

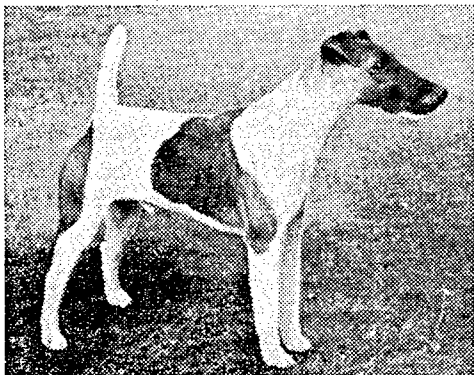
# Readers' Letters

Why don't you write to me this week? (The Editor, Children's Newspaper, Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4)

## The Terrier is Such a Darling!

Dear Sir,—Why can we not have a photograph of a lovely smooth-haired fox terrier? We get the Alsatian, chihuahua, poodle, bulldog, boxer, spaniel, corgi—but never a nice smoothy.

These little dogs are such darlings. They make marvellous house dogs, yet play with children and are real family dogs. My own smooth fox terrier, Foremark Freelance, is a great favourite at home and at shows. His brother, Foremark Falcon, got Reserve in the Limit at Cruft's this year.



"Yes, those dogs Henry mentioned are good, but I'm a real champion. My name is Foremark Festive."

Thank you for CN, it is still my parents' favourite paper. They took it when they were small and I have had it since I was two years old. I think I was an excuse for them to take it again!

Henry J. Mantell, Repton, Derbyshire.

### So There!

Dear Sir,—When I read Jane Sells's letter (issue dated 9th Feb.), I didn't agree with it, because our teacher certainly doesn't do that. Our lessons are interesting. And all our class like school, and most of them are always here.

And there's nothing I don't like much.

S. Clark, Wraysbury, near Staines, Middlesex.

### Thank You!

Dear Sir,—You published an appeal of mine asking for programmes to give to a blind pen-friend (issue dated 17th Jan.). I have had many programmes and have written to all who have sent me letters. But I would also like to say thank you to all those who did not enclose letters with their programmes.

D. Brown, Moordown, Bourne-mouth.

## That drifting population

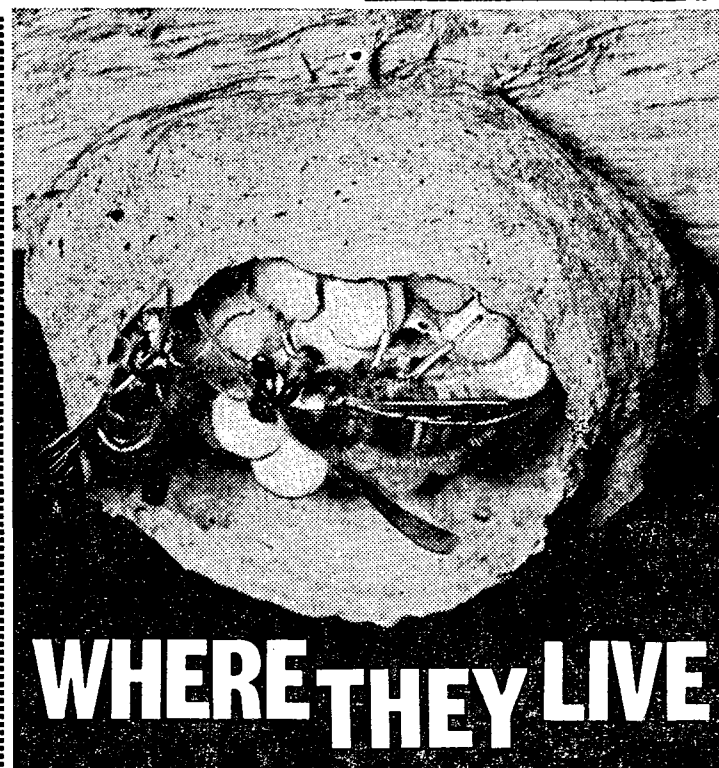
Dear Sir,—Something must certainly be done about the drift of population to the south and the east, else, as the Special Correspondent says (issue dated 23rd Feb.), the strain on resources, particularly those of transport, will be too great and things will just stop.

All around the south-east, new industrial works and estates of houses are constantly springing up, and the demand in some areas for more building space becomes so great that contractors fight for land space.

In a democratic country it is impossible to place a ban on people's movements about the land; so instead of people moving south to find work, the answer seems to be to move the work northwards and keep the people up there.

Despite the fact that the average-size family is now only two, compared with five-six in Victorian times, the population is all the time increasing. This increase must therefore be due to other factors, which are often put under the "better standard of living" title. There have been advances in medical science; more and better food is available; and there are better sanitary conditions, although even today many houses still have no flush lavatories and no bathrooms.

