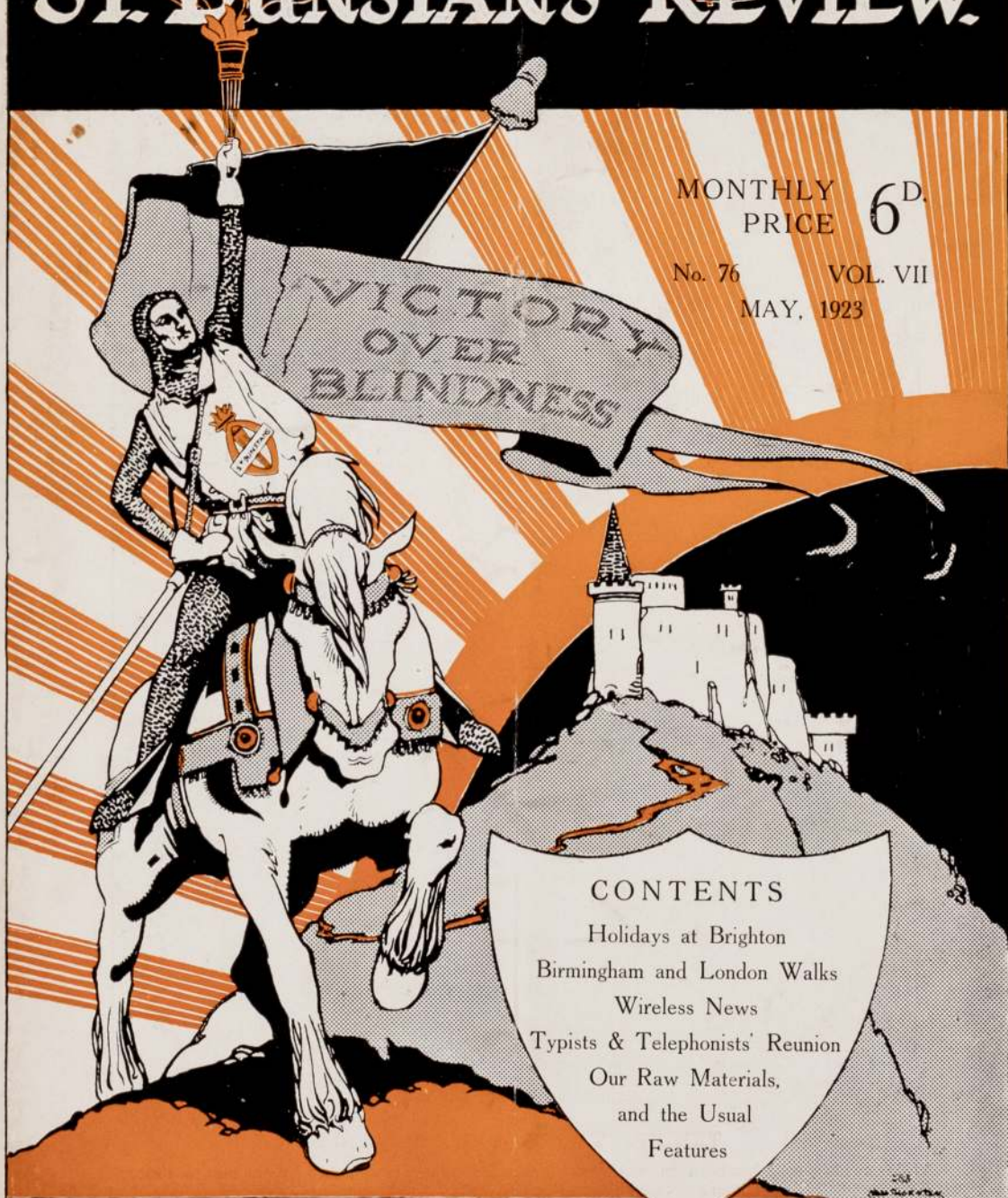


ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

MONTHLY
PRICE 6^D.

No. 76 VOL. VII
MAY, 1923



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FOR THE AMUSEMENT & INTEREST OF MEN BLINDED IN THE WAR



THE SPORTSMEN OF ST. DUNSTANS.

Widespread interest has been aroused by the two walking races undertaken by our men this month. The top picture shows the start of the Birmingham walk; the lower, Capt. Fraser congratulating the winner (W. Birch) of the London walk.

St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY PERRY BARRINGER

No. 76.—VOLUME VII.

MAY, 1923.

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

EDITORIAL

THE South African papers have been giving important space recently to reviews of the report on the After-Care work for St. Dunstan's men in that country. In every case the highest praise is bestowed upon the complete and efficient way in which the interests of each one of the seventeen South African St. Dunstaners who were blinded in the war are now looked after by the After-Care Department. In venturing to offer our congratulations also to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Vincent, to whose public-spirited and tireless labours the success of the work in South Africa is almost entirely due, we may, perhaps, be permitted to note with feelings of pride and pleasure how the ideals and aims which have ever animated St. Dunstan's labours at home, have proved their practical value in the work on behalf of those sons of our great community who have returned to their overseas homes. The South African report gives inspiring evidence, too, that the men whose progress is dealt with are fully upholding the famous motto of St. Dunstans.

Important Notice

HOLIDAYS AT BRIGHTON

IN the early part of March Captain Fraser addressed a letter to all blinded soldiers, in which it was pointed out that for various reasons holidays at our Annexes would only be available for sick and invalid men in future, and that a holiday allowance similar to that paid to some of the men last year, would this year be sent to all. The main reason for this decision was that last year, when a choice was given to St. Dunstaners to have the allowance, or take a holiday at an Annexe, such a very small proportion of our numbers chose the latter benefit that it was shown to be uneconomic to maintain our large establishments.

Captain Fraser further indicated that the Brighton Annexe would be retained for invalid men, and those who, in the opinion of a medical man, required prolonged treatment or a term of convalescence.

Although the number of St. Dunstaners who took advantage of the holiday at one of our Annexes was relatively small, the need of some of them for such a holiday was very great. This need on the part of a few men, whose special circumstances make it difficult for them to make adequate holiday arrangements for themselves, was recognised from the first, but until the Brighton Annexe had been going for a few weeks with its new population of invalid and convalescent men, it would have been impossible to forecast what accommodation might be available there during the summer months without a risk of causing considerable disappointment.

To a small number of those who have made a particular request that the question of making some holiday arrangements for men who had a special need of them should be given further consideration, Captain Fraser replied that the rule that only men who were ordered a holiday by a medical man should go to St. Dunstan's, Brighton, was, like all St. Dunstan's rules, capable of amendment to meet special cases.

We are now happy to announce that it is estimated that ten beds will be vacant at the Brighton Annexe during the months of June, July, August and September, and that these will be made available for the purpose of accommodating, for periods of a fortnight, men who have a special need of such benefit. To be precise, these ten beds will be available for this purpose from 1st June until 29th September, which will provide a fortnight's holiday for eighty men.

It will be seen that, with every desire to meet the need of some of the men of St. Dunstan's, only a limited number of beds is available, and, accordingly, it is hoped that only those who are prevented by special circumstances from making their own holiday arrangements will apply for a holiday at Brighton. Mrs. Bates will be glad if those who would like a holiday between the dates mentioned, would write to her setting forth their reasons for applying. If the number who apply should exceed eighty, it will be necessary for a choice to be made from amongst them of those who appear to need the holiday most. We feel sure that this arrangement to meet the need of a section of our men who have no relations, or who for some other cause are unable to make their own holiday arrangements, will meet with the approval of the men as a whole, and that should the number of applicants exceed eighty, and some have to be refused, they will understand the difficulty of the position, and appreciate that the greatest care will have been taken in the matter of allocating beds to those who most require them. Accordingly, will all those who desire to apply for a fortnight's holiday at Brighton, write to Mrs. Bates about it at once, stating any special reason there may be for the application, and suggesting dates over as long a period as possible so as to facilitate the task of allocation.

Shorthand Typists' and Telephonists' Reunion

HEADQUARTERS was the venue on the 12th April of the second annual gathering of St. Dunstaners holding positions as shorthand typists and telephone operators in London and the suburbs. A large company sat down to an excellent dinner, the arrangements for which reflected much credit on Miss Pain, who undertook the responsibility for this part of the evening's entertainment. The guests exchanged many experiences of the past year's business life with one another and many appointments were made for future meetings between old comrades.

Captain Fraser presided as host, and at the conclusion of dinner made a brief speech of welcome to those present and

also dealt with some points affecting the present and future work of St. Dunstan's.

After proposing "The King," Captain Fraser said that they owed special thanks to all who had made the arrangements for this enjoyable re-union and particularly those who had so attentively waited upon their material needs—as they always did—he meant St. Dunstan's V.A.D.'s. (Hear! hear!)

Continuing, Captain Fraser said: "Immediately after I sit down coffee will be served in Mrs. Fraser's office. I hear a mighty clicking of watches and perhaps that indicates that you think it time for coffee now. (Laughter.) However, I will not keep you long. To-night we will have a chance of meeting friends we have

not already met. At eight o'clock a concert will be given by the concert party of four or five artistes which has appeared in France and this country, going from hotel to hotel and place to place giving concerts on behalf of St. Dunstan's. I think it will be very nice for us to meet and hear them and for them to meet us. Their engagements are heavy, and they are so booked up that it was with considerable difficulty that they gave us a date. This party, by the way, must not be confused with the concert party of blind artistes which is concerned solely with raising money for the N.I.B.

