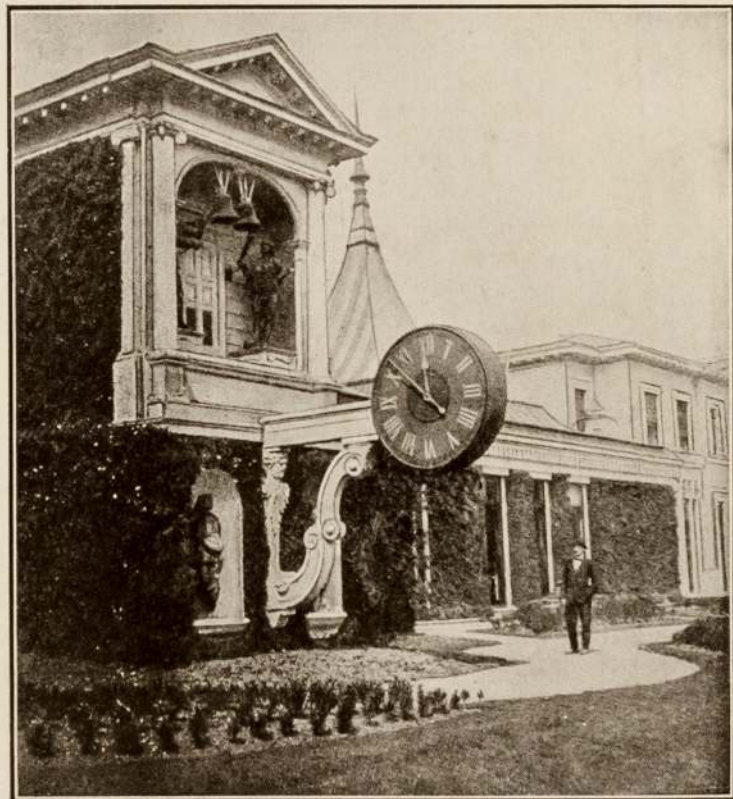


St. Dunstan's



Review

For the Amusement and Interest of Men Blinded in the War

St. Dunstan's Motto: "What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve about."

Monthly, Price 6d.

Blinded Soldiers Learning Poultry Farming at St. Dunstan's Hostel



1. VIEW OF ST. DUNSTAN'S HOME FARM IN REGENT'S PARK. 2. BLIND MEN FEEDING CHICKENS.
3. BESIDES CHICKEN AND RABBIT KEEPING, DUCK BREEDING AND REARING IS TAUGHT.

St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY IAN FRASER

No. 25.—VOLUME 3.

SEPTEMBER, 1918.

PRICE 6d.
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

Some Impressions of Visits to Old St. Dunstanners

AT the end of our summer holiday we spent a few days visiting some of the men settled in the South and South-West of England. We were, unfortunately, only able to spare a short time for this most interesting and instructive tour, but were able to gain some impressions which make us very proud to belong to St. Dunstan's, and prouder still to be associated with the men whom St. Dunstan's has trained and is caring for.

Comfortable homes, some of them in delightful surroundings in the country, others in the busier parts of towns, were what we found wherever we went, but much more than just comfortable homes, for in each home is conducted a little business of one sort or another which is producing something. To produce or repair is perhaps, after fighting, one of the best things a fellow can do, and these men, who have learnt their different trades and professions at St. Dunstan's, are all busily working. One is, perhaps, apt to marvel most at St. Dunstan's because it has worked such wonders with the individual men who have passed through its doors, but we have learnt after our tour to look at it and marvel at it from another point of view besides this one. St. Dunstan's is definitely helping to win the war by turning labour, which would, perhaps, otherwise be wasted, or only inefficiently used, to good account. Those handicapped by loss of sight, who in too many cases were before the war looked upon as a burden to the State, are now being taught to be assets to it, and in a time when the country is short of everything, are supplying it with many of the necessities of its life. We must have our boots repaired; we must have our baskets and our mats and our nets, our cupboards and our tables; many of us who have been wounded must have our limbs massaged; our telephone exchanges must be worked, our business letters written, while the land must be made to produce its fullest complement of eggs and poultry. Think what an asset it is then to have a battalion of blinded soldiers doing all these things for us, and releasing others who have not yet been able to do their share before to go and do it now. Every trained blinded soldier is a producer of something, and as such is of the greatest value to England.

To the men who are now being trained and re-educated, and to those who will come later on, we would say: Strive to do as well as your pals who have passed through St. Dunstan's and you will be striving after something thoroughly well worth having—a prosperous and happy future life, in which you will be earning your living independently and will be pulling your weight.

The Editor.

NOTES BY THE CHIEF

HIS MAJESTY THE KING has recently sent a message to the blinded soldiers of the Allies. It was written by His Majesty, and sent to the National Institute for the Blind to be put into French and Italian Braille. The message is one of sympathy and encouragement, well worthy of the august source from which it emanates. I extract from it, with His Majesty's gracious permission, the following passage, which, I venture to say, conveys with uncommon dignity, forcefulness and sympathy the ideal which every blinded soldier should hold before him:—

"Many hundreds of my own soldiers, blinded in this War, have already, by fortitude and patience, combined with skilful training, learned to fill the places which they occupied before their misfortune. They have learned to get the full value from the great storehouse of their other senses, which those who have sight scarcely use. It is a question of training; but first of all it is a question of courage, the same courage with which you refused to yield to the enemy on the battlefield. A great calamity has come to you; but if you refuse to yield to it; if you determine with all the strength of your natures to rise above it, the treatment of the blind has of late years attained such a degree of progress that your future life may be as full and useful as your old."

CAPTAIN EDWIN BAKER, the extremely capable Canadian officer, who was with us in the early days, recently had a very interesting experience. He was invited to make a speaking tour in connection with the United States Third Liberty Loan, and I have just heard from him, telling of his experiences, and enclosing a copy of the diary which he kept. In the month during which he was at work Captain Baker travelled over a great part of the United States, and addressed

seventy-nine meetings, the audiences in many cases numbering thousands. Many of you will, no doubt, remember reading in these Notes of the activities of Captain Baker and Corporal Viets in connection with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, which has been established largely owing to their initiative, and of which I have been asked to become Honorary President. Captain Baker's work in this connection, and the unflinching interest which he has shown in regard to the futures of Canadians who have been trained at St. Dunstan's, have led the Canadian authorities to ask him to join the staff of the Invalided Soldiers' Commission. His duties will be to make suitable arrangements for the reception and settling of St. Dunstanners who return to Canada, and to manage all matters connected with their after-care. This work could not, in my judgment, possibly be in better hands. I think we must all regard it as a very high compliment to St. Dunstan's that one of its early inmates should have been entrusted with this important work, and knowing as I do Captain Baker's cleverness, initiative and persistency, I feel quite sure that the futures of Canadian St. Dunstanners will be safe in his hands. His office will be in Ottawa. The acceptance of this post obliges Captain Baker to give up the excellent position which he held in the Hydro-Electric Power Company of Toronto, and I understand that the directors of that great concern sincerely regret his departure from the business.

THE other day, in the course of a talk which I had with Lord Cobham, the Chairman of the Committee of the Worcester College for the Blind, he told me an interesting fact about the late Earl of Leicester, who was a friend of his. Lord Leicester was at one time of his life quite blind for five years. He recovered his sight as the result of an operation, but,

unfortunately, in his later days, he lost his hearing. Lord Cobham said to me that Lord Leicester had often told him that, from his personal experience of both handicaps, he considered the loss of sight much the lighter of the two. I am sure there is no doubt at all about this. Deaf people are cut off from the world in a manner which, fortunately, does not apply at all to us, and they are in many ways far less fitted to carry on normal life than blind people. Without wishing in the least to rejoice in the misfortunes of others, I think that we should all be very grateful that fate has laid upon us the disadvantages of blindness instead of the much greater ones imposed by deafness.

TO be deaf as well as blind is a really serious matter. There are some four hundred people in this country who labour under this double handicap, and it is truly wonderful to see how plucky a fight many of them make. In the early days of St. Dunstan's, a friend of mine brought a deaf and blind lady to see the place. I went round with her and her guide. He explained everything to her talking telegraphically with his fingers upon the palm of her hand. She took a most intelligent interest in everything and asked a great many questions which showed that she was very fully alive to all that was going on round her. I remember that when my own sight was failing, I met at a school for the blind at Leatherhead a very remarkable instance of what, for want of a better phrase, I will call double-brained cleverness on the part of a blind man. He was talking to two others who were blind and deaf. Each of them held up a hand and he was tapping their palms with extraordinary rapidity. To my great astonishment I discovered that he was at the same time talking to the man on his right about the political situation and exchanging remarks about the weather with the man on his left. I suppose if one had two voices that one could train one's brain to talk on two entirely different subjects at the same time, but it would obviously be a pretty difficult thing to do.

DO blind people see ghosts? Personally I doubt if anyone does: at all events I have never had the good fortune to come across anything in the ghost line which was not pretty easily explained by causes other than supernatural. I once thought I really did see a ghost, and, I am glad to say, acted very promptly upon a plan which I had always intended to follow, if possible, under the circumstances. I seized the nearest heavy object, which happened to be a thick-soled boot, and threw it with all my force at the uncanny visitor. There was an appalling crash and a sound as of many waters! I was in a room which I had never occupied before, and a moonbeam had struck upon a white water-jug: something must have awakened me with a start, and for the moment I was quite sure that an unearthly visitor was in the room. However, this is nothing to do with the real subject of this note. I wonder if any of you have ever thought you saw a ghost since your sight went? Most of us, I think, see things very vividly in our dreams, so I really do not know why we should not continue to have just as much idea of the presence of ghosts as people who can see have.

WHEN moving about the grounds or walking to and from workshops or classrooms, fellows should keep to the left more than they do. As a rule there are guide rails for those who need them on both sides of the paths, but fellows are far too apt to get into the habit of going along one rail whichever the direction in which they are proceeding. This is sure to lead to collisions and consequent loss of confidence, to say nothing of bumped noses. Since I lost my sight I have sometimes wished that I had a nice, neat little pug-nose—a description which I am afraid does not apply to the most prominent feature of my face.

