

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW.

MONTHLY
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VICTORY
OVER
BLINDNESS

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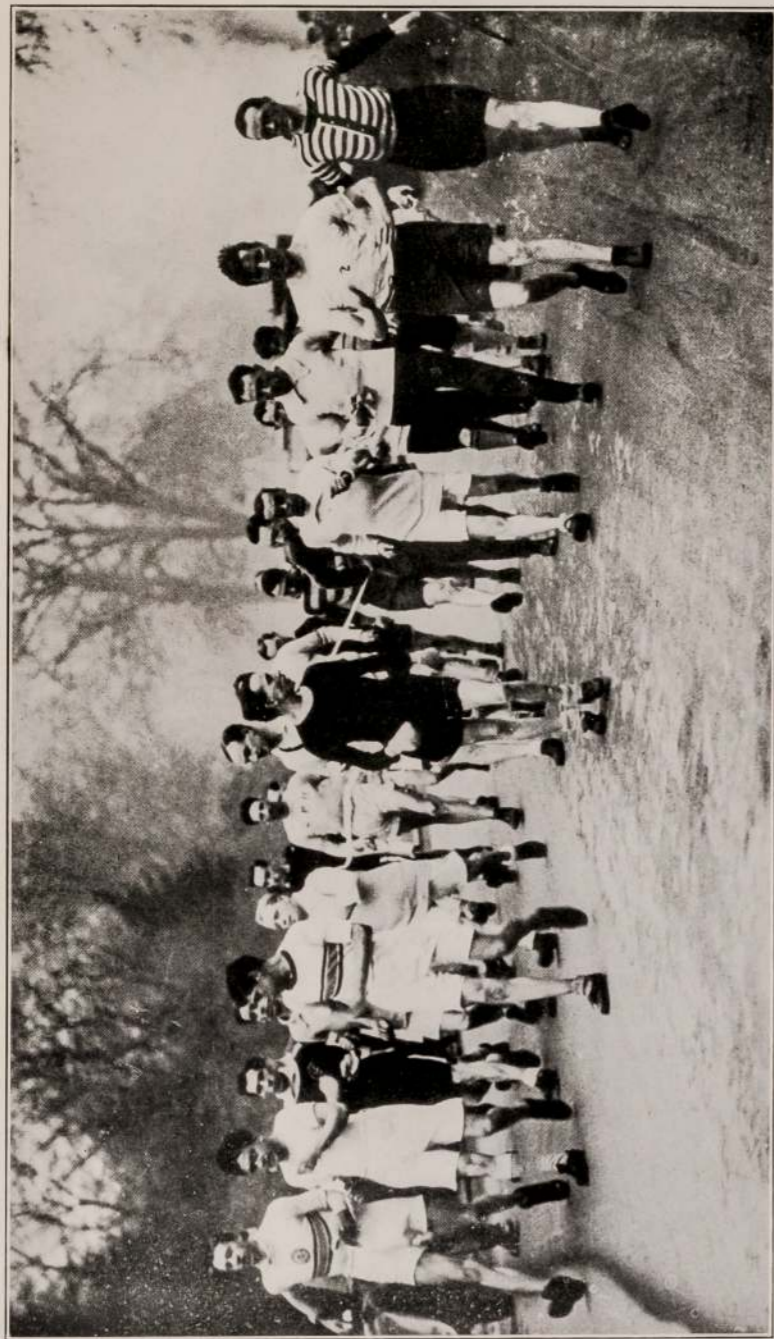
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St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY PERRY BARRINGER

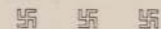
No. 84.—VOLUME VIII.

FEBRUARY, 1924.

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

EDITORIAL NOTES

THE following phrase, which occurred in a letter recently received at Headquarters from a gentleman who had gone to a great deal of personal trouble to ensure the success of an effort in aid of our funds, caused us some concern. The writer said, quite incidentally and in his report of the affair, that "some of your men resident in the locality had promised to turn up, but I presume that as none were present during the evening, were unable to come along." While, of course, we have no definite knowledge of the circumstances which may have prevented the keeping of their promise by any St. Dunstaner, we think it only due to the cause for which we all work to point out that such promises for attendance at public functions should not be given unless it is fully intended and entirely possible to keep them. We are very far from suggesting that St. Dunstaners should feel it incumbent upon them to attend all gatherings in their neighbourhood which are conducted in aid of our funds, but there can be no doubt that the promise of the presence of one or more of the men whose sacrifice and whose claims for sympathy and interest have given birth to such efforts should be very rigorously kept. Our men generally have gained a universal reputation for the most rigid fulfilment of their engagements, whether it be in the direction of attendance at such functions as we have mentioned or in the more material undertakings of life—the making and delivery to date of goods ordered—and we should be sorry indeed to feel that punctilious observance of the given word shows any tendency to decay. "Be chary of promises, but prodigal in keeping them," is an ancient axiom which deserves the attention of every St. Dunstaner.



