

LOOK OUT TAXIS.

Minicabs have begun to invade the streets of London: small cars, charging a third less than ordinary cabs, Taxi drivers think, Blimey, they'll be usin' scooters next.

There's plenty of room in the little cabs, remembering that most taxi journeys are only made by one, or two people. By law, minicabs can't pick up fares. Would-be passengers phone the firm's office, saying where they are, and where they want to go. Next stage in the drill - a radio call to the nearest minicab in the area. That way, the law isn't broken and there's no time wasted. Message received, noted, acted on.

How's that for speed: Pulling up at the door the very minute madam was ready. The minicab firms believe they have a golden future, without harming the taxi business, just by taking people who'd otherwise walk. "There's a good 'un. Cor, stone the crows!"