Arthur Pearson

News of St. Dunstan's Men

WE are glad to record that P. Sumner, who was re-educated at St. Dunstan's during the year 1916, and who is at present in residence at St. Mark's Training College, Battersea, has just passed the Inter-Arts Examination of the University of London, in the First Class. The subjects taken were:—English, French, Latin, Logic, and History.

Sumner has also been successful in obtaining a First Class Certificate at the recent Archbishop's Examination in Holy Scripture. We offer him our congratulations.



The popularity of Braille with the blinded soldier is remarkable. We are always receiving notes of appreciation from men who have left St. Dunstan's. Here is an extract from a letter recently written to Sir Arthur by G. F. Yarrow:—

"I am making good use of the Library, and am kept well supplied with books. I find it a splendid relaxation to have a good read. I do not know what I should do without my Braille books, I am sure; and the fellows who do not take an interest in it do not know what they are missing in life."



The following are some extracts from a letter recently received by Sir Arthur from Mr. Goggin, whose daughter was married on July 14th, 1917, to George Price, a poultry-farmer and tray-maker, who left St. Dunstan's in that month:—

"I have just returned from a very pleasant holiday visit with my son-in-law, George Price, a St. Dunstan's poultry-farmer, at Weeley, Essex. This is the first time I have had the pleasure of seeing the young couple since their wedding-day, and I was never more surprised in my life. The way he manages his farm and his tray-making would do credit to any man with the best of eyesight, and the way in which he travels about the farm, of about three-and-half

acres, by himself, is wonderful. He even goes about without the aid of a stick, he has only a guide-wire along one side of his field, there being a ditch upon that side from one end to the other.

"During the ten days I was with him we got in and stacked about one ton of hay, and when it was about six feet high, and I was away for a few moments, he climbed to the top, jumping it down in the centre, holding a nine-foot pole in his right hand to feel the ground at the side of the rick, but I did not let him do that a second time. Well, we had all the hay stacked in three-and-half days. I might add that he fixed up the platform for the hay before I arrived.

"Then to see him clearing out the railway-coach which he has, getting it ready for intensive breeding. There were hundreds of tacks, small nails and screws, pieces of cloth and things that would dishearten most people that could see them. But he kept time with me in the work, and then went over my part of the work to see if I had missed any of the nails, and found two small tacks which I had missed. That caused it properly; he told me that I had better go back to the cottage and get his glass eye and use it!

"Really, after working with him a little time, I used to forget that he was blind. He seems to look straight at you when talking, and when he asks for anything he holds out his hand at the proper time, as if he could see you offering it to him; and all the while so cheerful, cracking jokes at meals, singing about the house and grounds, and, in fact, always bright and merry. He has told me himself that when he is working he forgets that he is blind, and thinks that everyone is the same as himself, or he the same as other people.

"One evening I went the round of the hen-houses with him, and on our return journey, when I was locking up the goats, he thought he heard a noise, and after

—From all parts of the World

walking back to the nearest hen-house, he opened the box and found two brood hens, so he asked me to go to the back of the cottage and bring him a coop. Before I got to the house I saw one, and took it back to him, thinking to save time. When I reached him he asked me to let him 'see' it, and after feeling it he said, 'You did not get this from the back of the house.' I said, 'No; I saw it on my way there.' He would not have it; I had to bring him the right one. Afterwards I asked him how he knew the difference, and he told me that each one was numbered. Well, I could see no number, and told him so, forgetting, of course, that he was blind; but he put my hand on the top of the coop, where I felt three cuts. I was very careful after that, and did as he asked me to do.

"The next day we commenced to put up long poles about the field where he had cleared the hay. His measurements were done by paces, and after boring holes with a crowbar, he filled the holes with water, and so worked in the poles to fix his wire netting, keeping the poles as straight as possible. Where I or other men with eyesight would be walking back a few paces, or casting one eye up to see if it was straight, he simply felt with his two hands.

"Another day I spent with him in his workshop watching him make trays. In there he is simply wonderful: he does not require the least assistance, he knows where to put his hand upon anything he requires, everything going back to its proper place when he has finished with it.

"The confidence the man has in himself is astonishing; the result, I am sure, of the training he has had at your splendid Institute and Home, of which place George is never tired of speaking, and about which I intend to have something to say in future. I do not think that anyone, seeing what I have, would ever get tired of praising St. Dunstan's and its work; in

fact, it should be advertized at every street corner, that all roads lead to Regent's Park and St. Dunstan's.

"I hope you will excuse the great liberty I have taken in writing to you, but after seeing my daughter and George so happily settled I felt that I must. . . ."



A. Coulson, of Hornsea, Yorks, who was taught poultry-farming and basket-making at St. Dunstan's, wrote us recently:—

"Since leaving St. Dunstan's I have been living at home and doing my basket-work. This I find very interesting, and do not have any difficulty in getting a sale for my work. I have repeat orders from quite a few people, and still have a long list of orders waiting to be done. My largest order was for £3 worth for one lady.

"Whilst at St. Dunstan's I had lessons on the violin. I cannot too strongly recommend any of the boys to take some kind of music lessons whilst they have the chance. It is such a nice thing to be able to play if even ever so little. I think one is never dull if able to play some kind of instrument.

"Of course, I know the town here quite well, and find it quite easy to get about alone. So far I have not been in any difficulties, and have always managed to arrive home quite safely."



A. Palfrey, a boot repairer at Barry, near Cardiff, in a letter, in which he orders a further supply of leather from the After-Care Department, says:—

"I am very pleased to say that my business is going on very well, and I have as much work as I can get through, so I have not anything to worry about at present. I have had the same people coming into the shop a second and third time with their boots and they say they are very pleased with them. Besides this work I get a lot of boots sent by post to me. I am very pleased to say that I

had the travelling instructor to see me this week and I am very pleased with the tips I have learned from him."



The Superintendent of the After-Care Department received the following letter from W. Woods, who returned to New Zealand to take up work as a masseur after going through his course at St. Dunstan's:—

"I would like to thank you for two or three communications at different dates in relation to the After-Care Department of St. Dunstan's. The work you are doing in your department, will, I know, be more than appreciated by all the fellows that have left St. Dunstan's and who now reside in different parts of the world. I look upon the REVIEW as quite a necessary part of my life away here in the Antipodes. As you say, it brings with it the spirit of friendship and comradeship, and must link firmly together the interests of all St. Dunstanners no matter where they may be. . . ."

"I, too, wish I could come and have a smoke and chat with you at your office. I am at present indulging in the former; the latter, I guess, is only possible through the medium of my trusty friend—Remington.

"Wishing you every success in your Department and all good luck. . . ."



W. G. Parker, a telephonist, employed at the Town Clerk's Office, Old Radford, Nottingham, wrote recently:—

"I am happy to say that I am getting along very well with my work. A testimonial to this is, that the other day when one of my 'heads' met me in the train he gave me a ten-shilling note, saying that he was very pleased indeed with my work, and that he had not noticed any difference between me and a sighted operator working the switchboard."



A. Smith, a poultry-farmer and mat-maker, writes:—

"I have been very busy lately. My birds are doing very well now and I hope soon to have about thirty pullets laying,

so with luck I ought to get plenty of eggs in the winter, for most of my birds are already moulting.

"I got a letter this morning from a firm in Wakefield asking me if I can supply them with two specially large mats. And, according to the letter, more may follow if these give satisfaction.

"I got two litters of rabbits a few weeks ago, of five and seven, and expect some more in a fortnight.

"I seem to be getting on well, and will never be able to thank Sir Arthur sufficiently for all St. Dunstan's has done for me. I never would have believed once that I should think so little of my handicap as I do now, or be able to earn as much as I am doing. . . ."



W. Carnell, a boot repairer at Bampton, Devon, tells us in a letter:—

"It is nearly two years now since I left St. Dunstan's, and it only seems like six months, as with my trade at boot repairing I don't get much time for anything else. I get rather a good deal of boots to repair, and besides this do a nice trade in polishes, etc. I don't know what I should have done if I had not learnt a trade at St. Dunstan's.

"Well, everything is going along as well as can be expected with me, and I hope that it is all right with all the other boys. I am sure that they have never regretted the day they went to St. Dunstan's first, and I hope that all the boys that will have to come there will get on as well as I and those who have passed through."



We hear good news from R. Cordner, who learnt basket-making at the Hostel and settled at Great Yarmouth. He writes:—

"I am pleased to say that I am as fit as I have ever been in my life, and health is better than wealth. I am doing well with my work and earn a good living. Each week I send my baskets to Newcastle, and those who I send them to say that they are the best baskets that they have ever had, and I have a standing order for all I make.

"Now, as to getting about. I get about exceedingly well, and when out with the

wife I never hold her arm, and I never carry a stick unless I am out on my own. I do not wear black glasses, and get around as good as any sighted person. People here cannot understand how I do it, but my reply always is that it was the confidence that is taught to every man at St. Dunstan's.

"I had two visitors to see me from the Pensions Ministry, and they were surprised at the way I moved about my house and showed them my workshop, and they also remarked at the rate I went when I was out, as I still keep my old corps' pace up, for the Rifle Brigade always marches at four miles an hour.

"My hours of work are from 9.30 a.m. till 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. till 5 p.m., after which I always go for a good long walk, returning home at 9.30 p.m."



A. W. Bundy, a boot repairer, of Gloucester, writing to the Superintendent of the After-Care Department, says that since he started work at the end of last year, his earnings have been good and regular, and that after a couple of months, by increasing his speed with practice, he was able to nearly double his earnings.

"Since I have been in the business," he writes, "my different customers have numbered something like 120; my weekly number of repairs turned out average about thirty. I am pleased to say that I get my old customers back with repeated orders, and it is a great joy to me to know that they are satisfied with the result of my work. I am very grateful to Sir Arthur and all the Staff at St. Dunstan's for helping us to overcome our handicap and teaching us to again take our part in the industrial world. . . ."



W. Chamberlain, a very enterprising poultry-farmer and mat-maker of Ferriby, Yorks, wrote us recently, telling us of the satisfactory state of his poultry-farm, and of an amusing incident which happened to him one day recently. Many St. Dunstanners, who are good at getting about alone, are mistaken for people who can see, but few, perhaps, have come so near to having blows over the matter as Chamberlain:—

"I am pleased to tell you, he says, that

I am in the very best of health, and I have plenty of work to be going on with. I get quite a lot of orders for baskets, and, as a matter of fact, I can never get them out quick enough. Of course, I am not bothering about that; as long as the work is coming in and I am able to do it I am happy. My poultry are doing well, and I am looking forward to getting my first-hatched pullets laying in October.