"It is a great pleasure to me to meet you—the men of St. Dunstan's whom I have known now for five or six years, and I hope it is as great a pleasure to you to meet each other and talk over together your enjoyments, your business and even your grievances. (Hear, hear.) Many of you I met in hospital in the very early days. I cannot claim to be the first St. Dunstaner, but I can claim to be one of the first two or three hundred, and there are now two thousand. There are not many men of that number I do not know. I hope we shall endeavour to make these meetings an annual affair. Since 1919 our organisations with other organisations which depended upon the war have found their incomes decreasing. Some, sad to tell, have had to close down, but others have continued." Turning to the question of State aid for such institutions, Captain Fraser said that it was always an arguable point that the State should help such institutions like St. Dunstan's. "I believe in the voluntary system of ours. As far as St. Dunstan's is concerned it has been a success, and I am not going to enter into a subject which is for the politicians. At least, we can claim that we have not had to close down. Since the beginning we have not asked the State for assistance. We have carried on entirely because the people of the British Empire have desired us to carry on and have given us the means to do it." (A voice: "With good management, sir.")

Captain Fraser: "That is very kind of you. Some management is necessary,

and I am glad to hear you say that it is good. But you embarrass me!" (Laughter and cheers.)

Turning to the question of finance, Captain Fraser said: "We have found that our income has dropped during the last year, but not, I am glad to tell you, to a greater extent than each year since 1919. We have to face the fact that, as the war recedes in the background, all organisations connected with it are going to receive less support from the public. I believe, however, and I am sure you do, that the majority of you are more and more able to carry on independently as the years go on. I believe this fact: that the ideals which enabled us to overcome all difficulties in the early days will enable us to carry on now. That the difficulties have not waned but have waxed need not worry us, or the fact that we are not going to do in the future as we have done in the past. We have decided that it is necessary for us to live within our income for the next few years. There are two reasons. Firstly, as you know, there are still a few men coming to St. Dunstan's. There are still seventy of eighty men discharged from the forces with damaged sight who have gone blind since, and these men are still under training. We do not know when this problem of training is going to end. We do not know the extent of the problem yet.

"The second reason is also an unknown element. We do not know to what extent the public is going to forget the war. That they should forget the horrors of the war is a good thing. We all want that. (Hear, hear.) But that they should forget the sufferings of the war is a bad thing. I hope it will not be so. We should find, however, that as trade gets better more money will be about and our prospects will improve.

"Having got the expenditure down as we have done in various directions by closing our annexes, &c., and economies in administration, we are confident that we can carry on the essential part of St. Dunstan's—the After Care Organisation. There is no fear as to the main part of our work being carried on. The economies have only got rid of things that are not

absolutely essential. For example, the closing of our Annexes sounds very sad perhaps, but I may tell you that last year, when everybody had the choice of going to one of the Annexes or having an allowance, about three hundred of the men went to the Annexes and the remainder took the allowance. That is one-fifth or sixth of you, and we feel compelled to shut this Annex. Some will regret it very bitterly, but my only advice to them is in the main that they ought to get married. (Laughter and cheers and "Rub it in, sir!") It is quite clear from all the information at my disposal that the majority who preferred the Annexes were single men. The closing of that is not very sad, for it was only temporary anyway. The need for the hospital arose when the war hospitals closed. We are reduced to 78 men in residence, and there is no justification for keeping it open. The scheme which we propose to arrange will cover the ground very adequately. What we are doing is this. We are retaining our medical staff and voluntary staff. Any man who suffers from some serious matter or needs a delicate eye operation will have to come to London. We shall have sick wards instead of the hospital, so that the service is not going—it is being maintained to suit conditions.

"The Brighton Annex is being retained for convalescent purposes. When you hear what is taking place you see that we are making no alteration in principle—it is the way in which we are carrying our work out. It will save us money. I am always an optimist. We are going strong and that we are wise in these necessary savings, you will agree.

"Let me once more repeat what a pleasure it is to have this gathering and express the hope that you are all enjoying yourselves as I am enjoying myself." (Cheers.)

J. Garratty, rising amidst the applause, said that they had every confidence in Captain Fraser as their leader. "It has always been the best you have done for us, sir. I realise the hard time you have had during the past months, and we hope you will always be leader of St. Dunstan's."

An adjournment for coffee followed, and then the company settled down in the main hall for the fine programme presented by Mr. W. J. Owens, St. Dunstan's Concert Party, every item being heartily applauded. During an interval the guests had the pleasure of hearing the music of their own particular St. Dunstan's Jazz Band, broadcasted from Marconi House, as Captain Fraser had had his wireless set brought into the big hall for this express purpose.

L.C.C. Housing Committee

Special Consideration for St. Dunstaners.

WE have pleasure in printing below an extract from a letter addressed by Captain Fraser to Lieut. Colonel Cecil B. Levita, C.B.E., M.V.O., J.P., L.C.C., Chairman of the Housing Committee of the London County Council, and also an extract from a recent report of the Housing Committee, which shows that Captain Fraser's request has been met. We would point out that there are relatively few houses and tenements owned by the L.C.C., so that the value of this concession must not be exaggerated. However, it may be of use to one or two individuals who happen to require settlement in an area where the Council owns property. It is extremely difficult for a public authority like the L.C.C. to make a concession of this sort to any section of the community, and whether or not it turns out to be useful, we owe sincere thanks to Colonel Levita and the Housing Committee for their recognition of Captain Fraser's request for special consideration for St. Dunstan's.

Letter dated 3rd January, 1923, from Captain Fraser to Colonel Levita.

"DEAR COLONEL LEVITA,—

"Perhaps the worst problem we have had to solve at St. Dunstan's has been the housing of our men after their training has been completed.

"A number of them were at the outbreak of the war young men who were living with their parents, and who, therefore, had no homes of their own. They have, perhaps, been married since joining

up, or since leaving St. Dunstan's, and as a result we have found that many hundreds had no place to go to when the time came for their settlement in the occupations they had learned.

"The difficulties of obtaining houses were so great that many men would have remained unplaced for months, and even years, had we not established an elaborate estate organisation to assist them to find places. We still have to meet this difficulty, for we have 100 men still in training who are leaving us in small, but regular, numbers, and we have also too many names upon the estate department's waiting list.

"Could you, I wonder, make an exception in suitable cases of blinded soldiers recommended by us, and give them some kind of preference in the securing of houses or tenements upon the Council's estates?"

"It is only very occasionally that a blinded soldier would happen to require settlement in a district in which there are Council houses, but if, when such an occasion arose, our estate officer could get in touch with one of your officers, and one could feel that you had given instructions that such cases should be sympathetically considered, it would be a great help to us."

"Extract from report of the Housing Committee (No. 2) on action taken during the three months ended 31st March, 1923, and reported under Standing Order No. 163, to the Council at their meeting on Tuesday, 24th April, 1923.

"MISCELLANEOUS—38—We have given authority for preference in the letting of housing accommodation to be given in suitable cases to blinded soldiers and sailors."

One of the Family

At one of the drives in connection with St. Dunstan's National Whist Championship, held at Yeovil recently, F. Westaway presented the prizes to the lucky winners. In a few happily chosen words he told something of the work of St. Dunstan's for men blinded in the war, and thanked all those present who had supported the drive and the also donors of prizes.

Our Gifts to the Duke and Duchess of York

MONDAY, April 23rd, was the day appointed by H.R.H. the Duke of York to receive the gifts and goodwill messages from St. Dunstaners. It was not because presents, costly and rare, were being bestowed on the Duke and his bride, that St. Dunstaners wished to offer something, but because they genuinely felt they would like to show their esteem for the Prince who has so splendidly won his way into the hearts of his royal father's subjects.

At the appointed time Mr. Ernest Kessell, St. Dunstan's treasurer, accompanied by Miss Witherby, head of the netting department, visited Buckingham Palace, and there Mr. Kessell, in a few fitting remarks, introduced to His Royal Highness Sergeant C. Bolton, of the Rifle Brigade, Corporal Albert Mason, of the London Regiment, and Private J. Roylance, of the Manchesters, who, on behalf of their fellow St. Dunstaners, handed to the Duke for himself and his bride several articles representative of the various branches of work which blinded soldiers are taught at St. Dunstan's.

The Duke graciously accepted them, and Corporal Mason expressed the hope that His Royal Highness and his bride would have a very happy future.

Extract from letter from E. Glew, Garden Vale, Victoria, Australia, received on March 22nd, 1923.

"The boys here are all carrying on in the usual manner, and seem to be busy with their various activities; and, above all, are well. Bob Archer was married on February 3rd, and is at present away in the Northern States on his honeymoon; Jim Thom (Scotty) is to be married on March 31st, Easter Saturday."

A DINNER was given to celebrate the completion of a new church. When the health of the builder was proposed, he rose to his feet, coughed, and said:—

"Gentlemen, I am more fitted for the scaffold than for public speaking."



NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS

Luck or Pluck

T. Till, of Lancaster, is one of the many St. Dunstaners who believe that "luck" is really the "pluck" that induces a man to try a thing over and over again. Although business is not particularly brisk at present he is well satisfied with his experience as a joiner and cabinet-maker; he deserves credit for the excellent finish of his work, which shows the keen interest he takes in all he does.

Good Publicity

Another of our joiners and cabinet-makers, W. H. Farr, of Windsor, has been fortunate enough to get a good "write-up" in a local paper. We hope that this may be the means of bringing him many additional orders.

Paying Poultry

From Yorkshire comes word of the progress of J. F. Fowler, who, in a charming little home, is working hard to develop his small farm. So far he has been particularly fortunate with his poultry.

Pig Breeding

We do not think that we have many pig-breeders on our lists, so have heard with special interest that E. W. Wakelin, of Northampton, intends to go in for this amusement (!) Perhaps later he will let other St. Dunstaners know how he progresses. Meanwhile our readers considering this activity should turn to the article we publish on another page of this issue.

Bad Luck

One who has had a genuine stroke of bad luck is H. Sims, of Chobham Common. His pony died suddenly, and the loss is doubly serious since his trade is seven miles distant. All who realise the difficulties that he must encounter will sympathise with him.

