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POSTAL DELAYS

Sir—There are rumours, it seems, of putting the Post Office on a commercial basis. I can only say the sooner the better. The following are a few examples of the sort of service it has offered me over the past two years or so:

A parcel of flowers, sent from Essex to this address, took two and a half days to arrive; a second parcel, sent to replace the first and posted especially early to secure a more prompt delivery, also took two and a half days. In both cases the flowers were, of course, ruined.

An express parcel—express, mark you—took more than two days to reach its destination in Wiltshire.

On Nov. 2 of this year I posted a letter in Piccadilly, W.1, at 12.30 p.m. This reached its destination in Maddox Street, W.1, half a mile away, at 3.50 p.m. on Nov. 4.

On Nov. 12 I posted a letter at 11.15 a.m. at the sorting office in Ashford, Kent. This arrived in London, W.1, on Nov. 14 at 12.30 p.m.

These are, however, comparatively small delays in comparison with a journey taken by a fairly bulky envelope of MSS sent from this address to the Strand, W.C.2. This took no less than 18 days to reach its destination.

The Post Office excuse for this not inconsiderable delay was that "somebody forgot to shake the bag."

And also, presumably, the Post Office. Yours faithfully,

Little Chart, Kent. H. E. BATES.