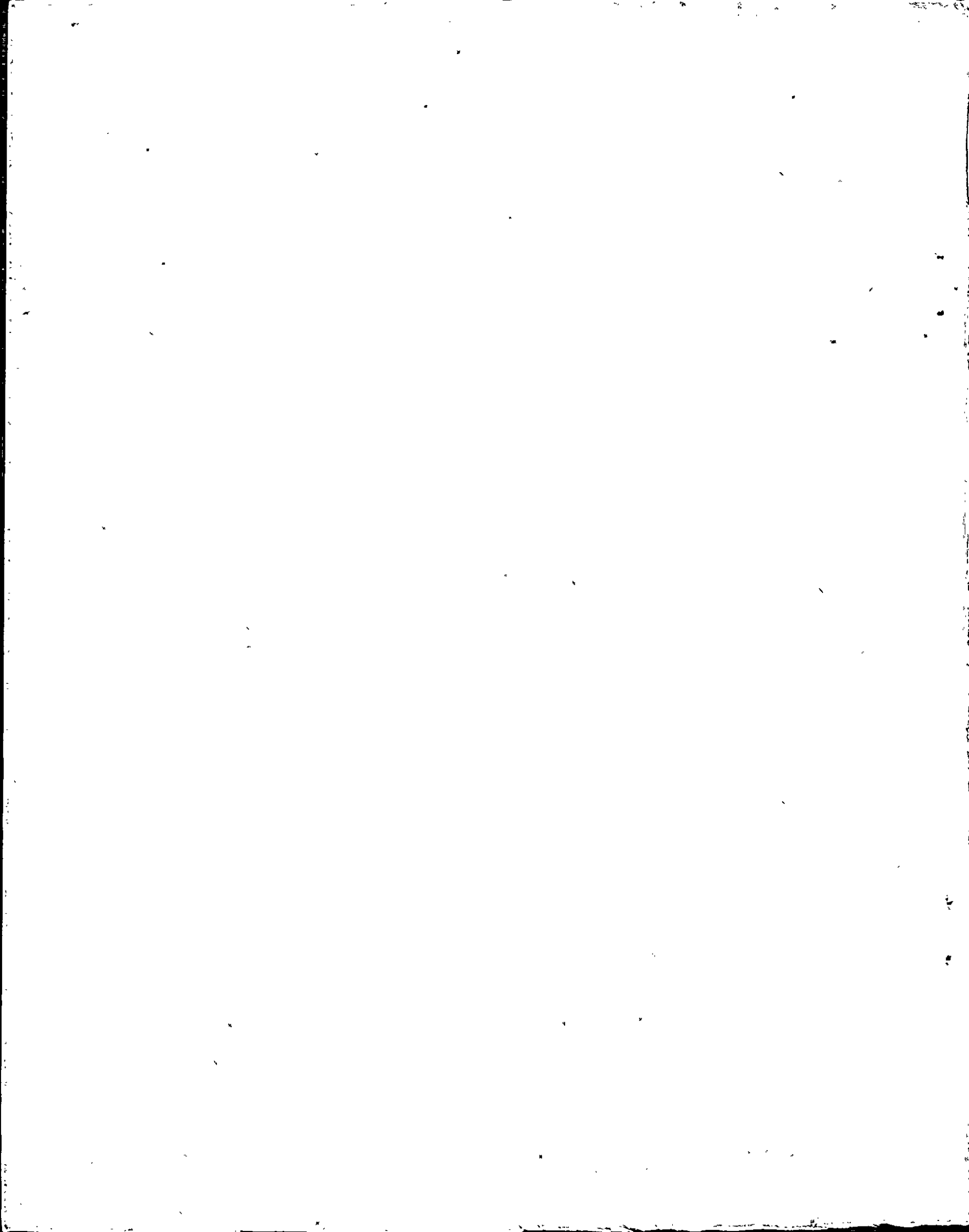


BACKHILL

EC1

FEBRUARY

10p



Cari Amici,
tanto semplicemente vi presentiamo questa carta stampata che abbiamo chiamato Back Hill.

Questo giornale serve un poco per farci sapere tra di noi cosa pensiamo della nostra Chiesa, parla di tante attivita' nostre e propone diverse iniziative. Ci sono gia' altri giornali molto piu' importanti, come la Voce degli Italiani diretta da Padre Marin, ma anche noi vogliamo ricordarvi che abbiamo bisogno del vostro aiuto, di idee e di fiducia: perche' crediamo in Voi, crediamo che siete capaci di dirci il bene, di fare il bene. Noi non vogliamo una Comunita' Italiana addormentata, noi vogliamo degli italiani che ci dicano come fare meglio, che ci tirino le orecchie quando sbagliamo: noi vogliamo che i nostri giovani non dimentichino l'Italia, ma vogliamo anche che sappiano entrare nella vita della Gran Bretagna con tutte il loro entusiasmo, con tutta la loro capacita'.

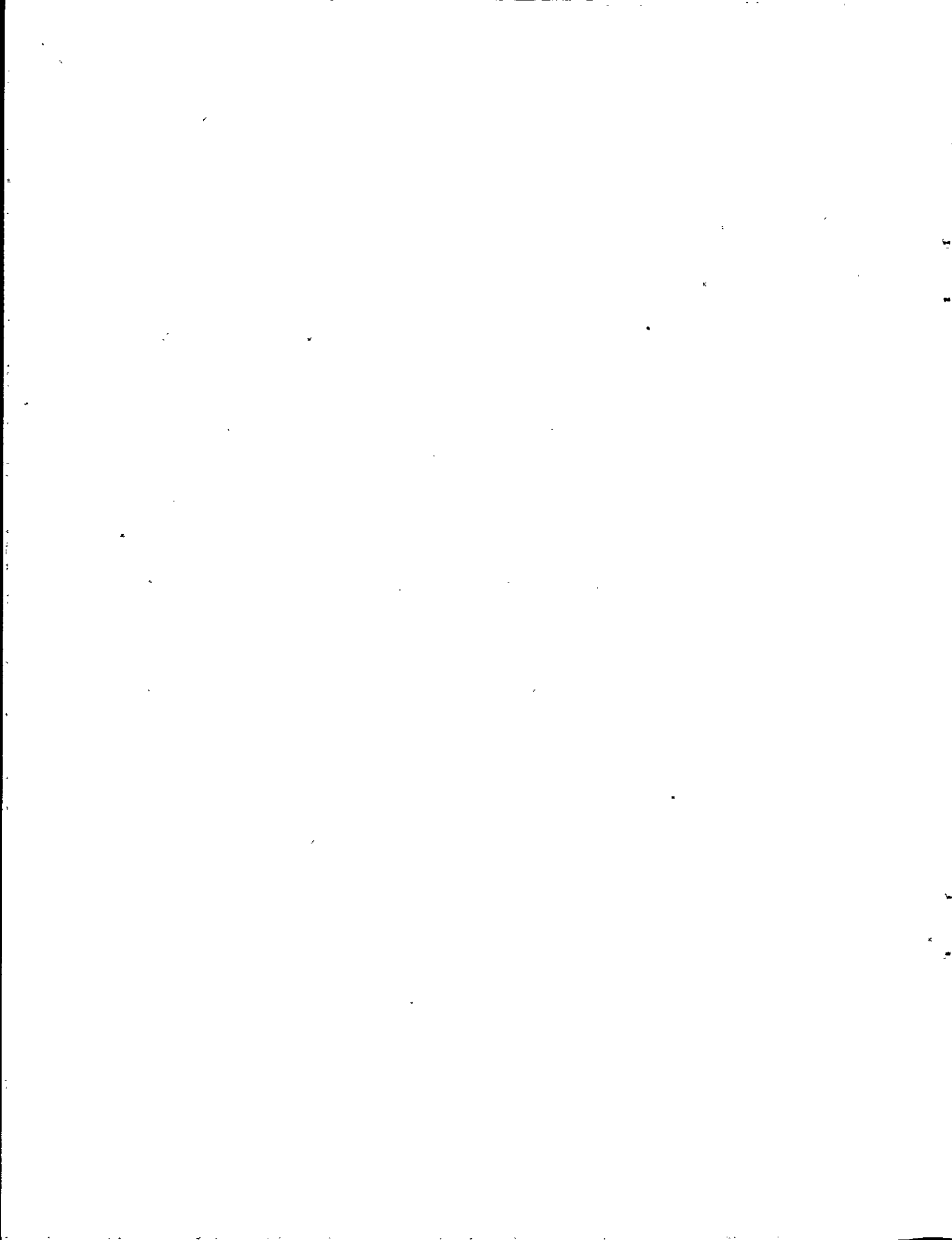
Don Roberto Russo.

Dear Friends,

Very briefly we are introducing this 'newspaper' which is called Back Hill.

It is designed to let us know what you think of our Church. It will give information of our activities and put forward new ideas. There are already other more important newspapers like the 'Voce degli Italiani' edited by Father Marin but we too would like to remind you that we need your help, your ideas and your trust, because we believe in you, we believe that you are capable of speaking good and doing good. We do not want a dormant Italian Community, we want Italians who will tell us how to improve things, who will give us a rap on the knuckles when we make mistakes. We do not want our young people to forget Italy yet we still want them to integrate into life in Great Britain with great enthusiasm and with all their ability.

Don Roberto Russo.



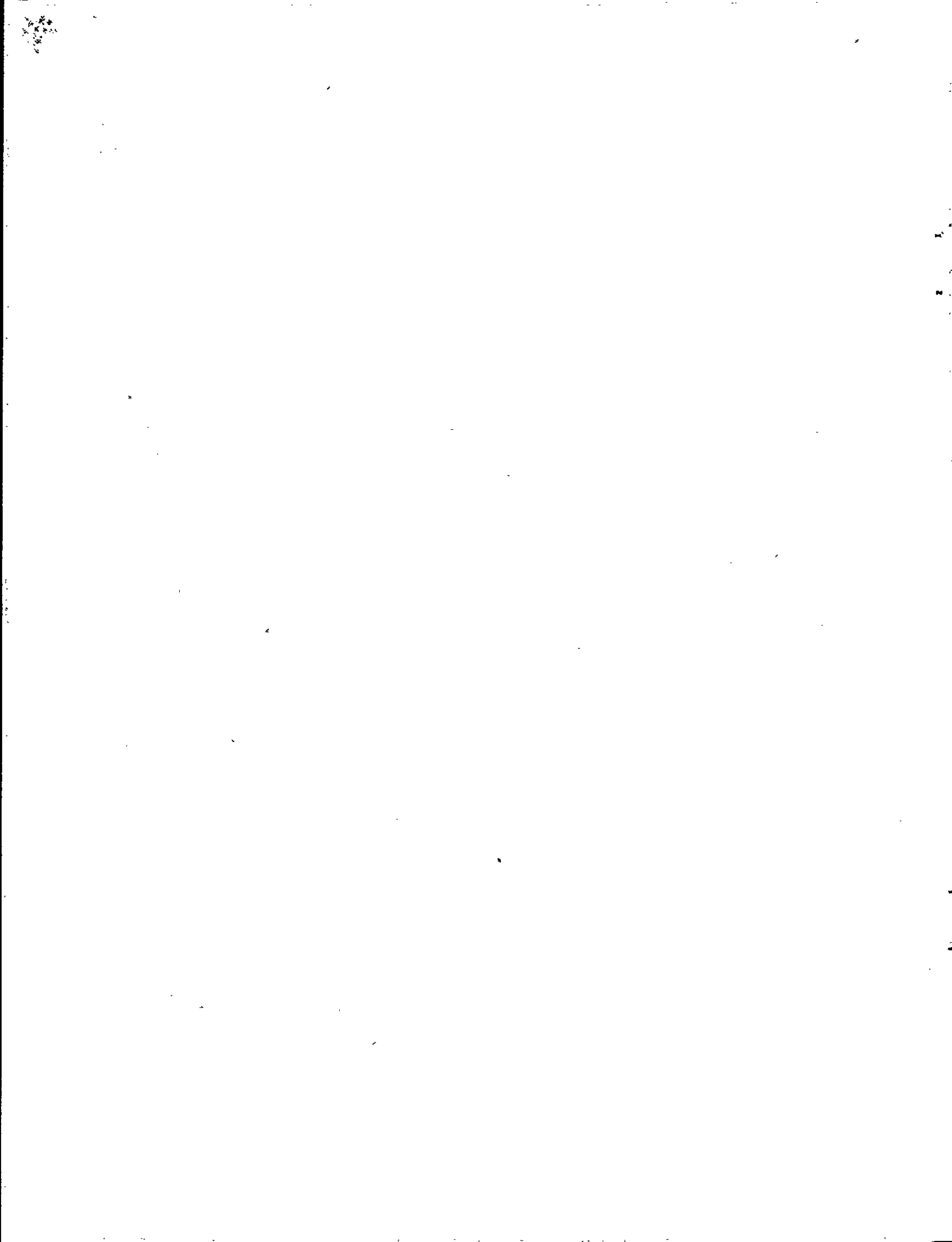
EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Reader,

The idea of a parish magazine is hardly original and we of the editorial staff cannot pretend that in this respect our magazine will be at all sensational or extraordinary. However, what we aim to do is to provide a source of information, entertainment and thought for as large a section as we can reach of the Italian community in London, for which, we believe that the focal point is, or perhaps should be, the parish. We hope to include material that will be of interest to all age groups and which will be varied as time, paper, money and talent permit. The magazine will be published every few weeks but its success and continuance will depend wholly on you the reader, not only for buying it (and we hope reading it) but more significantly for contributing to it in any way you can. So we are making this plea to you to support the magazine by offering articles on whatever subject you like - from politics to cooking - and, in general, by making us aware of any sort of criticisms or observations that may be useful to us. Since the magazine is designed for Italians in London and their friends the quality of the English or Italian is not of paramount importance as we all have problems in this area.