The Other Side

Good news comes from J. Benson, of Yorks. His farm is flourishing, and he counts his birds in hundreds now. He is a lover of animals, and in addition to his poultry has some dogs, goats and a pig. Although Benson has a large garden of fruit and vegetables to attend to, he finds himself with sufficient spare time to make a few baskets, and is looking forward to exhibiting some at a June show in Ripon. We are confidently expecting to hear that he carries off a prize or so.

Basketry

Another who likes basket work is G. Francis, who, living near Leeds, has just had the good fortune to secure the job of repairing baskets at a cloth-mill which will keep him busy, he thinks, for some months.

A Busy Framer

To S. Hough, of Wunnington, the fates have sent a further order for picture-frames, so he too finds himself busy.

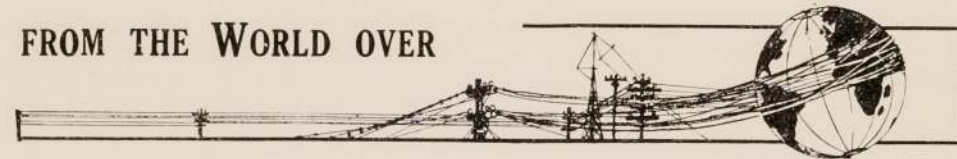
Fine Work

Among our most ambitious carpenters, G. W. Lovett, of Worthing, holds a leading place. He has just finished an entire suite of sitting-room furniture. It is a single-handed effort even to the upholstering, and we hear the chairs are most thoroughly comfortable to sit upon. Can anyone beat this record?

A Coming Maple!

Perhaps R. Furness, of Warrington, would like to try? We believe he has just finished a small occasional table, to say nothing of a butler's tray on a stand. Let him remember, however, there is a wise old saw that advises us to "make haste slowly."

FROM THE WORLD OVER



From Our Poultry Farmers

Among the lucky ones is S. Whillingstow, of Kidderminster, for his wife is quite as interested in hatching and rearing poultry as is he. With her help Whillingstow has contrived to make his place one of our show farms, and we share his pride in it. We also congratulate him on the ingenuity of some of his labour-saving devices.

Another who has been particularly busy with spring hatchings is A. Griffin, of Hereford, and we hear that he has invented a new method of feeding young chicks which is producing very satisfactory results. Perhaps he will let us have details for the benefit of his fellow poultry-men.

All with kindred experiences will, we are sure, join with us in wishing success to H. Benning, of Warwick, for, after two disappointing seasons, he is hatching again. He is also pluckily at work, single-handed, on what promises to be an excellent rearing shed, and if he succeeds as well as he hopes is looking forward to building a larger house.

J. Boon, of Bristol, tells us that he is rejoicing in the latest addition to his poultry-yard, a particularly fine cockerel, from which he is expecting great things. He says that he locks the poultry-house most religiously every night, since this bird is the envy of his neighbours!

The selling of day-old chicks is keeping W. Last, of Carmarthen, busy, and he finds customers for them as fast as his incubators hatch. In the intervals he occupies himself with his garden.

Another with the instinct of a gardener is W. C. Shaw, of Nottingham, and he is contriving to make his little backyard very gay. In addition, he has built up some poultry-houses at the far end and is now getting a fine supply of eggs from his fourteen pullets.

A Rose Grower

W. Robinson, of Welby, Lincs., who secured two prizes at a London Rose Show last year, is one of our shining lights in the garden world, and we hope with him that he will have excellent success with this year's exhibits.

Tandems!

Two St. Dunstaners at least, J. Ham, of Cardiff, and H. G. Rogers, of Biggleswade, are lucky enough to have brothers and tandem bicycles. This enables them to get about the country with splendid ease, so both are rejoicing in the spring weather. Ham particularly is scouring the district visiting those St. Dunstaners who are accessible.

Brisk Business

According to C. Hall, who has found a home near Nuneaton, business is brisk in his tobacco and general store. He (and we) are proud of the fact that he is holding his own well against a new arrival, who is in frank competition with him.

A Radio Recruit

Not quite so fortunate, for the moment, is H. N. Matthews, of Wolverhampton, who has found trade somewhat slack of late. He is casting about in his mind for new methods to attract, and we look to hear very shortly that things have improved. We hear also that he is considering radio as a pastime, and knowing the pleasure it has given to others, we hope he will soon find himself the possessor of a receiving set.

From Little Wales

From Glamorganshire we learn that D. J. Willing is finding trade satisfactory, and is filling in his spare moments and finding exercise in making a path to his bungalow. His father is near enough to

lend a hand occasionally, which makes the task easier and the more pleasant to perform.

News!

W. T. West, of Minster, is yet another with the good fortune to have several St. Dunstaners settled within reach, among these being Goodwin, Bayley, Marshall and Millen. About the latter we hope to have an interesting announcement to make shortly, since we notice that he took a charming fiancée to visit West, who, although he experienced a quiet time before Easter, now sees plenty of work in sight.

Walking for Health

Another who is enjoying country life is C. McCairn, of Leighton Buzzard, who, with his wife and children, often does his six or seven miles a day for the sheer joy of it. All are profiting by the sunshine and exercise.

Boots and Clogs

Little information has come of late from those busy on boots and clogs, so it is the more pleasant to hear news of C. E. Porter, of Leyland, whose business is quite one of the best in the little town. Porter is yet another of the many blest with an energetic wife, who finds time to lend a hand when orders come in with a rush.

Mats

As to mat-makers, T. Hathway, of Gloucester, should have special congratulations, for, we learn, he has had two or three orders in of late on which a considerable amount of time and thought had to be spent. In the end they were carried through to the satisfaction of the customers as well as Hathway himself.

Netting

The netters' reports, too, are good, repeat orders for St. Dunstaners' work having been received not only from the Earl of Essex, but from a Bournemouth lady, who wanted tennis nets, "exactly like those she had secured from St. Dunstan's three years ago."

In addition, the L.C.C. school authorities inform us that the school babies delight in our little cot nets that are slung up for them to sleep in between the legs of their tables!

Flourishing Poultry

The following is an extract from a letter received from W. Last, of Llanllwni:—
"Up to the time of writing I have hatched 357 chicks, out of this number 257 have been sold throughout the county, leaving me with just a hundred for myself. I have had my incubators running ever since the 15th of January, and they have not been empty for one day. I am glad to say that my birds are laying splendidly, also I have nearly done up all my garden, and the seedlings are now showing through the ground.

"I am also pleased to say that I have been very lucky with my chicks this season, having only lost four through death, which I think very good."

St. Dunstaner Gold Medallist

We have been sent a particularly interesting letter from E. Slaughter, who is now a fully-fledged singing-master entitled to write after his name the magic words "Gold Medallist, C.T., I.L.A.M." We send him hearty congratulations, in which we are sure all will join. Hard work ought to win success and in this case it has done so. It is also good to know that Miss Dorothy Mason, Slaughter's fiancée, has done almost equally well, having also passed her final exams., with Slaughter. In detail, these consist of Musicianship, 1st grade: Paper on Early History and Evolution of Vocal Music. Practical examination on Class Formation and Training. Second Group: Musicianship, 2nd grade (advanced), oral examination on Psychology, and a paper on Phonology. Third Group: Musicianship, 3rd Grade. Harmony, &c., History of Music and Voice Production, Vocal Anatomy and Physiology.

Certainly no light matter to pass all these. We look forward with interest to hear of yet further successes.

A Great Sporting Event

BIRMINGHAM ST. DUNSTANERS IN WALKING RACE.

ONE of the best organised, and in every way one of the most successful of the many sporting events in which the men of St. Dunstan's have engaged, took place on April 18th, when sixteen of our after-care men, living in Birmingham and district, walked over a 25-mile course from Clopton, Stratford-on-Avon, to Birmingham.

The competitors were all members of the Birmingham St. Dunstan's Sports Club, the honorary secretary of which is Miss Avis Hodgson, who originated the walk, and whose untiring and enthusiastic work was mainly responsible for its success. The Birmingham Walking Club, the Birchfield Harriers, and members of the Birmingham Centre N.C.U., most kindly undertook the organisation of the contest, and helpers came also from V.A.D.'s (who served at St. Dunstan's during the war), Boy Scouts from Leamington, and local cyclists.

The competitors had a splendid send-off from Clopton House by Canon Hodgson and Miss Hodgson, each man being accompanied by a guide. Six completed the course, which was *via* Bearley, Wootton Waven, Henley-in-Arden, Hockley Heath, Solihull, Olton, Acock's Green, into the City. It then went by way of Moor Street, Carr's Lane, Bull Street, and Snow Hill, to the Farcroft Hotel, Rookery Road, Handsworth.

Walking at a good pace, and in excellent style, the leaders reached Henley-in-Arden (7½ miles) in a little under an hour and a half. The first man to pass through the town was W. Trott, closely followed by G. Lilley, A. Taylor, and W. Castle. A somewhat wide gap was between the fourth and fifth men. Trott maintained his lead, but Lilley showed signs of fatigue in the next five miles, and Taylor was unlucky enough to take a wrong turning. Castle was walking well and strongly, and gained on the leader. At

Sparkhill he was only a few yards behind, but he kept second place to the end.

The final result was:—

	Hours	Mins.	Secs.
1. W. Trott	5	35	15
2. W. Castle	5	38	25
3. H. Cook	5	50	38
4. H. Lea	5	51	14
5. S. Webster	6	11	3
6. G. Lilley	6	12	30

At the Farcroft Hotel baths and a meal were enjoyed, and during a delightful entertainment, provided by the generosity of Mr. Murphy, Captain Fraser, who, with Mrs. Fraser, had made the journey to Birmingham specially, presented the prizes (given by kindly supporters) to the winners.

