COURT AND SOCIAL

Court Circular

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK

January 16th

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Lady Elton as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

YORK HOUSE

January 16th

The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this evening attended a dinner to mark the retirement of Sir Derek Hornby as Chairman, Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, London W1.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, will view the project undertaken by the Arkwright Society at Cromford Mill, Mill Lane, Cromford, Derbyshire, on Jan 26.

A memorial service for Sir Trenchard Cox will be held today at St Martin-in-the-Fields, WC2, at 10.30 am.

A memorial Mass for Mr Tom Burns will be held today at the Church of The Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, W1, at 2 pm.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Sir Edward Fennessy, radar pioneer, is 84; **Sir Michael Clapham,** Chairman of IMI and of BPM Holdings, 1974-81, 84; **Sir Mervyn Davies,** former High Court Judge, 78; **Miss Moira Shearer,** writer and former ballerina, 70; **Sir Alec Waugh,** Chairman, International Cricket Council, and former West Indies cricketer, 70; **Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan,** former UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, 63; **Sir Geoffrey Pattie, MP,** 60; **Mr R.G. Smethurst,** Provost of Worcester College, Oxford, 55; **Dame Gillian Weir,** concert organist, 55; **Prof Peter Mortimore,** Director, London University Institute of Education, 54; **Mr Muhammad Ali,** former world heavyweight boxing champion, 54; and **Mr Paul Young,** singer, 39.

Today is the anniversary of the birth of David Lloyd George in 1863.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

The Hon L.R.O. Bridgeman and Miss V.R. Frost

The engagement is announced between Luke Robinson Orlando, second son of Viscount and Viscountess Bridgeman, of Watley House, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire, and Victoria Rose, youngest daughter of the late Mr Henry Frost and of Mrs William Mellen, of Moors Farm, West Farndon, Daventry, Northamptonshire.

The Hon D.L. Taylor and Miss K.A.M.G. Riddell

The engagement is announced between Louis, son of Lord Taylor of Gosforth and the late Lady Taylor, and Kate, younger daughter of Professor Robert Riddell, of Auckland, New Zealand, and the late Mrs Norma Riddell.

Capt C.G. Harrison and Miss A.L.V. Le Masurier

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr George Harrison, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and of Mrs Fiona Harrison, of York, and Anne-Louise, youngest daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Michael Le Masurier (Retd), of Mönchengladbach, Germany, and Mrs Patricia Le Masurier, of Goodmenham, North Yorkshire.

Mr M.R. Mirosevic-Sorgo and Dr S.A. McMahon Turner

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of the late Ivan Mirosovic-Sorgo and of Mrs M. Hind, of London, and Sophie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas McMahon Turner, of Stockton Hermitage, York.

Mr J.H. Lowe and Miss J.S. Flaherty

The engagement is announced between Justin Henry, son of District Judge and Mrs N.H. Lowe, of Poole, Dorset, and Julia Siobhan, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.D. Flaherty, of Woldingham, Surrey.

Mr E.A.L. Whitaker and Miss K.R. Knott

The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Whitaker, of West London, and Katharine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Knott, of Wreay, Cumbria.

Mr M.A. Naylor and Miss V.J. Kenroy

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mrs Anne Naylor, of Sheffield, Yorks, and the late Mr Harry Naylor, and Vanessa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs James Kenroy, of Prinsted, Emsworth, Hants.

Mr W.B.J. Farara and Miss L. Ormerod

The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Farara, of Guildford, Surrey, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Ormerod, of Biddenham, Bedford.

Mr M. Davies and Mlle I. Martin

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr Richard Davies, of Pembroke, and Mrs J. Davies, of Salisbury, and Isabelle, younger daughter of M and Mme Hervé Martin, of Paris.

Mr W.A.E. Holt and Miss L.J. Thorburn

The engagement is announced between William, son of the late Walter Holt and of Mrs Ayshford Duke, of Builth Wells, Powys, and Lucy, younger daughter of Mr Ronald Thorburn, of Kirkton Manor, Peebles, and Mrs Brian Lascelles, of Straloch, Perthshire.

Mr J. Lewis and Miss M. McKenzie

The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs John Lewis, of Guildford, Surrey, and Mary McKenzie, of Earls Court Square, SW5, only daughter of Mrs Diana McKenzie, of Broxbourne, Herts.