Some of our regular features will be; the Priest's page for the Parish Priest to use to communicate to his parishioners and hopefully to those who do not go to Church at all, remember he may have something worthwhile to say; a letters page where you can voice an opinion, suggestion or grievance on a topic of general interest; a recipe for those (like myself) who enjoy colourful and adventurous cooking; a bulletin page on current affairs, regional and national, in Italy; a series of Little Italy, the story of the first Italian immigrants settling in the Clerkenwell area around Back Hill (hence the name of the magazine), an amusements guide with 'man-in-the-street' reviews of films, books, records, etc; a sports page; a prize quiz; and, last but not least an editorial written by no less a person than the editor. Other articles will be selected as they come, that part is up to you.

So we hope you will receive the magazine enthusiastically and sustain your enthusiasm for it. In return we can promise you our greatest efforts in providing an entertaining and informative periodical for you to take home and read, and not just throw to one side.



INTRODUZIONE EDITORIALE

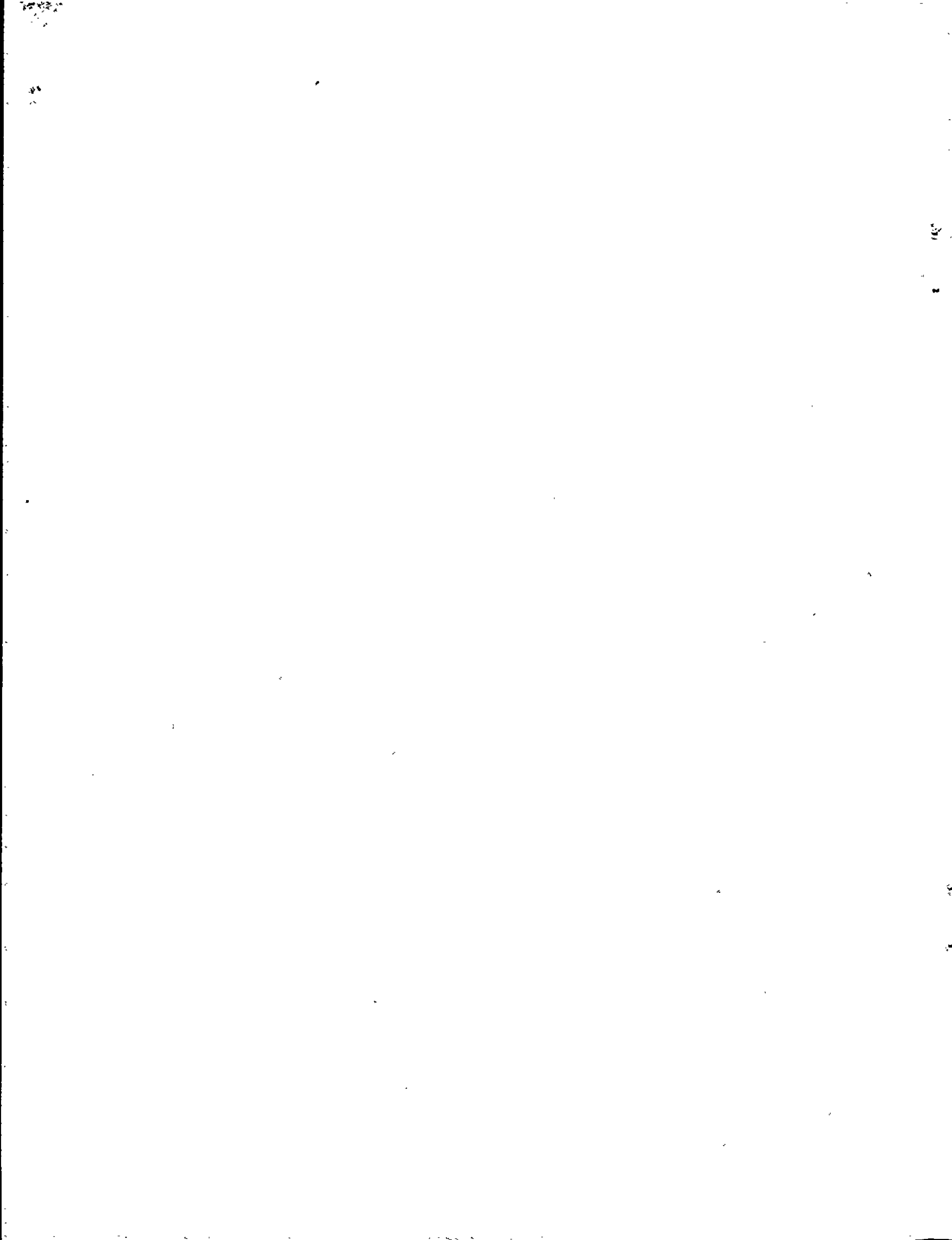
Cari amici,

L'idea di una rivista parrocchiale non è molto originale e, in effetti, noi responsabili della redazione non possiamo pretendere che questa nostra rivista sia affatto straordinaria. Il nostro scopo è di fornire alla comunità italiana a Londra una fonte di informazione, di divertimenti, e di discussione, e il cuore di questa comunità è, o forse dovrebbe essere, la parrocchia.

Speriamo che i nostri articoli potranno essere di interesse a persone di ogni età e che saranno vari quanto possibile tenendo conto delle esigenze di tempo, carta, denaro e capacità delle persone. La rivista verrà pubblicata ogni quattro e cinque settimane. Il suo successo dipenderà però totalmente da voi i lettori, in quanto non soltanto la comprenderete, la diffonderete (e speriamo, la leggerete) ma soprattutto, contribuirete attivamente in qualsiasi modo. Quindi, vi chiediamo di dare il vostro appoggio a questa rivista offrendo articoli su qualsiasi argomento dalla politica alla cucina e, in generale, portandoci a conoscenza di qualsiasi critica o osservazione che ci possa essere utile.

Alcune rubriche che vorremmo includere sono: la pagina del Prete tramite la quale il parroco potrà comunicare non solo con i suoi parrocchiani ma possibilmente con le persone che non vanno affatto in Chiesa. Forse avrà da dire qualcosa che ci potrà interessare; una pagina per le lettere dove potete esprimere le vostre opinioni; vostri suggerimenti, e le vostre critiche su un argomento di interesse generale; una ricetta per coloro che si divertono in cucina; una pagina di attualità italiane, sia regionali che nazionali; una serie di articoli sulla 'Little Italy' - la storia dei primi emigrati italiani che si stabilirono nel quartiere di Clerkenwell intorno a Back Hill (quindi il nome della rivista); una guida di divertimenti con delle recensioni sui films, libri, dischi ecc.; una pagina dello sport; un quiz (premiato); e finalmente, un articolo di puro scritto dal redattore, quel personaggio importante. Gli altri articoli si sceglieranno volta per volta. Ricordatevi che quello sarà compito vostro; cioè fornire il materiale per la rivista.

Dunque speriamo che riceverete la rivista con entusiasmo e che l'entusiasmo potrà essere sostenuto. In cambio noi vi promettiamo una rivista divertente e informativa da portare a casa e leggere e non da gettare in un'angola.



INTRODUZIONE EDITORIALE

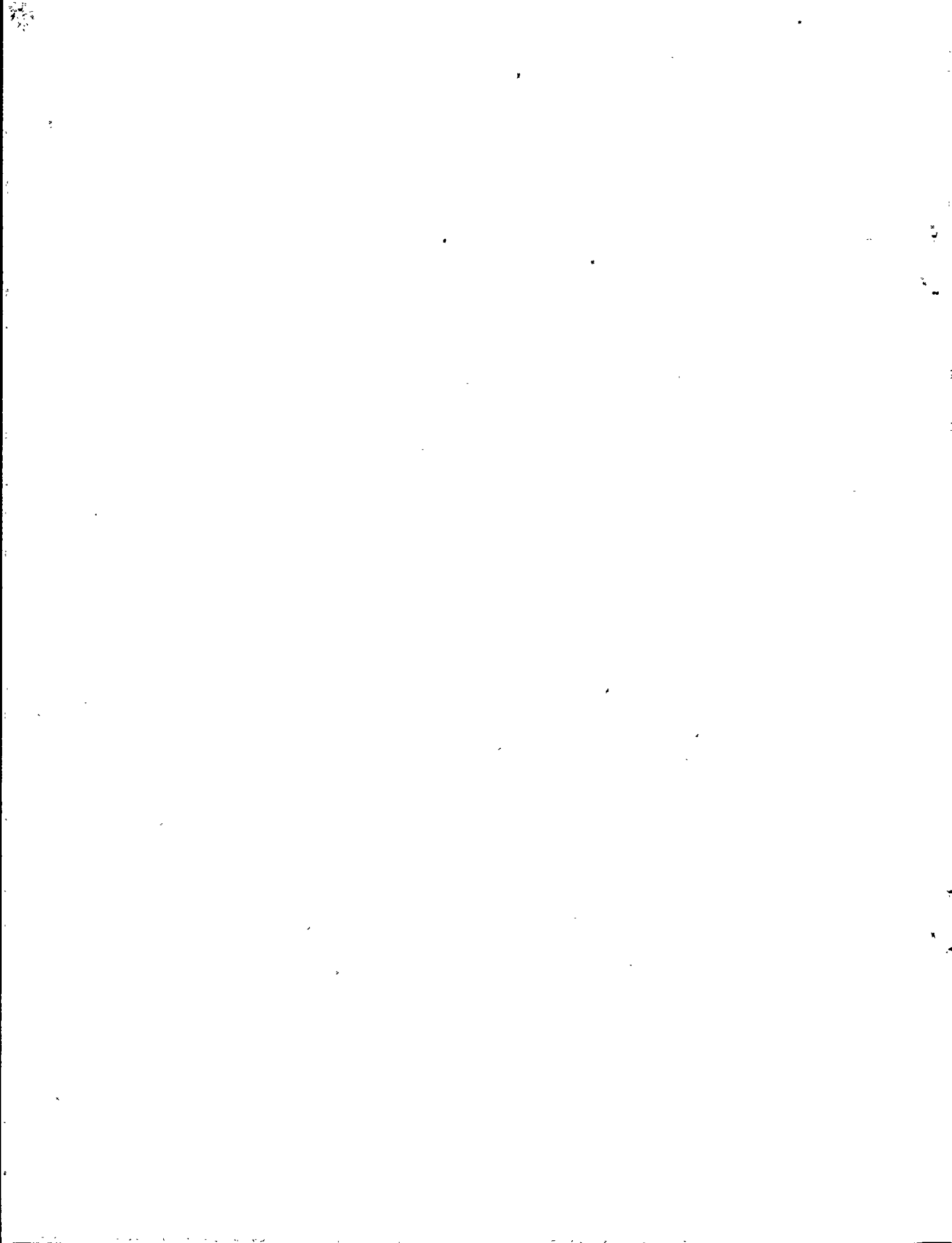
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NEWS FROM ITALY
YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Last year 359 prisoners escaped from Italian jails, an average of nearly one a day. The rate so far this year is more than three a day, after the mass escape of 13 prisoners from Treviso jail on January 2nd.

