

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

MONTHLY
PRICE 6^d.

No. 69 VOL. VII
OCTOBER, 1922



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FOR THE AMUSEMENT & INTEREST OF MEN BLINDED IN THE WAR

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ST. DUNSTANERS IN TRAINING FOR THE BRIGHTON WALK

St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY PERRY BARRINGER

No. 69.—VOLUME VII.

OCTOBER, 1922.

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

EDITORIAL

ON another page of this issue there appears an article on St. Dunstan's Shop, which we are sure will be read with the greatest interest by all our men. Details were given in a previous issue of the formal opening of this Shop by Mr. Gordon Selfridge, the head of one of London's greatest stores, and it will be recalled that on that occasion he expressed his confidence that St. Dunstan's Shop would form a very valuable medium for letting the buying public know what splendidly capable craftsmen were the men of St. Dunstan's. It must be a source of the greatest satisfaction to us all that this prophecy has already been so adequately justified, and it is really not too much to say that, in the short time since it has been opened, St. Dunstan's Shop has come to be regarded as one of the most interesting and attractive establishments in the best shopping street of the greatest city in the world. We refer our readers for a more detailed history of the experiences of these few months of trading to our Shop Manager's article.

We want, in these notes, to touch briefly upon the principle and aims which dictated the establishment of this enterprise of St. Dunstan's Organisation. The men of St. Dunstan's since the first of their numbers went out into the workaday world to test in the open market of commerce the value and appeal of their productions, have found a ready market for the work of their hands. But, as time went on, it became clear that the purely local demand would not always absorb the whole output of our men's industry, and with the determination that no brake should ever be put upon this, a central sales organisation was formed to dispose of any surplus goods. As the number of our home-workers increased, this surplus became larger, and eventually it was decided to merge our London sales shops into one main establishment with the best possible facilities for displaying and selling. We were fortunate in securing a lease of the newly-built and handsomely-designed shop and premises at 155 Regent Street, and, as has been said, there is every prospect that this enterprise will most fully justify itself. But in these days of stern competition it is not enough to depend upon a central position and a good shop display.

The St. Dunstan's Sales Organisation have always in hand carefully-designed and executed schemes for letting the public know how desirable are the goods made by our men. Perhaps, in a future issue, we may be able to outline some of these schemes in detail, but meanwhile we are sure every craftsman of St. Dunstan's will be putting the best of his skill, thought and industry into his productions, to help the Sales Organisation to maintain, and even increase, the regard in which St. Dunstan's-made goods are held.

Our men are grateful for the sympathy and always generous interest of the public in their work, but the spirit of St. Dunstan's is the spirit that glories in the fact of true independence and in establishing a merit value for work produced.

St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind An Important Decision

By Captain Ian Fraser

RECENTLY it was decided that affiliation between St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind should cease, and that the two organisations should, as regards their main activities, act independently—St. Dunstan's for the Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, and the National Institute for the Blind for its objects which contribute to the welfare of the Civilian Blind. It is my object in this article to inform the men of St. Dunstan's of the present position and make known to them briefly how it came about.

Probably all blinded soldiers know that St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind—which, for the sake of brevity, I shall call the N.I.B.—have worked together on a friendly basis since the beginning of the war; and yet, when the facts which led up to the present position are known, I believe my comrades will agree that in taking the actions they have taken the Committees of St. Dunstan's have been right.

The separation which has now been effected really began towards the end of the year 1920. Sir Arthur had placed the After-Care under the control of the N.I.B. in the early days of the war, because it was generally believed at that time that hostilities would be of short duration and the number of men blinded would be comparatively small. I, for one, think that at the time when this decision was made it was a right decision; for, obviously, it would not have been a wise thing to create a special organisation for a few score of blinded soldiers, when there was a great national institution with all its resources, staff, knowledge, etc., ready and willing to do this work. But as the war went on and on, and the number of blinded soldiers increased enormously, it became apparent that it would be extremely difficult to conduct

the After-Care Organisation as a Department of the Institute. Many of the earlier men of St. Dunstan's will remember the great inconvenience which they and I suffered by the fact that my office was in Great Portland Street in 1917, and will recall how when they wanted to come to Headquarters to do business they would have to see me there and then walk a mile or a mile and a quarter to interview the head of some other Department at St. Dunstan's. To avoid this, my office was moved to St. Dunstan's in 1918, and the virtual control of the After-Care came immediately under Sir Arthur's eye at the old place. Nominal control, however, remained with the N.I.B., and it was not until November, 1920, that this was changed, when by resolution of the Council of the N.I.B. the After-Care Organisation was placed upon its feet as a separate body. The Care Committee and After-Care Committee had practically the same membership, and thus it came about that St. Dunstan's was for all practical purposes one business, under one roof, and under one control.

Although from that time forth the N.I.B. had no control over St. Dunstan's, they continued to collect money for us by means of their canvassers and Branch Secretaries in different parts of the country. There were certain advantages in this joint collecting, but there were also disadvantages, and these were greatly emphasised when Sir Arthur died and the N.I.B. found themselves without his great powers of leadership.

Early this year my colleagues and I on the Committees of St. Dunstan's, having examined the whole position, were obliged to make a number of complaints to the N.I.B. about the way in which they were using the name of St. Dunstan's in connection with appeals for money. The main burden of our complaints was that

the officials and canvassers of the Institute, when they were collecting jointly for St. Dunstan's and the N.I.B., emphasised the appeal for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, and that as a result the public thought we were getting the greater proportion of the money which came in through their branches. We felt that the public ought to know the exact proportion in which the money was going to us and to them, and that our name should not be used by them in any way in any appeal unless we were going to get a definite share of the profits.

At this time we were genuinely desirous of continuing the working arrangements between ourselves and the N.I.B., provided they would guarantee us absolute control over the name St. Dunstan's in connection with appeals—not, I think, an unreasonable condition. As evidence of our intentions at this time, I might mention that on the very day upon which their Committee was drafting its reply to our complaints, the contents of which you will read about further on, they received from me a letter in which I made detailed suggestions for the joint conduct of St. Dunstan's National Whist Championship.

Since, as you will see, they would pay no attention whatsoever to our complaints, nor suggest means by which confusion in the public mind might be avoided, I cannot say that we are now sorry that separation has taken place. It is undoubtedly better for St. Dunstan's that we should be entirely on our own, the only organisation expressly registered for the Care and After-Care of Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, and that the public should know this.

The N.I.B.'s answer to my complaints and suggestions for reform was almost to ignore them, although I was able to give them instance after instance where a flag day, concert, or collection made in the joint interests of St. Dunstan's and the N.I.B. had been called St. Dunstan's Day, or St. Dunstan's Collection, or had in some other way left the impression with the public that it was entirely for us. Very often it was not their fault that such an impression was given; but I was not and am not now concerned with finding

out whose fault it was, but merely set out to remedy the position. Their reply went on to say that in view of the healthy state of St. Dunstan's finances, the N.I.B. felt that it could not go on collecting for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors. So we have separated, and from August 1st onwards, with the exception of a few joint engagements entered into previously, and the National Whist Championship, St. Dunstan's and the N.I.B. have been entirely separated, and N.I.B. Branch Secretaries, Canvassers and Collectors have no right to appeal for or represent the Blinded Soldiers and Sailors of St. Dunstan's. We are sharing the proceeds of St. Dunstan's National Whist Championship for this year with the N.I.B., because there is going to be strong competition from local hospitals, etc., and we think it is wise to take the broad view of this vast organisation and avoid having two Championships running side by side throughout the country.

Some of the N.I.B. representatives started to make misleading statements about St. Dunstan's, no doubt in the hope that they would draw public sympathy away from us to them. We began to hear rumours that St. Dunstan's had vast sums of money in reserve, that St. Dunstan's did not publish a balance-sheet, and that St. Dunstan's looked after blinded soldiers far too well, giving them much more assistance than they ought to have. It was not easy to trace the source from which statements like these came, for they were not made in public, but only quietly to friends of St. Dunstan's; but what is certainly true is that statements prejudicial to the interests of St. Dunstan's were issued to members of the public by some of the staff at the N.I.B. For instance, some signed letters from them which have come into our possession prove this.

We at St. Dunstan's have taken up the attitude that it is not our business to say anything good or bad about any other organisation, but that it is very distinctly our duty to answer any untrue, or partially untrue, remarks that are made, or letters that are written about us. With this idea in view, I took advantage of the fact that there was a meeting of some of the men

in Bristol recently to run down and tell them the whole position, and invited the newspapers to be present, because I wanted to make it public. I also invited some St. Dunstan's subscribers to come, too, and I am proud to say that the men and the subscribers received what I had to say with great kindness and enthusiasm, and I am much heartened by their attitude. As often as my duties here permit, I shall attend other meetings of our men to go further into the matter with them and answer any questions which they may have to raise from time to time. But since many will undoubtedly have heard some or all of the rumours and misleading statements I have referred to, I will deal briefly with St. Dunstan's financial position here.

We have always published our accounts, and this year they were printed in our Annual Report and circulated to many thousands of subscribers to St. Dunstan's, as well as practically all the newspapers in the English-speaking world. They were properly audited and certified, and showed the whole of St. Dunstan's position plainly and without any reserve. Indeed, my attitude towards St. Dunstan's figures—and it is one in which I should like all my comrades to join me—is to be proud of the magnificent work which Sir Arthur did for us and which we are now trying to carry on, and to be grateful to the public for having enabled us to do all that has been done.

The statement that St. Dunstan's has enormous reserves is untrue. The figures in our Balance Sheet are, of course, very high; but then they include the Children's Fund, which needs to be a large sum of money, and which, as all our men know, cannot be used for any other purpose than to provide the allowances which go from here weekly to the children of blinded soldiers and sailors on account of whom no allowance is paid by the Government. These figures include also all the properties which we have had to purchase for the settlement of men who could not be settled in any other way; the five annexes at the seaside and in the country which were given us by the United Services Fund, the Grocers'

Federation, the Dickens Fellowship, etc., and the heavy stocks of raw materials we are obliged to carry here to meet the demands of many hundreds of workers all over the country; the workshops and office equipment, benches, mat frames, office furniture, furniture of the men's quarters, etc., etc. St. Dunstaners will readily see that if these assets are added together, as, of course, they must be in a Balance Sheet, they total a large sum. But no one can talk of these assets as if they were available for immediate use without misleading the public.