Mr P.A. Bull and Miss S.G. Ide

The engagement is announced between Peter, son of the late Mr Anthony Bull and of Mrs Glenis Bull, of Bredhurst, Kent, and Suzy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Ide, of Biddenden, Kent.

Mr J.H.C. Bayne and Mrs D.P.P. Percy

The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alan Bayne, of Fittleworth, West Sussex, and Deborah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Guy Norman, of Brockham, Surrey.

Mr R.F. Auchincloss and Miss K. Watson

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr T.R. Auchincloss and the late Mrs J. Auchincloss, of Stanningfield, Suffolk, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.A. Watson, of Attleborough, Norfolk.

Mr C.N.B. Campbell-Stanway and Miss N.J. Conroy

The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs Rod Campbell-Stanway, of South Warnborough, Hants, and Nancy, younger daughter of Mr E. Conroy and the late Mrs Conroy, of Pinner, Middlesex.

Mr M.L. Page and Miss L.A. Loach

The engagement is announced between Mark Lewis, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Page, of Gomshall, Surrey, and Lisa Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs William Loach, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr J.A. Brown and Miss R.E. Campbell Bennett

The engagement is announced between Jefferson, son of Mr and Mrs J.R. Brown, of Crystal River, Florida, USA, and Rachael, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Bennett, of Ardley with Fewcott, Oxon.

Mr T.St J. Wooff and Miss E.C. Beddard

The engagement is announced between Timothy St John, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alan Wooff, of Burwash, East Sussex, and Emma Claire, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Dominic Beddard, of Brightling, East Sussex.

Mr I.R. Powell and Miss A.M. Hall

The engagement is announced between Ian, youngest son of Mr and Mrs K.A. Powell, of Eaton Bishop, Hereford, and Alison, only daughter of Mr and Mrs F. Hall, of Weston Beggard, Hereford.

LUNCHEON

London Insurance and Reinsurance Market Association

The Lord Mayor, Ald John Chalstrey, accompanied by Mr Sheriff Kenneth Ayers, attended a luncheon held by the London Insurance and Reinsurance Market Association yesterday at the Mansion House to mark its 5th Anniversary. Mr Stuart Chelmsford was guest of honour. Mr Philip Marcell, Chairman, presided and the Lord Mayor and Miss Marie-Louise Rossi, Chief Executive, also spoke. Among the other guests were:

Baroness Turner of Camden, the Hon Peter Bruce, MP, and Sir Brian Pearse, Chairman of British Invisibles.

DINNERS

Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders

Mr S.L. Preedy, Master, presided at a dinner held by the Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders last night at Skinners' Hall. The principal guest and speaker was Mr Tim Brooke-Taylor and Mr Robin Philpott also spoke.

Royal Society of Medicine

Sir Donald Harrison, President of the Royal Society of Medicine, accompanied by Lady Harrison, received the guests at a reception and dinner held at the Society's House. Mr Peter Holwell, Principal of the University of London was the speaker.

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL, LEATHERHEAD

Lent Term began on Jan 11 at St John's School, Leatherhead. Melissa Longmire is Captain of the School and Edward Marchant is Captain of Association Football. The Bruinvels Cross Country competition will be held on Saturday, March 9. The School play, *Inherit the Wind*, will be performed on March 13, 14 and 15. Choral Evensong is at 5.30 pm on Tuesday, March 5, and the school concert will be performed on Sunday, March 17, at 8 pm.

WOOLMEN'S COMPANY

The Woolmen's Company has elected the following officers for the year beginning May 1:

Master, Mr M.D. Abrahams; Upper Warden, Mr R.S. Johnson; and Under Warden, Mr P.H. Rippon.

COMPANY OF GOLD AND SILVER WYRE DRAWERS

The Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers has installed the following officers for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr R.F.H. Vanderpump; First Warden, Mr N.S. Nichols; Second Warden, Mr P.H.E. Padley-Smith; Third Warden, Mr G.X. Constantinidi; and Fourth Warden, Mr K.P. Kirby.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

Mr Peter Young has been appointed High Commissioner to the Bahamas in succession to Mr Brian Attewell, who will be retiring. He takes up his appointment in May.

Mr Robert Dewar has been appointed Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar in succession to Mr Peter Smith. He will take up his appointment in mid-April.