The provincial traffic inspectorate in Chieti has discovered that it has issued driving licences to 22 people officially listed as blind.

The Pope made a strong attack on abortion. He said: "Is the life which at its conception springs up in the mother's womb not truly a human life?" The Church is stepping up its opposition because a bill which would permit abortion on demand in Italy looks set to become law.

Some 170 people have been evacuated from their homes threatened by three huge landslips, which are undermining the outskirts of the hill town of Caltanissetta in Sicily.

Five Italian consortia have submitted schemes for controlling the flow of water through the three entrances to the Venice lagoon to try to reduce the regular flooding which is damaging the city.

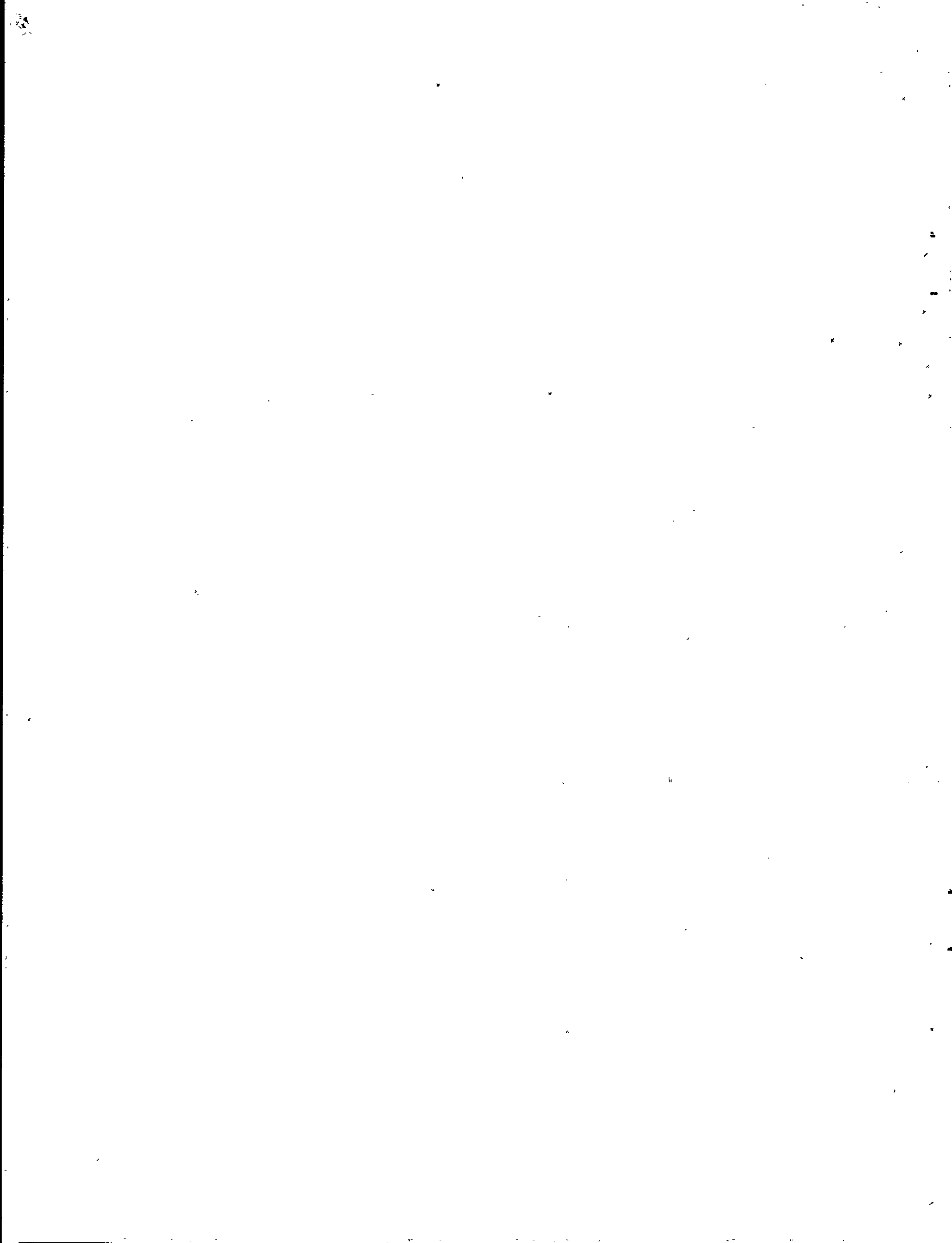
Thieves who cleaned out over 50 deposit boxes at a bank in Lissone toasted their success in champagne—and left the empty bottles behind.

In the Alps a girl of nine was swept to her death at Val Gardena, bringing the avalanche death toll in the area in 2 days to 10. Conditions were said to be the worst in 10 years.

Nearly one and a half million crimes committed in Italy in the last judicial year went unpunished. Furthermore, of the 33,179 people in jail at the end of June, about 20,000 were awaiting trial.

The equivalent of about £250m has been spent so far to repair the damage done by earthquakes in the Friuli area. The Government has been asked to approve legislation making available the equivalent of £350m a year for five years.

When Fellini's new film 'Il Casanova' was taken to court in Northern Italy at the beginning of January on a charge of obscenity, the judge decided that it was in no way offensive.



LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I am only writing this letter so that I can be the first person to have a letter printed in your most worthy magazine. Having had a sneak preview, I have two main criticisms to make: firstly, there is not enough material included from Italian organizations in other parts of London; secondly, the magazine lacks that personal touch - how about a few familiar names ?

Wishing you every success,

Cirillo.

Thank you very much, Cirillo, for your letter and we shall try to remedy the defects you have rightly pointed out, but so much depends on our readers' contributions.

Gli articoli e le lettere saranno accettati da qualsiasi persona su qualsiasi argomento, sia in italiano che in inglese, con la possibilità che verranno pubblicati in un'altra edizione. Inviare i vostri articoli e le vostre domande a:

Articles and letters will be accepted from everyone on any subject in Italian or English with the possibility of them being published in a later issue. Articles and enquiries should be sent to:

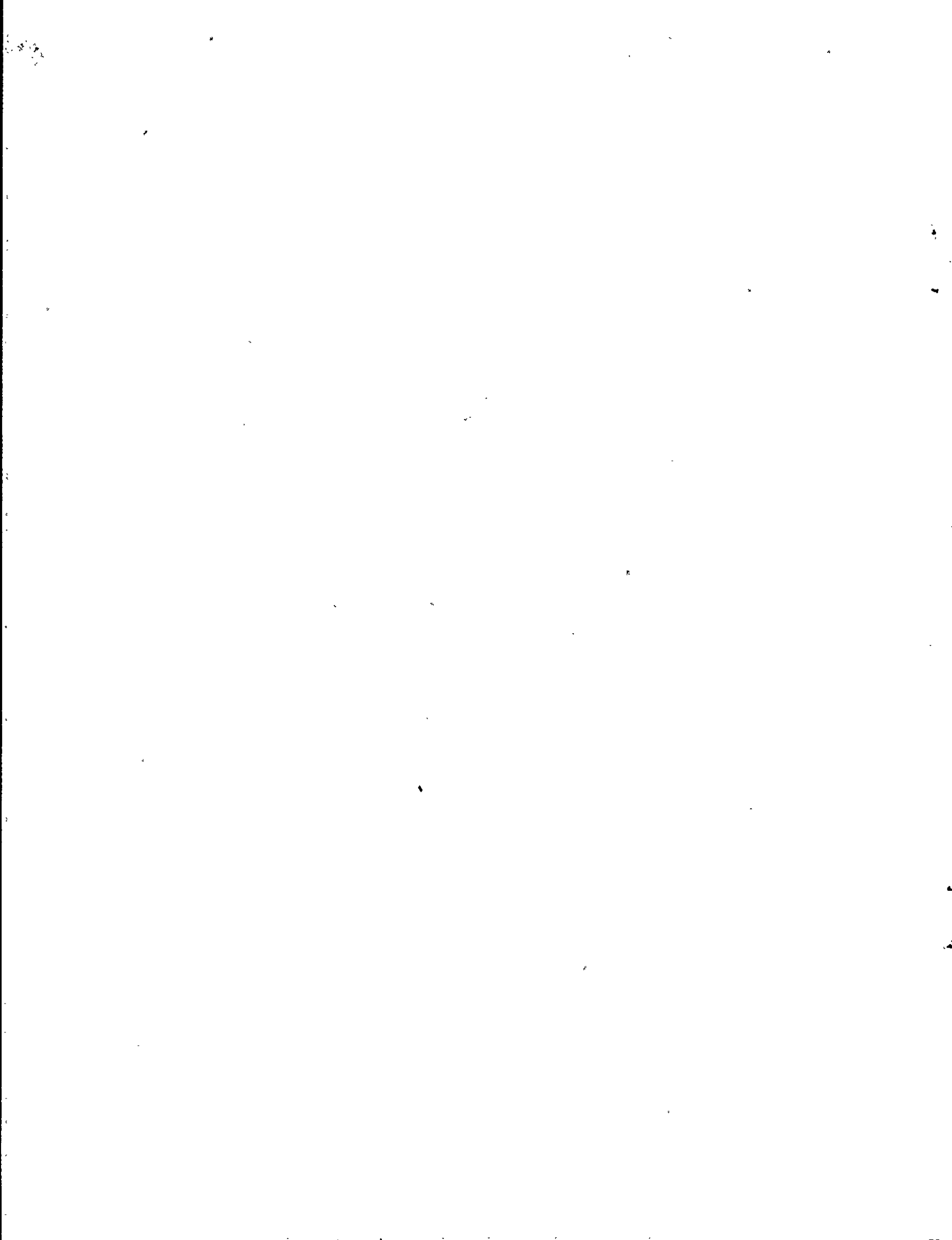
The Editor,

'Back Hill',

c/o Casa Italiana San Vincenzo Palotti,

136, Clerkenwell Road,

London E.C.1



CHE CI STA A FARE DIO?