R. G. Curtis (14), Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex.



## WHERE THEY LIVE

THE size of an animal bears no relation to the kind of home it lives in. One of the Rotifers—tiny little creatures which live in ponds and streams—is only just visible to the naked eye. But, under a microscope, it can be seen as a jelly-like object inside a tube made up of tiny blobs of sand. These are all precisely arranged so that this protective tube looks as if it were most carefully made with miniature bricks.

Then, consider the beautiful and useful bell-web of the pond spider. Take a look at the nest of the stickleback made up of tiny pieces of weed stuck together with a glue produced by this little fish.

The insect world gives a huge number of instances of delicate construction. The nest of the



TAKE A LOOK AT NATURE with MAXWELL KNIGHT

common wasp (see picture) has hundreds of cells made from a paper which the wasps make by biting off little strips of wood and chewing them into pulp. The pieces of pulp are fastened together, thus forming the comb in which the eggs will hatch into grubs. Then, some of the caterpillars of moths can weave a cocoon which is weatherproof. Inside it the caterpillar can safely undergo the marvellous changes from larva to pupa and from pupa to the adult moth.

The nests of birds in many cases are wonders of construction. Those of the long-tailed tit or of the chaffinch are not only well camouflaged but are so finely put together that we can be forgiven for thinking it almost impossible that such a neat and beautiful nest can be made with only a beak.

### Careful selection

Even the apparently untidy masses of sticks which rooks like are not such haphazard affairs as they may seem. For each twig or stick is carefully selected for its proper place in the nest and those which are the wrong size or length are discarded.

This selection of materials is, perhaps, most strikingly shown in the "dams" and "lodges" built by beavers. They not only cut down young trees with only their sharp gnawing-teeth to help them; they also select the exact length required for its correct position and purpose.

## KNOW YOUR NEWS

# WARSHIPS ALERT!

By our Special Correspondent

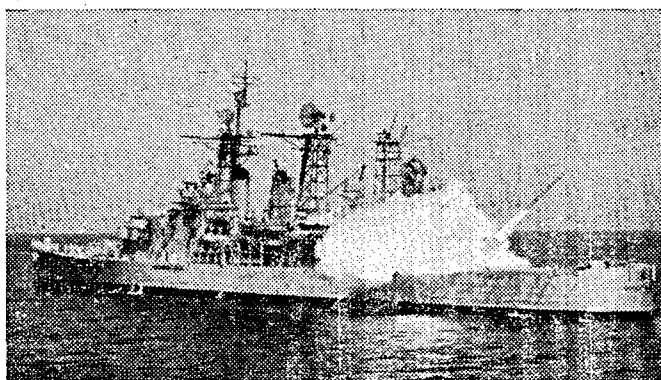
WHEREVER trouble threatens in the world—as in Cuba and Laos last year—Western naval power is ready.

Twenty-four hours a day men guard the Western world in ships, the performance of which has been transformed by radar, rocketry, and nuclear power.

Before the 1914-18 war, Britain was queen of the seas. Now she and her North Atlantic allies are largely dependent on U.S. sea-power.

In particular, our safety rests mainly on two massive American fleets—the Sixth and the Seventh. Both are equipped with at least 100 warships apiece and hundreds of jet aircraft which "home" on some of the largest aircraft carriers in the world, one of them driven by nuclear power.

These ships need no bases



USS Springfield of Sixth Fleet fires a Terrier missile

like Singapore, Malta, or Aden, for they are refuelled and take in stores while at sea. They also carry some of the deadliest weapons known to science, and thousands of Marines, who can be landed at any trouble-spot (such as the Lebanon in 1958) to fight as soldiers. These ships are always on the move and are a hard target to hit, especially with nuclear weapons.

The Sixth Fleet operates

mainly in the Mediterranean. The Second Fleet covers the Atlantic to the east of North and South America.

Twice a year the Sixth makes a complete sweep around the "Med," visiting 80 ports from Casablanca to Istanbul. It is always in touch with its London headquarters and can get under way "from cold" at less than an hour's notice. It takes its orders from CINCUSNAVEUR — Com-

mander-in-Chief United States Navy, Europe.

The Seventh Fleet sweeps the open seaboard of South-east Asia, and protects the Western Pacific from the Arctic to the Indian Ocean.

Defending the eastern side of the Pacific from north to south is the First Fleet.

During the last war American fleets were numbered up to 12. Odd-numbered fleets operated in the Pacific regions, the "evens" in the Atlantic regions. Except for the four mentioned, those fleets were either disbanded in 1945 or merged with the existing ones.

Colossal sums are needed to keep the Sixth and Seventh going. And, as weapons "improve," the cost will rise. This is one of the issues now being debated by the NATO allies.

But while no result is reported from the disarmament talks in Geneva what is called The Deterrent must remain. And, to be effective, The Deterrent must have the capacity to inflict such damage on any would-be aggressor as greatly to outweigh anything that aggressor could possibly hope to gain.