At one stage the N.I.B. actually suggested that we should stop collecting altogether. It is quite true that if we did this we could have gone on for a time using up our reserves; but what would have happened at the end of this time? We should have lost all the goodwill we have in the country, we should have to start our collecting organisation all over again, and perhaps it would not be so easy to collect money for disabled soldiers in years to come. Nobody knows to what extent public feeling for disabled soldiers will continue, and it is this very reason, added to the others I have mentioned, and to the fact that there are still new cases of blinded soldiers coming to St. Dunstan's, which makes the Committees of St. Dunstan's determined not to stop appealing now, but to carry on the work in the same way in which Sir Arthur did, and try and keep our After-Care Fund intact. But, of course, all the time the money is invested, and we are using the interest year by year to help meet the expenses of After-Care. We may need to spend our capital for the men's benefit later on, and we do not intend to be rushed into the suicidal policy which it has been suggested we should follow. When all the training is over and the country has settled down to normal times we shall work out a scheme by which we use up our capital in annual instalments, so that when the last blinded soldier dies all the money will have been used.

The whole of the facts I have told you here were set out in the Annual Report and Balance Sheet I have referred to.

The public knew them in May last, and the many hundreds of newspapers to whom the Report was sent commented favourably upon them. I believe the public is with us, and that they will approve of our wise financial policy, and not be led away from us by any harmful statements they may hear.

Everyone of the men of St. Dunstan's can help by reading this article carefully, acquainting himself with the position, and being ready to jump quickly upon anyone who says things that are not true about St. Dunstan's. They can always be referred to me, and I will gladly send any enquirer a copy of the Report and Balance Sheet which I have referred to so that he may see for himself that we have laid all our cards on the table. There are nearly 2,000 of us Blinded Soldiers, and if we stick together I am confident we can keep the St. Dunstan's Flag flying. We must do it in the proper and honourable way, that is by telling the truth about St. Dunstan's and never attacking or trying to do harm to any other section of the community or to any other organisation for the blind. We must defend ourselves, but must not attack civilian blind people who need help as much and sometimes more than we do; for I am sure the men of St. Dunstan's would not want it to be said of them that they did harm to other folk.



Guests of the King and Queen

MEN from St. Dunstan's were included among those invited to the Thursday afternoon Garden Parties held at Buckingham Palace during September, and those who were lucky enough to be privileged to be present enjoyed themselves mightily. In every case six went from Cornwall Terrace and six from St. John's Lodge. The total number of guests invited on each occasion was from 120 to 130, and they came from such widely-scattered hostels and hospitals as Shepherd's Bush, Romford, Clapham Park, Edmonton, Ealing, Ewell, and Denmark Hill, as well as St. Dunstan's.

It was through the kindly thought of Princess Mary that these parties first took place. Miss Marta Cunningham, of the "Not Forgotten" Association, interested the Princess in the work she was doing for men still in hospital, and she, eager to take part in it, suggested to the King and Queen that a royal invitation should be sent through the post through Miss Marta Cunningham. Seeing what genuine pleasure was given, the scope of the parties was extended.

The guests are always received by Miss Cunningham on behalf of her Association, and also by someone deputed by their Majesties to act as host. On the occasion of the first September party, this was Vice-Admiral P. Nelson-Ward, a week later by Colonel Frinton.

Those who wished to be free to stroll about the Palace grounds did so, others played games or went on the water. Later came tea in the Royal Riding School, and in this the Queen had taken such real interest that she had given personal direction concerning the china to be used. Cigarettes and oranges were also provided, the last direct from South Africa, the gift of Mr. Leo Weintal. Then came a musical entertainment, amongst those taking part in which were Miss Clarice Mayne and others from the Vaudeville Theatre, Miss Muriel Cracknell and Miss Bles, Peter Graham, George McGuinness and the Ivimey Trio.

At the wish of the guests, their thanks were telegraphed to the King who sent an immediate reply.

Among the guests from St. Dunstan's were:—Farmery, McMahon, Brooker, Ling, Papps, Yare, Sherwood, Callingham, W. Davies, Hennolt, Britwood, Tarry, Eastham, Lever, Lillie, Pawley, Jones, Harlow, Wilshaw, Eaton, Brown, Pettitt, McNichol, Cookson, Bradley, Spink, Wood, Pearson, Saltery, Buckle, Purvis, Brewer, Aldridge, Chafer and Holmes.



First Prize for Mats

Congratulations to J. Elder, of Leith (Scotland), who won First Prize for mats at the Leith Flower Show.



NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS

"SPLENDID WORKMANSHIP"

G. NANCARROW took the opportunity offered by a fête day organised at St. Austell to make a special display of the work in which he had trained at St. Dunstan's: mats, hammocks and nets. As he offered a capital selection of goods, he found many customers, and also secured a notice in the local press, where comment was made on "his splendid workmanship." We add our congratulations to those of his Cornish friends.

SCOOPING THE PRIZES

D. MUNRO is another to whom congratulations are due. At an Art and Industries Exhibition (which has the Princess Royal for its patron) held at Barff, he has taken three first prizes and one second, though even in his section there were a large number of entrants. The second prize was for his hammock, the three firsts for a net, a wool rug and a work basket respectively. The work basket was one he had made for his wife while he was at St. Dunstan's—the labour of love is always the best we produce.

A REAL HELP-MATE

G. BROOKS writes from his home in Lancashire, where we are glad to hear he is doing well with his rugs. The last finished was five feet long by two feet six inches wide, and the customer for whom it was made was very appreciative. Brooks is fortunate in having a wife who finishes the backs of the rugs as well as her husband does the fronts.

THE TRIUMPH OF PERSEVERANCE

W. ALLEN is another who finds interest in rug-making, and the After-Care Visitor reports that he is now as expert as many of the two-handed men she visits. Allen has shown great persever-

ance; for, handicapped as he is, rug-making was, to him, for a long time, a rather slow work until practice made for greater speed.

RUG-MAKING FOR CONTENT

A. S. ULYAT, now in Retford, Notts., is also working hard at rugs, and is of the opinion that such work is decidedly good for the health. When so occupied he says that he forgets to worry! We think we must try this anodyne for the Editorial trials and tribulations.

Not many of St. Dunstan's men have gone in for authorship, but one of the few is Rex Furness, who, under the title of "Blind Love," recently published a story in the *Daily News* "Little Tales Series."

FROM CANADA

Those who remember Geo. Eades will be glad to hear that he is doing great work in Toronto (Canada), where, on his own initiative, he has organised a netting class, and is busy at work with a number of our men teaching them to make netted articles. He is hoping for a run across to England soon, and, if this comes off, will look up all his old friends.

Eades reports that Austin is married and has a lovely home; Wallace is doing well in Winnipeg, and Davies and Ogilvie are also making a success of things, though the latter's health is not particularly good. Milligan has just netted his thousandth doll's hammock.

At a recent exhibition Eades' pupils took first and second prizes for their tennis nets, and first in hammocks. In bags, he himself took a first and his pupils second and third prizes, while between them they cleared off nearly all the awards offered for basket work. Splendid teaching and very apt pupils, it is clear.

FROM THE WORLD OVER



THE RIGHT SPIRIT

We are glad to learn that the little son of L. Johns, of Exeter, is now recovering from the serious accident which it was at first feared might prove fatal. In the course of a recent letter Johns writes:—

"Both Mrs. Johns and myself wish to thank you so much for your wishes, and for the offer of assistance to us. After a long week of anxiety, we are now able to say that our boy is out of danger, and is recovering very rapidly.

"He seized the teapot, and was terribly scalded. We rushed off to the hospital, but there they gave up all hopes of him. One day during the week his temperature was 106°2, and the surgeons were astonished to find him recovering from that. We hope very soon to be able to fetch him home again.

"We are so very grateful to you for the offer of assistance, but the money is very low, so that we shall be able to meet the expense very well. We had to hand in an account of our earnings to the hospital, and a committee sat to fix the amount we should pay each week.

"I am pleased to be able to report that my business is going on well. We always have a job to do, never have we been without one. On one day we had seventeen pairs of boots and shoes in, and by the time we finished work we had sent out eleven pairs, and had the money in for ten pairs. The visiting instructors are of great assistance to us, and we are taught many things each time they come.

"In conclusion, I should like to thank St. Dunstan's for the great benefits we have received in many ways, and for the prompt and careful attention to our orders by the After-Care Department.

"With every good wish from Mrs. Johns and myself."

In acknowledging Johns' letter, Captain Fraser said how much he was impressed by the fine independent spirit it displayed. There are, amongst the stronger of us,

those to whom trouble comes as a bracing for firmer determination, and it is clear that this Exeter St. Dunstaner is to be numbered amongst those plucky folk.

St. Dunstan's chaplain, the Rev. J. E. Williams, has written an interesting and informative article on the work of the Hostel and the After-Care Organisation, with particular reference to the spiritual side, in the quarterly journal of the Royal Army Chaplain's Department.

IN connection with the amusing article by "Merrythought," which appears on another page, most St. Dunstaners will be aware that one of our men carries on a business of barber and hairdresser; that is B. Jackson, of Birkenhead, who was a barber before he lost his sight. He was taught basket-making at St. Dunstan's, but when he returned to his home, he re-opened also his barber shop, and with an assistant still carries on the business successfully, frequently shaving old customers himself.

MENTION of the successful Auction Sale and Bazaar in aid of St. Dunstan's, held at Conwill School some time since, was unfortunately crowded out of our last issue.