"I must tell about a little bit of fun I had a little while back. I was going for my pension. I always make a practice of walking alone, but I had a little nephew with me this time and also a little terrier, which is very fond of a rabbit or two.

"Well, when we got to the top of the lane, the dog ran into a field and yelped, so I sent the lad in to see if he had got anything, when a loud voice came from the opposite side of the lane asking him what he was doing in the field. Then he started to bully the lad, so I put my 'spoke' in, and then he started to have a go at me, asking me why I did not keep the dog out of the field. I told him I could not keep it out because I could not see it. At this he got the 'wind up' properly and told me I was a liar, and that if I could walk up the lane like I was doing I could see him. I got a bit wild at this and wanted him to come with me and I would prove to him that I was blind, but he started to send some 'high explosives,' so I sent some back and I left him at that, to swallow what I had told him."



W. Burgin, a poultry-farmer settled at Thurgoland, near Sheffield, after asking for typewriting paper, which St. Dunstan's supplies at cost price to those men who cannot obtain it locally, says:—

"I think it must prove the value of this machine to me when I say that since it was presented to me by St. Dunstan's last August, I have not let it get into disuse, and it is still in perfect order and has not required any repairs of any kind. I look upon the machine as a valuable asset, and one of the most useful things I have to thank St. Dunstan's for. The poultry farm is going on all right, and I am very busy on it, and will send you a detailed report of my doings later on. . . ."

Some First After-Thoughts

SECOND thoughts, the wiseacres tell us, are best. The wiseacres are not always wrong; so in this, as in other matters, they may have reason on their side. All the same, there may be some value, or, at all events, some interest, in the first after-thoughts of one who has just completed an important chapter in life. Later on, when the impressions have settled into their perspective, our reflections may be of more substantial value as giving a reliable indication of the contents of the chapter, but it is possible that with the lapse of time these impressions may become blurred in outline and, as the classic has it, "Sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought." So let us collect our impressions while the stamp is still fresh, and set them down for the enlightenment, amusement, and possibly the derision, of other St. Dunstan's students, past and present. It is impossible to write of St. Dunstan's without referring to the Chief, and it is difficult to write of the Chief without appearing to be fulsome. Wherefore, in this article, we shall be content to record the fact that the most vivid of our impressions have to do with two interviews; the first, on arrival, with Sir Arthur, and the second, on the eve of departure, also with Sir Arthur. Those who have had such interviews will understand; others must take our word for it.

My introduction to St. Dunstan's was in manner somewhat of the following. A certain very affable young gentleman, who had left several important portions of his interior in a dug-out in the Ypres salient, took me in a motor car to Regent's Park. We visited first the Netting-room. Here there was a very cheery noise. The chief occupation of the inhabitants seemed to be shouting rudenesses at each other and yelling for assistance to somebody called "Sister"; they also seemed to smoke considerably. This appeared to be a home of mirth, and the impression made on the mind was that netting must be the most cheerful and stimulating occupation

in the world. Credentials were presented and introductions were effected to several of the presiding Genii of the room. The information was given that netting, though it did not rank as a calling which would lead to the acquisition of wealth beyond the dreams of avarice, was a comforting pastime, and that there was at least tobacco money in it; all of which is perfectly true. But, they added, these Genii, "it is a delightful occupation and very easy to learn." All right. Once, in the "dear, dead days beyond recall," I attended a class in field engineering. It was conducted by a Major of the R.E., whose duty it was to make infantry subalterns into builders of bridges and borers of tunnels and demolishers of redoubts in three weeks. All I remember of the course is a remark of the Major to the effect that in a length of uncoiled rope there is more original sin than in a generation of the sons of men. But a stout, respectable rope is a sucking dove compared to a length of thinnish twine wound round what the netters call a needle, and intended to be attached to a "stirrup" in such a manner that, after many manipulations, the result is a hammock. A hammock, it may be explained on the authority of a facetious Colonial, is a series of holes joined together by string. During the first few days of struggle with that twisting, firesome twine, the student cursed in his beard the person who had told him that this was a delightful occupation and so easily learned. That finger which his teacher called "Pinkie," and which he, as a loyal Scot, knew as his "Cranny," ached and threatened to sever diplomatic relations at the upper joint. The laughter and the shouting and the smoking of the other netters sounded like the jeering of mocking demons. But trials and vexations become fewer as the days go by. "Pinkie" gets to know his job, becomes prehensible and makes no mistakes. The hammock grows steadily, and there comes the day when, under guidance, the complicated task of mounting

is accomplished. From hammocks the more courageous of the netters go on from strength to strength—that is to say, to fruit and pea nets. Conversation becomes not merely possible, but desirable, and one learns much from one's neighbours about things which have nothing to do with hammocks or fruit or peas. Netting is all right when the period of dropping stitches and oaths is passed.

Next we went to the Typing-room. Here it was explained that typing is a delightful occupation and so useful. For a time, it must be confessed, the delight was not hectic; the laborious days were there all right. The Typing-room, unlike the Netting-room, is a serious place, full of clicking and high endeavour. Here strong men, when they have acquired an elementary knowledge of the machine, wrestle with dark problems concerned with the price and the sizes of Cardigan jackets or wall paper, with an occasional excursion into the matter of envelopes of precise dimensions. If you possess the kind of sense of humour that does not mind gratifying itself at the pain of others, there is a good deal of fun to be got out of letter writing while your skill is still small. In order to be really funny you should send off your letters without having them revised by a sighted friend. Your victims will be thrown into paroxysms of curiosity as to the meaning of such words as "/68_N'gtd. and kJy85/_&". They will imagine that you have been trying to tell them something really important, such as that you are being cruelly treated in a place which, while pretending to be a beneficent institution for the education of blinded soldiers and sailors, is nothing more nor less than a mad house, in which you are being forcibly detained. The trouble about this sort of joke is that you cannot be present to see it at work. That, however, applies to many jokes of the so-called practical kind. As the time of the typing test approaches, the earnest student is visited in the watches of the night by nightmares—"Remington Revues," they might be called. In these he is himself the chief actor. He sits at a table in front of a keyboard, to which is attached the stirrup of a hammock, and he ardently

hopes that no one will glance under the table and so discover that he is clad only in shirt and socks. In this airy costume, and armed with a netting mesh with which to strike the keys, he writes hysterical letters to friends and relatives, as well as to great firms in the City. He implores Messrs. Somebody and Something to cancel the order which he had given for pink Cardigan jackets, and to send instead fifty thousand planks, measuring 12' 6" x 17' 7" x 9". If he has time before morning he acknowledges receipt of cheques for fabulous sums and begs to thank the senders for same. Suddenly the dreamer realizes that the inverted commas and the apostrophe have knotted themselves into the third loop of his new hammock. He shouts for assistance, "SISTER!" and this performance of the revue is over.

Let's speak of Braille. They will tell you that Braille is a delightful occupation, and so interesting. It is not. Braille is a high mystery. Its rites are presided over by priestesses, deeply learned in its laws. The Braille-room may look, to the sighted, very like its neighbour, the Typing-room, but it is much more than a room, it is a temple. One day, after he has passed his novitiate, the lay brother will be conducted into an inner chamber, where, under the vigilance of a High Priestess, and against time, he will read with his fingers about the ancient colonies of Greece, and he will come from that room either a despairing, ploughed wretch, or a dazed, triumphant master of the mysterious ordeal. Pukka Brailleists write for two whole sheets faultlessly, and are then worthy of the greatest of respect. These noble ones have the respect of at least one of those who have passed scathless through the reading chamber, but have gone no farther up to date. Those who are about to begin the study of this mystic thing may be interested in a few facts regarding it. Braille is an invention of the dev—oted man who gave it his name. It consists in the manipulation of the six harmless dots of the domino, until these are made to make arabesques and dance sarabands, like the fearsome light in "The Ballad of Reading Gaol." There

are two jokes in Braille. The first is that the abbreviation for "holy" is "H1"; the second is that lower "B," which is exactly like a colon, is known as a semi-colon. The first is a good joke, the second is not.

I will now proceed to summarize the opinions of Braille formed as the result of the first month of dot-chasing.

[Extensive deletion by Censor.]

Attend, ye neophytes who are now starting your career at St. Dunstan's. In addition to the Netters, and the Typists, and the Braillists, you will meet many great men. There are the cheery Cobblers, who put to shame the doleful philosopher in "Chu Chin Chow," merry Basket-makers and Mat-makers and highly-skilled Carpenters, who handle fearful instruments and seldom lacerate themselves or each other. And there are the Bloods of St. Dunstan's, the Henologists and the Masseurs. To them Braille and typing are only devices by means of which they may study and write of such things as Wyandottes and osteoblastic tissue. Their talk is of things that are caviare to the general. To them and to all the other good fellows of St. Dunstan's my hat flies off.

F. M.

"Uncle Bill."

He was rather old and awkward
And he wasn't quick at drill;
But at toil he ne'er was backward,
So we called him "Uncle Bill."
We put him in the Quarters' Store,
He worked there with a will;
And if we ever "wanted more,"
We went to "Uncle Bill."
He kept beside us all through France
And toiled there day by day,
Although we led him many a dance,
Through miles of mud and clay.
The Germans "got" our Store one day,
'Twas perched upon a hill;
And when the smoke had cleared away,
We found poor "Uncle Bill."
We stuck a little wooden Cross,
Fern-leaved, upon the hill,
Announcing to the world our loss—
"Here lies our 'Uncle Bill.'"

Third Reserve.

Music and Entertainments

WHILE St. Dunstan's has been enjoying the summer vacation there have been no entertainments at the Hostel, so there is nothing to chronicle except pleasant whispers of brilliant programmes in the near future. In next month's REVIEW we shall hear more of these entertainments, when rumours have changed into fact.

The Ragtime Band—"St. Dunstan's Own"—is now practising with enthusiasm, and things are going with a fine swing. During last term the Band gave about ten performances, at the House, the Bungalow, and College, once at St. Katharine's Lodge, the Officers' Hospital, and twice delighting the W.A.A.C.'s. The Ragtime Band meets with much appreciation, and its head is not easily turned; but the W.A.A.C.'s nearly did that feat. Their enthusiasm was unbounded, and St. Dunstan's bandmen will not soon forget the lusty cheering of the Soldier Girls.

