

## SIGNAL FAILURES



**"WE should be doing much more to encourage cycling," David Cameron told the Commons last month. So things are looking up for cyclists? Not on the railways.**

At present, train firms don't set aside much space for bikes and cyclists can be refused entry if they haven't reserved a bike space or if the paltry bike area is already full. The government's recently published specifications for "intercity express" trains, which will replace First Great Western's intercity 125s from 2017 (and continue in use to 2045 at least) are not exactly encouraging either.

The 125s will take six bikes each - but DafT requires most of the new trains to carry only four. Even the longest new trains need only take eight bikes, unlikely to meet demand if cycling in Britain rises towards the European average.

*'Dr B Ching'*