The affair was organised by Mr. J. Stephens, of Dolgoy, and Mrs. Stephens, who worked very hard and fully deserve the success achieved. The Bazaar was opened by Mr. J. Hinds, M.P., Lord Lieutenant of the County, and many local folk gave effective support to the organiser's efforts. We congratulate this Cambrian St. Dunstaner upon his enterprising and thoughtful labours for his old Hostel.

Mrs. MULLINS: "What's the matter, Mrs. Atkins?"

Mrs. Atkins: "Why, this young varmint 'as swallowed a cartridge, and I can't wollop 'im for fear it goes off."



DEPARTMENTAL NOTES



Braille Room Notes

WE heartily congratulate the following men on having passed their Braille Reading Test:—

J. W. Cookson and M. J. Printie.

We greatly appreciate a very welcome gift of Braille books from the Wisbech High School for Girls, North Brink, Wisbech, Cambs., consisting of the following volumes:—"Paid Out," by Bessell; "The Fourth Plague," by E. Wallace; "Plunder," by Roche; "Morals of Marcus Ordeyne," by W. J. Locke; "Discovery of New Worlds," by Synge; "Braille Musical Notation."

The following are amongst the books that have recently been added to the National Library for the Blind:—"Life of Lord Kitchener," by Sir George Arthur; "Tour in Mongolia," by B. Bulstrode; "Autobiography of a Labrador Doctor," by W. T. Grenfell; "In Search of El Dorado, A Wanderer's Experiences," by A. Macdonald; "The Border Legion," by Zane Grey; "The Usurper," by W. J. Locke; "Spinners," by Eden Phillpotts; "An Enthusiast," by E. E. Somerville.
D. A. P.

Typewriting Room

HEARTIEST congratulations to the following men on having passed their Typewriting Test:—

J. Jerrard, F. W. Tarry, F. Glover, G. J. Boultonwood, J. Griffiths. D. A. P.

Netting Notes

WE have the pleasure in telling our readers that a new body of recruits has recently started on rug work. There is now at our Cheltenham Annexe occupation available for those who like it, during both morning and afternoon. As this Annexe is both a convalescent and holiday home, attendance, of course, is not

compulsory, but a good number of fellows are glad of something to do when they feel well enough. We hope to rouse local interest and pride in the work of the Cheltenham St. Dunstaners; and as Mrs. Arnold is organising a Sale of Work with demonstration of St. Dunstan's trades, on December 7th, we are quite hoping that the work of our new recruits will receive recognition on this occasion. G. H. W.

A Canadian Tribute to the Chief

ON the first of this month there will be unveiled at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Toronto, a memorial tablet commemorating the life and work of Sir Arthur Pearson. It has been presented by the members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who were blinded in the war, and the unveiling ceremony will be performed by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. We hope in our next issue to give a special report on the ceremony, which will doubtless be attended by many Canadian St. Dunstaners.

My World

MY World is but a strip of field
Wherein I work, wherein I play,
Where with my hens I strive to
yield
The best that can be done each
day.

My World is but a strip of field
With paths and hedgeways circled
round;
It stands from all the town concealed,
A land where happiness is found.

My World is but a strip of field
Yet all therein to me is dear;
I cannot see the hens I shield,
Yet all their happy sounds I hear.
Cock o' the North

Wireless at St. Dunstan's

By "A LISTENER IN"

A VERY cheery crowd of past and present St. Dunstaners met on Saturday, October 7th, for what was to many their first experience of wireless. Tales of new stunts worked on radio "across the pond" were always reaching us, but we knew that last Saturday was the first instance in any country of a Prince addressing a nation by wireless. So, at Captain Fraser's invitation, all of us who could manage it gathered at St. John's Lodge to hear the Prince of Wales' speech to Boy Scouts. But, in spite of all we had read, I don't think any of us realised how well a voice could carry through the air; and so the loud voice at 7.20, that bade amateurs tune up their instruments quickly as the Prince would shortly speak, came as rather a shock. But we really felt things were "getting a move on," when just before half-past seven a stentorian voice proclaimed:

"Hullo! hullo! hullo! York House speaking, York House speaking: please stand by for the chief scout for Wales."

Then, as clearly as though he were standing in the room addressing every one of us personally, we heard the Prince speaking. Every word of his short but most effective speech could be heard with the utmost distinctness; it seemed impossible to believe that he was sitting in his study talking into what we were told looked for all the world like an ordinary telephone, for his speech had none of the pauses and "noises from nowhere" one would expect from an instrument however perfect.

I think all of us felt, as we listened, as though a new land was being explored, and that in that land lay much to alleviate those hours of weariness that even the cheeriest soul must feel occasionally. This idea formed the key-note of Captain Fraser's short address that filled the interval between the speech and the wireless concert. He told us that, speaking from his own personal experience, he was sure

that wireless was a hobby all St. Dunstan's men could enjoy. It was, he said, a perfectly simple matter for a man who had lost his sight to manipulate the apparatus. He himself had had the instrument to which we had just listened for over two years, and he had never found any difficulty in working his own installation. In fact, wireless was essentially the hobby for a man who had lost his sight, for it was one in which they could be entirely independent of other people, and could be at any time in touch with the outside world. Captain Fraser ended by advising all St. Dunstaners to go in for wireless at once.

After Captain Fraser's address, Mr. Carpenter, of Marconi House, gave us a short explanation of the working of wireless. He told us that the Prince's speech had probably been broadcast to an audience of at least fifty thousand. Although the message had to go first to Marconi House before it could be broadcast, we had heard it 100,000 of a second after he spoke; in actual time probably before the man who was also in the study had heard it himself. This was because sound travels through the air at only a few miles a second, while in the same time wireless waves travel at the rate of seven times round the world. Then Mr. Carpenter went on to speak of Captain Fraser, who he said was one of the most expert wireless amateurs in the country, and who had foretold the broadcasting of music and news by wireless long before it had been generally thought of by experts. He also recommended the St. Dunstan's men to go in for wireless, saying it was a hobby with ever-increasing powers of interest and recreation.

We all felt the wisdom of Captain Fraser's and Mr. Carpenter's advice during the concert that followed, for the entertainment could be heard most distinctly, and quite served as a match to light the bonfire of wireless enthusiasm that the events of the evening had erected.



CHAPEL NOTES

IF there are any boys in the London district who are thinking about Confirmation I hope that they will communicate with me. I am anxious to commence my winter Confirmation classes, and it is just possible that in addition to the boys at present in residence there may be some of the After-Care who are interested. It is a wonderful opportunity for those who are desirous of being strengthened spiritually and who wish to stand out and out for Christ and His Kingdom.

All those old boys who have joined us in our little services in days gone by will be interested to know that the attendances are keeping up wonderfully well, and that our Intercessions for the spiritual well-being of our comrades are regularly presented Sunday by Sunday.

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

We are hopeful of holding our Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 29th, at the Bungalow Chapel at 11 a.m. Any old boys in London who would care to come to this service will be heartily welcomed.

E.W.

Births

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Lieut. J. SWALES, son | - | July 31, 1922 |
| G. BAYLIS, daughter | - - | Aug. 19, 1922 |
| W. OWEN, son | - - - | Aug. 19, 1922 |
| H. RAYMOND, son | - - | Sept. 3, 1922 |
| S. LORAM, son | - - - | Sept. 4, 1922 |
| J. W. WHITHAM, daughter | - | Sept. 5, 1922 |
| A. F. LENDERYOU, son | - | Sept. 10, 1922 |
| H. BLAKELEY, daughter | - | Sept. 11, 1922 |
| W. WATMORE, twin daughters | - | Sept. 14, 1922 |
| S. DURRANT, daughter | - | Sept. 15, 1922 |
| G. MOORE, son | - - - | Sept. 15, 1922 |
| H. C. OLLINGTON, daughter | - | Sept. 17, 1922 |
| H. A. T. PEARCE, daughter | - | Sept. 17, 1922 |
| E. STORER, son | - - - | Sept. 17, 1922 |
| T. NEWMAN, daughter | - | Sept. 23, 1922 |

Obituary

H. V. KERR, daughter, died Sept. 16th.
H. BATES, son, died Sept. 18th.

Marriages

WORD comes to us of yet another wedding, that of A. B. Hill to Miss Gladys Walker, on September 11th at Holy Trinity Church, Horfield, Bristol. Those who were with us from March, 1920, to January, 1922, will doubtless remember Alec Berkeley Hill, who, having taken his Braille and Typing certificates, ultimately became a shorthand-typist, and went to a post at Bristol. We send him our best wishes for his future happiness and success.

On Thursday, October 12th, at St. George's, Tufnell Park, Frank Albert Rhodes was married to Miss Doris May Everitt.

Our Babies

WE hear that the four months' old baby girl of K. C. Gattrell, of Worthing, has won second prize at a local baby competition. This is Gattrell's second little daughter. We offer our congratulations both to himself and his wife.

St. Dunstan's Grape Baskets

AMONG other interesting work that has been on hand in the Basket Shop has been the making of the pretty, oval, dark-green-and-white baskets with conveniently long handles to take the grapes from the famous vine at Hampton Court. As there were something over 500 bunches of fruit on the vine (which was planted in 1768), a large number of baskets were required.

"In Memory."