The Music Society was proud to be represented at Captain Fraser's wedding, for everyone in St. Dunstan's would have welcomed a chance to add to the goodwill and happiness that crowned that marriage-day. In the church Mrs. Allom and Pte. W. Collins sang, "O, Love Divine," and everyone present thought the marriage hymn was exquisitely rendered.

The start of the Sunday evening Concerts for this season was made on September 1st. Miss Palgrave Turner and Mr. Breville Sunter sang songs that were greatly appreciated. Orderly Sainsbury also took part, and Doubler and O'Kelly recited. There was a large audience, for these Sunday evening Concerts are proving a very popular feature.

S. B. P.

Swimming for St. Dunstanners

[Many St. Dunstanners take advantage of the generosity of the Committee of the Marylebone baths, who have placed their premises at the disposal of blinded soldiers. All blinded officers, too, have been made honorary swimming members of the Bath Club, and they readily avail themselves of this privilege. The following remarks about swimming by one of them should be of interest, particularly to those newly-blinded men who have not yet had an opportunity of entering into the various activities followed by St. Dunstanners.—ED.]

THERE is, perhaps, no exercise more suited to blind people than swimming. Exercise is to some extent limited, and a sport which provides this so easily and pleasantly should be cultivated with assiduity.

In all forms of exercise blind people are to a certain extent dependent on the eyes of others. It is true that they may walk alone, but a certain amount of thought and care is always necessary, and this, to some extent, must check speed and ease of movement.

Swimming is, I think, the only other form of outdoor exercise which can reasonably be taken alone, and as the blind swimmer's movements are never restricted this exercise is more suitable than walking. The wonderful feeling of freedom which one gets in the sea, the absence of need for care or wariness in movement, are among the chief delights of swimming. The companionship of a friend will, of course, make the sport more enjoyable, and if possible a swimmer as good or as bad as oneself should be found. A word now and then will keep the blind man straight, though after a few times he will be able to do this with practically no help by listening to the noise his companion must inevitably make. Though I used to indulge in side-stroke swimming before I was hit, I seldom do now, for having one ear

under water makes it difficult to hear. There are, of course, occasions when a companion cannot be found, but the blind man need not give up his swim on this account, for it is quite easy to swim alone. At first the swimmer should keep quite near in, and should move among the other bathers, whom he will easily hear. The surf can practically always be heard breaking on the shore, and will give the direction for returning.

Blind people usually feel a certain nervousness in first entering the water. This is natural enough, though there is no need for it at all. The beginner should go slowly, and should never go out of his depth. Perhaps the indoor bath is the best place to take the first plunge, for a friend can be on the side ready to give directions should the need occur.

I most strongly advise every St. Dunstanner who lives in a fairly large town to ascertain if there is a bath in his locality, and to make himself acquainted with the route that leads to it from his home. After a few bathes he will have learnt the bath, by which I mean he will have acquired sufficient knowledge of the shape, size and relative position of the bath and dressing-rooms to go and swim alone. It will be surprising to the beginner to find how easy it is to swim round a bath. There is nearly always a chute, which makes a splashing noise; this is of considerable assistance in obtaining direction. Then, nearly every bath has waste-pipes at the corners which take away splashed water. These make a distinct noise, which also serves as a good guide; these are only two of the many different sounds which can be discovered stored up in the memory, and used when occasion demands, to assist in locating the position occupied at any time.

The ability to leave one's home and have a swim without having to call upon anyone for assistance will be found to be a source of healthful exercise and keen enjoyment.

Departmental Notes

The Braille Room

VERY pleasant news awaited the Braille Room on its re-opening after the Summer holidays. All the twenty-nine candidates who went up for the Writing Test in July have passed—a number which leaves the previous record far behind.

The result of the June Writing Tests are also published in this REVIEW and we heartily congratulate the following officers and men:—

WRITING TEST: H. Bowen, L. Heams, D. McPhee, W. Storer, T. Marrison, R. Giffen, J. Denwick, P. J. Lynch, A. F. McConnell, G. Jackson, W. Ward, L. Heren, G. F. Joyner, E. Fairfield, E. Tebble, P. Maynard, W. W. Peckham, C. Temperton, W. H. Harding, W. A. Westell, C. F. Hornsby, V. H. Frampton, A. Scott, R. Archer, C. Purkis, P. R. Foyle, S. M. Usher, E. S. Cass, W. T. H. Brightwell, T. Speed, E. W. Emerton, Mr. C. M. Rogerson, T. P. Robinson, G. V. E. Watson, J. Whittingslow, W. C. Dies, J. Monaghan, S. E. Varley, J. Fowler, J. McGowan, G. B. Swanston, F. W. Shelton, W. Henshaw, J. D. Cockerell and W. E. Carlton.

READING TEST: J. Fowler, A. E. Howes, S. E. Varley, H. S. Fordyce, W. C. Dies, J. Monaghan, F. Marshall, B. Collins, Mr. T. Irvine, E. James, A. Thompson, Mr. F. Martin, W. Henshaw, T. W. Dee, H. Ollington, H. Jubbs, J. Fitzgerald, G. Strutt, E. A. Steel, W. P. Nolan, R. W. Bowen, G. A. Gwyn and A. H. Rogers.

Two colonials have particularly distinguished themselves. R. W. Bowen, a South African whose name is mentioned in the list above, learnt all his Braille at St. Mark's College Hospital, where he had to return for a serious operation, and where practically all blinded soldiers are sent before admission to St. Dunstan's,

while B. R. Swinnerton, a Canadian, actually passed his test before leaving there.

A considerable amount of interest has been aroused in the Braille Room by a small number of blinded men, some of them soldiers of our Allies, who have been studying foreign Braille with its entirely different set of contractions.

We are pleased to record that M. Lovritch (a Serbian blinded officer) has passed the Serbian and the Italian Reading and Writing Test. A. Van den Boshe (a Belgian) has passed the French Reading Test, and C. MacIntosh (an English St. Dunstaner) has passed the French Reading and Writing Test.

It has been suggested that there may be some St. Dunstaners already knowing a certain amount of French, who would like to attend a French class once a week. M. Pobog, a friend of one of the Braille teachers, has very kindly offered to take such a class on Thursday evenings in the Braille Room from 5 to 5.45.

It is proposed, too, to hold a beginner's French class if there are any men who would like to join. This also would be held in the Braille Room after lesson hours.

Will anyone who would like to join either of these classes give in his name at the Braille Room Office. *D. P.*

Typewriting and Telephony

GARRITY and Webster have both obtained good posts as telephonists in London, and Birkett has started work in Liverpool. They have our best wishes for their future success, which we are confident is assured.

The recent bus strike was somewhat disconcerting to most of our men who work in London, but we are glad to hear

they displayed admirable initiative in overcoming the difficulty of getting to and from their work.

We congratulate the following officers and men on having passed their test:— Lt. Irish, Heams, Sowter, Burnett, Marden, Lt. Britton, Kennedy, Lt. Robinson, Joyce, Steel, Jarman, Read, Peckham, Doual, Archer, Doyle, Hughes, Benton, McKenna, Col. Perrott, Capt. Hutcheon, Sugden, Wise, Major North, Craigie, Gribben. *E. McL.*

Netting

WE have recently been enquiring into the matter of machine-made nets, with the object of avoiding competition, and we are very much pleased to find that our prospects are extremely good.

Fine mesh netting under 1½ in., such as is used for boundary and other garden purposes, can be made in very large sections on machines, so that there would be only a low profit for hand-made nets of the same description.

Tennis nets in their entirety can be machine-made at too cheap a price for us to make them in large quantities. But apart from the above kinds of netting, there is a clear field for hammocks and every kind of netting done on a larger mesh than the 1½ in.

Heavy farm nets, swings, and all other fancy articles, must be hand-made, and we can therefore be sure of a permanently good sale price.

Our latest enterprise is the manufacture of rick nets, for which, we anticipate, there will be a good market. We hope, therefore, shortly to add them to our varied list of productions. *G. H. W.*

Massage Department

THE largest class of students since the commencement of massage instruction at St. Dunstan's sat for the examination of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseurs at the end of June. It is with the utmost gratification that we record that all the students, fifteen in

number, successfully passed this, the most difficult of massage examinations, and are now practising their professions in various Military and Red Cross Hospitals.

The class should have numbered sixteen, but at the last moment Turner had the bad luck to get influenza and was unable to sit for the exam. This was a great misfortune, as all arrangements had been made for his return to Canada. Taking the circumstances into consideration, the Council of the I.S.T.M. very kindly arranged a special examination for him, and on his recovery from the "flu" he passed his examination and returned home.

The names of the successful candidates are as follows:—

Aldridge, Caldwell, Campbell, Drummond, Ferrand, Greaves, Jones, Nicholas, Parker, Stobie, Thornton, Macfarlane, Mackie, Lieut. Thomas, Warren, Turner.

To all of these, hearty congratulations and best wishes for their success in the future are tendered by the Massage Instruction Staff.

During the holidays the massage men stationed in the North of England and Scotland have been visited and reports gathered. They all seem very satisfactorily settled and are working in happily with the general hospital staffs. The Doctors' and Matrons' reports on their work are uniformly splendid: without exception they are all doing remarkably well. This is as it should be, and should prove a great encouragement to both the new students and instructors. *F. G. B.*

Independence.

THIS Independence—can it be,
A body made with form to see?
Or mystic powers possessed by few,
Or sense acquired which helps us do?

It's something real, not mystic power,
But knowledge gained with every hour;
Which strengthens will and sets the jaw,
To do one thing and then do more.
A sense which when he says "I can"
Will make the "scratch" the "winning"
man!
N. Oname.

News from the Workshops

LOOKING from the Terrace, the Workshops in plan are shaped like a capital E reversed. The nearest arm, running parallel with the covered way which houses the mat-makers, has now been extended in length, and since the holidays we have been busily moving in. As soon as this is possible the other arms will be similarly enlarged. Sixteen new mat frames have been erected and the removal of the sinnet mat tables from the centre of the arm is a convenience for workers and visitors. As a temporary measure ten new "planks" for willow workers have been placed there and also the tables of the cane basket-makers, while the "pulling down" of the yarn and classes of instruction in boot-repairing occupy two bays.

