

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Bank ownership of estate agencies**

Sir, My book, Old Wapping Bridge, to refute the argument that the Anglo Latin Gulf, as a reversion to the Channel Tunnel, was also point out that Wren's plans for rebuilding London after the Great Fire were derailed by vested interests and the need to raise money. It seems likely that Wren's originally proposed design was altered to fit into the new political and economic climate of the time.

Wren's House, now the Home of the Royal Institution, was discussed in the City after the Great Fire. It was a monumental structure that reflected the power and wealth of the city. However, the building was never completed due to financial constraints and the demands of the new government.

Sir, On the front page of The Times (May 15) appears the claim that the launching of a communications 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 space station as early as August 1965.

The point about the shuttle in this respect is that it can lift heavy cargo, and the communications 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 fish and a capability well beyond the capacity of Russian manned spacecraft at present.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan McDowell,
Churchill College,
Cambridge.

May 18.

**Scientific research for warfare**

Sir, In your leader of May 22, you say Dr. B. G. Jerrard's suit, done with no sinister or ulterior motive, was only in the name of honour. It comes originally from Coriolanus. It can however be traced to Cicero (suum licitatem appelle), and somewhat further back to Polybius: "Peace, with justice and honour, is the fairest and most profitable of possessions."

Nor, probably, is that the beginning.

Yours faithfully,

John Penman,
Forest View,
Upper Chute,
Andover,
Hampshire.

May 26.

**Points of view**

Sir, You criticize Lord Denning ("A judgment too far" -- leader, May 24) for changing his mind. Was he not, however, following precedent? Baron Bramwell as a matter of fact, he stated: "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,
Hillware,
Middlesex,
May 24.