PRIVATE RICHARD WILLIAM SPRY
(1st Batt. Coldstream Guards)

Died July 21st, 1922
Aged 31 years

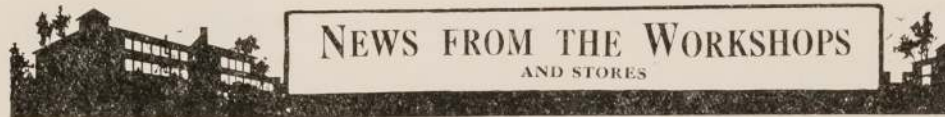


ONE of the "Old Contemptibles," Private R. W. Spry during his young manhood had varied experience of a soldier's life. He first joined the 1st Batt. Coldstream Guards in April, 1907, when just over the age of 16. After nearly four years' service, he went to Canada, and whilst there served in the Royal Canadian Dragoons for a considerable period. Returning to England in 1913, he joined the Royal Garrison Artillery, and when war broke out, he transferred to his old regiment the Coldstream Guards in his anxiety to get as soon as possible to the fighting front. He landed in France at the beginning of September, 1914, and fought with the Guards' Division in all their engagements. In May, 1915, at Neuve Chapelle, he received a gunshot wound in the head, the bullet severing the optic and nasal nerves in its passage. After a marvellous operation at No. 2 General Hospital, which undoubtedly saved his life, he met there, when convalescent, our late Chief, Sir Arthur Pearson. He went to St. Dunstan's for about a year, and was trained, at his request, as a telephone operator, eventually taking a position as telephonist with the Gas Light & Coke Company, Kensington, where he remained for nearly five years, until compelled to resign in May, 1921, owing to failing health. He was, it may be mentioned, the first blinded soldier to be trained for this occupation, and he set up worthy traditions of conscientious and capable work, which have been followed by many St. Dunstaners since. The after effects of his wounds necessitated a little later a further operation, which unfortunately revealed cerebral abscess, and in spite of all that could be done, he died within fourteen days of his entry to the hospital.

Private Spry was accorded a full military funeral, and was carried to his last resting place by comrades of his old regiment. Included in the many floral tributes was one from St. Dunstan's, a representative of which was present, and one from the comrades of his old regiment bearing the Guards' colours.

Everyone who was brought into contact with this gallant young soldier mourns him as a fine type of Britisher, who faced a great handicap, and overcame it with the courage and determination which has so splendidly justified St. Dunstan's famous motto:—

"VICTORY OVER BLINDNESS"



NEWS FROM THE WORKSHOPS AND STORES

JOINERY DEPARTMENT

MR. E. HOPE-ATKINSON'S activities are well known not only to "past and present" Joiners but we may confidently say to every St. Dunstan's man. The achievement which stands to his credit is one of the finest which appears in the history of the work of Blind Men on behalf of Blind Men. From the commencement, Sir Arthur Pearson placed the Joinery Department in his charge, and from that time he has been responsible for its development. He taught the pioneers, and when numbers grew, chose pupil teachers from among his men who later became instructors. His work, however, did not cease with the Workshops; he continues to assist the Joiners now settled in all parts of the country by visits and frequent correspondence, and this may fairly be styled a strenuous job. The purchase of Tools, Timber, Mouldings, and the numerous articles required has also been in Mr. Atkinson's hand and the examination of all finished work sent in for sale has now been added to this.

We should have mentioned last month that Captain Williams completed a very successful course of Joinery in the Workshops which was carried out with his characteristic energy and cheerfulness. He will, we are sure, excuse us mentioning that we miss very much his merry "warbling" during the day, which provided us with much relaxation and entertainment.

T. Eaton is adding to his joinery experience a knowledge of Picture Framing which, although he finds it trying, will prove valuable to him. F. W. Tarry has completed his elementary course and promises to do well in the craft. A. Herriott is a nice clean worker, taking keen interest in all his work. W. A. Foolkes and W. A. Burtenshaw have kept up the usual reputation of Poultry Farmers at Joinery, and they will find the experience very useful.

We ought also to have referred to Boon's success with this work.

MAT DEPARTMENT

The knowledge that Mr. W. Osborne has charge of everything concerning the technical part of Mat-Making will be of great interest and pleasure to all our Mat Makers as well as being a matter of practical importance. The great majority of our men have received their instructions under his direct control, and the fact that he now deals with all Raw Materials sent out, and also examines finished work received by St. Dunstan's will strengthen the bond which already exists between him and them. It is desired that all men should have the advantage of his advice in matters concerning this trade, so that enquiries will be welcomed. It is very important that a uniform standard of work should be maintained when goods are offered for sale, and in order to secure this comments will be made upon mats sent in, so that each man may know which part of his work requires attention. For instance, a number of mats have reached us this month in a wet condition; this hinders the work of shearing, and we would ask men to avoid wetting their thrums too much. It would also be of assistance if men who wish to have their mats returned to them after shearing would label them to this effect, otherwise they may be passed into stock with other mats which are being purchased.

T. E. Eastham, a new man, has made a very satisfactory start. J. Hallaron has also done further good work on mats, and is quickly picking up points in his elementary Boot Work. A. Northcote has done work on mats with a five-diamond design, each mat showing an advance on his previous work.

BOOT SHOP

The numerous requirements of our Boot Repairers are in the capable hands of Mr. E. A. Heath, whose wide and varied

experience and accurate knowledge of Boot-Making and Repairs, Leather and Sundries of all descriptions can be drawn upon to any extent. The men working with Mr. Heath have also a lifetime experience of the trade. All the Technical Visitors have paid a recent visit to the Stores, and are in a position to give information as to our stock of Rubber, Laces and Boot Polish, Grindery and Leather. A lower grade quality of Leather can be obtained for sale and for use in repairing boots which have to be hob-nailed. Special mention may be made of the "Dawn O' Day" Boot Polish. This is being manufactured by W. A. Biggs, of Leicester, a St. Dunstan's man, who had considerable experience in producing Boot Polish before he was blinded. Those who have not done so, should send an order for his Polish which can be obtained in Black, Brown and Toney; when they have tested it we have no doubt they will buy again.

By his steady application J. Melling is overcoming his difficulties, and we must congratulate him upon his consistent perseverance. C. H. Aldridge has made marked improvement during the holidays, both with his grafts and finishing.

CLOGS

We also hold a complete stock of Clogging Material, and now that trade has improved, we hope that our cloggers will make more use of it. It is still under the control of Mr. P. Goulden, and that statement is sufficient to give men complete confidence.

Of the men under instruction we may refer to the work of E. Turnock who has been having useful experience on Slipper and Clasp Clogs and re-clogging during the month. H. G. Chafer has also made a good advance, both with trimming and tacking on.

BASKET DEPARTMENT

Similar re-arrangements to those made in other departments have come into force here. Mr. G. Newsholme, who has been such a welcome visitor to a number of our Basket-makers for some time, has come to

Headquarters and will be responsible for the selection and issue of Raw Material, the training of men who are still here, and the reception and examination of Baskets which are sent in for sale. All Basket-makers who pay a visit to St. Dunstan's should make a point of getting to know Mr. Newsholme, and those who are unable to come will know that communications addressed to the Stores concerning this craft will be dealt with by him. He suggests that, when men are ordering material, they should state the class of Basket they are going to make if they are at all in doubt as to the size of Rod which should be used. Any other enquiry concerning their work will of course be welcomed.

A. Urry has obtained satisfactory results during the last few months with Square Arm Baskets and a number of Hampers, and is now tackling Linen Baskets with fair success. G. J. Boulwood has also made good use of his time since June, and his progress with Barrels, Waste Papers, and Dog Baskets has been steady.

PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE

The following has been issued during last month:—S. Oxborough (Mats).
W. H. O.

MUCH interest was aroused in the workshops recently by the receipt of an order from H.M. Queen Alexandra who wished a St. Dunstaner to make her a soiled-linen basket. Needless to say the man selected for the task counted it an honour.

MEN who have been occupied in the making of nets may like to hear that several letters have been received of late expressing the satisfaction such nets have given to the purchasers. They have been the outcome of a special advertising and publicity campaign, which has provided a considerable stimulant to this branch of St. Dunstan's activities.

A New Football Competition is announced on page 24.

A Mail Order Department Manager

A ST. DUNSTANER TELLS OF HIS TRAINING
AT THE HOSTEL AND HIS EXPERIENCE IN
THIS FORM OF WORK

THE suggestion in last month's REVIEW that our readers themselves could provide the most interesting "copy" for their brother St. Dunstaners has already borne fruit. We are glad to give space below to a very interesting letter received from S. A. Chambers, of King's Norton, and, with a word on behalf of St. Dunstaners generally, to express all good wishes to our contributor, we follow with his letter in full:—

"The Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW.

"Dear Sir,—It is a very long time since I contributed to the REVIEW, but after reading your appeal in the last issue I feel that I really ought to have another shot. I have often regretted the fact that so few of our men who have taken up secretarial work ever write of their experiences; perhaps they get so much typing that it is too much like work to write of their doings, but I can assure them that other men engaged in the same kind of work would like to have news of them.

"For my own part, I am getting along fairly well in my work as Manager of the Mail Order Department of my firm. It may be of interest to your readers to know that I never did anything of this kind before coming to St. Dunstan's. Previously I was a traveller for the firm by whom I am still employed, so that I had a good knowledge of the business; but selling goods by word of mouth, and by means of the written word, are two very different things. If I may say so, I believe I am a more valuable man now than I was before losing my sight, and I have an idea that it would be more difficult to find a good Mail Order man than a good traveller.

"I commenced to study the requirements of this branch of business while at St. Dunstan's, although it does not, of course, come within your usual curriculum; but I received valuable aid from St. Dunstan friends, who kindly read books to me on the subject. My work consists of drafting circulars and other printed matter, and when replies are received they are read to me by an assistant, and I dictate replies. I usually find that I can grasp all the points in a letter after the first reading, and can generally reply to them all without a second reference. I think I can safely say that the results of my work have been pretty good, and I usually manage to accomplish the quota set for my department.

"I am glad that I decided to take up this side of business, as it seems to be my bent, and I find it interesting. I have a very intelligent girl, quite young, who lends me her eyes when I need them, and between us I believe we get through considerably more work than a sighted man could do by himself. Losing one's sight seems to have a remarkably improving effect on one's memory, and I must say that mine is of the greatest assistance to me, and often astonishes others.