Mr Peter Smith has been appointed High Commissioner to Lesotho in succession to Mr Roy Cowling. He will take up his new appointment in early April.

Mr William Fullerton has been appointed Ambassador (non-resident) to Mauritania in succession to Sir Alan Ramsay, who will be retiring. He will take up his new appointment in early April.

LAVINIA, DUCHESS OF NORFOLK, LG

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk will be held in The Cathedral of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel, on Friday, March 1, 1996, at 2.30 pm. Seats will be reserved for official representatives to whom tickets will be sent.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Queen's Life Guard mounts, Horse Guards 11.

National Gallery: Sarah Elson lecture: Beyond Europe (3): George Inness: To be a Claude in Delaware, 1; Ten Minute Talk: Honthorst: Saint Sebastian, 4.

OBITUARIES

Richard Cobb

RICHARD COBB, the former Professor of Modern History at Oxford who has died aged 78, was revered on both sides of the Channel as a leading authority on Revolutionary France, and in Britain as a master of the biographical and the autobiographical sketch.

A connoisseur of the particular, Cobb did not care for comprehensive historical theories, or the grinding of academic axes. His forte was to understand and to evoke character and place; to reinvent and revivify the forgotten and obscure. Having immersed himself in the dusty police records of 18th-century Paris and other French cities, he fleshed out the dry bones he found with the imagination of a Simenon or a Restif.

Cobb evolved a distinctive style, in which long sentences were drawn out with clarity and pace to reflect the flow of his thoughts and impressions. He was at home in French and English: his first books were written in French, while his English prose was often scattered with Gallic allusions.

Above all, Cobb never allowed his individuality and exuberance to be suffocated under the weight of maturity and convention. To the end of his days he remained wayward, eccentric, iconoclastic — even, as he himself would have been delighted to admit, adolescent.

He once remarked that malice was the literary form he most admired, and certainly he enjoyed deflating pomposity. Michael Foot, whom he dubbed "the Cornish Robespierre", was a particular *bête-noire*.

Cobb was formidable as well as frivolous. His academic career was founded on an unrivalled knowledge of the minutiae of 18th-century French life. His autobiographical writings were brilliant entertainments; and he contributed pungent book reviews to the *Spectator*.

He was no less gifted as a teacher, inspiring academics such as Quentin Skinner and the present master of Balliol, Colin Lucas. Chris Patten was another devoted pupil, and all who attended his tutorials learned as much about life as history.

The son of a civil servant who worked in the Sudan, Richard Charles Cobb was born at Frinton-on-Sea on May 20 1917. He spent most of his childhood at Tunbridge Wells, where his parents brought him up in the colonial fashion, allowing him to roam freely as long as he turned up for the odd meal.

He went to school at Shrewsbury, where he gave early signs of academic brilliance, and also became captain of cross-country running ("Keeper of the Runs") — an activity well-suited to his spare, almost skeletal frame.

Cobb left Shrewsbury early, after an argument with his housemaster; nevertheless in 1934 he secured a postmastership in history at Merton College, Oxford. He was in hot water, having been sued for libel by the mother of a friend, who objected to the aspersions he cast upon her character in letters to her son.

The Cobb family hauled in a psychiatrist to depose that Richard was suffering from overwork; all the same, it was thought advisable to send the boy abroad for a year. He went to Paris and, influenced by the ideas of the socialist historian and politician Jean Jaurès, fell in love with France.

The litigious mother had written to the head of every Oxford and Cambridge college to warn them against Cobb — an action which, he speculated, may well have encouraged Merton to award him a scholarship. But the drama took a more serious turn when the woman was murdered by her son.

The lawyers of the accused were in possession of Cobb's jokey, schoolboy letters, and sought to implicate Cobb for inciting matricide. Cobb found protection from a Merton tutor, who refused to allow the detective concerned to see his quarry alone, and pointed out that more than two years had elapsed between the writing of the letters and the commission of the crime.

At Oxford, Cobb won a half-blue for running and cultivated some raffish friendships — not least with the future Conservative Cabinet minister, Reggie Maudling.

"Good God, man, you're a bloody anarchist," remonstrated Sir George Clark, Chairman of Examiners, after listening to Cobb at his Oxford viva. Cobb regarded the remark as a huge compliment. He was rewarded with a Second.