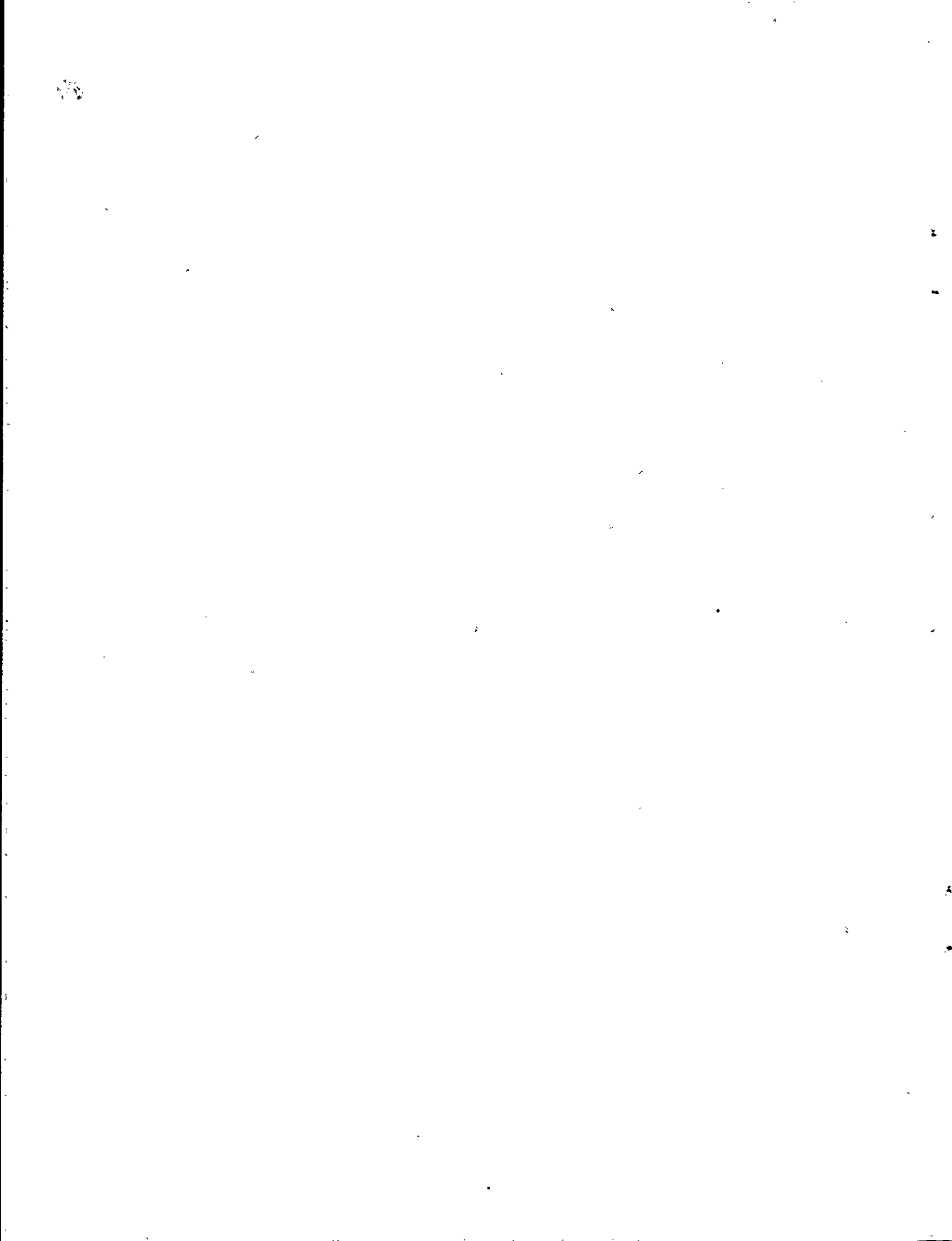
Sia che crediamo o sia che non crediamo in Dio, noi vediamo che dobbiamo lavorare, ci preoccupiamo, le cose ci vanno anche male alcune volte, il dolore entra nella nostra famiglia e nella nostra vita: di fronte a queste cose noi spesso diciamo: "Dio non esiste".

Altre volte invece ci capita un bel lavoro nel giorno di Domenica, oppure giochiamo a carte tutta la giornata e non andiamo a Messa, e poi diciamo: "E' peccato, Dio non vuole"; ma intanto lo facciamo lo stesso. Imbrogliamo alcune volte il prossimo per avarizia di soldi e poi diciamo: "E' peccato, Dio non vuole"; ma intanto lo facciamo lo stesso. Un giovane si porta una ragazza a letto e siccome sa che Dio non vuole (sa solo questo, purtroppo) preferisce Dire che Dio non esiste.

La conclusione e' che non abbiamo capito niente di Dio: abbiamo fatto diventare Dio una continua proibizione, come quelli che danno la multa alle macchine; abbiamo fatto diventare Dio come una medicina: si prende e il dolore se ne va. Non abbiamo capito niente di Dio: viviamo, ma siamo morti, anzi nemmeno viviamo, nemmeno siamo riusciti a diventare uomini che ragionano.

Che cosa suggerisco io, ora: che cosa consiglio? Io non dico proprio niente da me stesso: io dico solo che ognuno ci deve pensare e ognuno si deve dare una risposta: perche' Dio ha dato a tutti una testa per pensare: e per capire che Dio e' gioia, vita, allegria: Dio non e' rinuncia della vita, non e' tristezza, non e' invidia. Allora non mi rimane altro che ricordare le parole del Signore: "Ama il prossimo tuo come te stesso" e "Ricordati di pregare". Con la preghiera trovi Dio nella tua anima, trovi quel Dio che e' gia' nella tua anima: fallo parlare: non chiudergli la bocca con il tuo interesse e la tua avarizia: ascolta Dio che sa parlare alla tua anima con le tue parole e i tuoi pensieri, che ti sa parlare come nessun altro sa fare: scoprirai l'amore di Dio che ti da la gioia di tutta la tua vita.

PADRE RUSSO



The Italian Church Travel Agency

November saw the official opening of the Italian Church Travel Agency known to some, by now, as GIRI, a cunning title devised by the Parish Priest and derived from the names of the two people working there at the time. Tony Rizzi (RI) was one and myself, Giovanni Croci (GI) was the other. Tony, however, has now been more than adequately replaced by a somewhat more attractive partner, in the shape of Rosanna Bononi.

The Church itself had been operating a travel service for some time, in the capable hands of Mrs Teresa Jockly, the church secretary, but at the end of last year it was decided that the agency should open out and become a more efficient and enterprising unit in order to provide a true travel service to the community.

As most of you have surely noticed by now a great effort has been made these last few months to create, or should I say re-create, a strong community spirit and become, once again, the true centre of the Italians in London. The agency too, it is hoped, will do its part to strive towards this common end.

Finally, I would just like to conclude by first of all thanking the magazines' organizers for granting me the opportunity to tell you all a little about our agency, and secondly by sincerely hoping that you will be able to benefit from the agency if you decide to travel with us.

G.. CROCI

GIRI

Italian Church Travel Agency

Open:

Mon-Fri 10am-1pm & 3pm-6.30pm

Sat 10am-1pm

Sun 10am-1pm

136, Clerkenwell Road,

London,

E.C.1

Tel: 01-278 1399 & 01-837 3476

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"THE HILL"

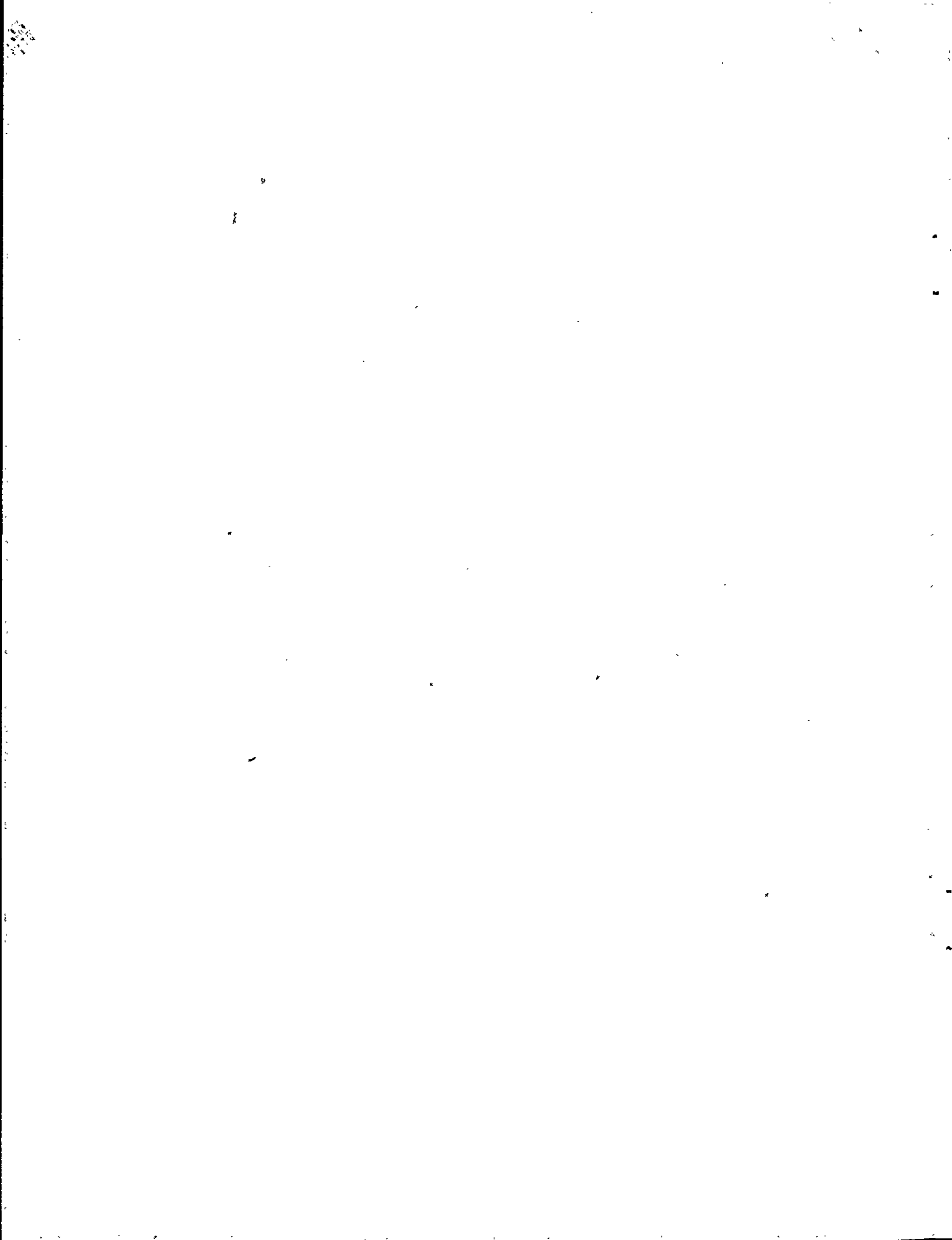
To some of you this title will bring back a memory of long ago, but to many more it will just give rise to a series of questions- Which Hill? Why the inverted commas? Is it a poem?

Let me explain to those for whom the "Hill" is just a title of something or other. The explanation must start with the people who understand what the "Hill" stands for. These people are a dwindling bunch, most of whom are in their 60's. They call themselves the "Old Italians"- although that has nothing to do with their age. The "Old" means that their parents came to England between 1880 and 1930. They are the descendants of the earliest Italian immigrants of the modern era. Their parents settled in the narrow, hilly streets around the then newly built Italian Church and the children grew up around the "Hill".

To the English people who lived around the area it was "Little Italy", but to those who lived in these streets it was, and will always be, the "Hill".

Geographically the area is hard to define accurately. Certainly Eyre Street Hill, Back Hill, Warner Street were the centre of the "Hill", but the tentacles stretched out over Clerkenwell Rd. to Saffron Hill, and down Warner Street to Mount Pleasant. The matter is made doubly difficult as many of the roads no longer exist, Bath St. is in the Car Park for instance. Although it is interesting to try to plot the exact boundaries of the "Hill" it is really unnecessary because to the people who lived in it, "Little Italy" was not a geographical location, but a way of life.