It is ever a dangerous editorial policy to enter into the quicksands of prophecy, but we are going to venture to suggest that within three months from to-day the topic most in the mind of the public (we are, of course, excepting the ever-present possibility of another General Election) will be the British Empire Exhibition. It is rather amazing that, with many millions of pounds being spent by almost every unit of our great Empire, with practically every industry which has contributed to our national trade eminence represented, and with arrangements being made on a colossal scale to cater for public amusement as distinct from public information, this huge enterprise is as yet but a vague event of the distant future to most people not actively engaged in it. All St. Dunstaners will have a specially direct interest in at least one small part of the Exhibition, and we do not doubt that our great organisation will play its small part worthily.

St. Dunstan's and the British Legion

ALL officers and men of St. Dunstan's received not long since a letter from our Chairman drawing attention to an appeal issued to all Branches of the British Legion by the National Institute for the Blind. We publish below a copy of this appeal, which is signed by Captain E. B. B. Towse, V.C., the Chairman of the Institute.

AN APPEAL FOR BLINDED COMRADES BY
CAPT. E. B. B. TOWSE, V.C., C.B.E.,
Vice-President, British Legion.
Chairman of the National Institute for the
Blind.

224-6-8 Great Portland Street, London,
W.1.

THE SECRETARY,
——— BRANCH.

18th January 1924.

DEAR SIR,

I have recently issued an appeal to the three services to raise a fund (entirely unconnected with St. Dunstan's) which will be used primarily for :—

- (1) Ex-servicemen who have lost their sight and are not in receipt of a Government pension and are not eligible, for one reason or another, for training at St. Dunstan's.
- (2) For ex-servicemen who become blind on reversion to civilian life.
- (3) Their wives and children who are or may become so afflicted.

The Headquarters of the British Legion have very kindly granted me permission to appeal to the branches of the Legion, and, therefore, I would be very much obliged if you would kindly ask your chairman and committee to back up my effort. For over three and a half years I was in France helping to the best of my ability the serving man, and for four years subsequently (until I was compelled to return to my old work for the blind as a whole), I was working assiduously and continuously to gain the best interests for the ex-servicemen. In

both these instances I was working in an entirely voluntary capacity, and now I am going to ask you and the members of your branch to help me voluntarily, in order to give a chance in life to these blind soldiers and sailors, and bring some little happiness into the lives of your less fortunate comrades who have served and who become blind after discharge.

With this end in view, may I ask your committee to organise either a concert, whist drive, dance, sports meeting or some other entertainment as a means of collecting a subscription which may be forwarded either to myself as chairman of the Institute or to the Sports Appeal Secretary, National Institute for the Blind, 224 Gt. Portland Street, London, W.1.

I shall be glad to do any printing for you and provide you with collecting boxes, posters, &c., and will forward you a copy of our last Annual Report, and help you with any further information.

With very best wishes to yourself and members of your Branch,

Yours very truly,
E. B. B. TOWSE,
Chairman.

Captain Fraser, in his letter to St. Dunstaners, commented on the misunderstanding which might arise in view of the form of this appeal. His letter, which was headed "Important Notice to all St. Dunstaners," reads as follows :—

Important Notice to all St. Dunstaners.
January, 1924.

An appeal has recently been issued to all branches of the British Legion by the National Institute for the Blind, for funds which, according to their statement, will be primarily used for a certain section of ex-service men who have lost their sight since the war from natural causes not connected with their military service, and for some of their dependents. There is only a very small number of these men, and since it is definitely stated that the

funds will be used primarily for their benefit it would appear that any balance remaining might go into N.I.B. general funds for the civilian blind. Personally, I do not think an appeal for ex-service men of any sort should be mixed with an appeal for the general funds of a civilian charity, as there is always a possibility of funds collected by the great sympathy of the public for ex-service men being utilised as between ex-service men and civilians in proportions which do not represent the feelings of the donors towards these two groups respectively.