This slight was his making, for rather than festering in an Oxford college he went to Paris after the war, having served in the Army from 1942 to 1946.

He stayed in Paris for nine years, spending his days in the Archives Nationales, and his nights fraternising with Communists, who believed they were on the brink of inheriting the earth. Later Cobb would look back on the hopes and pretensions of this period with wistful, self-mocking nostalgia.

He contracted two short-lived marriages in France, the first with an employee of the SNCF, which had the advantage of giving him free railway tickets to regional archives (he also made ends meet by teaching English to Air France stewardesses); the second with the daughter of a right-wing Catholic military family.

Cobb several times applied for naturalisation in France, though the advent of de Gaulle and the Fifth Republic in 1958 slightly moderated his enthusiasm. By that time he had returned to Britain, having taken up a lectureship at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, in 1955.

His first book, *L'armée révolutionaire*, was published in 1952, followed three years later by a similar study for the Midi, and by two further volumes in 1961 and 1963. These latter books were translated into English, by Marianne Elliott, as *The People's Armies: Instrument of the Terror in the Departments, April 1975 to Floréal Year II* (1987).

In 1960 Cobb moved from Aberystwyth to Manchester, and then, two years later, to Leeds. Later in 1962 Christopher Hill, historian of the English Revolution, invited him to become a history tutor at Balliol. "I'm not sure if that was a wise thing to have done," Cobb wrote years later. "I think he realised afterwards his mistake."

It was not a mistake, of course, even if the anarchic Cobb was always a thorn in the Balliol establishment. To those he taught, he was both an inspiration and a revelation, whether acting out Revolutionary characters in tutorials, or throwing loud, crowded parties at which dons and undergraduates mingled in the fellowship of inebriation.

On one occasion, Cobb was sentenced to dig the garden of Holywell Manor as penance for leading a raucous rendering of Irish songs outside the Master's lodgings in the early hours.

In 1973, after a maverick decade at Balliol, Cobb was appointed to the Chair of Modern History and translated to Worcester College. By this time his writing career had taken off.

He published *A Second Identity*, a collection of essays on France and French history, in 1969; it was followed by *The Police and the People: French Popular Protest 1789-1820* (1970), *Reactions to the French Revolution* (1972), *Paris and its Provinces 1792-1802* (1970), *Death in Paris 1795-1801* (1978), *Streets of Paris* (1980), *French and Germans, Germans and French* (1983) and *People and Places* (1985).

All these books were at once deeply scholarly and a delight for the general reader. Cobb also extended his reputation through a series of autobiographical essays. At first these were introductory fragments at the beginning of collections of academic pieces, such as *A Sense of Place* (1975) and *Tour de France* (1976).

Later he wrote directly about his own experiences, in *Still Life: Sketches from a Tunbridge Wells Childhood* (1983), *A Classical Education* (which dealt with his matricidal friend, 1985) and *Something to Hold Onto: autobiographical sketches* (1988). *Promenades* (1980) celebrated his love of modern French literature, in particular of Marcel Pagnol and Raymond Queneau.

Cobb never wrote about his later life; indeed, for all his affection for Worcester College, he maintained that he did not care for Oxford. Certainly he often escaped from it, lecturing to the "lost boys" at various public schools, especially Shrewsbury; accepting visiting fellowships in South Africa and North America; and acquiring a farmhouse in Normandy.

"Richard's idea of fun," an admirer observed, "would be to take a very long time getting from St Etienne to Clermont Ferrand."

Like Georges Simenon, whose biography he was always keen to write, Cobb was fascinated by the violence and brutality lurking behind the facade of French provincial life. One of the essays in *A Second Identity* was about Marie Besnard, "*la bonne dame de Loudon*", accused of murdering 11 of her relations.

He enjoyed the fuss created by his speech at the Booker Prize dinner in 1987, when he claimed never to have read Proust — a remark that was only partly true.

Cobb relinquished his Chair in 1983, but remained a Fellow at Worcester for a further three years; rather surprisingly he loved preaching in the college chapel. He has left a vast, unpublished literary legacy in his letters. Always a prolific correspondent, he took immense glee in regaling colleagues and former pupils with scurrilous gossip and unorthodox opinions.

Cobb was elected a fellow of the British Academy in 1967, and appointed CBE in 1978. In France he was appointed Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur in 1985.