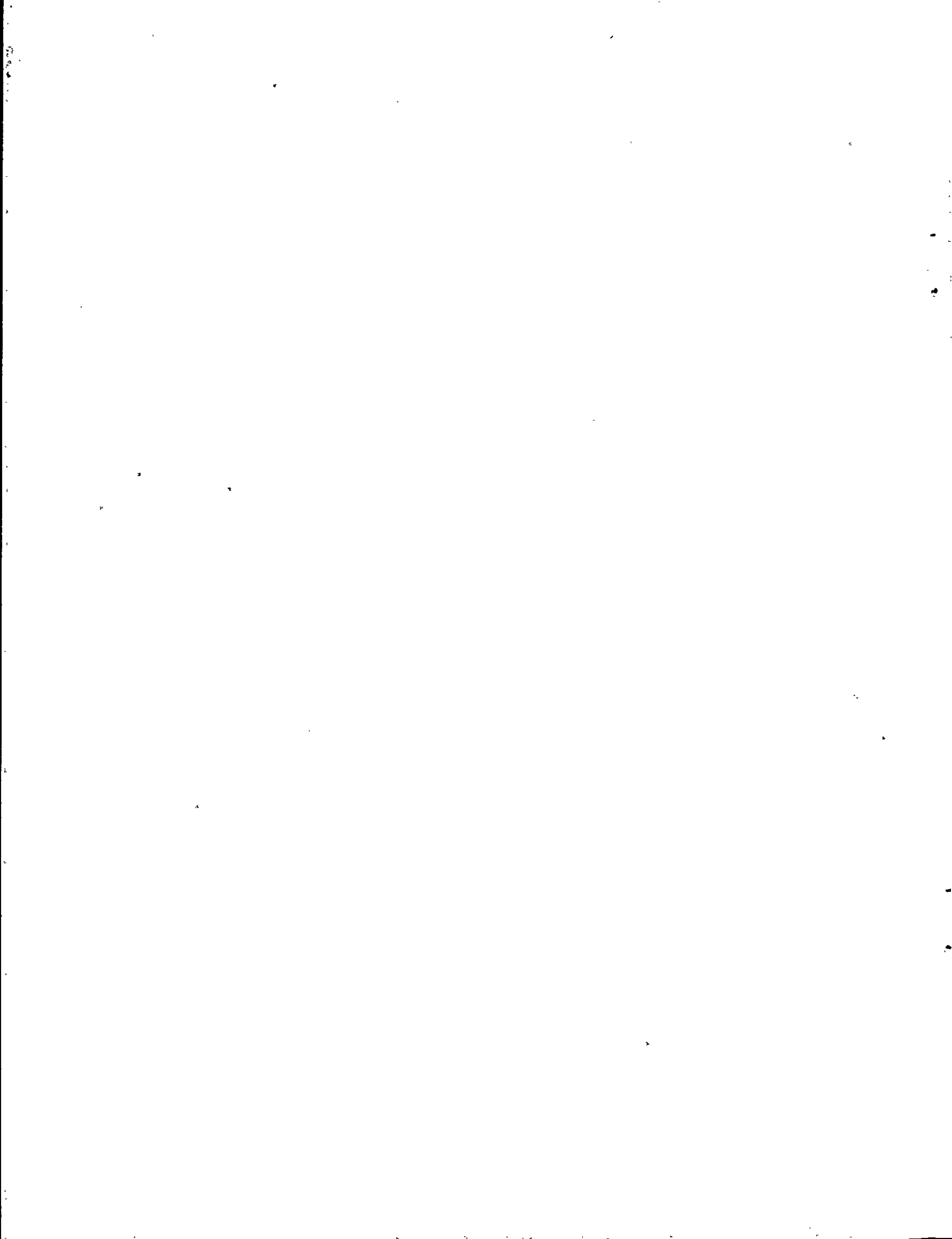
It was a way of life that was hard, but ask any "old Italian and they will tell you it was enjoyable. They will mention things like "a real community", "everybody knew each other" and "everyone's door was open". It is obvious that the "Hill" was a real village-type community with all the benefits and disadvantages of such a close-knit group and the people who grew up in that atmosphere developed the traditional village dwellers attitude to life.



It would be creating a false impression if life in the "Hill" were described as a bed of roses. The "raison d'etre" of the "Hill" was to protect the emigrants from some of the harsher aspects of life at that time. After all, in those days there was no social security, medical help cost money and there was only a minimum of free education. By living in a community of like-minded, understanding fellow countrymen the worst problems of the emigrant's life were shared and therefore minimised. The basic problem of life, however, could not be shared - that was the problem of survival.

Work for the immigrants was not easy. Most of those who came from Italy were unskilled and therefore could find only low paid jobs. Some had a skill and either set up their own businesses or else worked for English bosses. To the outsider the one occupation that is forever associated with the Italians, not only of the "Hill" but anywhere they settled is ice-cream. Every Englishman thinks of Italians as pushing ice cream carts shouting "Hokey Pokey penny a luss" and occasionally breaking into "O Sole Mio". It is true that for many of the inhabitants of the "Hill" ice cream provided a good living and by no means a seasonal one because the same carts could be used in the Winter to sell hot chestnuts. A lot of work was provided by the "Hill" itself. The Italians needed feeding and they wanted food they were used to. Out of that need grew many an import business supplying pasta, wine, salume and olive oil to shops in the "Hill". Cabinet makers made furniture, blacksmiths made pots and pans and the tubs for the ice cream carts, The "Hill" generated its own prosperity.

Perhaps the word prosperity is a little inappropriate, very few became rich in the financial sense in the "Hill". The richness of the life did not come from money but from things like the shouting of the children, playing in the streets. Naturally there were plenty of children, It is these children who are now the "old Italians" with the memories. Perhaps a little nostalgia has crept in and they remember the "Hill" with a warmer feeling than really existed but anyway the place must have been marvellous for children. Lots of narrow streets, houses opening out onto little courtyards, the ice cream carts needing a push up the hilly streets (with perhaps a wafer as reward); a safe and happy place to play shout and even to fight. In those days



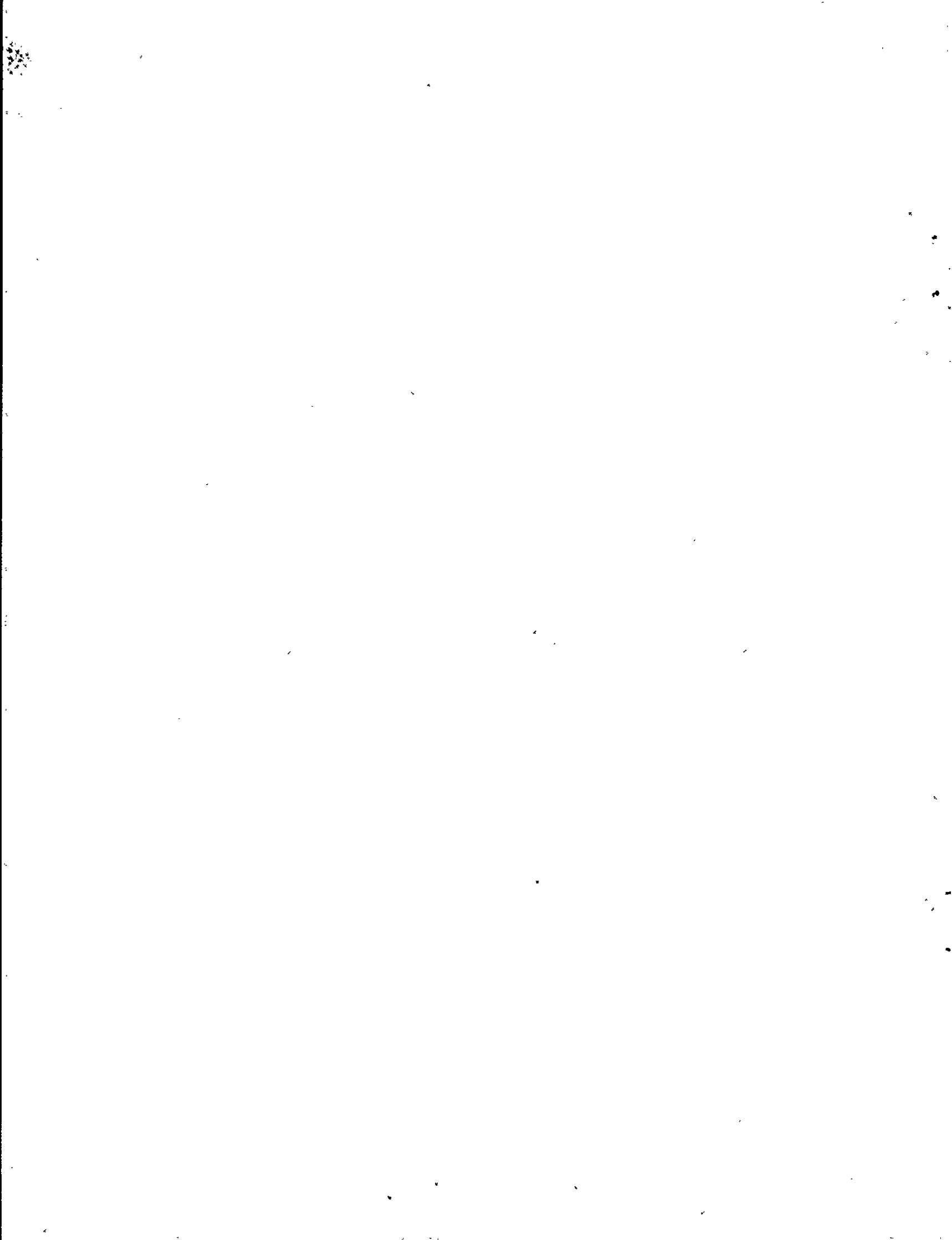
there was little traffic - a car was something to gape at - and what traffic there was moved very slowly.

The children were very much the centre of their parents lives. It was for these children that they left villages in Campania, hill towns in Toscana and Emilia and even the great cities like Milan and Naples. They left families too, so that a new and hopefully, better life could be lived by their children.

Before drawing this brief survey to a close it would be unforgivable not to mention the church of St. Peter's. After all the church was built for the Italian emigrants and they responded by living so close to it. To the people of the "Hill" the church was as much a part of life as the ice cream cart or the knife grinders wheel. Women dashed into Mass, hurriedly throwing a shawl over their heads, as if they were still in their home villages. The annual procession for Our Lady became the "festa" of the "Hill", just like any other village feast all over Italy. The Italian priests helped, argued, tried to guide their flock wandering in strange pastures with many different temptations.

This then was the "Hill", a real Italy in miniature. Today only a handful of Italians live less than half a mile from the church. Where there was once houses full of families trying hard to make a living, there are now car parks and power stations. The "Hill" no longer exists except in the memories and occasionally in this magazine.

I hope to revive some of those memories. I am sure that many of you will know, better than I, the stories of the "Hill" and if you spot mistakes please do not be too angry for I have only the imperfect memories of relations and friends to go on. There is, however, some help you can give those relations of mine. If you remember any little story - amusing, sad or merely typical - please send it to the care of the editor. If the stories concern people still living then change the names, or give only Christian names, as we do not wish to rekindle old arguments - because that too was part of life in the "Hill"



CASA ITALIANA S. VINCENZO VALLOTTI

Uno nome nuovo nei dintorni di Clerkenwell, e anche a Londra. Saranno nuovi il nome e il locale ma non l'idea. Questa ebbe inizio anni fa' ma fu' impossibile realizzarla per mancanza di locali.

La casa S. Vincenzo Vallotti comprende i locali sopra la Chiesa (ex-Girls Club e ex-Centro Studenti); il primo e secondo piano di 136 Clerkenwell Road, (Banda House); o ci fanno capo il St. Peter's Italian Catholic Social Club - un ritrovo per i nostri connazionali con licenza di alcolici ecc.; l'agenzia di viaggi 'Giri' che fornisce biglietti per voli per tutta l'Italia a prezzi molto vantaggiosi; una 'conference room' per circa 50 persone; ed una sala di riunione o da ballo per 150 persone.

I locali sono messi a disposizione di tutte le associazioni italiane che non abbiano sede. Evidentemente il Social Club funziona su un sistema di tesseramento, perciò e' riservato ai soci.

A questo punto desideriamo ringraziare il nostro parroco Don Roberto Russo il quale non esito' a concederci l'uso dei locali nonostante l'onere finanziario quale la perdita degli affitti.