This is, however, an incidental observation, and the reason I write this note is to ask you kindly to pass on the enclosed letter to the Secretary of the local branch of the British Legion.

As you will see from the enclosed letter it is very important for St. Dunstan's that any misunderstanding which may have arisen as a result of the N.I.B.'s appeal should be cleared up immediately, and I therefore trust you will find it possible to help us by personally taking this letter to the local branch without delay. We must all make every effort to see that there is no misunderstanding about St. Dunstan's in the public mind. Please regard this matter as urgent, and important, or it may be too late to correct the wrong impression which may have been given to the members of your local branch by the appeal which went out on 18th January.

IAN FRASER,
Chairman.

The following was the letter sent with this memorandum by Captain Fraser to all St. Dunstaners.

January, 1924.

To the Secretary,
——— Branch,
British Legion.

SIR,—I am asking my St. Dunstan's friend to bring you this letter, which I hope you will be so good as to bring to the immediate notice of your Chairman and Committee.

You will, I think, have recently received a communication from Captain E. B. B. Towse, who is Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind, in which he asked

your Branch to help him to raise funds for that charity. I know Captain Towse personally, and feel sure that his appeal is issued in perfectly good faith, but as some of the words he uses might lead you and your comrades to misunderstand St. Dunstan's position, and perhaps even to think that we are not carrying out our duty properly, I ask you to be so kind as to give your special attention to the following points :—

1. St. Dunstan's has trained and settled, and will continue to look after the interests of all blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen who require our special help in any way whatsoever for the rest of their lives. The qualification for admittance to St. Dunstan's is extremely simple, namely, that a man has lost his sight in, or as a result of, the Great War, or any subsequent war, or in any auxiliary service connected thereto. The fact that the Ministry of Pensions or the Appeals Tribunals have turned a man down because they do not consider his blindness was attributable to or aggravated by war service, does not necessarily disqualify him from admission to St. Dunstan's. We go carefully into every case that is brought to our notice, and if there is any reasonable doubt as to whether a man's blindness was or was not caused directly or indirectly by service we give him the fullest benefits of which St. Dunstan's is capable. More than 100 men who have been turned down entirely by the appeal boards have been fully and frankly recognised and helped by us, and are now under our care.

2. This means that all ex-service men who from after-effects become blind on reversion to civilian life are entitled to the same treatment at St. Dunstan's as the men who were blinded on the battlefield during the war.

St. Dunstan's, while giving the benefit of any doubt whatsoever in the matter of the original cause of his blindness, is not able, under its constitution as a war charity, to give assistance to any man who goes blind from natural causes in civil life, which have nothing to do with military service. Accordingly, it is necessary for charities like the National

Institute for the Blind and other civilian organisations, to help such cases and we do not question their right to appeal for funds for the purpose. Indeed I do not write this letter with any other object than that of preventing any possible misunderstanding which might have arisen in your mind from the unfortunate phrases which Captain Towse has used.

As long as it is made perfectly clear to ex-service men that St. Dunstan's is not lacking in its duty, and does its best for all men who have lost their sight in or as a result of the War, I am perfectly happy to leave the matter of the direction in which you may be prepared to help the blind, in your hands. So many of the branches of the Legion are regular contributors to and helpers of St. Dunstan's that I feel sure you and your Committee will pardon my troubling you with this letter.

Yours faithfully,

IAN FRASER,
Chairman.

We are able to state that Captain Fraser's request to St. Dunstaners for co-operation in this matter received most enthusiastic and effective response. From all over the country officers and men have written to headquarters, expressing their pleasure at having been able to bring the matter to the notice of their local branch of the British Legion, and there is every reason to believe their action will have the effect of preventing any misunderstanding in the minds of the Legion members as to St. Dunstan's activities and will be of the greatest service to our organisation generally.

We might add that a particularly pleasing feature of this matter has been the widely expressed desire, conveyed directly from many British Legion branches, to help St. Dunstan's in every way possible. It is indeed good to know how close is the feeling of comradeship between Legion members and St. Dunstaners. With many of our men, we know, this regard has been expressed by their election to membership of the Local Executive, and nothing but good to all ex-service men can, we are sure, come from this brotherhood.

