

## Overflowing Drains

To the Editor

JULY 15 1960

Dear Sir,—May I protest, in the name of an ever-growing body of dissatisfied residents, against a public disgrace—the state of Woking's drains? To begin with they are in inadequate supply, and as a consequence those we have are liable to overflow in wet weather; it has even been known for some few to work in reverse during periods of exceptionally heavy rain; many are unpleasantly noisy, especially at night, and cause a good deal of short temper; I am certain that most have not been cleaned for years.

Bearing in mind, then, the saying of the great Disraeli that drains are a matter not of finance, but of life and death, I conclude that the only way to alter this totally unsatisfactory state of affairs is to transfer the administration of the town's drains from public control to a private body in whose own interest it would be to provide a really modern, efficient and comprehensive service such as we manifestly lack at present.

This is yet another instance in which the claims of efficient service in public enterprise have been ludicrously falsified, and in all seriousness I would propose this new policy.—Yours faithfully,

'DISGUSTED'

JULY 22 1960

## No Profit In Drainage

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—I was delighted to read in the last issue about Woking's drains. Were it not for the fact that Anopheles and the tse-tse fly do not breed in this country, the district would years ago have undergone an epidemic of malaria and sleeping sickness owing to the ideal breeding conditions found in our drains and also in the Basingstoke Canal.

I do not, however, agree with the suggestion that the drains should be denationalised because I cannot imagine how a private concern could make any profit at all from drainage. — Yours faithfully,

R. L. GALE.

Etta Nor, Grange Road, New Haw.

JULY 22 1960

## CLEAN DRAINS

To the Editor

Dear Sir, — After reading the letter from 'Disgusted' in last week's issue concerning the drainage system of Woking, I feel I must express my profound disagreement, both with his criticisms and his ridiculous remedy. The drains in the district in which I live are numerous, efficient and reasonably clean; I have never heard a sound from one of them. Having visited Woking daily for the last seven years, I can truthfully say that I have not heard a word of complaint about the drains until now. I am, therefore, quite sure that the ludicrous suggestion, that our drains should be denationalised, will never be put into practice. — Yours faithfully,

JOHN HARPER.

90, King's Road, New Haw.

JULY 29 1960

## AVOID A SCARE

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—However strongly your correspondent, R. L. Gale, feels about the drainage system in the Woking area, I am sure that what he says about Anopheles and the tse-tse fly is incorrect.

To begin with, although the Basingstoke Canal is, to say the least, polluted, the drains in this district are not as bad as some of your recent correspondents would have us believe, and even if the sewers were as filthy as it has been suggested, I have no doubt that Anopheles and the tse-tse fly would be unable to breed in this country due to the adverse weather conditions. I am not, however, in a position to put forward any proof of this, since my knowledge of these insects is very limited, but if any of your readers could furnish any facts as to the breeding conditions of Anopheles and the tse-tse fly, may I urge them most strongly to do so, in order to alleviate the risk of a nation-wide malaria scare?—Yours faithfully,

ROGER N. HART.

Mentalia, High Street, Horsell.