The men have come back in good form and are tackling their work in the true St. Dunstan spirit. This is a necessity, in order to equal the work done by their predecessors and to do the "bit more" to mark progress, for there is always an advance to be made in any undertaking.

The principles of mat-making are comparatively simple and, as a rule, mastered easily; but the learner does not then know how to make a mat, though some persuade themselves that they do. The skill of the hand must be acquired by much careful work before a man can claim to be a mat-maker. Mats look very much alike, but a good worker should be able to discover defects and know how to prevent them, as well as reach a mechanical accuracy in the routine part of the work.

Mat-making is a real handicraft in which men may take a legitimate pride. We can look forward to the time when all over the country we shall have old St. Dunstanners with established reputations not only as men who make mats that last a

lifetime, but as repairers to whom the public will gladly go to effect a wise economy.

McCann, who has been noted for his consistent work, has been appointed a pupil teacher in the Mat Department.

Cashmore, too, will prove a valuable addition to the ranks of pupil teachers.

The staff in the Workshops has been increased by two new Instructors, Messrs. Banthorpe and Baker, who will be able to give the men not only excellent instruction in their trade but also the benefit of all the experience they have had for some years in successfully managing their respective businesses.

Each Instructor in every Department of the Workshop now renders a monthly individual report, so that a permanent record of his pupil's progress will be always available. Every man will have an opportunity once a quarter, to do a piece of work without any assistance. The Instructors will then go into each detail, note the special points of success or failure, and the advance on previous efforts, awarding a percentage of marks. This will not be regarded as a competition nor will any lists be issued, but each man can individually ascertain the judgment upon his work. Our best wishes go out to the following men who have lately left us:—
W. J. Burnett, W. Brogan, J. Blaney, H. Bowen, H. Birley, C. Beavans, T. Baker, W. Cubitt, F. R. Creasey, W. Christian, H. Goodman, W. Godwin, H. Flatt, A. Fuller, A. H. Fisher, R. Finch, H. Edge, A. Hinton, J. Hodkin, H. Kidger, H. Kirkham, J. McGill, J. Roylance, W. Robinson, A. Sutton, H. Smith.

W. H. O.

The Profiteer

"POOR man! Have you always been blind?"

"No, mum. Last week I wuz lame, but there wasn't enuff in it."

Country Life Section

ON July 15th, 16th, and 18th, poultry examinations were held, the results being very satisfactory, though a number of men were handicapped by having missed some of their lectures on account of influenza.

In his report on the examination, Mr. Clem Watson said:—

On the whole they have done well and have a good idea of the preliminaries of poultry-farming. They take a keen interest in the business, as is evinced by their answers and their method of reply.

FIRST COURSE.—Max. 50.

Major North...	50	O'Brien	...	46
James	...	50	Brockerton	...
Clarke	...	50	Hyde	...
Robinson, J.	...	50	Robinson, B.	...
Ashwell	...	49	Farrell	...
Scott	...	49	Barker	...
Carter	...	46		

SECOND COURSE.—Max. 100.

Fordyce	...	100	Barfield	...
Steele	...	100	Hammett	...
Carlton	...	99	Heritage	...
Cork	...	98	Pekin	...
Irvine	...	92	Twigg	...

Special mention should be made of Steele, who obtained full marks in both his courses.

We have received the following gifts, and tender the donors our very best thanks:—

Mrs. Carlton, four White Leghorn Cockerels; Mr. Dunkerley, one White Leghorn Cockerel; Mr. Garland, one Rhode Island Red Cockerel and one Silver Campine; Mr. Phillips, one pen of Light Sussex Pullets and the offer of eggs for next breeding season; Mrs. Shields, six Rhode Island Red Pullets, one Cockerel; Mrs. Kiff, three Bantams; Mr. J. H. Williams, one Rhode Island Red Cockerel; Mrs. Isabel Yorke, one White Leghorn Cockerel; Major H. P. Parker, two Indian Runner Drakes and some White Wyandotte Cockerels; Mrs. Arkwright, five

Rhode Island Red Hens and one Cockerel; Miss Tucker, two Cockerels; Miss Farley, five Chickens; Mr. Snelling, two Incubators.

By this time the majority of poultry should be well advanced in the moult. Those that have made a good start in the right direction can be assisted by the addition of some flowers of sulphur to the soft food—about a piled-up teaspoonful to every six birds three or four times a week for a fortnight. Also for a change a little well boiled linseed in the mash and a handful of sunflower or hemp seed every other day for a fortnight, instead of the usual handful of corn, greatly assists in producing a good covering of oily, glossy feathers, which help in keeping the bird dry and warm during the winter. Do not omit a regular supply of fresh, green food and pure water, and gradually get the birds back on to their full laying diet.

In the case of those hens that have not started or are only dropping an odd feather or so, it is advisable to reduce their daily rations, alter the nature of it, and give unstimulating food with but little meat. A change of house and general treatment, as by keeping the birds confined in their house for several days, with the addition of some Epsom Salts in the drinking water two or three times in a week, will gradually cause a moult to commence, and then you can carry on as suggested for the other birds that have made a good start.

In all cases great cleanliness is necessary, not only of the house, drop-board and scratching litter, but of the fowls themselves, which should have a thorough dusting with insect powder. Do not let old feathers remain about the house; they are a harbour for lice.

If the bird's legs appear at all scaly, now is the time to treat them, for the scales are moulted yearly, at the latter end of the feather moulting period. C. S. A.

A St. Dunstan's Wedding

(Reprinted from the "Daily Telegraph.")

AT Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone, the Bishop of London celebrated on the 23rd July the marriage ceremony between Captain Ian Fraser, King's Shropshire L.I., and Miss Irene Mace, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Mace, of Yew Dell, Chipping Norton. It was a war wedding of very touching and very particular significance, for the bride has been a Commandant at St. Dunstan's ever since the establishment of that great work on behalf of the officers and men who have lost their sight in these years of fighting, and was, indeed, before that associated with Sir Arthur Pearson from the time that he began his efforts on behalf of the blind. Capt. Fraser lost the precious faculty of sight in the course of gallant action in the great Battle of the Somme, but so far from having regarded himself as seriously stricken, he fitted himself for further usefulness, and is now rendering most valuable service in charge of the After-Care Department of St. Dunstan's, a position in which his own fortitude and brave example is of the utmost encouragement to those who come under his superintendence.

The church, which is one of Sir John Soane's contributions to London's ecclesiastical architecture, was very beautifully decorated with palms and white flowers. Present were many officers and men who, like the bridegroom, have suffered grievously in their country's service, and there were several members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments working at St. Dunstan's, as well as a large general congregation. The bride wore ivory chiffon, with a suggestion of pink from an underlining, and adorned with needle-run lace, with silver brocade and fringe about the drapings of the skirt. A wreath of orange blossom fastened the veil of embroidered net low upon the brow. Miss Eileen Wooton, a cousin of the bride, and Miss Betty Fraser, sister of the bridegroom, were the brides-

maids. At the conclusion of the service, the Bishop of London delivered a short address. The wedding reception was held at the house of Sir Arthur and Lady Pearson, in Portland Place. The wedding presents included silver dishes from the blinded officers at 21, Portland Place, a silver rose-bowl from the staff of the After-Care Department, a silver tea service from Sir Arthur and Lady Pearson, and a handsome cheque from the Staff and past and present men of St. Dunstan's, presented with a wish that the bride herself should choose a special piece of furniture for their new home.

An Atlas for the Blind

ONE of the latest productions of the National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, W., is a geographical and industrial atlas of the British Isles. The resources of the Institute make it possible to sell this important work to blind students at half-a-crown a copy. The book is the outcome of years of experimenting and improvement upon old maps for blind people; the difficulty of providing a map that can be studied by means of the finger-tips has been great indeed, but, largely owing to the efforts of Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S., of Cambridge, himself sightless, the Institute can say that, though perfection has not perhaps been attained, the present series of maps is a distinct advance on anything that has gone before. The work is very complete, and follows to the smallest detail the ordinary printed atlas. Towns, rivers, boundaries, coast-lines, mountain ranges, and railways are all distinctly marked. Each one of these has a number marked against it which corresponds with a key which is on the opposite page to the map. The volume is a large one, containing 222 pages, twenty-one of which are maps, and is bound in cloth boards.

Sports Club Notes

THE ANNUAL REGATTA AT PUTNEY

WE enjoyed some keen racing this year at Putney, on July 16th, 17th and 18th, and in spite of the after effects of the influenza epidemic, the Regatta was most successful.

The premises of the Vesta Rowing Club were again generously placed at our disposal, thanks to Mr. R. J. Calcutt, President of that well-known club, who, as in other years, has been a most devoted coach, judge and friend to all St. Dunstan's Rowing men.

TUESDAY, 16th JULY.

On the first day were held the finals of the Inter-House Single Sculls, Double Sculls and Pair Oars (the heats of which were rowed off on Regent's Park Lake on the previous day), and also the heats and finals for Dr. Bridge's Cups. Mr. Calcutt remarked that during the whole of his rowing experience (which, by the way, extends over some twenty years) he had never before started so many races in one day; and also, that every race was rowed with extraordinary keenness.

Rowing commenced at 9.30 and ceased at 5 o'clock.

Results :

SINGLE SCULL RACES

1. *Senior Heavy-weight* : 1st, H. N. Hardy (House), $\frac{1}{2}$ length from 2nd, Capt. Ian Fraser. This was a splendid race, and proved a most invigorating start for our Regatta.

2. *Senior Light-weight* : 1st, J. Burt (Sussex Place Annexe), $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths from 2nd, W. Christian (College Annexe).

3. *Junior Heavy-weight* : 1st, C. Thompson (Bungalow Annexe), $\frac{3}{4}$ length from 2nd, F. Ashworth (College Annexe).

4. *Junior Light-weight* : 1st, W. W. Bailey (House), $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths from 2nd, J. Doubler (Bungalow Annexe).

5. *Maiden Heavy-weight* : 1st, Sergt. P. Holmes (College Annexe), $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths from 2nd, W. H. Godwin (Bungalow Annexe).

6. *Maiden Light-weight* : 1st, S. H. Edwards (Cornwall Terrace Annexe), $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths from 2nd, A. J. Cooper (House).

DOUBLE SCULL RACES.