Our Wireless Competition

THE widespread and ever-growing interest which the men of St. Dunstan's take in wireless is evidenced by the large number of entries we have received for the little competition announced in our last issue. Suggestions have come from all over the country, and we know full well that Captain Fraser, who kindly consented to adjudicate in this competition, has had no light task in discriminating between the merits of the many ingenious and interesting ideas put forward for a competition for the second pair of headphones. Indeed, he has confessed himself as unwilling to differentiate between the four suggestions he has finally selected as the best, all putting forward, with but slight variations of wording, the same idea.

It would seem, therefore, that the difficulty from which we thought we had extricated ourselves so well last month is cropping up again, for even our limited knowledge of radio tells us the impossibility of dividing one pair of headphones into three usable parts. We have, therefore, decided to award four prizes of half a guinea each to the four senders of the entries which, in the opinion of the judge, tie in order of merit.

The names and addresses of the winners, with the form in which their suggestions were sent in, are as follows:—

T. FLOYD, 34 London Road, Twickenham:—

"I suggest the second pair of 'phones be offered to the writer of the most forceful article entitled 'Why you should listen-in,' addressed to those St. Dunstaners who have not yet taken up wireless as a hobby or a pastime. By the publication in the REVIEW of the winning attempt and any others for which space could be found, the non-wireless members of St. Dunstan's family would have brought before them the advantages and delights of listening-in and the study of radio generally, as viewed from the standpoint of St. Dunstan's men; and in this way there is no doubt that some may be induced to join the ranks of radio

enthusiasts. Thus would the cause of wireless best be served."

H. E. RAYMOND, 40 Rosendale Road, St. Annes-on-Sea:—

"I would suggest that a further competition be held, the subject being 'What Wireless can offer the Blind'; the best article on this being awarded the prize."

A. OSMOND, 23 St. Mary Road, Walthamstow, E. 17:—

"I think myself it would be a very keen competition if the 'phones were offered for the best written 'Description of Listening-in' or 'Wireless and What it Means to Me.' If each were to write what most appeals to them it would give others who are less interested an idea what wireless really is, and how it is a splendid pastime for us men. It might also create more interest amongst the men, and might be the means of more taking it up."

A. PALFREY, 19 Vere Street, Cadoxton, Barry, near Cardiff:—

"An article on 'What Wireless means to the Blind.'"

We are thus in a position to offer two pairs of headphones as prizes in the competition proper, which will be based upon the suggestions of the four prize-winners of the preliminary competition quoted above. Thus our second competition will be for "The best six short sentences explaining the particular advantages which wireless offers to the blind." Each sentence should be numbered (1), (2), (3), and so on, and points will be awarded for clearness and brevity. Entries which must reach the Editor on or before 5th March, and addressed "Wireless Competition, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, Headquarters of St. Dunstan's, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, N.W.1.

As is always the case with competitions which have proved to be popular with our readers, we wish we were able to offer many more prizes, for many of the entries show much thought and ingenuity.

It may, however, be some consolation to unsuccessful competitors to know that

all the suggestions sent in, many of which has definite and practical relation to the following of wireless by St. Dunstaners, are being kept for future reference, and some at least may possibly bear fruit later in the direction of simplifying or adding to the interest in the pursuit of radio by the men of St. Dunstan's in particular, and the blind community in general.

Appreciations

"There is no doubt," writes J. Walne, of Lancs, "that as one approaches the task of business one feels the growing responsibilities. However, I sincerely trust that the hope you are pleased to cherish of me will not be disappointed. I am getting along splendidly and mean to do my best to maintain the high reputation I am told the shop held."

From High Wycombe, where, owing almost entirely to his own exertions, R. G. Stanners has built up a successful business, comes satisfactory information to the effect that recent improvements in his premises have been distinctly beneficial. "I shall esteem it a further favour on your part," he writes, "if you will convey to the Departmental Committee my heartfelt gratitude for the generous spirit shown by them in this matter. It is a great encouragement to us fellows to know that, in the hour of necessity, there is practical support behind us."

Although space is short, mention should be made of a letter from W. Brightwell, of Norfolk, received some time since. It is good to know that in these days when housing is so difficult a problem someone can say, "I don't think we could have got a better or more suitable place if one had been made to order. The house is excellent, but the garden is in a very bad state, though, of course, we do not mind that; it will keep us all busy clearing it up. I don't know how to thank you enough, as I feel a new man already. By the way, we have got one hen to start with, and she lays an egg every morning!"



NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS

It is always well to begin on an optimistic note so we will first mention F. Marsden, of Blackburn, who declares that he has at present been getting more eggs than any other man in the district! His garden, too, has made good progress, and, under glass, his chrysanthemums are a picture; sales of these have been excellent. "We are doing champion if we can only hold on," he says. Truly most excellent news to receive.

Another who seems satisfied with the world in general is A. F. Mussell, Glos., who is, as usual, in the best of health and spirits, but then Mussell is of a splendidly independent type. He thinks nothing of walking into his village alone, although it is over a mile and across some fields. He makes wonderfully little use of a stick and seems to know field tracks as well as roads.

Congratulations to A. Sterno, of Bath, who has just had a repeat order for mats from Lord Ullswater, for whom he made two five years ago, when he first settled in the district. This little fact speaks well for the excellence of Sterno's work.

A particularly handy man is A. Chaffin, of Leighton Buzzard, who is doing well, by the way, with both poultry and mats. He has made two more good gates for his pigsties and also quite an ingenious dry mash hopper. Mrs. Chaffin seems as busy as her husband, but lately found time to get up a flagday for St. Dunstan's upon which we should like to congratulate her.

Another who does his best to help his Alma Mater is J. W. Mahony, of Glos., who frequently gets up different kinds of entertainments to keep St. Dunstan's in the public eye. We hear that everyone

enjoyed themselves at his last dance, and that he has most practical ideas as to the management of whist drives. The fact that he is both well-known and well-liked in Wotton-under-Edge helps him considerably in such undertakings.

C. Grattidge, of Birmingham, is one who has a right to be justly proud of the newsagent's business he has built up in this line. It is pleasant to meet a man able to face the future with such happy confidence.

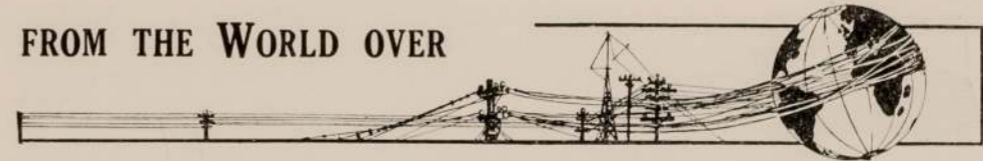
From Boxmoor comes word of J. W. Spink, now settled in his new home, which promises to be a great success. The house is splendidly situated and has a capital garden with plenty of space upon which to erect a workshop. We look to hear that Spink is establishing himself with giant strides.

Despite the "chilly blasts" of our recent wintry weather, J. S. Harrison, of New Springs, Wigan, has not been deterred from rowing; we hear that he has been successful on both the Lune and the Ribble, and regret that our information on this score is too meagre to enable us to give further particulars of his prowess.

We are glad to hear that "some of the customers of J. H. Mathews," N. Wales, frankly say they are "more than pleased with his work." Small wonder that he is gaining more confidence in himself and "improving on every basket he makes." Well done, Mathews!

In Bournemouth W. Farmery is working up a steady local trade for both mats and boots, we are glad to hear; while from Seven Kings comes brief word of A. J. Porter, who, say those who know, "works beautifully."

FROM THE WORLD OVER



We hope soon to hear further news of the progress of J. Bannister, of Skelmersdale, who is now carrying out orders received from a local priest. Such commissions are doubly valuable because they frequently lead to others, and we feel sure Bannister is putting his heart into his commission.

But St. Dunstaners know how to play as well as how to work in Sunderland. J. Watson is the proud possessor of a free pass for himself and escort, granted by a kindly football official, which gives admission to all matches for the season.

Those whose lot lies in Devon are to be congratulated in these dark winter days, for when there is sunshine they are sure to have a liberal share. E. W. Jarman, of Barnstaple, says that he is still doing quite well despite the fact that a few months ago another masseur set up in opposition. According to reports that reach us he is becoming both well-known and well-liked among the doctors of the district.

Another Devon man is A. W. Back, who says that although local trade is somewhat slack at present there is no danger of his lacking practice at boot repairing as he now has a second child of school age! Fathers of families will know what this means. He has just had a new cement floor put into his workshop and finds it a great improvement.

What with the making of baskets and the mending of chairs, A. Jenkinson, of Sheffield, has been keeping very busy. He has just had a nice order for the former from a local baker. His chair-seating, we hear, is remarkably good, but then Jenkinson is "a worker" and sticks well to business.

