



Box 7, 200, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

Hot springs at Bath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scientific research for warfare

From Dr. H. F. Jerrard
 own, done with no sinister or only in the
 honour, comes originally from
 traced to Cicero (*cum dignitate*
 otium) and somewhat further
 back to Polybius: "Peace, with
 justice and honour is the fairest
 and most profitable of pos-
 sessions".
 Nor, probably, is that the
 beginning.
 Yours faithfully,
 JOHN PENNMAN,
 Forest View,
 Upper Chute,
 Andover,
 Hampshire.
 May 26.

Bank ownership

*of Staff Associates
 Limited,
 55-63 Goswell Road, EC1.
 May 27.*

A lead in space

From Mr J. McDowell
 Sir, On the front page of *The Times* (May 18) appears the claim that the launching of a communi- cations satellite from the Salyut 7 space station means that the Russians have a five-month lead over the Americans. This is quite ridiculous, as the Americans released a satellite of similar size (about 30 kg) from a manned spaceship as early as August, 1965.
 The point about the shuttle in this respect is that it can lift heavy cargoes, and the communi- cations satellites due to be launched from it in November have a mass of some half a tonne each, to be placed in much higher orbits; quite a different kettle of electronic fish and a capability well beyond the capacity of Russian manned spacecraft at present.
 Yours sincerely,
 JONATHAN McDOWELL,
 Churchill College,
 Cambridge.
 May 18.

Points of view

From Mr D. J. Cullley
 Sir, You criticise Lord Denning ("A judgment too far" — leader, May 24) for changing his mind. Was he not, however, following precedent? Baron Bramwell as- serted: "The matter does not appear to me now as it appears to have appeared to me then."
 Yours, etc.
 D. J. CULLEY, Headmaster,
 Abbots Road,
 Edgware,
 Middlesex,
 May 24.

AMERICAN LATIN CUP

Sir, Mr J. G. Links quotes (May 24) my book, *Old Westminster Bridge*, to refute the Dover Harbour Board's argument against the Channel tunnel. I could also point out that Westminster Bridge was not the only London improvement to be de- veloped by vested interests.
 Wren's plans for rebuilding the City after the Great Fire were hamstrung by property owners and Inigo Jones's Palace of Whitehall and Kent's new Houses of Parliament were discussed, shel- ved, revived and forgotten for much the same reason. And Colonel Frederick French's magnificent scheme to colonnada- lise the Thames from the Tower to Chelsea, supported by Rennie and several City guilds, collapsed in 1827 through lack of funds.
 Had these imaginative projects been fulfilled London would now have been one of the titanic of Europe. The Channel tunnel (tabulation payment filed, but treated as usual by self-interest)

but the world recession with its impact on oil and other com- modity prices was the major factor. Few would, however, wish to inflict the evils of continuing recession on the world in general or the United Kingdom in particular, even if that were to reduce prices further. For the United Kingdom some recent bloody forecasts do not appear even to offer that comfort, with marginal growth both this year and next and rising unemployment but inflation continuing to average close to 16 per cent. Finance policies and moneta- rial controls have been tried with pretty well equal lack of success, and the search must be for new strategies. One that has never really been tried in the United Kingdom is to invest a higher proportion of our output in productive capacity and infra- structure. Indeed, public sector investment has been savagely cut over the past ten years.
 Investment has so often been put forward as a panacea for all ills that some scepticism may be in order, but few would doubt that genuine projects exist. An initial boost to the economy by a centred programme of expansion in the public sector

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Yours faithfully,
 RICHARD WALKER,
 Ashbury House,
 Chesham,
 Bucks.
 May 24.