7. *Advanced Heavy-weight* : 1st, W. Christian and T. Milner (College Annexe), 2 lengths from 2nd, H. N. Hardy and D. McPhee (House).

8. *Advanced Light-weight* : 1st, J. H. Greenway and J. G. Wishart (College Annexe), $\frac{1}{2}$ length from 2nd, W. W. Bailey and C. J. R. Reddish (House).

9. *Maiden Heavy-weight* : 1st, F. Hackett and A. Pettipher (Bungalow Annexe), 3 lengths from 2nd, Sergt. P. Holmes and W. V. Sargent (College Annexe).

10. *Maiden Light-weight* : 1st, C. F. Thompson and J. Doubler (Bungalow Annexe), 3 lengths from 2nd, C. F. Hornsby and H. Thompson (College Annexe).

PAIR-OAR RACES

11. *Advanced Heavy-weight* : 1st, H. N. Hardy and D. McPhee (House), 2 lengths from 2nd, W. Christian and T. Milner (College Annexe).

12. *Advanced Light-weight* : 1st, W. W. Bailey and C. J. R. Reddish (House), 3 lengths from W. Pratt and C. Williams (College Annexe).

13. *Maiden Heavy-weight* : 1st, F. Askworth and F. Jackson (College Annexe), $\frac{3}{4}$ length from 2nd, F. Hackett and A. Pettipher (Bungalow Annexe).

14. *Maiden Light-weight* : 1st, F. W. Shelton and J. Corrigan (Bungalow Annexe), $\frac{1}{2}$ length from 2nd, W. J. T. Nash and D. H. Morris (House).

DR. BRIDGE'S CUPS (DOUBLE SCULLS)

15. *Heat 1* : F. Hackett and A. Pettipher (Bungalow Annexe), 1 length from 2nd, H. N. Hardy and D. McPhee (House).

16. *Heat 2* : 1st, J. H. Greenway and J. G. Wishart (College Annexe), 1 length from 2nd, B. Collins and S. H. Edwards (Cornwall Terrace Annexe).

17. *Heat 3*: 1st, C. F. Thompson and J. Doubler (Bungalow Annexe), 2 lengths from 2nd, P. Holmes and W. V. Sargent (College Annexe).

18. *Final*: 1st, F. Hackett and A. Pettipher (Bungalow Annexe), $\frac{1}{2}$ length from 2nd, C. F. Thompson and J. Doubler (Bungalow Annexe); $\frac{1}{2}$ length from 3rd, J. H. Greenway and J. G. Wishart (College Annexe).

19. An interesting race was rowed between two Fours, the crews being composed of the Sisters. The winning Four (Mrs. McDonald and the Sisters Ash, Phillips and Warden) were presented with handsome scent bottles by our Vice-President, Mr. R. J. Calcutt.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17th

On Wednesday were held the Inter-House Fours (heats and finals), which produced some very exciting races.

Racing commenced at 9.30 a.m. and ceased at 1 p.m.

Results:

SECOND CLASS BOATS

Heat 1: Bungalow Annexe (J. Corrigan, J. Doubler, C. F. Thompson, F. Shelton) beat Cornwall Terrace Annexe (R. Giffan, B. Collins, S. H. Edwards, F. Rhodes) by $3\frac{1}{2}$ lengths.

Heat 2: House Light-weight (D. H. Morris, W. J. T. Nash, W. W. Bailey, C. J. R. Reddish) beat House 3rd (W. Trott, T. Horsfall, J. H. New, A. T. Tooney) by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths.

Heat 3: College Annexe 2nd (H. A. Stayt, H. Jubb, J. H. Greenway, J. G. Wishart) beat College Annexe 3rd (F. Jackson, F. Ashworth, R. R. Dyer, A. Yates) by $\frac{1}{2}$ length.

Final: 1st, Bungalow Annexe, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths from 2nd, House Light-weight; 1 length from 3rd, College Annexe 2nd.

FIRST CLASS BOATS

1st, College Annexe Four (W. Christian, T. Milner, W. Pratt, C. Williams), 1 length from 2nd, House Anzac Four (C. Fankhauser, H. N. Hardy, D. McPhee, H. Sime); 1 length from 3rd, Officers' Four (W. M. Millard, T. Irvine, W. W. Hitchon, N. A. Ramsden).

THURSDAY, 18th JULY.

Thursday, of course, was the most important day of the Regatta, when we were honoured by the visit of Mr. G. C. Brown and his crews from Worcester College for the Blind, by Fours from Westminster and Emanuel Schools, and a number of old St. Dunstanners, who had come from all parts of the country to spend a week's holiday in training together, to row in our Regatta.

Rowing commenced at 9.30 a.m. and ceased at 5 p.m.

Results:

1. *Fours*: St. Dunstan's Officers (Lieuts. W. M. Millard, T. Irvine, W. W. Hitchon, N. A. Ramsden) v. Worcester College for the Blind (T. Hodgson, T. Milligan, E. J. Reed, W. R. Wilkinson). Worcester won a fine race by 3 lengths.

2. *Single Sculls*: St. Dunstan's, Sgt. P. Holmes (College Annexe) v. St. Dunstan's Past (A. Rowley). Sgt. Holmes won by about 5 lengths.

3. *Fours*: St. Dunstan's (College Annexe Four) v. Emanuel School. St. Dunstan's won by three and a half lengths.

4. *Pair Oars*: St. Dunstan's (H. N. Hardy and D. McPhee, House) v. Worcester College (T. Milligan and E. J. Reed). St. Dunstan's won by $4\frac{1}{2}$ lengths.

5. *Double Sculls*: St. Dunstan's (F. Hackett and A. Pettipher, Bungalow Annexe) v. St. Dunstan's Past (F. G. Holman and S. Jennings). St. Dunstan's Past won by $3\frac{1}{2}$ lengths.

6. *Single Sculls*: St. Dunstan's (J. Burt, Sussex Place Annexe) v. Worcester College (T. Allott). St. Dunstan's won by $\frac{1}{2}$ length.

7. *Fours*: St. Dunstan's Past (F. G. Holman, W. Curtiss-Willson, A. Welland and J. Spinks) v. Worcester Past (W. V. Miede, M. Dodd, L. W. Passmore and R. H. Allison). Worcester Past won by 4 lengths.

8. *Double Sculls*: St. Dunstan's Past v. Worcester Past. St. Dunstan's Past (A. Rowley and S. Jennings) won by 2 lengths.

9. *Pair Oars*: St. Dunstan's v. St. Dunstan's Past. St. Dunstan's (F. Ashworth and F. Jackson, College Annexe) won by 2 lengths.

10. *Fours*: St. Dunstan's (Anzac Four, C. Fankhauser, H. N. Hardy, D. McPhee, H. Sime) v. Westminster School (F. P. Dyson, J. G. Baer, W. P. Gibson, R. L. Bennett). Westminster won by $\frac{1}{2}$ length.

11. *Double Sculls*: St. Dunstan's v. Worcester Past. St. Dunstan's (T. Milner and W. Christian, College Annexe) won by 6 lengths.

12. *Fours*: St. Dunstan's (Bungalow Annexe Four, J. Corrigan, J. Doubler, C. F. Thompson and F. W. Shelton) v. St. Dunstan's Past. St. Dunstan's won by 6 lengths.

13. *Fours*: St. Dunstan's (College Annexe Four, W. Christian, T. Milner, W. Pratt and C. Williams) v. Worcester College (T. Hodgson, T. Milligan, E. J. Reed and W. R. Wilkinson). St. Dunstan's won by 2 lengths.

In the last race Worcester College was coxed by their Headmaster, Mr. G. C. Brown, M.A., and St. Dunstan's was coxed by Sgt. Barry, the world's champion sculler, whose services in coaching our members have proved so valuable.

Mr. Calcutt very ably acted as starter each day. Mr. L. G. Tucker, our Sports Captain, energetically officiated at the landing stage, and Lieut. Stockton, Sports Club Secretary, as Judge.

ROWING DINNER.

The Regatta had a very pleasant termination in the evening, when our President, Sir Arthur Pearson, gave a dinner at the Trocadero Restaurant. Besides the winners of the day and the visiting crews, there were present those of the officers who take an active interest in rowing, and certain members of the staff, including Dr. Bridges, who so generously presented the Bridges' cups.

During dinner we enjoyed an excellent concert, the artistes who kindly gave their services being Miss Nellie Curzon, Mr. and Mme. Mareski and Miss Maisie White. Mr. Kingston Stewart accompanied. After dinner Sir Arthur told us some amusing stories of his own rowing experiences and emphasised the importance he attached to rowing for blind people. "It is," he said, "one of the best sports that people who cannot see can

indulge in, and I think the reason for this is, that besides providing such splendid exercise, one has the feeling that instead of being taken along, one is taking some one else along." He then expressed his appreciation of the services of Mr. R. J. Calcutt, Mr. Game (who instructed the officers) and Sgt. Barry as coaches; and also of the Sisters and other lady coxswains who have given so much of their time to our boating.

Mr. G. C. Brown replied on behalf of the visitors, and our Captain, Mr. Tucker, gave an interesting account of the racing. Mr. Calcutt, in his speech, spoke of the splendid way in which the men had kept up the training. Sir Arthur's expression of the hope that Worcester College and St. Dunstan's would, in the near future, be represented by an eight at Henley, was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES.

On Friday, 19th July, Lady Pearson very kindly came to St. Dunstan's to present the prizes. It was no small task, for not only did she present the cups for the Regatta, but also all the prizes for rowing and tugs-of-war, which had accumulated during the past four months. The adjutant, on behalf of the men, tendered a vote of thanks to Lady Pearson, and called for three cheers which were heartily given.

FINAL OF THE FOURS

The most evenly contested race of the season was rowed at Putney on Saturday 20th July. It was the final of the fours race, the heats of which had been rowed at the pleasant Regatta so kindly arranged by the Marlow Rowing Club on the 6th July, and was between the Bungalow Annexe (J. Corrigan, J. Doubler, C. F. Thompson and F. W. Shelton) and the College Annexe (H. A. Stayt, W. Pratt, C. Williams and J. H. Greenway). The College Annexe won a thrilling race by a foot.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At a General Meeting of the Sports Club, which was held at St. Dunstan's on Monday, August 26th, it was unanimously decided to form an Executive Committee,

consisting of one representative of each House, as well as Mr. Tucker, Lieutenant Stockton, and Captain Fraser. The advantages of this smaller committee are that it can be called together more quickly and frequently, and will be able to deal more easily with any urgent matters or with any suggestions placed before it by any member of the Sports Club.