In the course of a short address Captain Fraser, after congratulating the winners on their splendid walking and every competitor on the gallant effort put forth, pointed out the reason why St. Dunstan's placed such a high value upon athletics in connection with their work. Quite apart from the benefit to bodily health of vigorous outdoor exercise, it was an unfailing tonic to the brain and the mental outlook generally. The men of St. Dunstan's had all been sportsmen and athletes before they had lost their sight, and one of the greatest factors in making for the cheery and optimistic outlook on life which distinguished them now, was the knowledge that there were still plenty of sports in which they could take an interesting and worth-while part. The Birmingham St. Dunstan's Sports Club, which owed so much to the unselfish labours of Miss Hodgson, was an organisation which he hoped to see imitated in every other centre where St. Dunstaners could get together. Steps were already being taken to this end, and headquarters would be very grateful for voluntary helpers in the formation of such clubs in other districts. Captain Fraser concluded by offering on behalf of the men

of St. Dunstan's sincere thanks to all those ladies and gentlemen who had given such splendid assistance towards making the event a success. Where all had

helped so generously it was difficult to individualise, but he knew the men would like him to give a special word of thanks to Mr. Alexander and to Mr. Murphy.

Outer Circle Walk

OUR walk was in every way most successful. The afternoon of Saturday, May 5th, was beautifully fine, but terribly hot, and it was a fine performance to complete the three laps of the Circle—a distance of nearly nine miles—in such good time when it is considered that we commenced the long trail when the temperature was 118 in the sun. They tell us that it was 77 in the shade, but as we were unable to discover any shade during the walk the 77 does not appeal to us. The large majority of the sixteen starters were after-care men, only T. Ashe, from the Lodge, and W. Lowings and H. G. Boorman, of Cornwall Terrace, being "Present" boys. It is also worthy of notice that ten of the competitors had competed in that memorable Brighton walk last year. There was a large number of spectators to witness the start at 3.45 p.m. Captain Fraser got the men away splendidly and the pace at the outset was terrific. Gradually the men lined out, and it was seen that W. Birch was well to the front; indeed, he kept his place throughout. At the conclusion of the first round, Birch, F. M. Cassidy, H. Northgreaves and H. Gransby were leading in this order, whilst in the second round it was seen that the order was the same, but that F. Cassidy, W. Birch, H. Northgreaves, H. Gransby, J. Ingram and H. G. Boorman had completed the quickest round. In the third round the pace began to slacken in almost every case, but the leaders kept their places well. Cassidy had a bad time with a "stitch" during this round, but kept on pluckily, whilst Boorman, who had spoilt his chance by a long first round, kept up his speed splendidly. All finished well and not too distressed, S. R. Gamble being the only one to drop out at the end

of the second round. He had done very well, and it was unfortunate that indisposition kept him from finishing. It is interesting to note in reviewing the times how that between 2nd and 8th there was barely three minutes, whilst between 9th and 13th barely five minutes elapsed. Considering that a large number had been unable to do any real training—indeed, to several it was their first journey round the Circle—the walking was remarkably fine, and it was only lack of condition that prevented even better times being put up. As the Brighton Walk is down for Saturday, September 1st, it is up to all those men who purpose entering (the race is only open to T.B.) to get in all the training possible. I feel sure that some of the gentlemen who so willingly gave their time to help us on Saturday would only be too pleased to assist any man who is keen. There was a large crowd of enthusiastic supporters at Cornwall Terrace to cheer the men in when they arrived, and, in spite of the great heat, I think every competitor thoroughly enjoyed the experience. So far I have not heard of any casualties.

The next important item on the programme was tea, which Matron, with her usual thoughtfulness, kindly arranged. I am personally grateful to her and the sisters for all the splendid help they gave us in supplying the very urgent needs of the inner man!

During the tea interval Captain Fraser most kindly came in and presented the medals given by Mr. Mollinari to the first six, and also a repeater watch to W. Birch. It was a happy thought also to present a silver watch to Mr. Travell, Birch's escort; he has been most kind in helping St. Dunstan's in any way possible,

and I know he will prize his little souvenir. Captain Fraser then in a delightful speech, congratulated the walkers and thanked all who had assisted in making the event so successful. Mr. Joe Binks was warmly thanked for all he has done for our sportsmen, whilst our gratitude was ably expressed to the members of the Surrey Walking Club, the Belgrave and Queen's Park Harriers, the Vesta R.C. and the many others who so sportingly acted as escorts. It was exceedingly kind of Mr. Mollinari to give us the medals, and of Mr. Ogilvie to come up specially to act as timekeeper.

Mr. Donoghue, the secretary of the Queen's Park Harriers, who not only came himself but brought five of his colleagues,

is arranging a team race in the near future between the Q.P.H. and St. Dunstan's. This is going to be an exciting event, for we are most anxious to have a shot at a really good "sighted" team. Mr. Binks has also fixed September for the Brighton walk, and is hopeful that the Surrey Walking Club will once again give us their support. We are most grateful to Mr. E. C. Horton and Mr. Watts, two of our British walking champions, for coming up and helping us, whilst Messrs. Franckeiss, Brown and Hardwick, of the Vesta R.C., are continually placing their excellent services at our disposal. I am giving the times of each round, knowing how useful they will be for future reference.

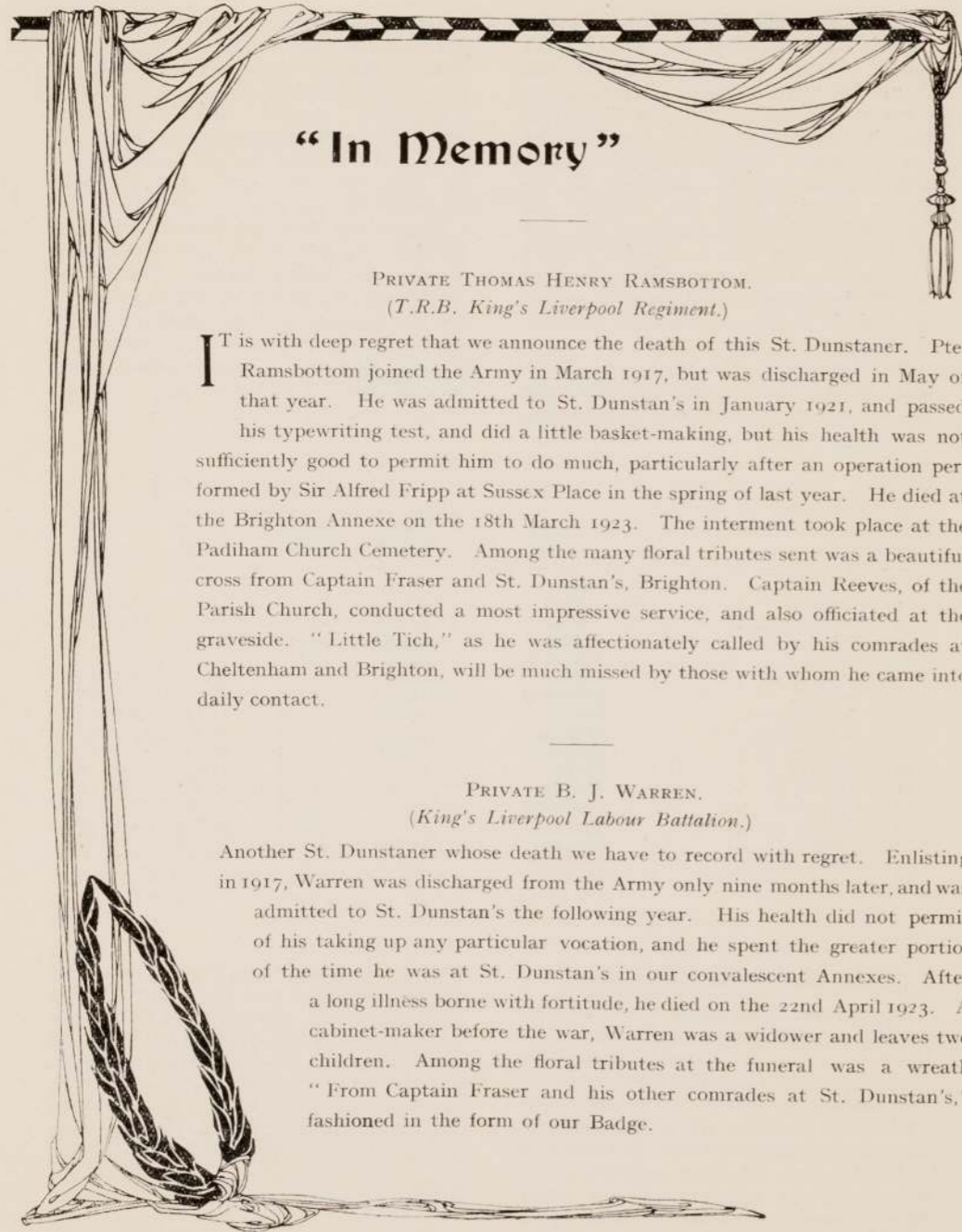
Order of Finish ing	Name	Escort	Time			Total
			First Round	Second Round	Third Round	
1	Birch, W.	Mr. Travell	26.44 $\frac{1}{2}$	29.37 $\frac{3}{4}$	30.13 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.26.35 $\frac{1}{2}$
2	Gransby H.	Burnett	30.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	29.41 $\frac{1}{2}$	30.46 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.30.49 $\frac{1}{2}$
3	Cassidy, F. M.	Bolland	29.34	29.21 $\frac{1}{2}$	33.14 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.32.9 $\frac{1}{2}$
4	Northgreaves, H.	Franckeiss	29.53 $\frac{1}{2}$	29.39	32.37 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.32.9 $\frac{1}{2}$
5	Ingram, J.	Unsted	31.6 $\frac{1}{2}$	29.48	31.51 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.32.45 $\frac{1}{2}$
6	Ashe, T.	Hardwick	31.30 $\frac{1}{2}$	30.6 $\frac{1}{2}$	31.59 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.33.35 $\frac{1}{2}$
7	Tomkinson, H.	Brown	30.41 $\frac{1}{2}$	30.19 $\frac{1}{2}$	32.47 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.33.48 $\frac{1}{2}$
8	Boorman, H. G. S.	Minchin	33.32	29.49 $\frac{1}{2}$	30.30 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.33.52 $\frac{1}{2}$
9	Lowings, W. J.	Kempton	32.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	31.45 $\frac{1}{2}$	34.54 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.38.48 $\frac{1}{2}$
10	Webster, S.	Watts	33.5	32.6 $\frac{1}{2}$	34.13	1.39.24 $\frac{1}{2}$
11	Rhodes, F.	Horton	33.39	34.42 $\frac{1}{2}$	33.52 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.42.13 $\frac{1}{2}$
12	Durkin, C.	Harwood	35.0	33.14 $\frac{1}{2}$	33.59 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.42.13 $\frac{1}{2}$
13	Moellar, G.	Baker	33.29	33.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	36.42 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.43.33 $\frac{1}{2}$
14	Deegan, J.	Sumpter	33.59 $\frac{1}{2}$	32.7 $\frac{1}{2}$	38.29 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.44.36 $\frac{1}{2}$
15	Green, H.	Stubbles	32.48 $\frac{1}{2}$	35.4 $\frac{1}{2}$	36.31	1.45.1 $\frac{1}{2}$
16	Gamble, S.	Foster	31.53 $\frac{1}{2}$	33.44	—	—

