

# ON WORD-BOTCHING

TED CLARKE

Newquay, Cornwall, England

## Spoonerdote One

In the late 1920s, the sheep-farmers in Queensland, Australia were extremely worried about a virulent disease affecting their stocks. Their livelihoods were threatened, since wool was a major industry, and something in the nature of desperate measures would be necessary to combat the menace which was decimating the flocks. A survey was decided upon by the State Government to ascertain the extent and severity of the disease and, being Australia's second-largest state, it was realised that the use of aircraft would be a most effective means of covering all affected areas and completing the survey in the minimum possible time. This led to legislation known as the Dying Flock Tours Act, which resulted in the schemes, begun in 1928 at Cloncurry, to provide medical aid to remote areas, not only in Australia but also in Canada and East Africa.

## Spoonerdote Two

Another interesting fact, but not this time concerning the great outdoors, relates to the practices carried out in iron foundries. When molten irons having high carbon content are poured from the furnaces into baths or ladles, solid graphite separates from the liquid and floats on the surface. This carburet of iron, when cold, appears as bright scales on the iron's surface; it is fettled away with the other impurities and excrescences when the castings are dressed.

Fettling is a skilled job, and fettlers take a great pride in the appearance of the dressed castings. The technical name for the carburet of iron is **kish**. Apprentice fettlers have to display their skill at removing this kish without cutting too deeply into the body of the iron casting. They are given the task of fettling the kish from a rough casting into a dish, and their efforts are then assessed by the foundry manager. The year's top apprentice is presented by the managing director with a diploma recording his pretty fettle of kish.