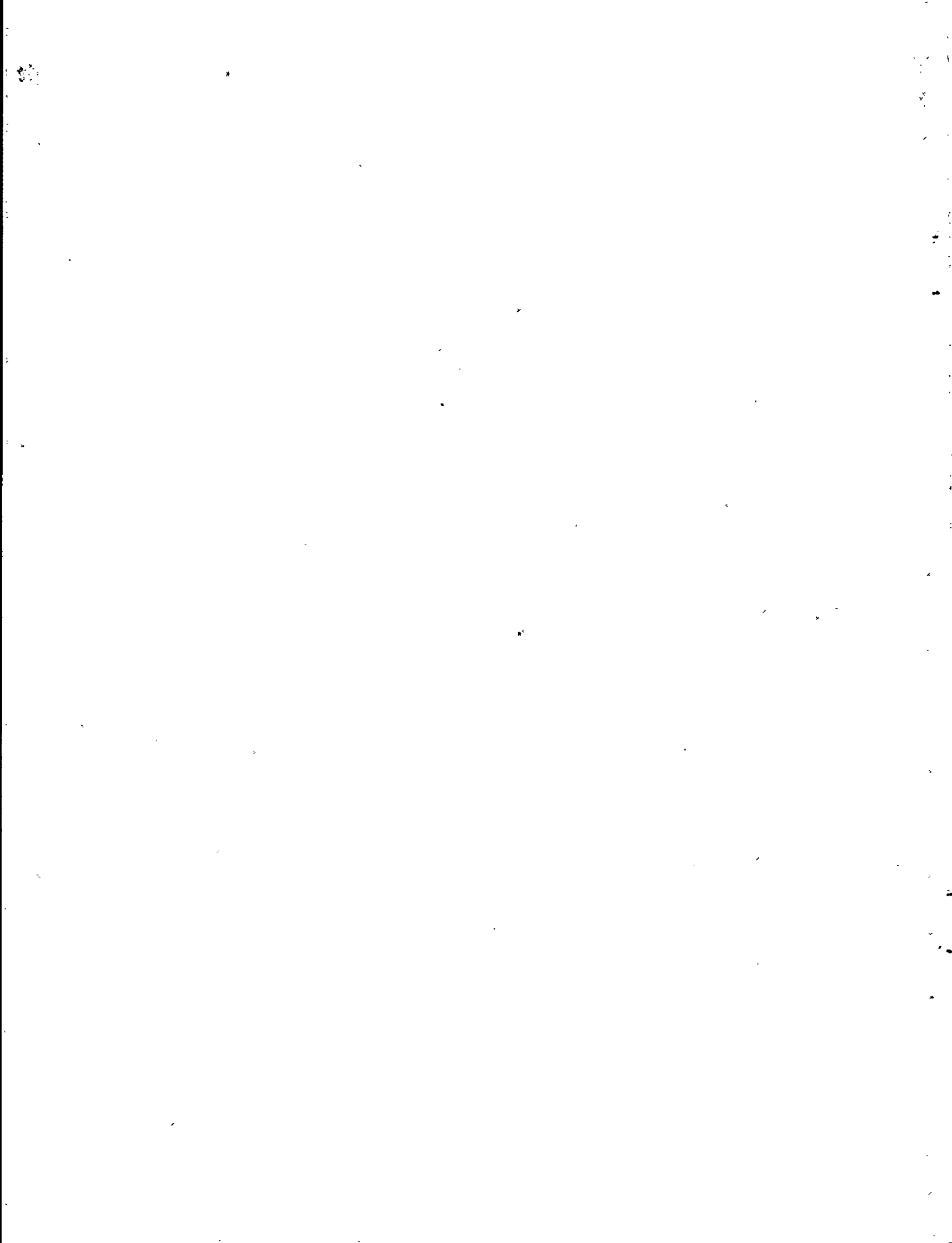
Fu cosi' che il primo agosto dello scorso anno incominciarono i lavori di restauro e di modificazione con l'aiuto di cinque giovanotti di buona volonta' che preceperano una paga misera. Entro tre mesi il locale cambio' totalmente d'aspetto. Certo che rimane ancora molto da fare, ma questo non ci impedisce di svolgere le nostre attivita' e soprattutto di dare ad altre associazioni la possibilita' d'incontrarsi.

Gia' ci si incontrano vari comitati come la P.A.I.E., la C.L.I.C. i Lucchesi, i Trentini, i Val Taresi, la communita' cinese, quella dell'Eritrea, e tanti altri. Sono gia' stati organizzati il primo 'Bazaar', un 'Jumble Sale', la festa natalizia per gli anziani e gli ammalati e la festa delle consorelle. Oltre cio' ha avuto luogo anche qualche Disco-Dance per i giovani e si sta preparando la seconda cena per i soci adulti del 'Social Club'. Tutto sommato si vede che il locale e', e sara', ben usato a beneficio di tutti.

Si potrebbe riempire un libro delle cose o le esperienze acquisite durante questi ultimi cinque mesi, purtroppo non c'e' ne' posto ne' tempo. Pero' desidero ringraziare coloro che mi sono stati vicini con consigli e aiuto in questi giorni, con la certezza che il loro contributo sia morale che finanziario e materiale recarera' beneficio a loro, alle loro famiglie e ai loro figli.

Vorrei ringraziare soprattutto l'intero comitato del Youth e Social Club e in modo particolare Don Roberto Russo per il suo continuo appoggio.

Ca. V. Heissl.



SPORT.

We hate to disappoint all of you sports enthusiasts who want to read the Daily Mirror-or Telegraph- type reports, but as this is what you might call the Introductory Issue we have limited our sports' coverage to an article which you would do well to read and think on as you participate in or watch your favourite sport, be it football or sky-diving.

The recent Wales-Ireland Rugby International saw the sending off of two players, Wheel and Duggan; the Man. Unt. - Coventry game witnessed Martin Buchan in a public argument with his team-mate Gordon Hill; Alan Mullery, John Bond and George Best have been charged with bringing the game into disrepute; John Lever's hard-earned success in India has been soured and his reputation unjustly slurred by a harmless strip of gauze. It goes without saying that each Saturday a fresh burst of football hooliganism is dutifully recorded on the front pages of our national newspapers.

Can we now put everything into perspective? Sport is a recreation. It is a relaxation for millions of people. It is a challenge, be it one man or one team against another or against a physical barrier. Man surmounting Everest or sailing around the world single-handed are achievements as self-satisfying to the participants as winning the Gillette Cup or the Anglo-Italian Football League is to the players in the successful side. It is overcoming the obstacle which gives the enjoyment, but if one man wins another must lose. Defeat itself may not be very edifying but surely it makes any subsequent success all the more satisfying.

The important thing is the game itself. Sport, by its very nature, must have a winner and a loser. Nowadays, however, defeat or failure is tantamount to being a dirty word. Alec Stock, Billy Bingham, Bob Stokoe and Dave Mackay have all learnt that there is little room for sentiment in the big business of football.

Now we even accept the 'professional foul' as part of everyday life; especially in football. It is no more than cheating. There can be no greater anti-climax than winning a game knowing that victory was achieved unfairly. This does not mean that any sport should be soft or that all participants should immediately cease to be controversial. Such consequences would themselves be detrimental to the particular game. The aim must be to play the game fairly not only within the letter but also within the spirit of the law.



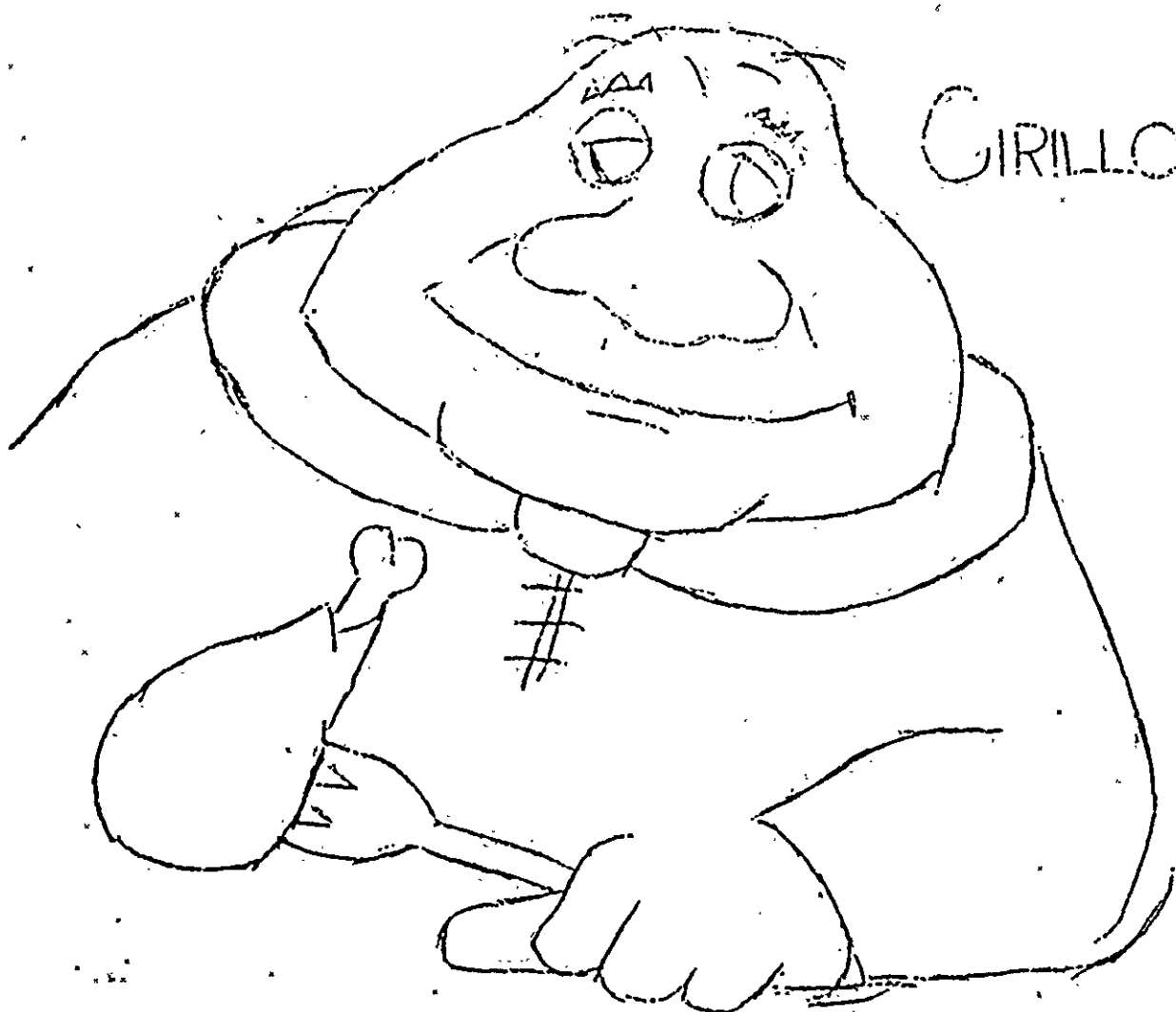
What then needs to be done?

Firstly, the administrators must take a tough line. They must decide precisely what is acceptable behaviour within the confines of their own particular sport. The laws must be clearly and unequivocally stated and enforced. This means there must be umpires and referees who justify the players' respect. All sports need officials who will be as sensitive to dirty play as they are to questions of their parentage.

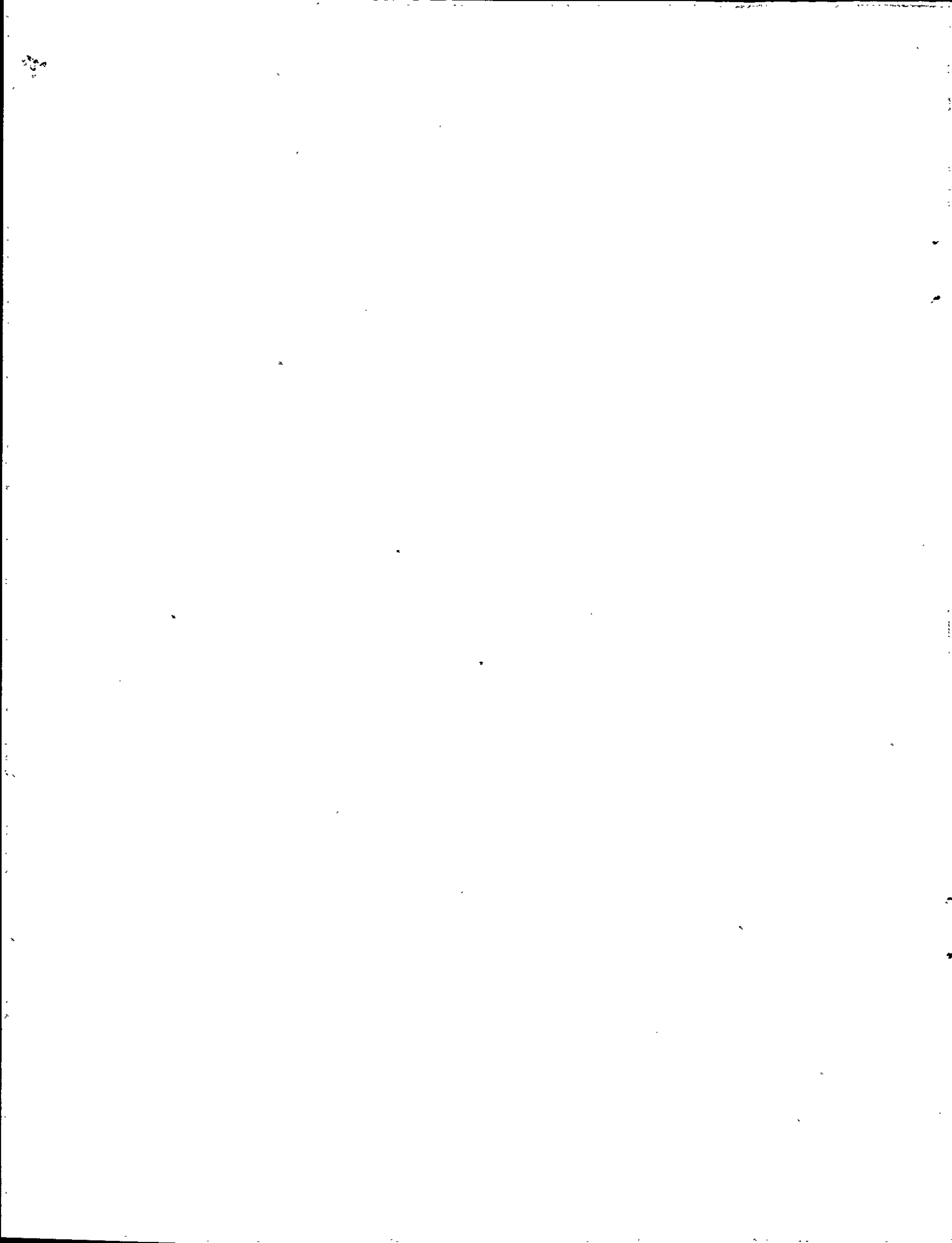
Fortunately (or unfortunately) 'Professionalism' is here to stay; let us use it to benefit sport and not harm it; be a professional but play the same, with the spirit of an amateur.