In 1963 he married Margaret Tennant; they had three sons and a daughter.

Cobb picking blackberries in 1988

King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho

KING MOSHOESHOE II, who has died in a car accident aged 57, was twice deposed as king of the mountainous, landlocked African kingdom of Lesotho, and twice restored to the throne.

In the unsettled politics of the former British protectorate, geographically entirely surrounded by South Africa, he struggled unsuccessfully to combine traditional notions of kingship with modern, populist ideas.

When he came of age, at 21, he was reading PPE at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He left to take up his inheritance as ruler of Basutoland, as Lesotho then was, vowing not to return to Oxford until he had been installed.

He was proclaimed paramount chief of Basutoland on March 12 1960, ending a 20-year regency during which the powers of the Basuto chief had been steadily eroded, and party politics had taken root. He was to be at loggerheads with the country's politicians for the next 30 years.

He was born Constantine Bereng Seeiso on May 2 1938, and educated at the country's leading Roman Catholic boarding school, Roma College, until the need to protect him from court intrigues required that he be sent to Ampleforth.

His kingly legitimacy was indicated in his name: the first Moshoeshoe was the founder, in the mid-19th century, of the Basuto state; a powerful chief, he resisted the absorption of the Basuto people's land into the Union of South Africa.

Basutoland became an independent state in 1966, and changed its name to Lesotho.

Under the country's new constitution Moshoeshoe faced an 80-member legislative council, elected under rules established by the British protectorate. Rather than serve as a figurehead, Moshoeshoe wanted executive power. This put him at odds with his prime minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, but in alliance with the opposition Congress Party, whose ideals were pan-Africanist.

Within weeks of independence, and Moshoeshoe's enthronement as king, the conflict with Chief Jonathan caused a riot in Lesotho; eight died in the streets. Moshoeshoe, then 29, was put under house arrest for 10 days until he promised to desist from his demands for greater powers.

In 1970 Chief Jonathan, having failed to win an election, declared a state of emergency, suspended the constitution, and took over in Lesotho. Moshoeshoe went to Holland to begin the first of his extended periods of exile. He was allowed to return eight months later, on condition that he stay out of politics.

In 1986 Chief Jonathan was himself overthrown, in a coup d'etat caused by an economic embargo of Lesotho by South Africa. Jonathan's policy towards Lesotho's powerful neighbour had shifted from docility to confrontation. Moshoeshoe emerged as power broker, and the political figure in the country with the greatest popular support.

But in 1990 Moshoeshoe lost a power struggle with General Justin Lekhanya, Jonathan's successor as military ruler of Lesotho, and went into a second period of exile, this time in Britain. In England he headed a centre for democracy and human rights in Africa.

Lekhanya sought to revise the country's 1966 constitution, reducing further the executive role of the king. When Moshoeshoe refused to accept this he was replaced by his eldest son, who took the name Letsie III and pledged to refrain from political activity.

Moshoeshoe returned to Lesotho in 1992. The next year Letsie III announced his intention to abdicate in favour of his father. Moshoeshoe was restored to the throne in January 1995.

At first his relations with the government were cold, but by the time of his death he was living quietly in Lesotho, still attached to a particular vision of kingship, but having accepted a kind of rapprochement with the government of Ntsu Mokhehle, the first democratically elected prime minister in two decades.

He married, in 1962, Princess Tabitha Masentle; they had two sons and a daughter.

King Moshoeshoe (left) at the races with his prime minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, 1971

Leon Schwab. In Los Angeles aged 85. In 1935 opened Schwab's drug store, Sunset Boulevard, which became a haunt of Hollywood celebrities. Charlie Chaplin and Paulette Goddard made their own milkshakes after closing time; Gloria Swanson shopped for make-up; Ronald Reagan borrowed money from Mr Schwab; and Humphrey Bogart asked him for something to cure a hangover. "Stop drinking," said Schwab. "I want a cure," retorted Bogart, "not a lecture." In 1988 Schwab's was demolished to make way for a shopping complex.