An Interesting Experience

An interesting experience has befallen J. Sheehy, of Brighton, as the result of a letter he wrote to Colonel Garton, Hon. Secretary of the Grenadier Old Comrades' Association, in which he (Sheehy) described the success in life of these guardsmen who had passed through St. Dunstan's and said that all were upholding the honour of the regiment. As a result Sheehy found himself invited to attend a reunion at Chelsea Barracks, when the

Prince of Wales was present, and Sir Henry Streatfield took the chair. To his amazement the letter he had written to Colonel Garton was read aloud from the chair and was received with much applause. Afterwards Sheehy was congratulated on his letter by both Sir Henry Streatfield and Colonel Derby Griffiths, who said how pleased they were to hear of the care and attention their men had received at St. Dunstan's.

We share Sheehy's pride in his success.



"In Memory"

PRIVATE THOMAS HENRY RAMSBOTTOM.
(*T.R.B. King's Liverpool Regiment.*)

IT is with deep regret that we announce the death of this St. Dunstaner. Pte. Ramsbottom joined the Army in March 1917, but was discharged in May of that year. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in January 1921, and passed his typewriting test, and did a little basket-making, but his health was not sufficiently good to permit him to do much, particularly after an operation performed by Sir Alfred Fripp at Sussex Place in the spring of last year. He died at the Brighton Annexe on the 18th March 1923. The interment took place at the Padiham Church Cemetery. Among the many floral tributes sent was a beautiful cross from Captain Fraser and St. Dunstan's, Brighton. Captain Reeves, of the Parish Church, conducted a most impressive service, and also officiated at the graveside. "Little Tich," as he was affectionately called by his comrades at Cheltenham and Brighton, will be much missed by those with whom he came into daily contact.

PRIVATE B. J. WARREN.
(*King's Liverpool Labour Battalion.*)

Another St. Dunstaner whose death we have to record with regret. Enlisting in 1917, Warren was discharged from the Army only nine months later, and was admitted to St. Dunstan's the following year. His health did not permit of his taking up any particular vocation, and he spent the greater portion of the time he was at St. Dunstan's in our convalescent Annexes. After a long illness borne with fortitude, he died on the 22nd April 1923. A cabinet-maker before the war, Warren was a widower and leaves two children. Among the floral tributes at the funeral was a wreath "From Captain Fraser and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's," fashioned in the form of our Badge.

Our Raw Materials

This article forms the third of a series which we shall publish dealing with the sources of supply, methods of preparation, and the varieties of the raw materials used in the industries followed by St. Dunstaners.

Leather

LEATHER sounds rather a solid subject. It is a useful thing, of course, one we could hardly do without, but, withal, decidedly prosaic. So says the man who does not know! Let us dip into history and see what it has to tell.

The curing of leather was an art practised in pre-historic times. In China it dates back to the remotest ages. In a Berlin museum there is a 4,000 year old granite carving which shows leather dressers at work on a tiger skin. When Tutankhamen's tomb yielded up its mysteries leather straps were amongst the treasure-trove. The Egyptians dressed skins by vegetable tannage; Moses understood leather production, so did the Russians, the Tutons and the Huns, while when our explorers discovered America and Australia they found the art well advanced among the Red Indians and the Aborigines. Once leather was used as a material for writing upon, as to-day we might use parchment. The Libyians wore leather clothing, and, owing to timber shortage, the Greeks made great use of it in the construction of their ships; they wove willow skeletons, then covered these with leather. Even to-day certain Arab tribes own leather "carpets." In the eleventh century Spain was famous for her Cordova leather; five hundred years later the leather industry took industrial form with us. Oddly enough, we use the same principles as did the Tartars and Indians; they knead the skin with grease, but use in the process milk, butter, and the yolks of eggs! To-day the most universal method is vegetable tanning.

An extraordinary variety of skins are now used in addition to those of the ox, heifer, goat, and sheep. Porpoise hide is excellent for shooting and fishing boots,

so is the skin of the yellow-hair seal from the Baltic and Northern seas, an animal, by the way, which is distinct from the fur seal, sometimes we come across the hide of a walrus or hippopotamus, even the zebra has his uses from the leather point of view, as does the horse, the ass, alligator, lizard, crocodile, antelope, the kangaroo and wallaby, which last yield exceedingly good skins. Unfortunately, they can only be obtained in limited quantities. So far the air seems the only sphere that has not provided us with some form of tannable skin.

The materials used in tanning come from as widely scattered countries as do the animals from which we take the hides. Australia offers us her mimosa bark, India the acacias, Turkey and Greece provide us with a peculiar kind of acorn-cup, and from various other parts of the world comes the gall, that abnormal growth often found on our English oaks, which is caused by the gall-wasp laying her eggs in the plant. All these materials, with many others, are crushed together in a kind of coffee-mill which simply literally chews them up and so extracts the tannin.

The object of tanning is to render animal skin imputrescible and pliable. Tanned leather is that which has been treated with tannin or tannic acids. Tawed leather signifies that the skin has been treated with tannic acid. Chamois is obtained by working the skin with oils and fats. Shagrin, which is a leather mainly prepared in Persia and Constantinople, was a secret process for a very long time. The original method of obtaining the globular granules on the grain side was by stamping hard seeds into the hide; these were afterwards knocked out, and then the skin was well soaked.

Most of the leather used in heavy work is obtained from oxen and heifers, cows

and bulls. The skins of the ox and heifer are tough, tight and solid. Cow-hides are thin, and are useful for bag and portmanteau work. Bull-hides, which are fibrous, are largely used for cheap belting. Large supplies come to us from home and colonial sources, also from India and China.

Of the home supply the Scotch Short-horn offers the best procurable hide, owing to the vagaries of the Scottish climate. The Hereford provides the best English, and after these come the Lowlands, Suffolk, Kent and Surrey Hides. Christmas-fed hides are quite unsuitable for first-class work, being invariably thin in places and surcharged with fat. Of the continental supply the hides that come to us from the hilly districts are the better, those from the Alps, where the animals have been subjected to a wide range of temperature, fetching the highest prices. Many of these hides have waste parts on the necks where the yokes have rubbed them. New Zealand and Australian hides differ very little from good English skins, while of those from South America Liebig's stock is far and away the best.

Sheep-skin pelts are in inverse value to the wool. If they have been bred primarily for wool the hide is inferior. The Indian and Persian sheep skins have strong goat characteristics; the herds are allowed to run together.

The skins of still-born lambs and those under a month old are more valuable than those taken from older animals, and are used for the best kid gloves. Later, when the lambs have been grass fed, their pelts become harsher.

The most valuable goat skin comes to us from the Saxon and Bavarian highlands, where the goats have been exposed to all weathers. Horse-hide is dressed for light split and upper work, as horses are almost invariably stall-fed the leather is of a spreading variety.

The hides may be received at the tan yards either direct from the slaughter-houses or sorted and dried, and the first thing is to bring them all to some sort of

uniformity, by cleaning and soaking, before they are started through the usual processes, such as unhairing, deliming (a treatment with acids), tanning proper, dyeing, glazing and polishing.

Sole leather has to be left in lime from eight to ten days before delipation, which means the removal of hair and scarf-skin, and softer leathers even longer, after comes the liming, scraping by machinery, the "rounding" or dividing of the hide into different parts, "scudding," working the unhaired hide over a beam with an unhairing knife, squeezing out the dirt, etc. Then comes acid treatment, and then next the tanning pits, a series of eight of them of varying strengths. In these the hides are hung, suspended on poles, and soused several times daily before they are passed on to be washed in yet other pits. Then, after being allowed to drip themselves more or less dry, the different hides are "finished" according to the use to which they are to be put, which means yet more dipping, scouring, bleaching, siling, rolling and burnishing.

Next time a St. Dunstaner receives a batch of leather from Headquarters perhaps he will see in it a little more than so many soles!
E. T. C.

Points on Poultry

Others of our poultry-farmers may gain some hints from the following extracts from a letter received from F. J. Harris, Billericay.

"I certainly seem to have had a turn in the tide of fortune this spring. My stock is of superfine quality and laying well, and I have sold several sittings.

I have asked anything up to 5s. per sitting, and by keeping a low price I have sold many more than I would otherwise have done. I hardly sold any sittings last year when I asked a higher price.