"I will now stop talking about myself, and remark that there still seems to be a great deal of ignorance on the part of the public as to the capabilities of a blind man, or at any rate of a St. Dunstaner. The other evening I went to supper at the house of a leading business man, who, by the way, is also a magistrate, and ought to have known better. He actually said to me, 'Can you lace up your own boots?' All St. Dunstaners, and all who have had anything to do with them, will appreciate the humour of this remark, and will agree with me that it is almost more pathetic than funny. Thank goodness, there are very few things we cannot do for ourselves, and I am sure we all realise that we owe much of our independence, both of action and spirit, to the training and influence of St. Dunstan's.

"Yours sincerely,
"S. A. CHAMBERS."

Clothes and the Man, or Mr. Gillette and St. Dunstan's

By "MERRYTHOUGHT"

THE following whimsical little sketch has reached us from the contributor who veils his identity under the name of "Merrythought." While it assumes to be merely a humorous and sometimes reminiscent article only, we think most of our readers will consider that it embodies at the same time a good deal

of sound common "horse-sense." Clothes certainly do not make the man in any walk of life, but the impress of a man's character, the extent of his own self-respect, is almost invariably associated with his attention to personal appearance and the avoidance of the slovenly in clothes, bearing and manners.

Two strong forces have directed the writing of this splendid article (confidence in one's own work is the surest modern method of self-advancement!). The first was the burning glow of satisfaction I felt when I read the editorial introduction to my last effusion in ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW "Our Visitors," and the second is the certainty that Mr. King Gillette—address U.S.A. (see advt.)—will, when I forward him my well-thumbed copy of this month's REVIEW (containing, I hope, this article), send me per return such a substantial cheque—beg pardon—draft, that I shall never work, "no, not never no more again," as the Cockney once emphasised.

Talking of razors, I remember, I expect we all do, my first attempt at a "gooseberry" chin; but, painful as was that experience, I remember even more vividly my first essay at shaving myself "in the dark."

Of course, St. Dunstaners, as we all know, do not need to take this wild risk; there was always a "knight of the razor" who would perform the necessary; but it seemed to me that what was good enough for the Chief was good enough for me. It is not necessary, in the columns of ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, to tell my readers that our late Chief, Sir Arthur Pearson's first action when he really became blind was to sack his personal valet and do everything for himself.

Well, as I say, I remember that first shave, and I remember, too, the thought that crossed my mind when the lawn was about half mown, and that was: "It's rather waste of time shaving, as I cannot see what other people think of my looks." However, I'd got sense enough even then

to realise that such an attitude of mind (or state of chin, shall we say?) didn't combine at all well with what I'd come to St. Dunstan's for, or with the intentions with which St. Dunstan's had been founded. So I cut it out, along with the rest of my sprouting beard, and I have never let it, or the beard, take a firm grip since.

Let me be honest and admit that Mrs. Merrythought's views (and feelings) on the matter have had some weight, but I have had plenty of proof since those early days that there is more in a clean shave than meets the eye. For instance, I once overheard a lady customer of mine—she was a dear *old* soul—say to a friend of hers (why do most good folks think that loss of hearing must always go with loss of sight?), "I think Mr. Merrythought is very wonderful, don't you? and he always looks so spick and span; his wife must take great pains with him."

Well, Mrs. Merrythought *does* take great pains, but what did me good over this little matter was to be able to take all the credit to myself. I am not quite tired of life yet, and I have no intention of letting Mrs. M. experiment on me with my Gillette! and—to be serious for a moment—I don't suppose there are many St. Dunstaners who would be content to have a "third-party" shave.

Then again, take the other little matters which loom so big with the real knut: the set of his tie, the gloss of his boots, the shine on his linen. I don't mind admitting, in fact I am proud of it, that these still count as much to me as they did in my "knotty" days.

Mark you, I am not saying that the mat-maker must have his nails manicured every night and morning, or the basket-maker discard a pair of trousers immediately they show signs of baggy-kneed-ness—they wouldn't have much time for wage-earning if they did—but it seems to me that it is up to us St. Dunstaners to keep up the Chief's reputation so far as our work allows. He was known, I believe, as one of the smartest dressed and best-groomed of men, and there are plenty of St. Dunstaners, notably our present Chairman, who are always well-groomed without pernicketty valets to help them. While we are being serious—one must be serious when one's being personal about the Chairman!—there's another view that's worth keeping before us, and that is that the new standard of smartness and self-reliance the boys of St. Dunstan's have set up in the world of blind workers is good for St. Dunstan's, is good for us, and—is good for trade.

And, just to show you how smart clothes make money on occasions, Mrs. Merrythought, who is—as is a way she has—reading this over my shoulder, reminds me of our first visit to a London restaurant after we were married. We were going to a public dance afterwards, and so I was in all the glory of new swallowtails. I was mentally swearing at the stiff collar and longing for a quiet pipe somewhere, when a treble voice piped in my ear, "Mummy says I am to give you this," and a perfectly good shilling was pressed into my hand. "Mummy" had apparently gone to powder her nose, and I'd been mistaken for—the waiter. I nearly kept that shilling; I thought I'd earned it.

Serenading St. Dunstan's Famous Belgian Band Plays at Headquarters

GRACEFUL evidence of the gratitude of the Belgian nation for the work that St. Dunstan's Organisation has done for the war-blinded Belgians was provided in a visit paid recently to St. Dunstan's Headquarters in Regent's Park, by the famous Belgian Band, known

as "The True Friends," of Antwerp. The members of the Band, one hundred strong, arrived at St. Dunstan's by char-a-banc, and were received by Captain Ian Fraser, Chairman of St. Dunstan's, who expressed, on behalf of Britain's war-blinded men, their appreciation of the visit. Captain Fraser recalled as an interesting fact that the first war-blinded man brought to this country was a Belgian, who was almost certainly also the first soldier blinded in the war. As were nearly all wounded Belgians in those early days of the war, he was sent to an English hospital, and eventually came to St. Dunstan's, as did seven other Belgians who lost their sight, before the Belgian authorities had been able to make adequate arrangements for the care of their wounded.

To an audience of a number of the men now under training, and members of the staff of St. Dunstan's, the Band, who made a splendid show in their smart blue uniforms and white-plumed hats, played a stirring selection of music, including the Belgian and British National Anthems. M. Sampers, the Chairman of the Band, paid high tribute to Britain's help in the war, and St. Dunstan's help to Belgium's war-blinded. The Band was accompanied by a large deputation of Belgian residents in this country.

Blind Watchman

(From the *Daily Sketch*)

THE curious actions of the night watchman of a roadmen's gang led the observant Mr. S. Roebuck, of Stalybridge, to the discovery that the "watchman" was blind.

So acute was the man's hearing that he could still earn a living in this way. The least sound at night in the tools enclosure brought from him a stern, "Hello, there!" He drew Mr. Roebuck's attention by his method of inspecting his lamps by holding a hand close to the glass.

AT St. Dunstan's Sports, says the *Natal Advertiser*, Durban, blind sprinters beat the sight-seers in several races. Well, we never have fancied sight-seers as competitors.

For the Men of St. Dunstan's, Brighton

WE cull the following from the report in a local paper of an outing much enjoyed by the men at our Brighton Annexe:—

All the golden glory a September afternoon can offer was lavishly given to the men of St. Dunstan's, Brighton, recently, when, thanks to the splendid generosity of Brighton horse-cab drivers, they were taken for a drive in the sunshine to Falmer, where a really sumptuous tea was provided. Many of the men were accompanied by their wives, eleven cabs being employed. The affair was organised by Mr. W. Cager, one of the drivers, and he and his colleagues, as on the many previous occasions, defrayed the whole of the expenses, including the tea and cigarettes, in addition to giving up their vehicles and their time. The other drivers, besides the organiser, were Messrs. J. Ball, T. Bath, G. Gunlon, C. Simpson, A. Simpson, J. Payne, T. Francis, G. Curry, W. Wilton, and W. Bones. The party was accompanied by a little lady of gracious blitheness and possessing the sweetest of voices, Sister Ticknell, much to the pleasure of "the boys."

Arrived at Falmer, each driver took his own little party for a stroll round. Tea was at Mrs. Hobden's tea gardens, and afterwards one of the men proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the drivers for their extreme kindness and generosity. Mr. Cager, in responding, said they had been only too pleased to do what they had. They looked upon it as the paying back of a little of what their guests had done for them.

Barely a week before, Brighton St. Dunstaners had had another outing, one provided, oddly enough, by the drivers of motor vehicles:—

This treat, which consisted of a char-a-banc ride to Tunbridge Wells, and entertainment there and en route, was made possible by the thoughtfulness of the employees of Thomas Tillings, Ltd., and the Southdown Motor Services, Ltd., who repeated their kindness of

last year. In the two chars-a-banc which left Brighton about 10 a.m., were about 50 blinded men. Mr. Cannon, General Manager of the Southdown, and Mr. Phillips, a 74-year-old Southdown Regulator at Worthing, who did good work in collecting for the outing fund; Mr. Allpress, Secretary of Tillings; Mr. M. Richards, who, as last year, was responsible for arranging and carrying out the outing, and Messrs. T. Richards, Tucker and Mortby, of Tillings, with Mr. Wally Cockayne, who provided pianoforte music during the day. The drivers gave up their own time to pilot the vehicles.

Fruit, cigarettes, &c., were provided en route, a halt was made at Crowborough for refreshments, and lunch was provided at the Carlton Hotel, Tunbridge Wells. After the repast, Mr. Cannon alluded to the unselfish spirit shown by the employees of the two Companies for the St. Dunstan's boys. Mr. Donogan warmly thanked those who had made the outing possible, speaking with gratitude of the feeling produced by their kindly remembrances. A walk round the town, a concert party entertainment, tea, a dance and social at the hotel, and the photographing of the company outside were items in a very enjoyable programme. On the return journey, which began at seven o'clock, a stop was made at Uckfield, and home was reached about 10. All declared they had spent a delightful day.

Prof. Mauro Montagno, who is himself blind, is preparing a relief map of South America for the exhibition which is to be held at Rio Janeiro. It will be a large affair, measuring some three yards by four and a foot deep. He is devoting special attention to the rivers of the country through which real water will run. He even hopes to include waterfalls! Tiny lighthouses are to be erected on the coasts, while inland miniature volcanoes are to be active. By means of electricity the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans will be kept in perpetual motion.