WAY OF THE WORLD

AUBERON WAUGH

Crisis time

OF ALL the crises facing Britain which are discovered and announced daily in the newspapers, Monday's crisis, reported in *The Times*, to the effect that Britain is running out of space to bury the dead, seems among the less urgent. "Britain is facing a crisis in finding ways to dispose sensitively of the 650,000 bodies of those who die each year," it reports. When I had to arrange a family funeral about 30 years ago I was told there was no law against burying people in a field or garden, provided it was a certain distance from the nearest inhabited building. That, accordingly, was what we did.

Perhaps a law has been passed since then making it a criminal offence to bury your relatives in this way. If so, all that Parliament has to do is repeal this fatuous and oppressive law, and the crisis is solved.

It may be solved anyway if you believe some of the information printed elsewhere in that newspaper, claiming that if we change our diet we can live forever. Then there will be no need to dispose of 650,000 bodies, but there would be a crisis of overpopulation in its place.

Those worried about an overpopulation crisis can turn to the current issue of the *New Yorker*, which devotes pages and pages to discussing scientific reports on the sperm count crisis. If you believe these scientists, the human male is fast heading towards a sperm count of nil.

This will relieve the overpopulation crisis, but it won't help the *New Statesman* in its financial crisis. It plans to tackle the problem of an ageing and declining readership by broadening its appeal to women and young people. Women may help a bit, but of course there will be no young people among the sperm-free immortals of the future. Even if there were, they would almost certainly not be able to read — see current education crises, *passim*.

Holding the line

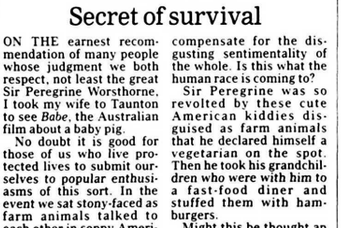
ONE CAN only groan at the stupidity of unnamed ministers who have decided to starve the Newbury protesters into submission by stopping their dole. Are they unaware of the enormous sympathy of many people for this particular cause, or the huge sums of private money available for "green" protests?

I might even contribute a pound or two myself to keep these picturesque figures with names like Badger, Sunflower and Dug in their trees and tunnels demonstrating against the bypass. Inhabitants of Newbury will see this as a hostile act, but it isn't. The whole nation must come to the conclusion that new roads eventually make the congestion worse, as well as destroying the country.

The former Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt Rev Hugh Montefiore, objects in the strongest terms to a service in Coventry Cathedral today celebrating the invention of the motor car. The Bishop feels, rather, that it should be a service of penitence for the deaths and environmental damage the car has caused.

The deaths seem a small price to pay for the convenience of the motor car. It is hard to imagine any privately-controlled method of transport which would cause fewer deaths. The nuisance of the car is not intrinsic. As Enoch used to say about immigration, it is a question of numbers.

There are too many cars on the road. What we need is some civilised, practically approved method of vehicular birth control. Bishop Montefiore would be better employed setting his mind to this problem rather than holding services of penitence. Alternatively, he might like to take his place beside Badger, Sunflower, Dug, Lady Barber and her middle-class friends, holding the line against the Newbury bypass.



Secret of survival

ON THE earnest recommendation of many people whose judgment we both respect, not least the great Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, I took my wife to Taunton to see *Babe*, the Australian film about a baby pig.

No doubt it is good for those of us who live protected lives to submit ourselves to popular enthusiasms of this sort. In the event we sat stony-faced as farm animals talked to each other in soppy American accents about how much they did not want to be eaten. These orgies of anthropomorphic sentimentality should never have been allowed out of Disneyland.

The tragedy was that so many people in the audience — for the most part my fellow-countrymen and fellow-countrywomen — clapped and cheered. It is true there were one or two engagingly surreal touches, as one would expect from an Australian production, but nothing to compensate for the disgusting sentimentality of the whole. Is this what the human race is coming to?

Sir Peregrine was so revolted by these cute American kiddies and guinea-pig farm animals that he declared himself a vegetarian on the spot. Then he took his grandchildren who were with him to a fast-food diner and stuffed them with hamburgers.

Might this be thought an over-reaction, like some mass suicide of Roman times as happened at Massada in the 1st century? Or was Sir Peregrine emulating his friend John Birt who, to celebrate his 50th birthday on December 10, 1994, put all his guests into a charabanc and drove them to a hamburger bar?

We should not despair. The secret of survival is to have nothing to do with television or radio and avoid the cinema whatever happens. The human race *can* survive. I am sure of it.