I am feeding entirely on dry mash methods, and mix all my own meals and chikko, and the birds thrive on these foods better than they ever did before."



NEWS FROM THE WORKSHOPS AND STORES

BASKET SHOP.

AMONG the new men, E. Roberts has made very satisfactory progress with barrel baskets and waste papers, so that he has been able to turn to square work. H. A. Mann has, hitherto, been working on barrels and waste papers. W. T. Harris has completed his netting course, and has since advanced to larger round work, improving steadily with dog beds. E. C. Wheeler has made dog beds which were a credit to him. He has since had very useful experience with a number of soiled linen baskets, making a marked advance in this and other work. The keen interest shown by G. Matthews is very pleasing, and his sturdy, independent spirit will result in giving him a sound knowledge of his craft. A decided improvement has been shown in the oval bakers' baskets made by R. White since our last report; he is also gaining experience with large square and round work. H. Smy continues to do good and varied work, which has included workbaskets, oval trays, teapot stands, clothes baskets and baby-linen baskets. W. Lowings also continues to do well with a variety of centre cane work, though he seems to have a special fancy for barrel baskets.

BOOTS AND MATS.

As practically all our bootmakers learn mat-making, it is quite appropriate that we should refer to these trades conjointly. A. Chiverton started these two trades at the same time, and has obtained consistently good reports in each. The same comment is very true of the work of W. A. H. Farmery: a bunch of his mats made in the middle of April being remarkably even throughout. Further experience in the Boot Shop until July will enable him to complete a very satisfactory course. H. A. Baker made his test mats in good style, and since then has made one even better. He also continues to make steady progress with his work in boots;

marking and riveting well and getting a good, square edge. The shape of his heels has troubled him a good deal, but he has improved somewhat with this.

C. Brammer has returned to the Boot Shop after an illness, and we are pleased to notice that he has retained his knowledge and the ability gained previously. The work he has done hitherto promises well for the future. F. Physick returned to the shops for a short refresher course, before taking up a business in London. We anticipate that he will do thoroughly well, and we wish to convey to him our congratulations and best wishes.

R. Paterson has also been set back a little recently by absence, but will soon, we hope, get into his old style. In finishing he has latterly been particularly successful.

JOINERY SHOP.

Oscar Daumont has surprised us by his wonderful adaptability to joinery and picture-framing; his work is of the highest quality, and he is quick. S. Holmes is taking some experience in the picture-framing, which will certainly be useful to him in addition to joinery. F. W. Tarry has succeeded with a large sized meat-safe, and his work is certainly improving. J. Spink has completed a very well-made oak bedstead; it is a credit to him, and is worthy of commendation. W. H. O.

Guild of Blind Gardeners

The Guild of Blind Gardeners is again holding its annual exhibition at the Rose Society's Show held at the Botanic Gardens on 28th June. It is hoped that all members who can will send in exhibits.

Will any St. Dunstaners who are not members of the Guild, and who would like to join and have a schedule of the Show, apply to Miss B. Brown, Braille Room, St. Dunstan's Headquarters, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, N.W.



CHAPEL NOTES

IN spite of our greatly-reduced numbers, our little services are wonderfully well attended. I feel sure that the short time spent in this small House of God is intensely helpful, not only to those who attend, but also to the many hundreds of St. Dunstaners who know that they are regularly remembered in our Intercessions.

We are grateful, indeed, to Miss Parkinson for all the devoted work she has given as organist since Miss Warren left, but we sympathise with her in the terrible loss she has just sustained in the death of her fiancé, an officer of the R.A.F., who was killed the other day in an air smash.

Miss Stewart has most kindly undertaken to carry on the duties of organist and we are very fortunate to find such a capable successor to Miss Parkinson.

E.W.

Births

On January 22nd, to the wife of E. E. GREENWOOD, of Enfield, a daughter.

On February 27th, to the wife of G. ANDERSON, of London, N.W., a daughter.

On February 27th, to the wife of G. HEELEY, of Wakefield, a daughter.

On March 15th, to the wife of E. BATES, of Battersea, a son.

On March 24th, to the wife of W. G. HERITAGE, of Banbury, a daughter.

On March 27th, to the wife of F. J. MEARS, a son. (First born child.)

On March 28th, to the wife of W. LILLEY, of Leigh, Lancs., a son. (Arthur.)

On April 3rd, to the wife of B. JARVILL, of Thorne, a son.

On April 5th, to the wife of S. BAGSTAFF, of Cambridge, a daughter.

On April 9th, to the wife of W. CLAMPETT, of Hants, a daughter.

On April 9th, to the wife of J. BALLANTYNE, of Isleworth, a son.

On April 9th, to the wife of G. NANCARROW, of Cornwall, a daughter.

On April 11th, to the wife of A. CHILTON, of Leighton Buzzard, a daughter.

On April 11th, to the wife of F. RALPH, of Purley, a son.

On April 13th, to the wife of E. L. FAIRFIELD, of Frinton, a son.

On April 14th, to the wife of C. J. FAWSETT, of Bourne-mouth, a son.

On April 15th, to the wife of A. ROWE, of Burslem, a daughter.

On April 19th, to the wife of W. J. ROBERTS, of Westcliffe-on-Sea, a daughter.

On April 18th, to the wife of J. ROSE, of Longniddy, Scotland, a son.

On April 21st, to the wife of R. WHITE, of Sunderland, a daughter.

On April 21st, to the wife of D. O. EVANS, of Llansamlet, a son.

On April 22nd, to the wife of R. A. NEWTON, of St. Leonards, a daughter.

On April 22nd, to the wife of T. WALDIN, of Winchester, a son.

On April 23rd, to the wife of F. C. HARRISON, of Leytonstone, twins. (Son and daughter.)

On April 24th, to the wife of G. T. PINNER, of Woking, a daughter.

On April 26th, to the wife of W. CHAMBERS, of Moss Side, a son.

Marriages

ARCHER—GRAY.—On February 3rd, at St. Mary's Church of England, Caulfield, Melbourne, Victoria, ROBERT ARCHER to Miss BLANCHE E. GRAY.

(Many St. Dunstaners will remember Miss Gray, who was formerly a V.A.D. at our College.)

OWEN—PARRY.—On March 31st, at Conway Registry Office, DAVID OWEN to MARGARET ANNIE PARRY, of Cefu Cestyll Pewtre, Voclas Road, near Bettws-y-Coed.

DEAN—FAUTLY.—On Easter Monday, at St. Lawrence Church, Hawkhurst, Kent, BERTIE DEAN to Miss SARAH FAUTLY.

BURTENSHAW—PETTET.—On Wednesday, April 25th, WILFRED ARTHUR BURTENSHAW was married to Miss WINIFRED HELEN PETTET, at St. Barnabas Church, Dover.

Deaths

We send our sympathy to:—

Mr. and Mrs. Goding, of Leicester, who lost their baby girl on March 27th.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hindley, of Manchester, who on March 27th lost Ethel, their baby girl of sixteen months; she had contracted double pneumonia.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Howe, of Hereford, who on April 29th lost their little daughter Evelyn, aged 2½ years.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Lowden, of Stalybridge, Cheshire, who on April 27th lost Elizabeth, their baby of eleven months, who died of pneumonia.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith, also of Stalybridge, Cheshire, who on March 22nd, after an illness of seventeen weeks, lost their eldest son Samuel, from a heart attack following on rheumatic fever.

DEPARTMENTAL NOTES

Braille Room Notes

Our heartiest congratulations to the following men on having passed their Braille reading and writing tests:

Reading: G. Mathews.

Writing: J. W. Spink and G. H. Gilpin.

Typewriting, Shorthand & Telephony

We sincerely congratulate R. C. Watt on having passed his typewriting test.

Our very best wishes to D. Griffie, who has obtained a post as telephonist at the *Times and Mirror* office, Bristol.

D. A. P.

Netting Notes

The International Fashion Fair, where St. Dunstan's had a very attractive stall, held at Holland Park Hall from April 16th to 28th, was an exhibition of more general

interest than its title seemed to promise. The Fashion Parade, representing all the great dressmaking firms of European reputation was, of course, the chief attraction to fashionable people, but there were also many beautiful stalls of arts and crafts, among which our own St. Dunstan's stall more than held its own. We had a very fine exhibit of baskets, mats, netting, rugs and joinery, and although the stall was only large enough to permit of netting being demonstrated, this was, to the fashionable world a novelty and brought us many interested spectators who, if they did not all buy, went away well supplied with information about St. Dunstan's and its manifold activities. We were glad to have an opportunity to interest a section of the public that is somewhat difficult to reach in the ordinary way. Although differing from the throngs of visitors who have crowded round our stall at Olympia in past years, and who have an affectionate familiarity with our work, the Fashion Fair visitors showed us much kindness and interest. We were surprised to find that very many did not realise there was any significant connection between our famous hostel and blinded soldiers. There were even a few who refused our literature and leaflets, saying they were "not interested." Need we say that such strange persons were marked down as special spoil by our keen helpers at the stall, who took care that they should be made to be interested and to learn something of the nature of our work.

The organisers of the exhibition most kindly granted us a stall rent free, so that although our cash sales were not so good as they have been on previous occasions, yet the publicity afforded us was so excellent that we are more than satisfied with the results of our efforts. We were fortunate in obtaining again the help of some of our old friends and former members of the netting room staff, who have so often helped us on previous occasions. We tender these ladies our very sincere thanks, and we hope we may gather together again on similar future occasions. We also offer our thanks to the present members of the netting staff,

and to the ladies of Mr. Ottaway's staff, who so cheerfully added to already sufficiently laborious days their attendance at the stall. It was undoubtedly

their unflagging efforts and also the cheery spirit displayed by our daily netter that achieved the outstanding success we obtained. G.H.W.