The History of our Crafts

We are proposing, under the above heading, to publish a series of articles dealing with the origination and progress of the various crafts which are taught at St. Dunstan's, and in which our men have accomplished such splendid work. Quite apart from the historical interest which will attach to these reviews of the crafts which occupy the working hours of many St. Dunstaners, the information which the articles provide should help in other directions: as, for instance, in any advertising or publicity the men themselves do, and also in the possible provision of ideas for the making of articles for sale.

The first of these articles, which is reproduced below, is most kindly provided by the courtesy of Mr. H. H. Bobart, M.B.E., Clerk to the Basket-Makers' Company. It was originally written for and published by the *Evening News*.

The Remote Antiquity of Basket-Making

By H. H. BOBART, M.B.E., Clerk to the Basket-Makers' Company

BASKET-MAKING is one of the oldest of the primitive arts, for in all countries where suitable products grow from which baskets can be woven there is some evidence of the great antiquity of the craft.

Its origin is lost among the relics of distant ages, but some adequate notion of its venerable antiquity may be gathered from the facts that fragments of baskets have been discovered among the remains of the Mound Builders.

In Arizona—the land of rock-perched towns and ruins of the Stone Age—the pre-historic burying places contain so many baskets that the graves have been called by the natives the “graves of the basket-makers.”

The “sacred basket” is the chief article among the medicine-man's paraphernalia, and at the present time baskets play as important a part in Indian funeral ceremonies as they appear to have done in the past.

Basket-making has been called the mother of pottery, for from the early ceramic art evidence may be gathered of the more remote antiquity of basket-making.

7,000 YEARS OLD

The potter used a basket mould long before the invention of his wheel, for pieces of pottery of the Neolithic Age have been discovered which show that the clay had been moulded round a basket structure, and many of the urns found be-

longing to the same period are ornamented with basket-work patterns.

It has been suggested that the earliest water-vessels were baskets lined with plastic earth from which were copied the rude designs when our ancestors discovered the art of baking vessels made of clay.

There is early historical evidence of the ancient craft. Strabo, writing in the first century concerning the River Nile, says, “The excess of water discharging itself into the plains near the sea forms lakes and marshes and reed-grounds, supplying the reeds with which all kinds of plaited vessels are woven.”

Among the ancient relics recently discovered by the British School of Archæology in Egypt were wicker coffins and baskets in perfect preservation, which have been pronounced by experts to be 7,000 years old.

The ancient Assyrians were also efficient weavers of baskets and other articles of wicker-work.

Their boats used on the River Tigris were large round baskets lined with pitch, and it is interesting to note that boats of similar construction, called “gooffahs,” are used by the Arabs at the present time.

THE BASKET IN RELIGION

In the Assyrian Section of the British Museum, among the Oriental antiquities, is a stone which is described as “a small circular-headed stone containing a bas-relief representing Assurbanipal, King of Assyria, dressed in his royal robes and wearing on his head the distinctive cap, above the point of which he holds with both hands a wicker-basket.”

In Greek history there are many references to baskets in connection with the ancient religious ceremonies of that country. One of these pagan festivals or mysteries of the Athenians, introduced by Eumolpus B.C. 1356, was held at Eleusis every fifth year.

The sacred rites were carefully concealed from the uninitiated, and if any person divulged the secrets he suffered death.

We read that on the fourth day of the festival, after much preparation, the people took part in the “Solemn procession of the Basket.” This procession consisted of a consecrated chariot containing the holy Basket of Ceres, slowly drawn by oxen and followed by a long train of Athenian women carrying mysterious baskets.

One curious use of the article by the Romans is recorded: a basket was carried at the masthead of their trading ships, hence called “Corbitæ.”

According to the earliest records, the inhabitants of Britain were proficient basket-makers, and by their knowledge of the art they were able to supply many of the rude necessities of life. Their houses were made of wattle, their shields were fashioned of wicker-work, their furniture and images were of the same construction, and their coracles or boats were large baskets covered with skins.

GLASTONBURY'S WICKER CHURCH

If there is truth in the tradition that the first Christian Church in Britain was erected at Glastonbury, in Somersetshire—and there seems no reason for doubt—then to the basket-makers belongs the honour of being the first church builders, for the “Ealdercherche” was made of wicker-work, on the spot where the Abbey was afterwards erected.

Southey observes, “The building is described as a rude structure of wicker-work, three score feet in length and twenty-six in breadth.” William of Malmesbury, writing of the foundation of Glastonbury about A.D. 60, described it as a “mean structure of wattle-work;” whilst Samnies states, “The walls of the church were made of twigs winded and twisted together.”

The first monastery of Iona, founded by St. Columba, appears to have been built of the same materials, for we are told that St. Columba “sent forth the monks to gather twigs to build their hospice.”

In London the trade of basket-making was carried on at an early period, but the humble position of the craft among more wealthy callings no doubt accounts for the scanty records of the fraternity in mediæval times.

The basket-makers were included in a list of one hundred and twelve crafts or mysteries recorded in the books of the Brewers' Company in the year 1422 as “of old accustomed and still continuing in this ninth year of Henry V.” In the archives of the City, the earliest reference to the fraternity is found in an Order of Common Council, made October 12th, 1463, restricting the quarters of the Basket-makers to the old Manor of Blanche Appleton, situated at the north-east corner of Mark Lane.

A BURNING ORDER

The above-mentioned order could not have been long in force, for the old vestry books of St. Margaret Pattens and St. Andrew Hubbard revealed the fact that several basket-makers were settled in these parishes before the close of the fifteenth century; beyond this, little is known of their early history.

The Basket-Makers' Company, or Craft Guild, as at present constituted—for it is still in existence—was established by an Order of the Court of Mayor and Aldermen on 22nd September, 1569. Further ordinances for the regulation of the trade were granted in 1585 and 1610.

That the Company had full control of the trade of basket-making is evidenced by an entry in the Company's books on the 25th July, 1677, when it was recorded that a sum of £17 15s. 6d. was paid for a trial about defective baskets and in obtaining an Order of the Court of Aldermen for burning the same. This is followed by the entry of a payment of 16s. for expenses in carrying the baskets to Smithfield, and there burning them.



THE new boys who have joined us this term have proved themselves already to be keen sportsmen, and we are delighted to welcome them to our Sports. It is not always very easy for these new men to keep pace with our "experts," but I feel sure they can feel encouraged with the excellent performances they have already put up. As the following final list of marks gained shows, J. Spink and W. G. Bawden have once more been successful in leading their respective sections. They deserve all credit for this honour, because it has meant hard work throughout the competition, and hard work is not so easy, is it?

The following are the leading points:—

| T.B. | | S.S. | |
|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Spink, J. ... | 455 | Bawden, W. G. ... | 545 |
| Turnock, E. ... | 425 | Moore, T. ... | 410 |
| Barlow, S. ... | 320 | James, A. ... | 405 |
| Johns, C. ... | 310 | Finkle, H. ... | 260 |
| Pawley, F. ... | 250 | Harlow, E. J. ... | 235 |
| Boorman, H. G. ... | 180 | Potts, H. ... | 195 |
| Griffiths, J. ... | 155 | Dean, A. ... | 160 |
| Birch, W. ... | 140 | McMahon, F. ... | 130 |
| Chafer, H. ... | 135 | Burtenshaw, W. ... | 110 |
| Wilshaw, C. ... | 110 | Cookson, J. ... | 95 |
| Purvis, D. ... | 95 | Matthews, G. ... | 85 |
| Herriott, A. ... | 55 | Watmore, T. ... | 80 |
| | | Aldridge, C. ... | 80 |

FOOTBALL COMPETITION

Our old boys will not be surprised at all to learn that we are once more in the midst of another football league competition. It is interesting to notice how quickly the new men, who have not kicked a ball perhaps since being wounded, take to the game. Already eight teams have been formed of various wonderful names such as "Forest of Dean," because Dean and Forester are members; then the "Lucosites," of massage fame, provide us with a new name; whilst the "Saints"—they must keep up the tradition of their name—make our competition respectable. Another new team rejoices in the name of "Oddfellows;" whilst "Oak Villa," "Brighton Stars," "Terrace

Ramblers," and our old friends the "Brightonians" complete the list. We are endeavouring to play six matches a week, so that the first fixture list works out as follows:—

| DATE | MATCHES | RETURN MATCHES |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Tuesday, Sept. 26th | Brightonians v. Lucosites | Oct. 31st |
| Thursday, Sept. 28th | Terrace Ramblers v. Oak Villa | Nov. 2nd |
| Friday, Sept. 29th | Oddfellows v. Forest of Dean | Nov. 3rd |
| Tuesday, Oct. 3rd | Brighton Stars v. Terrace Ramblers | Nov. 7th |
| Thursday, Oct. 5th | Lucosites v. Terrace Ramblers | Nov. 9th |
| Friday, Oct. 6th | The Saints v. Forest of Dean | Nov. 10th |
| Tuesday, Oct. 10th | Brightonians v. Oak Villa | Nov. 14th |
| Thursday, Oct. 12th | Oddfellows v. Lucosites | Nov. 16th |
| Friday, Oct. 13th | Oak Villa v. The Saints | Nov. 17th |
| Tuesday, Oct. 17th | Oddfellows v. Brighton Stars | Nov. 21st |
| Thursday, Oct. 19th | Brightonians v. Forest of Dean | Nov. 23rd |
| Friday, Oct. 20th | Lucosites v. Brighton Stars | Nov. 24th |
| Tuesday, Oct. 24th | Terrace Ramblers v. The Saints | Nov. 28th |
| Thursday, Oct. 26th | Oak Villa v. Forest of Dean | Nov. 30th |
| | Brightonians v. Oddfellows | |

RESULTS OF MATCHES

| DATE | MATCHES | Goals |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Tuesday, Sept. 26th— | | |
| | Oak Villa v. Terrace Ramblers ... | 3—3 |
| | Brightonians v. Lucosites ... | 3—2 |
| Thursday, Sept. 28th— | | |
| | Oddfellows v. Forest of Dean ... | 2—2 |
| | The Saints v. Brighton Stars ... | 3—2 |
| Friday, Sept. 29th— | | |
| | Brightonians v. Terrace Ramblers ... | 8—2 |
| | Oak Villa v. Lucosites ... | 5—5 |
| Tuesday, Oct. 3rd— | | |
| | Brighton Stars v. Forest of Dean ... | 2—0 |
| | The Saints v. Oddfellows ... | 2—1 |

LEAGUE GAMES

We are most grateful to the Arsenal and Chelsea Clubs for continuing to grant us tickets for our party each Saturday of the season. The courtesy and thoughtfulness always shown to us at these grounds by the various officials is warmly appreciated. There is great keenness amongst the men to get a place each week, so that a ballot has regularly to be taken. The excitement caused is almost equal to that of the Golden Ballot!