RICHMOND REGATTA

At the Royal Watermen's Regatta held at Richmond on Wednesday, the 28th August, St. Dunstan's won both their events. F. Hackett and A. Pettipher (Bungalow Annexe) with Sister Stein as coxswain won the Military Double Sculls by about 2 lengths, and the Anzac Four (C. Fankhauser, H. N. Hardy, D. McPhee, H. Sime, coxswain Sister Phillips) beat the Richmond Special Police Four by about 5 lengths. After the races the St. Dunstan's crews were very kindly entertained to tea by Miss Beare, at the Bridge House Hotel, Richmond.

FUTURE EVENTS

The date for the third contest for the Pearson Challenge Cup (Tug of War) will be announced shortly. The House Team, who have won the trophy twice in succession, are training hard in their endeavour to win the Cup outright by a third successive victory. Other teams are also preparing for the fray, so there should be some hotly-contested tugs.

Early in October further races will be held at Putney, full particulars of which will be announced later. *H. V. S.*

Record Harvest

WORK OF ALLOTMENT-HOLDERS

MR. G. N. BARNES, M.P., speaking recently at an exhibition of allotment-holders' produce at Palmer's Green, said experience had shown that the allotment-holder in a town and on the outskirts of a town was more proficient in the produce of the soil than was the agricultural labourer. He thought that interesting fact might be due to his taking a keener interest in the land than a man

who had to get his living off it. It was a matter for mutual congratulation that, according to all evidence now to hand, we were having the very best harvest in this country that we had ever had.

He was talking to Mr. Prothero (President of the Board of Agriculture) the other day, and he informed him that it was a fact that so far as production per head was concerned, the land of this country would turn out this year more per acre than it had ever done before. Besides that, many thousands of additional acres were under cultivation, so that the food supply of the country was now in a very satisfactory condition indeed, as compared with any previous period in the history of the war.

In the harvest this year they had sufficient grain, if used for the purpose of bread alone, to supply all the needs of our population for no less than forty weeks. Of course, some of the grain would be used for beer, and some people who appeared to have been brought up on beer said they could not do without it. It was an anxious consideration for the Cabinet last year whether they would not be forced into using more barley in order to brew more beer, but he was glad to say they had not had the same pressure applied this year.

The number of allotment-holders had grown since the war began from 570,000 to 1,400,000. They had 200,000 acres of land devoted to allotment production, and every one of those allotments produced in round figures seven tons of food. It took five tons of shipping to bring an American soldier over to Europe. Therefore the allotment holders, by their productivity, had saved an amount of shipping which enabled us to bring 280,000 American soldiers over to this side. Allotment holders had been given another two years' security. At the end of that time the nation as a whole, he hoped, would so realise the importance of growing their own food supplies and making this country independent that other Acts would be passed giving them greater security, and possibly also making allowances for the increased value given to the land by their labour.—*Times.*

Finger Prints : A Tip for Discharged Soldiers

ON Monday, the 2nd September, Sir Arthur Pearson spoke to the men of St. Dunstan's in the Outer Lounge, welcoming them back from their summer holidays. As usual in these periodical talks, Sir Arthur touched upon many subjects of local and general interest, imparting much instruction and advice.

He had just received a letter from an old St. Dunstanian containing an ingenious idea, which is to be adopted by all blinded soldiers and sailors, and might well become general among disabled men.

There are, he told us, certain unscrupulous members of the public, who, in order to avoid their military obligations, steal discharge papers, which they present when they are called up. A man who would do a thing like that would stop at nothing, and it is not surprising, therefore, that attempts of this sort have been made on blinded soldiers, though in only one case has the thief had any success.

The suggestion is that each St. Dunstanian should place his thumb mark on his discharge paper, a note being written below it to the effect that the finger prints are those of the rightful owner of the papers; which will effectually prevent the recurrence of these thefts. Arrangements have been made for each man as he leaves St. Dunstan's to seal his discharge papers with his thumb print, in the offices of the After-Care Department.

We note with interest the following remarks made by a correspondent in a recent issue of the *Evening Standard* :—

"It must never be forgotten that Sir Edward Henry, who has just retired from his position as Commissioner of Police in the Metropolis, introduced into England the marvellous system of finger prints—a system in vogue in India many years previously, and which he himself imported from that country. The identification of criminals by this method is wonderful. I remember once finger prints were sent to Scotland Yard from Birmingham with inquiries. The answer

was returned in five minutes. The fingers were those of a well-known burglar, and were recorded in one of the myriad files, all duly labelled and classified."

Book-markers for Braille Books

SERGEANT-MAJOR COPE sends us the following useful tip for a book-marker :—

"I would like to tell you," he says, "of a small tip I picked up, I do not remember where, and I find there are very few people that I have met who know of it. It is a book-mark for Braille books, and consists of two large buttons, military ones do very well, connected together by an old mohair bootlace or a bit of string, so that their distance apart is just the depth of a Braille book, leaving a loose end of string at one button to mark the bottom of the book. Put this inside the page where you leave off reading, and there is no danger of its slipping out like an ordinary book-mark. When opening the book just take hold of the two buttons, slip them half way across the book, and open it. I think it is the finest book-mark one could have."

Another St. Dunstanian makes use of an ordinary paper fastener, which also forms a simple and efficient book-marker. The fastener is slipped on to the Braille page at the point where the reader left off, and has the advantage of indicating the exact line as well as page at which reading should be resumed.

St. Dunstanian Re-enlisted

WE are interested to hear that Stephen Slattery, after having been at St. Dunstan's for nearly a year, has re-enlisted in the Army Pay Service, and is expecting to go to France shortly, the sight of his remaining eye having greatly improved since he left.

Church and Catholic Chapel Notes

Church Notes

ON the last Sunday before the holidays as has been the custom, special services, including a Holy Communion service, were held, at which many men who were leaving were present. Thus many men carry away to their homes pleasant recollections of services attended in our delightful Chapel.

ON September 22nd we hope to have another visit from a well-known old St. Dunstan, the Rev. Harold Gibb.

MEMBERS of the Choir will be pleased to know that Mr. Kingston-Stewart, the organist at the Chapel, intends to conduct two of the practices each week. We appreciate his kindness, and feel sure that his instruction will be of great benefit to the Choir.

A LARGE pipe organ has been very kindly presented to the Chapel by Mrs. Darnton, of Royston, Herts. We are deeply grateful to her for her generosity, and feel sure that her gift will greatly add to the beauty of our services.

L. G. T.

Catholic Chapel Notes

THE Right Rev. W. L. Keatinge, C.M.G., Catholic Bishop of the Catholic Chaplains with the Forces, has kindly promised to pay us a visit shortly. Notice of his coming will be duly announced.

FATHER PHILIP GRATY, a blind priest, will also visit St. Dunstan's one Sunday morning next month, and say a few words at the 9.15 Mass.

MR. FRANK GRANT, late treble soloist of the Jesuit Church, Mayfair, W., has kindly promised to sing a solo during Benediction on Sunday mornings. Our thanks are due to him for his valuable assistance the last few Sundays.

THE twenty-six small stained glass windows have now been fixed in the Chapel. A full description of their subjects will be given in the next issue of the REVIEW.

I WOULD ask all the old Catholic St. Dunstaners to inform the newcomers of the times of the Sunday and Holiday Masses.

P. H.

Marriages

AMONG the constant, but ever-increasing number of St. Dunstan's marriages, we have to record since the last issue of the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, the marriage of four blinded officers whose names are to be found in the list following:

ON Wednesday, July 31st, Lieut. D. K. Peacock was married at Bristol to Miss Hall.

ON Tuesday, July 9th, H. Ferrand was married at Hatfield, to Miss Nicholls.

ON Wednesday, July 17th, G. Jackson was married at St. Marylebone, to Miss N. E. Harvey.

ON Saturday, July 20th, T. Smith was married at St. Marylebone Church, to Miss D. K. Hunt.

ON August 8th, Lieut. T. Irvine was married at Edinburgh, to Miss Hodgkinson.

ON Tuesday, July 30th, S. H. Edwards was married at the St. Marylebone Registry Office, to Miss R. P. Morris.

ON August 8th, Lieut. H. Irish was married at Liversedge to Miss Brook.

ON Saturday, August 31st, A. Prettyjohn was married at St. Stephen's, Bow, to Miss D. Tredwell.

ON Tuesday, July 23rd, Captain Ian Fraser was married at Holy Trinity Church, St. Marylebone, to Miss Irene Mace.

Births

G. MADIESON, son - - - July 7, 1918.
H. SIMS, daughter - - - July 9, 1918.
G. CHAPMAN, twins - - - July 9, 1918.
W. NICHOLS, son - - - July 10, 1918.
J. DIXON, daughter - - - July 17, 1918.
W. T. CURTIS-WILSON, son - July 21, 1918.
W. WATT, son - - - - July 22, 1918.
E. W. JARMAN, daughter - July 22, 1918.
SGT. J. NOLAN, son - - - July 22, 1918.
F. JAMES, son - - - - July 23, 1918.
W. CHAPPLE, daughter - - Aug. 12, 1918.
T. SATTERY, daughter - - Aug. 31, 1918.
S. C. MACKAY, son - - -

The Editor will be glad if men would inform him of full particulars of births and marriages when they want notices inserted in the "St. Dunstan's Review." Information should reach the Editor before the 1st of each month for that month's issue.

Veteran Blind Soldier

RECENTLY we enjoyed the privilege of meeting a remarkable blind soldier, Dr. Innis, a veteran of 87, who lives at Charmouth, Dorset. He told us that his greatest treasure was his store of recollections, of which he has as many, and probably more, than any blind man living, for he was present at the siege of Sebastopol, and at the fall of Delhi, as an Army Medical Officer. He lost the sight of one eye some seven years ago, the other one failing him five years later.