From the Chairman's Post-Bag

The following are letters of general interest received by Capt. Fraser during the past month:—

NORTH ADELAIDE,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

DEAR CAPTAIN FRASER,

By the last English mail your letter of the 13th December came to hand, and I thank both you and Mrs. Fraser for your happy greetings and the good wishes for the future, and have great pleasure in wishing you all happiness and prosperity for the New Year we have just entered on, also continued success to St. Dunstan's in the good work it has carried out for so many years to the benefit of the boys past and present.

This month I have changed my diggings, and so had better give you my new address for the After-Care Dept. It is now 97 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide, South Australia, and I will be much obliged if you will have any future communication and the Braille magazines, and not forgetting the St. Dunstan's REVIEW—all of which I greatly appreciate and welcome the latest news of good old St. Dunstan's, and how some of our old comrades are getting along—sent to my new address. I also had to change the rooms in the city where I carried on my massage work, as the firm from whom I rented them required them for their own business, and I removed to Albion House, Waymouth Street, Adelaide, and I have benefited by the alteration, for there is a lift in the new building, and the rent is ros. a week less; the latter is a consideration, for last year the number of patients I had to treat was small, and I have practically only been paying expenses, and as long as I do that, there is always the chance of business improving. We have advanced

into the middle of the Australian summer, and up to the present have had no long spells of hot weather; in fact, the weather has been very changeable, a few hot days and then a cold turn, and slight showers of rain, and often at night cold enough for winter. But I must not say too much, for there is plenty of time yet to get a few scorching weeks.

I spent the Christmas holidays at Port Elliot, to the south of Adelaide, and only had two decent days, the rest of the time a strong southerly wind was blowing and brought no rain with it, making it too cold to enjoy a swim in the sea, which was to have been one of the pleasures of the trip. I am glad to report I keep first-class health here and always did feel better in the warm climate, and hope when next writing will be able to give a more prosperous report of my work in Adelaide. With the best of wishes to you, Mrs. Fraser, and the staff of St. Dunstan's from

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) T. P. DRUMMOND.

WAIHOPE,
NORTH AUCKLAND,
N.Z.

DEAR CAPT. FRASER,

Many thanks to you and Mrs. Fraser for your good wishes. I am sitting here in my shirt-sleeves and sweating. Things go pretty well with us. We could do with a bit more rain, and I fancy we will get it before long. Some of our grass is burnt up, and needing it badly. The cows have enough to go on with, so we might be worse off. Strawberries were poor this year, and we did little more than fill the jam jars. As I sit here there are two big basins full of nectarines handy and plenty more on the trees. The peaches are not so plentiful as nectarines,

but still they are fair. We sold the first of the grapes yesterday. They are a good crop. Passions are very plentiful. Tomatoes are late, but doing all right. Our small apple trees have some fruit on this year, and the small plum trees are also better than last year. Cucumbers were so plentiful that the cows had to give us a helping hand, or should I say mouth. One melon is nearly ready, and we are ready for it—no wonder the niggers steal them. We had a cow off the run on loan last year. Last February she was taken home by her owner, who turned her loose. Three months ago she rolled up and demanded to be taken in again. She calved a fortnight later. I sent word to her owner, and eventually bought her. She is old, and won't last long, but we have a fine heifer calf from her. She was only once here, and came back thirteen miles. I spend all my time on the place and slowly extend the cultivated area. Sometimes I make mistakes, but try not to do it a second time. I hope this finds Mrs. Fraser, yourself and family well, and also the larger St. Dunstan's family. I trust that this family will soon disappear, and allow of all your energies being concentrated on the After-Care Department.

I remain,
Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) JAMES CHISHOLM.

LEWKNOR,
WALLINGFORD,
OXON.
April 17th, 1923.

DEAR CAPT. FRASER,

I am writing you a few lines to tell you of my experience with the radio set.

Well, I can get 2 L.O. and 5 I.T. quite good. The first mentioned is received on studs 2, 3 and 4—the best results on the second stud. 5 I.T. I receive on studs 3 and 4, but best results on the last-named.

I was still more successful last night, managed to get two more stations, one I found to be Cardiff, but the other I could not identify, but I rather think it was Newcastle. I was not able to tune

either of these in properly, as 2 L.O. struck up with their orchestra and drowned it all.

I have no difficulty in tuning in the London station, but it is often not easy to get rid of when not wanted. However, I am not going to grumble about this, as they usually have the best programme.

Well, now I have had the set just a week, and it has already provided us with much interesting enjoyment, and as time goes on it will be still more interesting, when I have thoroughly mastered the tuning.

While writing, I must not forget to tell you that we heard our St. Dunstan's dance band playing at 2 L.O. on Thursday last, the 12th, and thought it was really very good.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) R. T. OLIVER.

CHRISTCHURCH,
NEW ZEALAND.
February 20th, 1923.

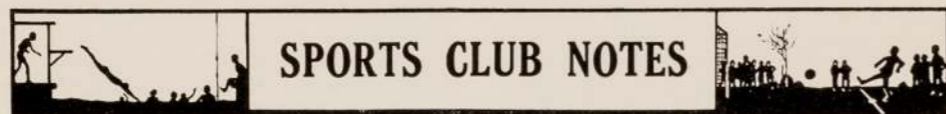
DEAR CAPT. FRASER,

Your letter of greetings and good wishes arrived some time ago, and I regret my negligence in omitting to acknowledge at an earlier date. Your good wishes were appreciated and reciprocated—accept many thanks.

Was particularly interested in your article dealing with German blind soldiers, and I am with you in feeling intensely grateful that I am not a German ex-soldier. Massage appears to have "missed the bus" in relation to the German blind—a fact which intensifies the success attained by St. Dunstan's in training men for what I am still convinced is the most interesting and remunerative occupation which a blind man can follow, while factory work appears to me as being the height of a monotonous existence.

All goes well in New Zealand, I have been in private practice for nearly three years, and though business is very slack now, I still hope to hold my end up in spite of increasing competition with quacks and other sighted practitioners.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Fraser and yourself, in which my wife joins me,
Sincerely yours,
(Signed) W. WOODS.



AT last we have been able to resume our Sports on Saturday mornings, but even yet our troubles are not completely over. The continuation of rain and warm sunshine made the grass grow in the field so profusely that it grew nearly as high as the trees! We didn't mind so much running in this jungle grass, but in the case of weight, cricket ball and egg-and-spoon events it was an exceedingly difficult matter for Instructor Tovell to locate the weight, cricket ball and egg when it had been dropped! Luckily, our grass is getting cut rapidly, and so we are hopeful of resuming in earnest next Saturday morning.

The following are the leading points:—

S.S.		T.B.	
H. Prior ..	110	T. Ashe ..	100
J. Cookson ..	95	H. Boorman ..	90
W. Muir ..	75	G. Wootley ..	80
T. Annis ..	70	J. Griffiths ..	65
B. Inman ..	50	A. Kelly ..	50
A. Jarvis ..	50	A. Chiverton ..	25
J. Salt ..	25		

FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

Our new competition is already in full swing. Hail, rain or excessive heat does not affect our enthusiasm for the game, apparently the only man to suffer is the goalie. We are fortunate in again having the services of Mr. Finch and G. Zipfel as goalkeepers. They are both keen and enthusiastic, and are all out to keep their goal intact. Each term I find new teams with very curious names coming to life, and so we have the "Muir Swankers," organised by Muir, the "Watlings," a name cleverly incorporating the names of two of its famous players—Watt and Ling; the "Optimists," who are anything but pessimists, and "Bow Bells." I am not sure as to the derivation of this team, and it may arise from the fact that they have a "Chappel" in their ranks. Already the following matches have been played:—

April 24th:—		Goals.
Watlings v. Muir Swankers ..	..	1—0
Optimists v. Regent Villa ..	..	5—4
April 24th:—		
Optimists v. Watlings ..	..	3—1
Regent Villa v. Brightonians ..	..	3—2
May 1st:—		
Oddfellows v. Bow Bells ..	..	6—3
Muir Swankers v. Regent Villa ..	..	4—3
May 3rd:—		
Brightonians v. Optimists ..	..	6—2
Oddfellows v. Watlings ..	..	4—3
May 4th:—		
Regent Villa v. Bow Bells ..	..	5—5
Optimists v. Muir Swankers ..	..	4—2

ROWING.

Mr. Finch is already busily engaged with his rowing pupils, and is doing most useful work. We are looking forward to arranging a half-day regatta, at Putney, some time during the last week of June and the first week in July.

SISTERS' TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

A most delightful tournament took place at the new Tennis Courts on Monday, April 23rd. It had previously been arranged to hold the competition on Tuesday, March 13th, and our matrons had most generously promised tea. I felt sure there was something good on when, upon entering matron's room on the morning of the day, I was greeted by a handsome lot of smiling cakes and delicacies that absolutely asked for trouble! Unfortunately, the rain came "on," and our games were "off," but the matrons were not to be denied, and it did materially ease the disappointment of the competitors when they were invited to dispatch the cakes and tea in due course. It was in this way that we had a glorious tournament and two teas, for Mrs. Bates and Mr. Kessell generously provided tea and all sorts of tempting pastries for the actual day. There were sixteen entries, including Mrs. Fraser and Mrs. Bates, and the play all through was tremendously keen, so much so that the time had to be extended to ensure a finish. Mrs. Branker

Wireless News and Notes

won once more with her partner, Miss Brett, and they secured the first prizes of a set of tennis balls and a lady's girdle, most kindly presented by our friend Mr. Jones. The second prizes of a butter dish (presented by Mr. Dawson) and a wool mat (presented by Miss Witherby) were won by Miss Berry and Miss Pedley, whilst the booby prizes of two balls of string were won, after a terrific struggle, by Miss Nailor and Miss Staddon. Captain Fraser most kindly came along and presented the prizes, and also thanked those who had given them. The points scored were as follows:—

Mrs Fraser and Miss Paterson ..	..	16
Mrs. Bates and Miss Wootton ..	..	15
Miss Berry and Miss Pedley ..	..	26
Miss Warren and Miss Vereker ..	..	23
Miss Hipwell and Miss Notley ..	..	23
Miss Nailor and Miss Staddon ..	..	15
Miss Hensley and Miss Gamble ..	..	19
Mrs. Branker and Miss Brett ..	..	31

BARNET.

