

Parking Metres

SHAREBROKER

"JUST hark to them screaming," the Minister said,
 "For their share of the national cake!
 But nobody bothers to spare a thought
 For the fellow who has to bake.
 I've given up hope of pleasing them all,
 Whatever mixture I make;
 So when I consult Mrs Beeton,
 I never read further than 'Take. . .'"

—R.G.P.

(continued from previous page)

quickly that we do, though everybody has known striking exceptions: the dog that will not settle down in six months, the cat that will creep back mile after mile to the familiar doorstep, the placent sheep, so affectionately described by Guthrie-Smith, that will not, and can not, leave the rock or bush or stump that was its refuge when its mother died and has been the focus of its life ever since.

But I am not thinking of animals particularly at this moment. I am thinking of the friend who came to see me recently after 40 years of widowhood, who has had to move from town to town and room to room, from relative to relative and friend to friend, and does not now know whose home is hers. We are creatures of habit, of affections, of earthly attachments. Uproot us—as so many millions have been uprooted during the last 40 years—and where do we take root again?

* * *

IT is good news, if it is true, that life is to be made rougher and tougher for the killers and eaters of wood-pigeons. Who they are many people know but will not, and perhaps should not, tell. The killing goes on and will go on as long as the birds are easy to find, but not easy to reach from the more closely populated areas. If wood-pigeons left the bush and

JULY 15 came to live in our gardens

I think their numbers would rise appreciably. But they cling to remote places where poachers can destroy them without risk, and do destroy them in hundreds every year.

In spite of all this, and in spite too of Guthrie-Smith's melancholy forecast, pigeons seem to be increasing slowly; but I can't understand why. They lay one egg only, and take a month to hatch it; feed the young bird for another month or six weeks; and are all the time exposed to danger from above or below. Though they do sometimes place the nest in difficult places to raid, I

REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY

JUDGING by the Rugby fixtures scheduled for the next three weeks sport is getting back to normal with Spring just around the corner. Here are the broadcasting arrangements for the seven major games on Saturday, August 10:

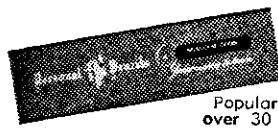
- p.m.
- 2. 0 1XH: King Country v. Waikato.
- 2.30 2XN: Nelson v. Golden Bay-Motueka.
- YAs, 1YZ: Fiji v. N.Z. Maoris.
- 2.45 2YZ: Wellington v. Hawke's Bay.
- 3YZ: Marlborough v. West Coast (Seddon Shield).
- 3. 0 4YA, 4YZ: Otago v. Southland
- 4. 0 1YA: Auckland v. Canterbury (second half).

have seen a nest so near to the ground that I had only to take one step up a bank to be on face level with it and less than a yard away. I can't explain the increase to myself except by attributing it to the pigeon's hardiness and its ability, in Guthrie-Smith's words, to digest almost anything green. Since it can never be short of food in summer or winter, and in autumn has more food

of the best kind than it can possibly eat, the casualties are probably few, the breeding period long, and the life of individual birds perhaps long too. But if I were a pigeon myself and capable of reading the signs of the times I would leave the bush forever and start life over again in a garden city or leafy suburb.

(To be continued)

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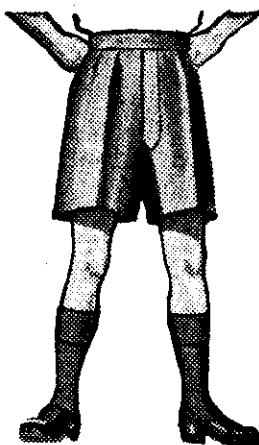
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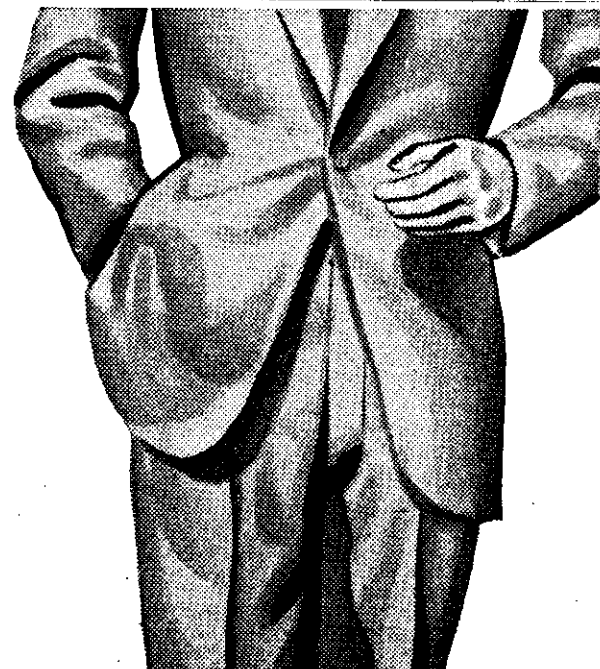


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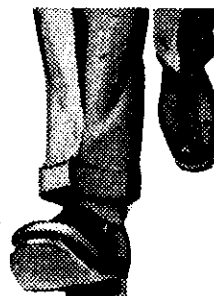


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