RECENT WILLS

Recent wills include:

□ **Sir Rudolf Ernst Peierls,** CBE, FRS, of Farmoor, Oxon, Wykeham Professor of Physics at Oxford, 1963-74, Professor of Mathematical Physics at Birmingham University, 1937-63, who played a crucial role in building the atom bomb, who died last September, aged 88, left estate valued at £329,735 net.

He left £10,000 to New College, Oxford.

□ **Mr Francis Edwin Showering,** CBE, of Gillingham, Dorset, founder of Babychum, who died last September, aged 83, left estate valued at £1,983,805 net.

He left £5,000 each to the Licensed Victuallers National Homes, and the Wine and Spirit Trade Benevolent Association.

□ **Mr David George Francois Nickerson,** of London W11, antiques dealer, former managing director of Malletts in Bond Street, who died last November, aged 62, left estate valued at £601,782 net.

□ **Other estates** (net before tax):

Mrs Clara Gladys KENNEDY-GEORGE, of Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex £651,475

Mrs Mary Hindle NORRIS, of Lurgashall, W Sussex £1,550,273

Lady Marion Violet PHILIPPS, of Haverfordwest, Dyfed £510,289

Mrs Vivien Betty REYNOLDS, of Poole, Dorset £630,925

Ms Marjorie Edith Julia SEYMOUR, of Torquay, Devon £658,986

Ms Margaret Doreen Clayton SMITH, of Hornchurch, east London £565,595

Mr William Leslie TRY, of Gerrards Cross, Bucks £1,332,606

Mr Michael John Joseph WHELAN, of Belbroughton, Worcs £543,380

Mrs Phoebe YATES, of Twyford, Berks £537,982

Mr Walter Harold YORK, Trysull, Staffs £794,523

RECENT CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

Recent Church appointments include:

Revv Jonathan Baker, asst c, Ascot Heath All Saints: to be asst c, St Mark, Reading, and to serve in the parish of Holy Trinity, Reading, Oxford; Tony Burdon, v, St John the Evangelist & St Stephen, Reading: to be assoc p (nsm), St Mary & St John, California, Oxford; Ross Collins, c, Goring w South Stoke: to be p-in-c, St Mary, North Leigh, Oxford; David Cutts, v, St Margaret's, Ipswich: to be also r d of Ipswich; Roger Dedman, p-in-c, Bramford, Somerham & Flowton: is confirmed in the post of r d of Bosmere, St Edmundsbury & Ipswich; Martyn Dunning, asst c, Beverley Minster: to be p-in-c of Leven with Catwick and of Brandesburton, York.

Revv Henry Everett, r, St Dominic, Landulph & St Mellion with Pillaton, Truro: to be p-in-c, All Saints, Reading, Oxford; Nick George, c, Richmond Hill, and ch, St Agnes Stewart High School: to be v, St Wilfrid, Halton, Leeds, Ripon; Thomas Gibbons, c, Gosforth parish church, Newcastle: to be r, Radley & Sunningwell, Oxford; Jim Greasley, v, Melbourn & Meldreth, Ely: to be v, Chalfont St Peter, Oxford; John Haigh, c, Downholme & Marske, Ripon, to be r, Nuthurst, Chichester; Robert Harnish, c, Chinner w Pennington & Sydenham & Aston Rowant w Crowell: to be ch and Dean of Divinity, New College, Oxford.

Mrs Mary Hindle NORRIS, of Lurgashall, W Sussex £1,550,273

Lady Marion Violet PHILIPPS, of Haverfordwest, Dyfed £510,289

Mrs Vivien Betty REYNOLDS, of Poole, Dorset £630,925

Ms Marjorie Edith Julia SEYMOUR, of Torquay, Devon £658,986

Ms Margaret Doreen Clayton SMITH, of Hornchurch, east London £565,595

Mr William Leslie TRY, of Gerrards Cross, Bucks £1,332,606

Mr Michael John Joseph WHELAN, of Belbroughton, Worcs £543,380

Mrs Phoebe YATES, of Twyford, Berks £537,982

Mr Walter Harold YORK, Trysull, Staffs £794,523

"King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho." Daily Telegraph, 17 Jan. 1996, p. 23. The Telegraph Historical Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IO0701240750/TGRH?u=tou&sid=bookmark-TGRH. Accessed 9 July 2024.