Once more we are greatly indebted to the kindness of our Barnet friends for a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Everything possible was done for our pleasure and comfort, and everybody carried away the most pleasant recollections. On Thursday, May 3rd, a charabanc was sent along to convey our party of forty men to Barnet. It was a glorious afternoon and the drive out was most enjoyable. On the way we met the King returning from Newmarket, and as the road where we met was rather narrow, the Royal car was held up until we passed. In response to our cheers the King came to the window of the car and waved to us, so we went on our way rejoicing. Upon arrival at Barnet we were entertained to dinner, and afterwards to a splendid concert, finishing up with a dance. Corporal-Major Tovell, in a few well-chosen words, expressed our gratitude to Messrs. Fort and Lee—the Model Country Laundry Co., the artistes and all the local ladies and gentlemen who had given us such a good time. We wish our friends to realise how very much their goodness is appreciated, and how very grateful we are for all the trouble they have gone to.

E.W.

WHILE Captain Fraser would probably be the first to disclaim such responsibility, we have very little doubt that his own keen personal interest in the progress of radio and his contributions to the Press on that subject have been very largely responsible for the ever-growing interest in wireless which the world of the blind is showing.

Our Chairman grudges no personal trouble to helping blind folk towards a fuller interest in and appreciation of the science, and his exceptionally wide knowledge of all the ramifications of radio make his advice and help of real value.

He receives, we know, many letters on the subject from blind people in different parts of the world, and we print below one such letter sent by a blind soldier in Paris, together with Captain Fraser's reply, as we think the points dealt with will be of general interest to our wireless readers.

"SIR,—In due time and with great interest I read your editorial concerning wireless telephony as a new hobby for the blind. I wish to purchase a receiving set with loud-speaker, powerful enough, if possible, to give me English radio-telephonic messages, news, lectures, concerts. With your receiving set can you get European wireless messages? Which ones? What is the receiving range of your receiving set? How many lamps has your receiving set, and what is the length of your aerial?"

"You say that now from Marconi House, the British Broadcasting Company regularly transmits lectures, speeches, concerts. Does it also give news in wireless telephony? Can you give me, or tell me to get, the time-table of those different wireless telephonic productions regularly broadcasted from Marconi House? What is the range of broadcasted wireless telephony transmitted by Marconi House? Are there any other English powerful

wireless telephonic broadcasting stations to be heard abroad?

"You say that one can hear wireless messages sent by ships, are they wireless telephony or wireless telegraphy? Is it long to learn to read Morse by sound?"

"I hope you will excuse my questions, and I hope you will answer to them. The information I ask you can be useful not only to myself, but also to other blind people here, because wireless telephony is going to take development among blind people. Receive my anticipated thanks. I am, Sir, yours truly, MAURICE CINTRAT."

Capt. Fraser's reply:

DEAR M. CINTRAT,

I have received your letter of 23rd April. I note with interest that you have read an article of mine upon wireless telephony, and have much pleasure in answering the inquiries contained in your letter.

With my receiving set I can hear quite clearly and loudly concerts transmitted from the Eiffel Tower, Paris, the Radiola transmissions from Paris, and the *Daily Mail* concerts from The Hague. Of course, transmissions from a distance like this are much clearer on ordinary headphones than on loud-speakers. This is so not so much because the volume of sound is inadequate to work a loud-speaker, but on account of the fact that the very high amplification required to make the weak signal from Paris or The Hague actuate a loud-speaker causes amplification at the same time of interference from any other stations which may be working on or about the same wave-length.

I am afraid it is impossible for me to answer your question as to the precise receiving range of my set. The range of any apparatus depends upon the power of the transmitter, the season of the year, the weather, &c. For example, range is greatly increased in winter months, owing to the diminution of strength of the sun's rays, and reception is always better by night than by day. The range from which continuous wave telegraphy may be received is some fifty to a hundred per cent. greater than that from which telephony can be received, even though the same conditions at transmitting and receiving stations exist. On my station

I could receive most high-power stations in Europe and America sending telegraphy, and with very careful adjustment I think I could receive American broadcasting, if I were to try on a dry winter night. I fear this is all I can say about range.

I use four lamps, or valves, as we call them; one radio-frequency amplifier, one detector, and two power amplifiers. The length of my aerial is 100 feet of single wire, the free end being about 60 feet from the ground, and the end connected to the instrument about 30 feet from the ground. It is clear of all buildings and trees, which is a great advantage.

With regard to your question as to what is transmitted from Marconi House, I do not think I can do better than send you herewith newspaper cuttings taken from various papers during the last few days, giving full programmes from the London station of the British Broadcasting Company, and giving less detailed information as to the transmissions which other stations, at Birmingham, Manchester, Cardiff, Newcastle and Glasgow, give at similar times. From these you will see that news is included in the programmes. These particulars appear in our newspapers each day.

Most of the considerations mentioned in my third paragraph, with regard to range, apply to your question as to the range of telephony from Marconi House. All that can be said is that with a set like mine Marconi House would be audible on a loud-speaker at 200 miles, and on headphones at probably four or five hundred miles, given good conditions. You would easily receive it in Paris with equipment like mine. I might mention that I know an English officer in Berlin who receives all English broadcasting stations without difficulty. He, however, uses seven valves.

In answer to your inquiry as to whether there are any other broadcasting stations in England which you might hear, I have given you a list of them in a previous paragraph, and much the same considerations apply as those previously mentioned in connection with range. With a set like mine you should be able to hear Birmingham, and possibly Newcastle, Glasgow and

Cardiff, though you would probably only get the latter with some difficulty.

Messages from ships are almost invariably telegraphy, not telephony.

Given a good instructor, an average person could learn to read Morse quite efficiently with two or three hours practice per day for three months. One who was quick and concentrated upon the subject might learn in as short a time as a month.

I hope that I have given you the information you wanted, and I hope, too, that if there are any other questions you would like to ask, or any further information you think I might be able to give you, you will not hesitate to write to me again, as I shall be delighted to be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman.

The following letter we have received from R. C. Botly, of Surbiton, shows further evidence of the general interest in wireless taken by St. Dunstaners.

SURBITON.

SIR,

It is with the greatest pleasure that I am able to add my name to the growing list of "listening-in" St. Dunstaners; a friend very generously having presented me with a four-valve wireless receiving set.

Although very much of an amateur, I have so far advanced as to be able to attend to my apparatus myself, and from the very satisfactory results already attained, I have no hesitation in endorsing Capt. Fraser's statement as to the suitability of wireless as a blind man's hobby.

I think it is also very gratifying to see, or rather hear, St. Dunstan's taking a share in the broadcasting programmes.

Yours faithfully,

R. C. BOTLY.

From Cirencester R. Harding reports that he is having most particularly successful results with his set, which is a crystal. He gets the broadcasting from both London and Birmingham very clearly indeed.

Another who announces himself a radio-convert is F. Ralph of Purley, but he has an ambitious three-valve set. Others who are finding interest in the new hobby are T. Olliver, H. Elborn, A. Cimia, W.

Clampett, H. H. Wells and W. Phelan, who thinks the surprising results obtained by him with his crystal outfit is due to the excessive care with which he has insulated. His aerial, by the way, is completely screened, being shut in by a high block of buildings.

We hope that all the St. Dunstan's band of radio-ites sent loyal, if silent applause to the St. Dunstan's Dance Orchestra, when it performed recently at the London Broadcasting Station.

Discussion Club Notes

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS FROM WITHIN.

On the evening of Monday, April 23rd, Mr. Fred Martin, Liberal Member for East Aberdeenshire, an ex-St. Dunstaner, and journalist by profession, gave a most interesting and humorous address on "The House of Commons from Within." He began by telling us that he had led a more or less normal life until he became an M.P., the House of Commons being a disgraceful place! For example, it does not sit on Friday except to discuss Prohibition. Mr. Martin was only chosen as candidate six weeks before the dissolution, when he was asked to contest the constituency in which he was born. His campaign must have been a real "hustle," as he held forty-five meetings in three weeks, and spoke 250,000 words, telling the *truth* all the time!!!!

He told us many amusing anecdotes, among them how he turned and asked the chairman: "What did I say last?" and the chairman had forgotten! We were assured that heckling is most valuable and interesting, but it is absolutely necessary to make clear to the heckler that he is vastly inferior in every way. Mr. Martin told us how he was once asked at a meeting if he were a Prohibitionist? and he scored by asking "Is that a Question or an Invitation?"

After campaign reminiscences Mr. Martin gave us most interesting information about the House, and taking his seat. A special one has been allotted to him. We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Captain Fraser took the chair.

Exchange and Mart

In a letter received from J. C. Simmons, Esq., Colney Heath, St. Albans, Herts., offer is made of a 1½ H.P. motor invalid chair, in splendid condition. Original cost, £100. Sale price, £65.

If any St. Dunstaner requires, and can afford such a thing, will he write direct?

Another St. Dunstaner Honoured

As we are going to press, word comes that R. McLean, of Brimpton, has been chosen by the Reading University Board of Agriculture as "one of the best poultry

farmers in Berks." We offer him our hearty congratulations, and realise that much hard work, brain as well as manual, must have been put in before such distinction could be achieved.

Since writing our Editorial Notes we learn that Mr. Vintcent, who, with his wife, is responsible for After Care work in South Africa, is paying a visit to England, and has, of course, been to Headquarters, where he was much interested in the many changes since his last visit to us.

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