ROWING

I think that we are all aware that our rowing men usually languish in the winter months after the Regatta is over, because, like some of the heroes of old, they have no one else to conquer! To remedy this we are going to have a small competition on the lake now and again, and on Saturday, October 7th, a number of single scull events for seniors and novices will be decided. Already several of those who usually retire for the winter are out practising, and we feel that this simple idea will be successful.

SWIMMING

We are at the end of our summer season at Marylebone Baths, and so our morning swimming is over. Our parties, however, are permitted to use the smaller bath on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 p.m. Instructor Jones will always be glad to welcome any old boys who would care to have a "splash" at that time.

On Saturday, September 30th, our boys were invited to give a swimming exhibition at the Printing Trades Swimming Carnival, held at the Pitfield Baths, Shore-ditch. We presented a little programme of a one-length breast-stroke race, a life-saving exhibition, and a new type of race in which one competitor swam on the water and his opponent under the water. The large audience gave the boys a splendid reception, and I am told that the racing and exhibitions were exceptionally good. In the life-saving the audience were quite frightened when E. Turnock suddenly let out a piercing shriek and rapidly sank—they thought it was real; evidently Turnock's shrieking powers are very realistic—but they were greatly relieved when W. G. Bawden quickly jumped in to the rescue. It was splendidly managed all through. Then, again, the over-and-under-water event was much enjoyed, and Bawden, who evidently swims on "both sides" of the water with equal facility, won by about two yards.

One-length result:—1 Cookson, J. W.; 2 Nuyens, P.; 3 Watt, R. Won by inches.

We are grateful to the organisers for asking us and for giving us such a splendid evening.

CONCERTS

We are all most grateful to Mr. Alan Adair for his great kindness in arranging for us to attend the splendid concerts he organises at the Wigmore Hall each Sunday afternoon. Not only does he supply the concert, but adds additional excitement to a first-class entertainment with his prize scheme.

On entering the hall, each man receives a numbered programme, and during the afternoon certain numbers are called out from the platform. The man having a corresponding number on his programme gets a prize. One of our number last Sunday was lucky enough to win a "handsome" pair of trousers! I think we all agree that a more useful present could not be thought of, and I am sure that whenever our lucky comrade goes out in his well-cut "bags" he will think of Mr. Adair's kindness and will "pant" for more prizes! I trust that Mr. Adair will realise how grateful we are to him for all his practical thoughtfulness.

WALKING

Towards the end of last term the suggestion was thrown out by the boys themselves that we should arrange a walk to Brighton similar to those held by the big walking clubs. At first, I confess, I did not realise that the idea was likely to be taken up seriously by competitors, but I soon found that there was a great keenness to have a "shot." We are trying, therefore, to make the necessary arrangements for a walk to take place towards the end of this month or the beginning of November. Competitors are limited to T.B. boys, and then only to those who intend to train properly. It is absolutely no use attempting to walk fifty-two miles without getting quite fit, and so we are organising training classes. On Tuesday, October 3rd, we had a test walk of practically nine miles, being three times around the Outer Circle. The course had to be completed within 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours to qualify for Brighton. Fifteen men took part and walked so wonderfully well that everyone

completed the distance within the time limit, and that without being unduly distressed! S. Cassidy put up a fine performance in completing the three circles in 1 hr. 26 mins. The following table of times will be interesting to all who know the Outer Circle course and are keen upon walking. The race commenced at 7.31 p.m.

BRIGHTON WALK TEST

Tuesday, 3rd October, 1922, at 7 p.m.

| No. | Name of Competitor | TIME | | | Total Time |
|-----|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | | 1st round | 2nd round | 3rd round | |
| 1 | Cassidy, P. M. | 7.58 | 8.27½ | 8.57 | 1.26 |
| 2 | Ingram, J. ... | 8.3 | 8.32 | 9.1½ | 1.30½ |
| 2 | Birch, W. ... | 8.1 | 8.32 | 9.1½ | 1.30½ |
| 4 | Sneddon, A. | 8.3 | 8.34 | 9.5 | 1.34 |
| 5 | Warin, F. ... | 8.2 | 8.34½ | 9.7 | 1.36 |
| 6 | Pawley, F. R. | 8.3½ | 8.35 | 9.7½ | 1.36½ |
| 7 | Northgreaves, H. | 8.3 | 8.35½ | 9.7½ | 1.36½ |
| 8 | Tomkinson, H. | 8.3½ | 8.37½ | 9.10½ | 1.39½ |
| 8 | Boorman, H. | 8.4 | 8.38 | 9.10½ | 1.39½ |
| 8 | Meighen, J. P. | 8.4 | 8.38 | 9.10½ | 1.39½ |
| 11 | Jackson, F. ... | 8.4 | 8.37½ | 9.11 | 1.40 |
| 11 | Webster, S. ... | 8.3½ | 8.37½ | 9.11 | 1.40 |
| 13 | Gamble, S. ... | 8.4 | 8.37 | 9.11½ | 1.40½ |
| 14 | Lever, J. S. ... | 8.4 | 8.38½ | 9.13½ | 1.42½ |
| 15 | Durkin, C. ... | 8.5 | 8.41 | 9.15 | 1.44 |

Our best thanks are due to a number of gentlemen from Messrs. Marshall and Snelgrove, kindly invited by E. H. Armstrong, and to three members of the Vesta Rowing Club, who willingly gave us their assistance as guides. It was a strenuous but thoroughly enjoyable evening. *E.W.*

Shoe and Leather Fair at Islington

AS usual parties of St. Dunstaners, past as well as present, have attended the Shoe and Leather Fair at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, some men coming up from the provinces specially to visit it.

This is the 23rd affair of the kind and the largest yet held, over 500 firms having been represented. It was open to the general public as well as to the trade, so was thronged, many railway companies having put on special trains for the occasion. In the crowd the little groups of St. Dunstaners passed unnoticed, accompanied as they were by instructors. There was any amount of interest those engaged in leather work. For the first time since

the war, a full representation of shoe machinery in motion formed part of the exhibition, and a ceaseless stream of people passed in and out of the Gilbey Hall commenting on the latest improvements. Others thronged around a novel plant which attaches soles and heels to boots without either nails or stitches. The maker claims that by the adoption of his system of "leather welding," the sole and upper are combined by means of a patented chemical substance, and that this mode of attachment turns out the shoes, when completed, as one massive whole!

The system can be used by either manufacturers or repairers, and the patentee offers to do a certain amount of repairing free in order to demonstrate the system.

There were, of course, many exhibits of raw materials, of leather and kid of every quality and shade, also of the new crêpe rubber, a flexible elastic substance of the colour of honey which recently came into vogue for the soles of tennis shoes. Another rubber production that was being well advertised was a "thousand mile sole," on which it was asserted that one could walk for nine months without wearing it through.

Avenues of stalls were entirely given over to such things as shoe-laces, polish, toe-caps, shoe-linings, footballs, nails, machine-tools, and footwear of every kind. One exhibitor displayed with pride "the largest boots ever worn by an Englishman," a Dorset man who measured seven feet five-and-a-half inches. The boots were marked "Size 20," they weighed 9½ lbs. and the sole was six inches wide! In sharp contrast to these were novelties in women's wear: feather frills in place of buckles, hand-painted miniatures framed in gold and silver filigree set in the side of long boots, painted and bejewelled heels, and, most startling of all, a pair of boots in plaited coloured leathers, black, russet and gold, in diamond design . . . and in the centre of each black diamond was a jewel!

A more practical novelty was a display of skiver leather, a split sheep-skin which is put on the market as a rival to wall-paper or as a screen covering.

St. Dunstan's Shop

Its Looks, Its Methods, and Its Hopes

By THE SALE'S MANAGER

I MUST confess that when I assumed the responsibility of disposing of the goods made by St. Dunstaners I commenced with no little feeling of apprehension. My experience had hitherto been solely in the hard unyielding commercial sphere in which sentiment plays an almost negligible part. When I came to see the exceptionally fine standard of workmanship exhibited and the "pride of craft" which characterised every article, be it mat, tray or basket, any misgivings which I may have previously had were quickly dispelled. Here were articles which could take their place with the finest "West-end" exhibits. The high level of efficiency attained indisputably establishes the St. Dunstaner's claim that sighted artisans do not possess an exclusive monopoly of distinctive craftsmanship.

It was, therefore, with every hope of success that the beautifully appointed showroom was launched (with a few well-chosen words of congratulation and advice by that very Prince of Commerce, Mr. Gordon Selfridge) upon its career.

I count myself fortunate in that St. Dunstan's Shop came to be situated in Regent Street. This thoroughfare has been acclaimed by judges as the finest shopping street in Europe, and when the remaining buildings have been altered to conform to the Renaissance style there is no doubt that very few streets in the world will be able seriously to challenge its supremacy.