Dr. Innis is a splendid example to us, for in spite of the time of life at which he lost his sight, he is cheery and bright, and takes an interest in all that is going on. At one time he even started to get about alone, and was only prevented from doing this by his daughter, who one day discovered him perilously near falling down a flight of steps. After listening with great interest to what we were able to tell him about St. Dunstan's, he remarked, "Well, I wish I was not too old to come there; it must be a really wonderful place." They call him the Champion Wool Winder, for one of his occupations is that of preparing wool for the many energetic Charmouth folk who knit things for the soldiers. If we St. Dunstaners are as active and well up with affairs when we reach the doctor's age, we shall have little to worry about.

Milton

[A Correspondent in California who is greatly interested in St. Dunstan's, sends us the following lines, written by John Martin Newkirk, about the blind poet Milton.]

HIS blindness was no hindrance, for he saw
Through all the open windows of his soul—

Through mists of time the centuries unroll
Back to the ages where no earth in form
Existed. He beheld the fallen ones
Forever banished from their high estate:
He saw the first creation; knew man's fate
And told the destiny of all earth's sons.

All this and blind! He needs no mortal eyes,

They might have drawn him from his lofty theme

With visions of ambition and of power;
His blindness was a blessing in disguise—
So, blind and blest, he could but sit and dream

His poem line by line and hour by hour.

Back Numbers of the "St. Dunstan's Review"

THE EDITOR will be glad if any readers of the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, who have back numbers, previous to October, 1917, they do not want, would post them to him at St. Dunstan's Hostel, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1. Payment of 6d. a copy will be made, and postage will be refunded.

Back numbers are badly wanted, for there is a constant demand for odd copies from other readers who wish to make their sets complete.

INQUISITIVE ONE: "I say; how clever of you to tell the time. How do you do it?"

BLINDED SOLDIER: "I have a watch made specially for the blind."

INQUISITIVE ONE: "A luminous one, I suppose?"

"Dowsing" by the Blind

[The following article on that most mysterious faculty that of water divining, should be of particular interest to St. Dunstanners settled in the country. In our opinion the profession of water finder might prove to be most interesting and profitable to a blind man, but we feel that though, as our correspondent says, "its use does not in the least depend on physical sight," blindness must prove to be a very great handicap, for a water diviner must obviously use his eyes to choose a likely spot to try for water. Then, too, the fact that the blind "dowser" will always have to be accompanied by a guide, seems to us to be a very great disadvantage. We would be interested to hear if any of our readers have had experience of this sort of work.—ED.]

FOR those readers of the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW who may not be familiar with the word, we would explain that in his book on the subject, Sir Wm. F. Barrett, tells us that to "dowse" means "to use the divining rod in search of subterranean springs of water or mineral veins," a "dowser" being one who is endowed with the above gift.

Since the publication of the above-mentioned work no doubt can exist as to the following points:—

1. That certain people possess the faculty of being sensitive to the presence of water and minerals.
2. That this sensitiveness is not confined to any age, sex, or class or standard of education.
3. That its use does not in the least depend on physical sight.

That in spite of there being some who, as amateurs, make no charge for their services, a fair remuneration can be relied on for him who has the faculty and makes it known. It may be said of the "dowser" as of the poet, that he is born and not made, though both can develop their powers with practice. The percentage of

blind throughout the United Kingdom who possess the faculty of water-finding will naturally not be great—perhaps, about seven or eight per cent.—but if one blind man, woman or child be enabled to become aware of this faculty to widen his sphere of usefulness while enjoying a life of comparative independence in the open air, the object of this article will have been achieved.

The following suggestions for the testing of the "dowsing" faculty may be of service: The blind person should procure a fork, preferably of witch-hazel, like a "Y" with the two upper arms about eight inches long each, and the bottom about an inch and a half. The use of a witch-hazel fork is recommended, as that is the one most generally employed under our present imperfect knowledge of the laws governing the phenomena in question. It would seem, however, that, at least when the faculty has been developed, the nature of the fork, or even its use at all, is of little or no importance, the person being able to locate the water by his or her special sensations. A suitable point in the neighbourhood where an underground spring is known to exist having been selected, the necessary tests can be made.

No expert is required to advise even a blind person whether they have or have not the faculty of "dowsing." All that is necessary is for the blind person to hold the fork point downwards, with one end between the thumb and forefinger of each hand, the elbows being kept close to the sides, when, if he possesses the faculty for divining water, the fork will be forced upwards in spite of any efforts to prevent it.

NOTE.—Those who desire to follow the subject are advised to have read to them Sir William F. Barrett's Report to the Society of Psychical Research, which covers this ground most thoroughly. It has not been published separately, but appears in the Proceedings of the Society, from whom copies may be obtained.

T. Alfred Kennion.

With the Canadians in English Forests

Timber Camps and their Work

By EDWARD PRICE BELL.

THIS article is intended to give some idea of how Canada during the world-war has used one of her great special talents in the cause of freedom.

Timber for war purposes became ever more urgently needed, as the struggle went on, and in February, 1916, Mr. Bonar Law, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, cabled for help from Canada. Canada's loyal response was instantaneous. Battalion after battalion of foresters were recruited until the Canadian Forestry Corps was in being, and Canadian axes and saws were musical over large areas of woodland in Great Britain and France.

Canada equipped its forestry forces with its own machinery. Battalions, split up into companies of about 170 men each, were sent into the bush in widely scattered parts of Great Britain and France. Among them were some workers of the highest skill, and others—though every Canadian is "born with an axe in his hand"—who had almost everything to learn about intensive forestry on a considerable scale. Each company had its tree-fellers and loaders, its saw-mill, its varied mill employees, and its light-railway builders. Hutments sprang up magically; the Y.M.C.A. came with its bright and practical service, vegetable gardens, pigs, and poultry were added; and the camps took settled form as hard-working forestry communities.

100 COMPANIES AT WORK.

At present forty of these Canadian companies are operating in Great Britain and sixty in France. The total number of men engaged in the two countries is near 30,000. Of these some 800 are officers. Besides the Canadians working in Great Britain, there are 819 Portuguese, 480 Finns, and 589 prisoners of war. In France the prisoners of war attached to the Canadian Forestry Corps number some 5,000. While there have been no war casualties in the Corps—though

many of the camps in the fighting zone have been under bombardment from the land and from the air—by far the greater number of the present employees are men who have been wounded or who fell ill in battle service.

In Great Britain the Canadians are producing monthly sawn material, round material, fuel and slabs to a total tonnage of 185,071. The shipments per month represent a total tonnage of 166,788. So important has been the work done by the Canadians in the forests that they have won from the British Imperial authorities, notably the former Minister of War, Lord Derby, the most enthusiastic and grateful acknowledgments.

This Corps—this bit of Canada abroad—is it economical, efficient, and important in respect of the quantity of its production? I have had an opportunity to inspect in detail a number of the Canadian forestry camps in England. I have seen the men at their toil in the bush and in the mills. I have examined their hutments, recreation quarters, vegetable gardens, poultry houses, piggeries. I have watched them building light railways, stacking timber, loading timber, and doing all the diversified tasks attaching to stirring lumber camps. To my mind—untrained, I admit, in such things—everything appeared to move in response to perfect knowledge and resolute will.

NEW CONDITIONS

But in this connection I can quote Sir James Ball, Controller of Imperial Timber Supplies—not a Canadian, but an Englishman.

"These men are my sheet-anchor," said he.

"What do you think of the staff?"

"Remarkably conscientious and able."

"Is it too large?"

"I don't think so."

"Is the cost of production too heavy?"

"You can't compare the cost of timber



production here with the cost of it in Canada or the United States. There lumbermen have a free hand and large trees. They can go whither they like—can follow the line of least resistance, of highest and cheapest productivity. Here we are beset by obstacles. We must approach the timber by ways that spare adjacent estates. Our timber is scattered; we can work only a certain while in one place, then must shift our plant. This takes time and costs money. Our trees for the most part are small, and the smaller the trees the larger the cost of producing a given amount of lumber.

"It also should be remembered that our forestry camps in England are partially training camps—not only industries, but schools. We must whip inexperienced men into shape. These camps here, though they produce a great deal of timber, are principally feeders for our more advanced camps in France. We must always be thinking about tonnage. The greater our production in France the lighter the burden we impose on cross-Channel shipping.

"Before the war we imported 90 per cent. of our timber supplies. With the help of the Canadians, the Newfoundlanders, and a voluntary unit of New Englanders, we have whittled down the imports to a small figure, freeing tonnage for other services in the war. In 1913 we imported 11,600,000 tons; last year we imported 2,875,000 tons. The movement of the figures is steadily in the right direction. Prior to the war we imported 3,500,000 tons of mining timber; this year we shall import only 500,000 tons, Great Britain producing 3,000,000 tons. Without our co-workers from North America this feat would be impossible."

So we learn that success in war does not spring wholly from the mine; it owes a mighty deal to the forest. And the Canadians yield to no people on earth in their industrial mastery over the forests.

Observer.

Aerial Post

THE Air Minister, speaking at a lecture recently, made the following statement, which deeply impressed his hearers. He said:—

The fact is, in a country like England, with good interior communications, there is no urgent need at a time like this (when commerce is in an unnatural condition) for an aerial postal service. But there is no present justification for any diversion from war use of the material and organisation that would be required for a public service. That other countries are already running their aerial posts need not distress us in the least. We have our plans pretty well cut and dried for our own services when the war is off our hands.

Meanwhile, aerial posts have been established in other countries—between Washington, Philadelphia, and New York, a daily round trip is taken, the price being 24 cents per ounce; New York to Boston is another route on the programme. The machines carry 600 lb. of mail, and give a speedier service than the ordinary. It is recognised, however, that for short distances the aerial route offers no advantage as to time, the proportion of time occupied in collecting and delivering of mail to and away from the flying stations being so great.

An aerial mail has been inaugurated in Canada, between Montreal and Toronto, but it is not stated whether it is being flown regularly. Recently services were started, the Germans report, between Brest Litovsk, Odessa, and other towns.

Among the aerial mail routes proposed, and, it is understood, in an advanced state of preparation, if not actually working, are Paris to St. Nazaire, Paris to Marseilles and Nice, Nice to Ajaccio, Stockholm to the Gulf of Finland, Vienna to Kief, Petrograd to Moscow, Odessa to Constantinople, Stavanger to Aberdeen, and Holyhead to Dublin. A Zeppelin airship mail between Hamburg and Constantinople is also being discussed. *Observer.*

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Address

.....

N.B.—Please strike out the period and charge not required.