Eventually, however, everything depends upon each and every individual sportsman and woman- so let's hope for a sporting 1977.

R.E.



LOOK OUT FOR CIRILLO - NEXT MONTH.



"BACK HILLS" PRESS QUIZ

Would you like to win a bottle of Italian wine?
The first three correct entries opened on 14th February will each win a bottle of wine.
Send the correct answers to The Editor, C/O Vincenzo Pallotti House, 156 Clerkenwell Road, London E.C.1.

REGIONS OF ITALY

1. Which region extends furthest east?
Friuli, Tr ntino, Toscana, Marche.
2. Of which region does Napoleon's place of exile form part?
Liguria, Sardegna, Toscana, Umbria.
3. Which is the only region of Italy with no motorways?
Sardegna, Molise, Sicilia, Umbria.
4. Which region is Italy's largest wine producer, producing nearly one sixth of Italy's wine?
Fiemonte, Lombardia, Toscana, Puglia.
5. The Mont Blanc tunnel connects France and which region?
Fiemonte, Lombardia, Val D'Aosta, Trentino.
6. Which region had the first university in Europe?
Emilia, Toscana, Lazio, Campania.
7. In which region was Rossini born?
Umbria, Marche, Basilicata, Abruzzi.
8. Where is the home of the wine "Est, Est, Est"?
Friuli, Lombardia, Umbria, Lazio.
9. The first European medical school was in which region?
Campania, Calabria, Lazio, Liguria.
10. In which region were the 1956 Winter Olympic Games held?
Val D'Aosta, Fiemonte, Veneto, Trentino.

GOOD LUCK.

Answers and the names of the winners will be published in the next edition.



FILES

(Even if you've already seen them)

TWO MINUTE WARNING (AA): The film developed nicely with views of potential victims, law enforcers and the killer himself merging to reach a climax during the last two minutes of the American football championship match when the killer begins sniping on the crowd and causes a memorable panic. The use of the 'panic phenomenon' is not new to films but it is, in this film, stirring and definitely terrifying as is the senselessness of the killer's indiscriminate attack.

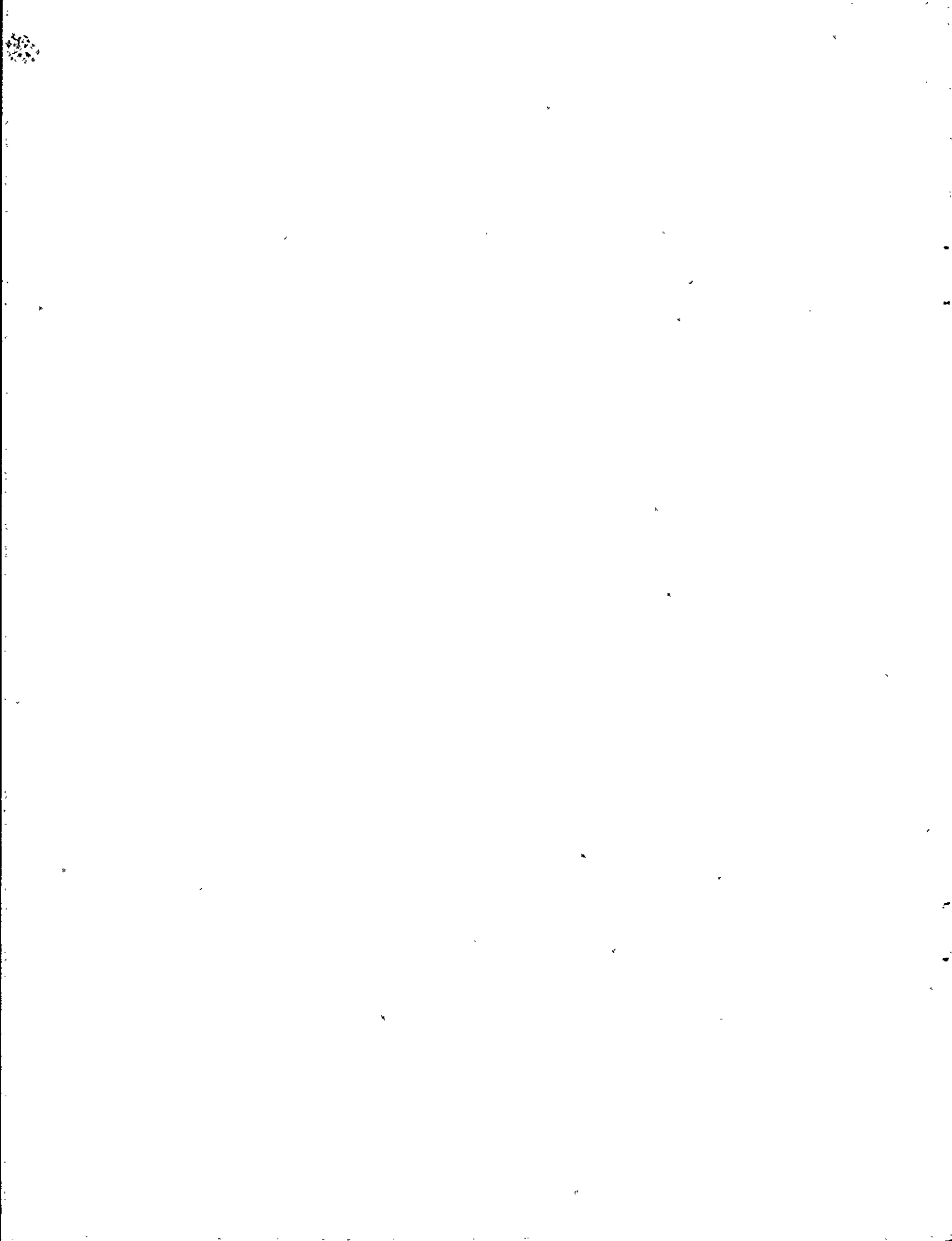
There are, however, too many irrelevancies and improbabilities that spoil quite a good film. Nevertheless it has its good points: for once the film is bigger than Charlton Heston, (there are a host of familiar faces), and it contains some exiting football action.

THE ENFORCER (X): For devotees of Clint Eastwood (did you see "The Outlaw Josey Wales"?) In the third of these films Dirty Harry, with the help of a female partner, continues to fight savage crime in San Francisco the best way he knows, although his methods are seldom appreciated by his superiors. Doses of righteous indignation, violent retribution and unpretentious 'blood-n-guts' with the occasional brutal killing - of course! Harry naturally gives better than he gets and emerges, with the aid of a rocket launder, triumphant but emotionally scarred from the final battle scene on the old prison island of Alcatraz.

Warped though it may seem I find Clint Eastwood films curiously refreshing.

MARATHON MAN (X): Superlatives performances principally from Dustin Hoffman as a history student and aspiring marathon runner, unwittingly involved in an affair which seems likely to destroy him, and from Lawrence Olivier as an ex-Nazi who comes out of retirement to collect some diamonds, the fruit of war crimes, and to cause Dustin Hoffman some dental discomfort. Beware the Knife concealed up Olivier's sleeve. Nasty! The survivor is, in the end the seemingly innocent and ordinary Dustin Hoffman; perhaps there's a moral there somewhere.

An excellent thriller in all events!



THEATRE

THEATRE ROYAL,
HAYMARKET.

For anyone vaguely interested in complete enjoyment, superb acting, theatrical magic, or just bored with the second rate programmes that have become common on all television screens, Somerset Maugham's "The Circle" is a must. It is one of the best 'serious' comedies I have seen. The plot is simple: Elizabeth (Susan Hampshire) is married to Arnold (Martin Jarvis) a rising politician but is desperately in love with Edward (Clive Francis). The enamoured couple plan to run away together thus reliving the same action taken by Arnold's mother, Catherine (Googie Withers), 25 years previously. The comedy is heightened by the arrival of Catherine and her lover (Bill Fraser) much to the amusement of her ex-husband (John McCullum). Will Elizabeth leave her secure life with the staid Arnold and become a replica of his aged, painted mother? I assure anyone who wishes to discover the answer that they will not be disappointed. A brilliant production in which the flawless performances of all six main characters was 'par excellence'. "The Circle" is captivating entertainment for all.

A.T.

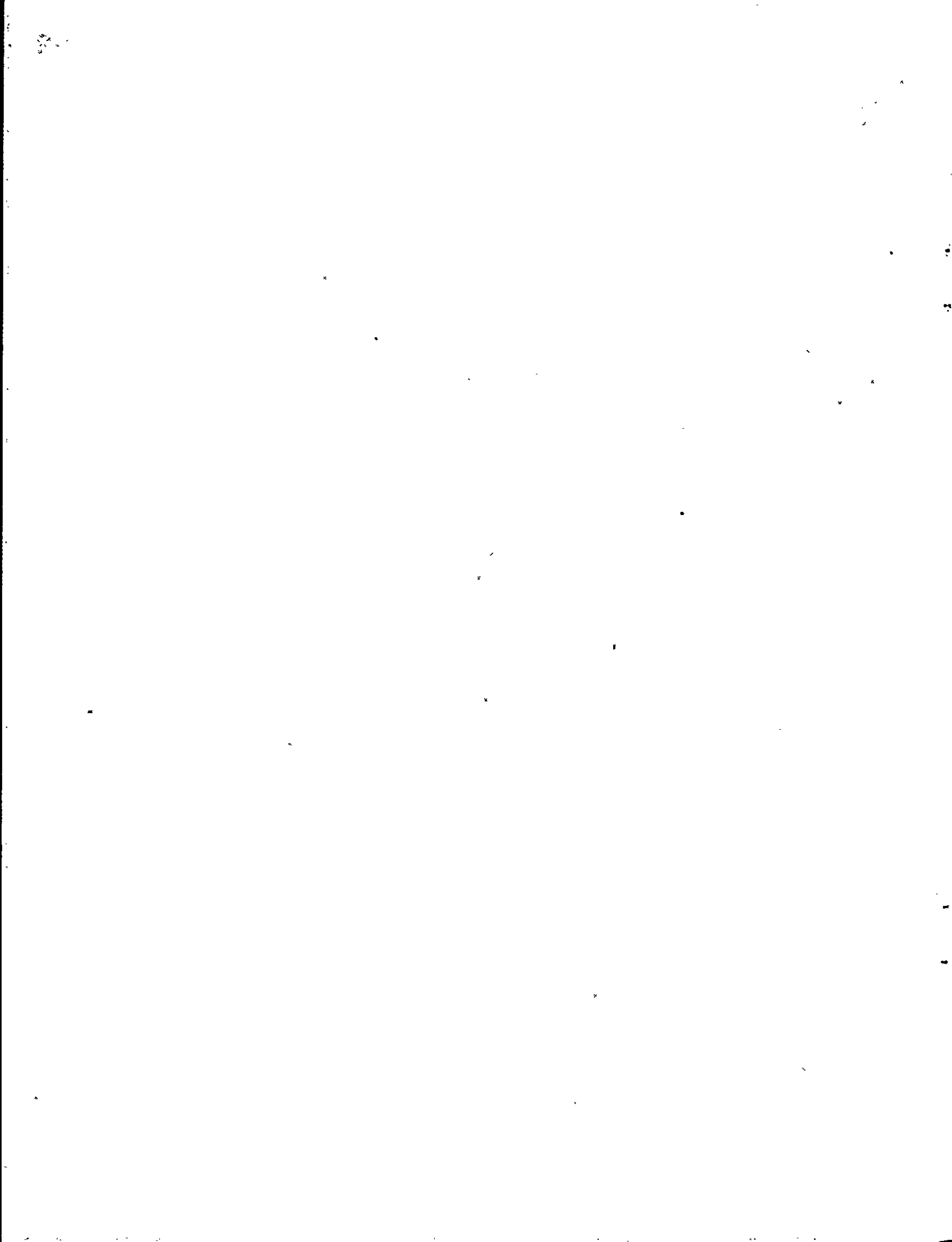
RECORDS.