I must express a feeling of keen appreciation for the work of the staff gathered around me. It is a case of several minds with but a single thought—namely, the disposal of the work of St. Dunstaners which is so constantly arriving from every point of the compass.

No effort is spared to attract the attention of the public.

Even when the shop closes in the

evening its functions are not allowed completely to cease. By means of an ingenious electric arrangement, the shop window (always arranged in a manner calculated to attract the attention of passers-by) is flooded with a brilliant light.

This means that theatre-goers and the many people who visit the famous thoroughfare are able to view the articles at a very late hour, apart from which a contribution is made to the attainment of a "brighter London." At midnight the lights are automatically switched off.

The showroom itself is no less attractive than the window displays. Mahogany fittings provide an admirable setting for the pulp, cane and willow basket work, while the walls being a soft neutral tint form a background which enhances the delightful colours of the Cable and Turkey wool rugs which are hung thereon. Many a visitor after making a purchase has declared the Showroom to be one of the most artistically arranged in London.

In order to widen our sphere of operations, various complementary articles have been introduced. The profit secured from these articles contributes towards the expenses of the Shop, and makes it possible for payments considerably above the wholesale figure to be made to our craftsmen. In addition, many of the men's goods have been gilded and decorated by expert craftsmen, with the result that the finished article has been a readily saleable commodity of artistic beauty combined with the added advantage of utility.

For example, a buff soiled-linen basket was recently dyed a beautiful shade of wedgewood blue with the handles and bands gilded. This being displayed in the window quickly attracted an appreciative crowd, and the basket was sold in a very few minutes.

Every possible effort is made to interest the public in our wares, and in conclusion

I would ask that every St. Dunstaner does his best to maintain the exceptionally high standard of craftsmanship that has been attained only by a constant application to the technicalities and finer points of the work in hand. Remember that most people are apt to be almost hypercritical when an article made by a St. Dunstaner is placed in their hands. They have become so accustomed to expecting absolutely perfect work from our boys that such a minor thing as a small projection of cane or willow inside a basket is something to be seized on. I ask, therefore, that a close co-operation between the boys and the selling staff be established. With this in being, I think I can safely predict that the new St. Dunstan's Shop is going to be a thumping success. Here's hoping!

The Barnet Outing

ALTHOUGH official acknowledgement and thanks have been sent to Messrs. Fort and Lee, of Barnet, for their splendidly organised entertainment of St. Dunstaners, the guests themselves enjoyed the outing so much that they ask, through the columns of their house magazine, to be given this opportunity of adding their thanks to those already sent from headquarters.

This year, forty guests were invited, a goodly number indeed, yet, on receipt of the invitation, such was the keenness of the men to go, that many more than forty immediately put in their names in their eagerness to be of the party. Therefore a ballot took place, and the lucky winners made all haste to wash, dress and brush up when on their return from the workshops they found the char-a-bancs, sent by Mr. Lee, awaiting them in Cornwall Terrace. The drive itself was a pleasure, and all arrived at Barnet ready to do justice to the splendid tea, that might well have been a dinner, provided by Mr. Fort and generous Barnet friends. After this came an excellent concert by local artists, every number in which was much appreciated, then a dance whereat were plenty of pretty young partners, and as a *grand finale* to the very enjoyable evening, another enjoyable char-a-banc ride back.

A New Football Competition

JUDGING by the immense popularity of our last two sporting competitions, our readers will give hearty welcome to the news we are able to give this month that a similar competition has been made possible. The same generous sportsman who provided the prizes for our Derby competition has expressed his willingness to put up awards for a competition in connection with professional football. Needless to say, we have already expressed on St. Dunstan's behalf our very warm appreciation and acceptance of the offer, and we set out below the lines upon which it has been decided to run this new competition.

A first prize of £5, a second prize of £1 10s. and a third prize of 10s. are respectively offered to those readers of the REVIEW who most accurately forecast the three leading teams in the First League, the Second League and the Northern and Southern divisions of the Third League, as shewn in the positional tables published in the sporting papers on November 27th, 1922.

The following are the rules which must be strictly observed:—

All entries must reach us on or before the 30th October, 1922, and no entry received after that date will be considered.

Forecasts must be written or typed on one side of a sheet of paper, which must bear in addition only the competitor's name and address.

In the event of more than one competitor giving the correct forecasts, the prizes will be divided at the discretion of the Editor, whose decision must be accepted as binding and final in all questions affecting the competition.

Entries should be addressed as follows:—The Editor, St. Dunstan's Review, Headquarters St. Dunstan's Work, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, N.W.1, and marked at the top left-hand corner "Football Competition."

Lawn Tennis Tales

H. ROPER BARRATT

(The famous International and Master-Strategist of the Lawn Tennis World)

JUST a few stories, which I hope may amuse you. All ready? Play!

As you doubtless know, the standard in the lawn tennis championship at Wimbledon is very, very high. Even in pre-war days, when there was no restriction on anyone entering, it was only the really good players who were expected to compete. Do you get me, Steve? You do? So far then, so good. So much by the way of introduction. We now come to the story proper—as all stories should be.

A well-known player found himself drawn in the Championship singles against someone of whom he had never heard; but with over-seas competitors entering in large numbers this did not surprise him. In fact, he felt he might have a "teaser to tackle," and went on the court prepared to do or die! He did! In the first sett the unknown hardly scored a point. In the second the well-known one, feeling that things were rather dull, gave his opponent a few in the hope of encouraging him and getting some practice, but once again the score was 6-0. The third sett followed the same dreary course, and consequently the unknown was beaten 6-0, 6-0, 6-0.

As is the usual, but reprehensible, custom amongst lawn tennis players, the victor suggested to the vanquished an adjournment to the bar, where, over a modest quencher, a few questions were asked.

"You're out of practice?" suggested the victor.

"I am, rather," replied the vanquished, modestly.

"Where do you play?" was the next query.

"In my back garden with the wife and

children, when I've time," explained the vanquished.

"And you thought it would be good practice to go in for the Championships?" suggested the victor, concealing a smile in the froth of his ginger beer.

"Oh, no! I wasn't keen on practice," the vanquished assured the victor, "but I live at Wimbledon, and, that being so, I thought it only right to give the local tournament a leg up!"

That this was not the only case of a poor player entering for the Championships, the following story will show:—A Wimbledon umpire of my acquaintance had to officiate at a match once when an English competitor was drawn, in the first round, against a foreigner, whose name I cannot recollect perfectly, but for the purposes of this story may be written thus: Czchioszski.

Now among an umpire's duties is that of calling out the score at the end of each game. Thus: "Game to Smith. Smith leads by five games to four in the second sett. First sett to Smith." Now the official of whom I write, though gifted with all the attributes which go to make up a good umpire, was not an adept at pronouncing foreign names, and his face was a picture when he saw CZCHIOSZSKI written on the score-sheet. His eyes started from his head as he tried, under his breath, to pronounce the fearsome name. He tried it with open mouth, he tried it with clenched teeth, the only result being an excellent imitation of a soda-water siphon in action! Beads of perspiration were visible on his forehead. My umpire friend was terribly rattled! A match which I had to play dragged me reluctantly from the spot, but later that afternoon I met the umpire, and asked him how he had pronounced the name of the foreign competitor.



"I didn't have to—once," he replied, with a grin of delight. "The poor chap was either so nervous, or such a 'rabbit,' that he never won a game!"



This is a story of pre-war days. A man of my acquaintance, who seldom plays in tournaments, was asked by a German friend to be his partner in a tournament. He consented, and then learnt that the German played under an English pseudonym. Just for the fun of the thing, the Englishman said that he also would play under a pseudonym, mentioned a fictitious name to his friend, and then completely forgot all about his promise. He was reminded of it the next week by the German calling him up on the telephone and, in excited accents, saying that the referee "would scr-r-r-atch them booth if dey were not ready to blay by four o'clock dat afternoon." Hurriedly the delinquent packed his little grip and hastened to Surbiton, where the tournament was taking place. He arrived at 4.30, and had hardly put his nose inside the gates when he was pounced on by an official.

"I say," he said, "you're not wanted at once, are you?"

"Well, I——" began the competitor, who was a bit of a novice.

"You can't be, if you've only just arrived! Do you know a player called Klein? You don't? Oh, well, it doesn't matter. Just toddle round the ground shouting his name until you find him. He's been wanted for the last hour for a match. I'll take your bag to the dressing-room, as I've got to get back to the pavilion. Thanks awfully!"

The official fled, and dutifully the competitor walked round the ground calling to the heavens for the absent one. It was only when he came across his fuming partner twenty minutes later that he was reminded that he himself was entered under a pseudonym, and that that pseudonym was Klein!

A War Romance

AN item of news which recalls many happy St. Dunstan's unions is reported from Italy. Perhaps none of our men boasted quite such romantic names as Umberto Bianchi and Marco Sala, but the "romance" was there all the same:

"Milan, Monday—The culmination of a remarkable romance of the war was witnessed when the Archbishop of Milan united in marriage two rich sisters with two young men blinded and maimed in the war.

"The bridegrooms were: Umberto Bianchi, blind, and minus both hands, and Marco Sala, blind, and minus his right arm, and they were married respectively to Marie (27) and Rosine Molteno (25), daughters of a rich Milan family, well known for the generous financial support they have given to war charities.

"The romance began in a local hospital, which was among the institutions to benefit from this generosity, and in which the two men have been under treatment since the second year of the war.

"Marie and Rosine served until recently as nurses in the blind wards of the hospital. A strong attachment grew between the couples, and, with the consent of the girls' parents, their marriage was arranged.

"The church was packed to the doors to see the wedding take place, and a large crowd gathered to speed the young couples on the honeymoons they are spending together in the country."



BLIND SCULPTOR'S WORK

Among the exhibits at a display of work by disabled soldiers, war widows, and orphans, now being held at Versailles, is a remarkable statuette by a blind sculptor. It represents a Pierrot in an attitude of appeal to heaven. Few who have visited the exhibition have failed to be deeply moved by the beauty of the work.