The Saying of a Wise Man

God has told you what is good;
And what is it that the Lord asks of you?
Only to act justly, to love loyalty
to walk wisely before your God.

Answers

1. Doris the others are also names of plants.
2. Vanessa: the others are also names of towns.
3. Phyllis: the others are also names of valuable things used in making jewellery.
4. Sheila: the others are also names of towns.

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Is your leg painful with wounds or ulcers which do not heal? Is your leg raw, sore, inflamed and burning? Do you suffer from dry scaly eczema or weeping eczema? Do you suffer from swelling, tiredness, heaviness and aching pain in the legs?

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Whether you have suffered for only a few weeks or whether you have suffered for years the brochure is a revelation. It gives most useful information and records an amazing volume of personal tributes.

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LOOKING IN WITH ERIC LAWSON

A LIVELY LOOK
AT THE TV SCENE



Wendy Hiller, as Justine Puter in *Clochemerle*—BBC 2's nine part serial.

VIVE LE TELE!

Ray Galton and Alan Simpson's quite brilliant adaptation for TV of Gabriel Chevalier's best selling comic novel *CLOCHERMERLE* has probably done more for the cause of the Common Market than any of the portentous programmes specifically designed to convince us that Wogs don't begin at Calais.

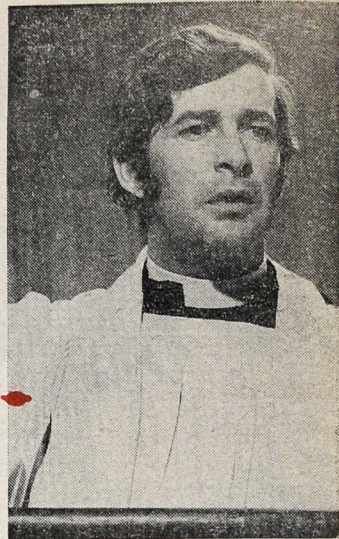
The nine episodes were screened on BBC-2 during March and April beginning at the fog end of the power cuts. Each was real 'bonne bouche' to the jaded, candle-snuffed palate. If the fact that some viewers missed the first couple of episodes should provide the excuse for a repeat showing during the silly summer season—when originality is at a low ebb—I'm sure there will be very few complaints.

Clochemerle was shot during six weeks of filming in the Beaujolais region and is a hilarious story of roused passions in a sleepy French village in the early 1920's. The storm in a wine-glass arises from the Mayor's desire to erect a monument in the main square. Where but in France could it take the form of a public urinal? And who but a Republican Mayor would put it right outside the church?

Naturally, there is opposition. This is inspired by the village spinster Justine Putet, a prudish old busy-body, played by Wendy Hiller, who seeks to rally to her cause the local priest, Curé Ponsse (Roy Dotrice). As usual, the church is torn between supporting the cause of civic amenity espoused by the Mayor (Cyril Cusak), or bowing to the tender sensibilities of members of its congregation.

Controversy rages at fever pitch around the fate of the immodest but extremely useful edifice, and it is chronicled with tremendous verve and vitality. Obviously, enormous trouble has been taken to translate every nuance of 'Frenchness' to the TV screen.

But if you like your humour somewhat less earthy and with a little more bite, then DAVE ALLEN should suit your palate well. He seldom fails to point a well-honed stiletto at some sacred convention or other and is one of the few raconteurs who can extract, without causing too much offence, the humour latent in the grim business of dying. The anti-church jokes—he is always popping into the confessional—though uncompromising



Dave Allen at large

in their irreverence, are somehow devoid of malice. Dave Allen's heart is clearly in the right place.

Which is more than can be said for CALLAN, Edward Woodward's compelling portrayal of a professional assassin in ITV's chilling spy series. He seems to manage without that vital organ. Callan and his employers—a branch of British Counter-intelligence—are a bunch of steel-hard characters without a decent human emotion between them. The physical violence is minimal, but the 'Section's' sophisticated interrogation methods, with the help of truth-drugs like pentothal and scopolamine, make the much publicised devices used in Ulster seem as harmless as a school boy's prank.