'Hotel California': by the Eagles - A rare example of musicians that have improved since becoming more commercial; they have not compromised their music to do so, but have freed it from the strain of fitting into a tight concept. 'New Kid in Town' and 'Last Resort' are probably the best tracks of 1977.

The title track is an unchallenged 'tour de force' of tension, a wonderfully atmospheric opener to an excellent album. It will be a source of pleasure for the next few years.

'Bigger Than Both of Us': By Hall and Oates - Crisp instrumental playing with harmonies and melodies that are catchy. A fine representation of soul sound that has made these two artists popular, as can be seen from the success of their English tour.

M. R.



RECIPE - RICETTA

Fritelle Venete per Carnevale.

Ingredienti:

1 uovo
2 cucchiaini di zucchero
raschiatura di 1 limone
raschiatura di 1 arancia
sugo dell'arancia
1 mela tagliata a dadi piccoli
4oz uvetta sultanina
4 cucchiaini di rhum
1 bicchiere di latte
1 pizzico di sale
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cucchiaino di bicarbonato
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb farina
olio da friggere.

Istruzioni:

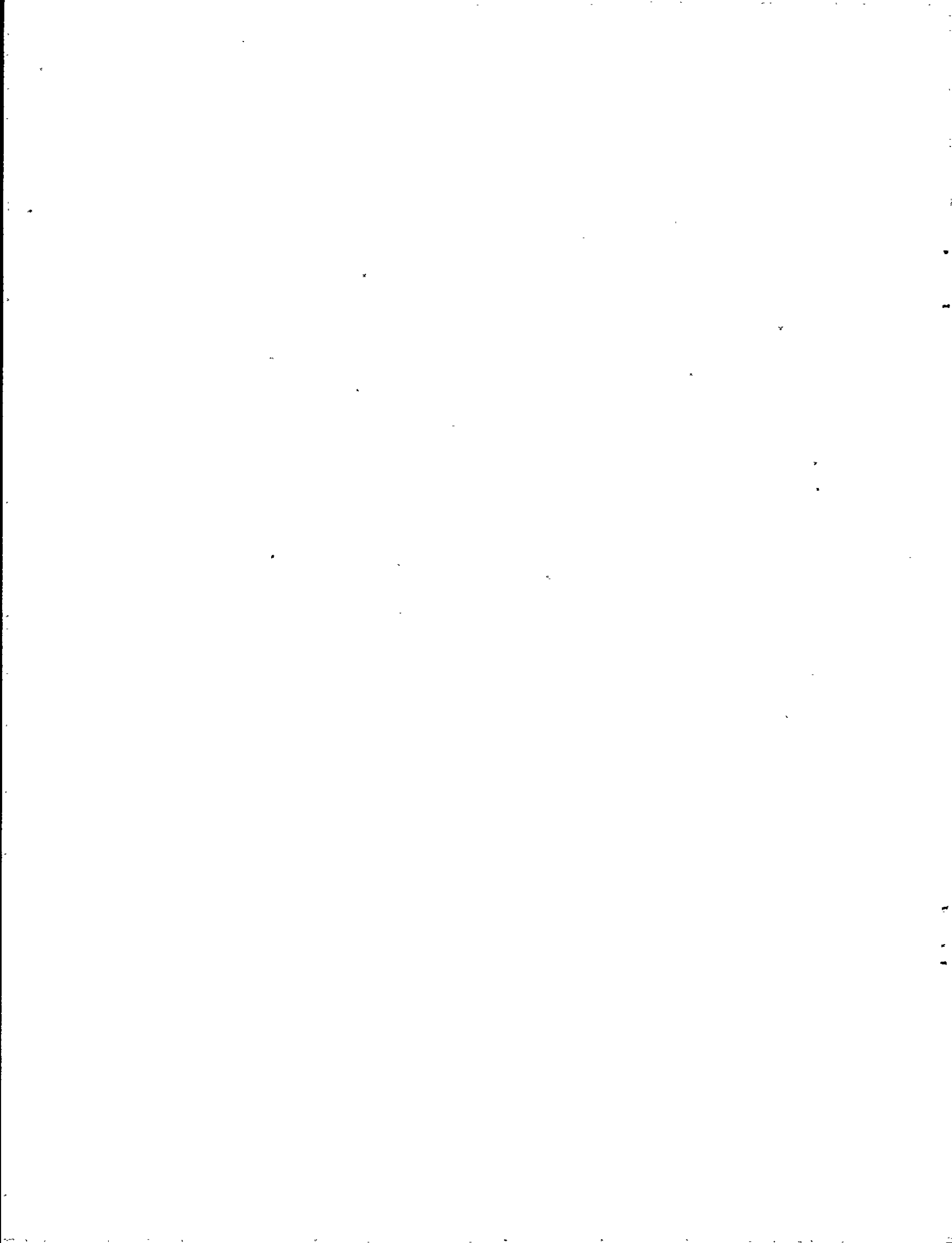
Lavorate il uovo e lo zucchero con un cucchiaino di legno. Aggiungete la mela e l'uvetta, il rhum, il latte, il bicarbonato, le raschiature di limone e dell'arancia, il sugo dell'arancia e il pizzico di sale. Mescolate tutto bene. In ultimo aggiungete la farina - ne dovrà risultare una pasta molle come una crema densa. Coprite la terrinetta e lasciate riposare per circa 2 o 3 ore in un luogo tiepido. Fate scaldare dell'olio abbondante in una padella. Versata l'impasto a cucchiainate non troppe colme. Fate friggere e girate le fritelle finchè siano ben imbiondite. Dopo averle tolte dalla padella, spolverizzatele di zucchero.

Ingredients:

1 egg
2 tablespoons of sugar
grated peel of 1 lemon
grated peel of 1 orange
juice of 1 orange
1 large apple cut into tiny cubes
4oz of sultanas
4 tablespoons of rum
1 glass of milk
a pinch of salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of bicarbonate
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of flour
frying oil

Instructions:

Beat egg and sugar with a wooden spoon. Add the apple cubes, sultanas, rum, milk, bicarbonate, grated lemon and orange peel, orange juice and pinch of salt. Mix in all the ingredients well. Lastly add the flour. The mixture should be like a thick cream. Cover your bowl of mixture and leave for about 2-3 hours in a warm place. Heat your frying oil in a deep pan. Drop dessert spoonfuls of the mixture into the oil, turning the fritelle once so that are a golden brown. Roll in caster sugar while still warm. Can be served hot or cold.



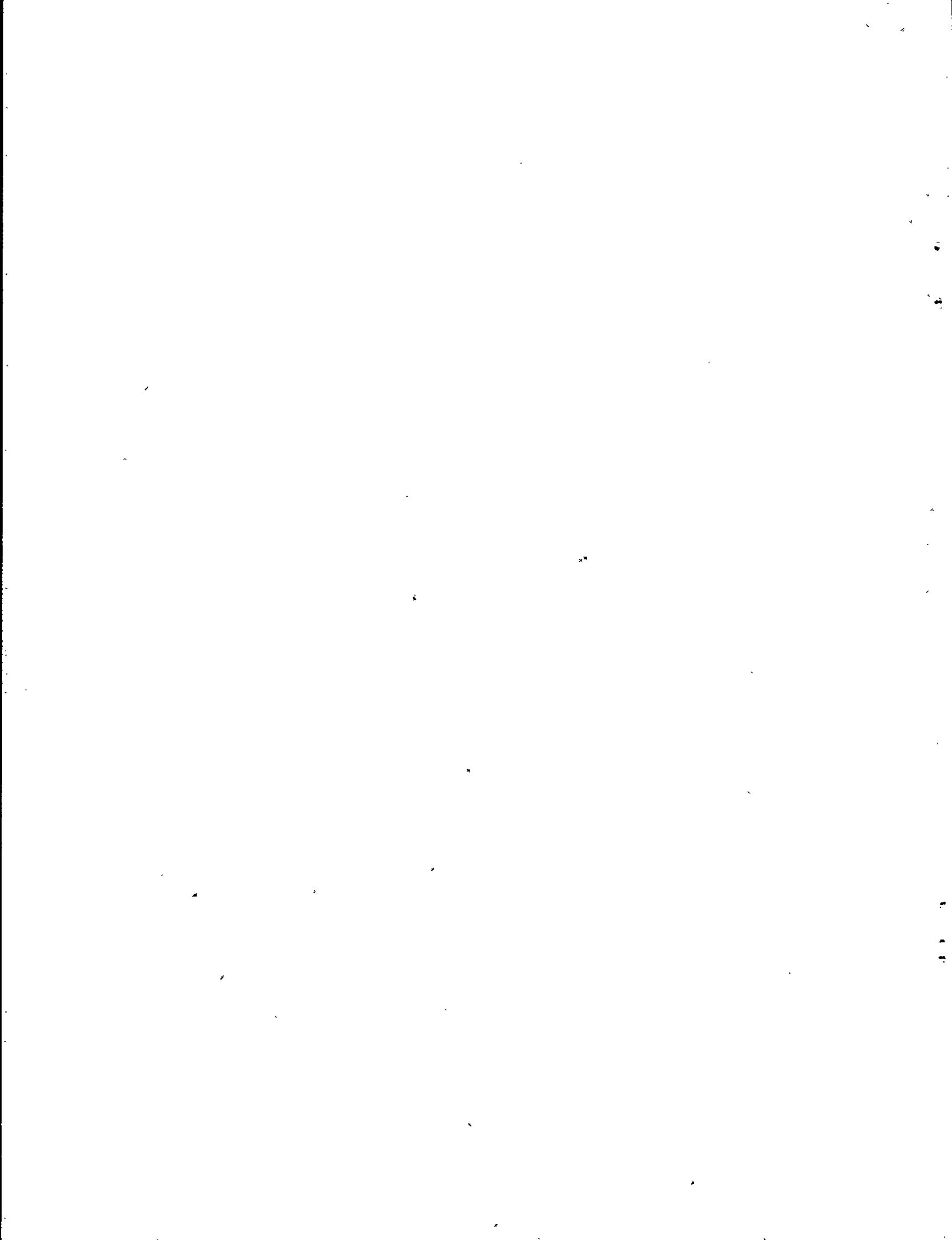
FORWCOMING EVENTS - PROSSIMI EVENTI. N.T.I.

FEBRUARY.

- Thurs. 10th Italian Hospital Dinner and Dance at the Grovesnor House Hotel, W.1.
- Saturday 12th Santa Messa per Soci, Associazione Val D'arda alla Chiesa Italiana ore 20.00.
Disco at St. Peter's Youth Club.
- Sunday 13th C.L.I.C., Disco at the Cafe Royal, W.1. 7.30 p.m.
- Saturday 19th F.A.I.E., Ballo di San Valentino at Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, W.1. at 7.30 p.m.
- Saturday 26th G.S.I. Dinner and Dance at the Fornello Restaurant, Southampton Row, W.C.1.
Associazione Casanova, Serata Sociale at St. Thomas' Hall, N.16. 7.00 p.m.
Cena delle Consorelle e dei Confratelli, Casa S. Vincenzo Pallotti, 5.30 p.m.
- Sunday 27th A.G.M. della F.A.I.E., Scalabrini Centre, S.W.9

MARCH.

- Saturday 5th "La Voce degli Italiani", Dinner and Dance, at the Hilton Hotel, W.1.
- Sunday 6th C.L.I.C. Disco at the Cafe Royal, W.1.
- Sunday 13th A.G.M. St. Peter's Youth Club, 5.30 p.m.



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