

## CANTERBURY CAUSERIE

# Old people's Superintendent plans to give his charges an interest in life

**T**HE new Superintendent and the new Matron of the Bridge old people's home, "The Close," are a go-ahead couple with plans.

They are strangers to Canterbury, they know no one in the area, but they took over at the home on Tuesday, right in the middle of Christmas plans, quite undaunted.

Mr. Harry Urwin, the Superintendent, and his attractive wife Lucie, the Matron, come from the North.

Mr. Urwin is a Yorkshireman from Teeside. He started work in the Chief Engineer's department of I.C.I. at Stockton-on-Tees.

At the age of 21 he went into hospital, where he met the pretty German student nurse who is now his wife.

## MOVED SOUTH

They both became interested in welfare work, particularly the care of old people. Mr. Urwin told me: "We decided to combine my hobby with her profession and we applied for the posts of Assistant Superintendent and Assistant Matron of the Joint User Hospital at Oundle in Northamptonshire."

They stayed there for two and a half years before moving South to Canterbury last week.

Their children, Christian aged nine and Jacqueline aged eight, have already started at the Bridge Church of England Primary School, and with their dog Trixie the Urwins have settled into the flat at the home.

Mr. Urwin's present aim is to start some form of occupational therapy for the old folk. He told me: "Most of them just sit around reading or watching television. They need to have some sort of hobby or activity to give them an interest in life.

"I would like to see them taught how to make baskets and rugs and so on. Most of them are capable of doing this sort of thing and it would give them something useful

By  
**RADIGUND**



Matron Mrs. Lucie Urwin, and her husband, superintendent Harry Urwin, newcomers to The Close Old People's Home at Bridge.

There is not much time for activities outside the home, but Mr. Urwin used to be an F.A. referee at Stockton-on-Tees and also secretary of the local rifle club. Both were members of the Arundel Boating Club and did a lot of river dinghy sailing. Both play badminton and enjoy visits to the theatre. Mrs. Urwin is a lover of music.

"I am looking forward to attending some of the concerts in the Cathedral," she told me.

Mrs. Urwin said: "There seems to be a cheerful, happy atmosphere here. Although we have only passed through Canterbury as tourists until now we do not feel like strangers. We would like to settle here permanently."

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"I would like to see them taught how to make baskets and rugs and so on. Most of them are capable of doing this sort of thing and it would give them something useful to do and something to talk about. Old people like to feel that they are useful. An interest like this makes all the difference to them."

### IMPRESSED

Both the Urwins have been very impressed with the interest shown by local organisations in the home.

Said Mrs. Urwin: "We have a very active and generous League of Friends and a very good library service. The Canterbury and District League of Friends have provided tickets to take the old people to the Christmas show at the Marlowe Theatre and the Bridge League of Friends gives presents to the patients. All the local organisations support the home."

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The Editor's Post

X, DECEMBER 8, 1964