

7/6.SWANS.

The worst disaster they have ever known hits the swans of the Thames when an oil barge sinks at Battersea. Within a few days, their deadliest enemy - floating oil - spreads from Rotherhithe to Teddington, and emergency rescue work saves hundreds of birds from a miserable death.

Oil contamination is fatal to water-birds. Some are dragged down by the oil's weight and drowned, while others try to clean themselves and die through swallowing the oil. So it's crisis stations for the R.S.P.C.A., with every available man bringing the stricken swans in for cleaning.

Fuller's Earth is used to remove the oil coating. Soap or detergent would be useless for this job; it would remove all the natural oil as well, and if the birds tried to swim again, they'd become waterlogged and sink.

These birds will never be really white again - but they'll be alive and well, thanks to the sterling work of the R.S.P.C.A., and other voluntary bodies.

Any more for a shower?