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SPORTS SPOT

by Stew Linnel

50 Years of Wembley

On Saturday 28th April, 1923, Bolton Wanderers played West Ham United for the F.A. Cup. It was the first Wembley final, and an estimated 200,000 fans packed into the ground—and onto the pitch.

Before the game could start—40 minutes late—the crowd had to be cleared from the playing area, the initiative in doing so being taken by P.C. George Scorey on his white horse, Billie.

As a result of the action taken by P.C. Scorey and his four-legged friend, the game got under way, and, despite further interventions by the crowd, Bolton Wanderers won by two goals to nil, the goals being scored by David Jack and John Smith.

In the spring of 1973, Wembley Stadium will stage its fiftieth F.A. Cup Final, and, even though one cannot say whether Bolton and West Ham will repeat the original fixture, it can fairly confidently be predicted that there will be no comparable crowd scenes.

100th Final

Wembley has come a long way since those far off days,

and has survived, through a fascinating history, to present the 100th F.A. Cup Final this month.

This history is excellently presented in a book which, through an unforgivable oversight on my part, has only just come my way. "All Roads Lead to Wembley" by Alastair Revie (Pelham Books) sets out the complete story to date of Wembley Stadium from the building of Watkin's Folly, a rich man's memorial to himself which created the eventual existence of Wembley Park and the present-day Stadium, with excellent illustrations and descriptions of some of the more significant and historic events to be held at Wembley—not all soccer, may I add.

Among the other fascinating events held at Wembley, and featured in the book, were boxing, table-tennis, athletics, greyhound racing and the XIVth Olympic Games in August, 1948.

One of the most interesting illustrations shows the Duke of Edinburgh meeting the Manchester City team before the 1955 F.A. Cup Final—won, incidentally, by Newcastle United by 3 goals to 1—and, at the end of the line "Manchester City's six footer, centre-forward, Don Revie". Yes, that's right, the same Don Revie who now manages Leeds United.



Arsenal Captain, Frank McLintock at the Wembley Arsenal v Liverpool Cup Final of 1971.

The Herbert Chapman Final of 1930—Arsenal, managed by Chapman, beat Huddersfield Town by two goals to nil—the first televised Cup Final in 1937—Sunderland handing out a 3-1 thrashing to Preston North End—the tragic, post-Munich final in 1957—Manchester United's rebuilt, makeshift team losing to two Bolton Wanderers' goals, scored by Nat Lofthouse; all these great moments are recalled in an excellent, colourful book, which transmits the magic and the glamour of Wembley, without forgetting that it's mud and grass that is being played on.

Cliffhanger

The 1953 "Stanley Matthews" Final, in which

Blackpool scored four to Bolton Wanderers three, is re-told in all its astounding splendour, as is the 1970 "cliffhanger", which resulted in the first draw in a final at Wembley, with Chelsea beating Leeds United by two goals to one in the re-play at Old Trafford.

Internationals are also strongly featured, from the defeat of England by Hungary in 1953 to the triumphant 1966 World Cup Final.

The story is not quite complete. It was written without knowledge of Arsenal's "double", last year, and the story-book League Cup Final played in March, this year, when George Eastham and Stoke City earned their long-sought glory.

It is, of course, a story

without end, because with each year, and with each game played a new chapter is written in the story of Wembley.

Mecca

I have deliberately tried to avoid quoting directly from Alastair Revie's text, but I feel I must end this summary of his work in the words with which he, himself, ends the book.

"... we will all be as proud to tell our grandchildren that 'we saw the great Cup Final of 1972' as the spectators who attended the first incredible 'white horse' final in 1923 are telling their grandchildren today. Soccer is the world's biggest spectator sport and Wembley is its Mecca."