Another man in the same line is A. Tillotson, of Nelson, who, by the way, seems to be making a speciality of re-seating rush chairs. Both Tillotson and his wife are spoken of in the district as "thoroughly competent and business-like," an undoubted compliment, and their circle of acquaintances is ever widening, as they attend a number of markets.

News also comes to us from Ch. McIntosh, of Dumfries, who says: "Despite the cold inclement weather my birds are doing splendidly and the daily egg total is now in the neighbourhood of six dozen, with later birds coming into lay every day. I had three pullets in the Utility Classes at the Annual Exhibition of the Scottish Fur and Feather Association in January, and secured "second prize with 'Croad Langshan,'" he says. Congratulations, and may it be a "first" next time, but, of course, far more valuable than the actual prize is the advertisement brought by such effort. We note that his farm has just been made an egg station by the Board of Agriculture.

R. Wylie, of Greenock, also writes in cheerful vein: "I am pleased to be able to say that the tide has turned and that business is progressing. Since I have had my workshop in the garden I am being kept busy with boot repairs and get no time for mats."

Wylie has taken up a new "stunt" as he calls it, which is the means of getting him a free advertisement. "Every Saturday," he tells us, "I start out with boot polish, laces, &c., and these have helped me to work up a fine connection as well as enabling me to do to a certain amount of business every week, doing two rounds alternate Saturdays. Of course, I canvass for repairs while I am out and usually get enough to keep me going during the greater

part of the week, all of which gets my business known. I am pleased to say I get a number of repeat orders for repairs, one farmer sending his boots to me from over five miles distant." Wylie's scheme is certainly an excellent one and we are not surprised to hear that with such enterprise he is a very busy man.

From Men Overseas

Our overseas letter bag was not so full as usual this month, but we quote from a letter received from C. Purkis, of Preston, Ont., who says that he is still getting a lot of pleasure out of his poultry and spending happy evenings with his cornet. "I have been playing at the local theatre," he tells us, "and often give a turn at socials." Purkis has certainly found a way to make the hours fly.

Another who is particularly busy is Van Blerk, now near Cape Town. "Several orders have come in," he writes, "and everything seems wanted at once! We have left George and are now living at Observatory, three stations out of Cape Town. I am very happy here, and so is the wife. I have now all pleasure around me. It was really too quiet at George, but I was very sorry to leave Mr. and Mrs. Vincent; they were so kind. I saw in the REVIEW that 'Auntie' is settled now. She was a real old dear. Will you remember me to her when you see her? I hope all the boys at St. Dunstan's are keeping fit and happy. Remember me to all of them and tell them I wish them one and all the very best of luck in 1924. I hope they will have every success."

In the South African mail, too, came a copy of the Springbok Calendar, sent by W. F. Archibald. It is a publication which gives an excellent idea of the country, and we were particularly interested in the illustrations of those districts where St. Dunstaners are settled.

From Newfoundland comes word of T. Moulard.

"Our winter is upon us," he writes, although it was late in coming this year,

and just in two days everything was buried in snow. There will be three months before we see the grass again. It seems a long time to look forward to, but it is surprising how quickly time passes when one is happy and content. I am sending a snapshot of our baby, taken when she was three months old. She is seven months older and grows sweeter and sweeter all the time." We can well believe it; the photograph shows a most winsome little maid.

It is a far cry from Newfoundland to British Columbia, whence our next letter comes:—

J. Downie writes: "I have had a very busy Christmas and sold quite a number of netted articles. In addition, I had a display in a local shop-window which introduced a number of sales. Regarding the competition at the British Empire Exhibition, I may say that I am getting keener about it each day, and new ideas are coming to me as I work on my exhibit, into which I am putting my best in both material and workmanship, for I hope to uphold the good name of St. Dunstan's (because of what it did for me) in this part of the world."

Preparing for Another Baby Show?

We hear that the three-months-old baby of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Jackson is "doing splendidly," and already weighs 11½ lbs.

A New Public Speaker

After P. M. Austin, of Northants, had sung at a recent concert (his songs were much applauded, we hear) the Chairman told him that he was organising an Emblem Day for St. Dunstan's and would be glad if Austin would make a little speech telling the people something of St. Dunstan's. Austin had never made a speech before (we hear his wife told him he could not do it then!) but he faced the situation gamely, and "people seemed very interested," as he modestly puts it. "I just told them what St. Dunstan's had done and what St. Dunstan's was doing." Congratulations to him on his new rôle!

"In Memory"

PRIVATE HAROLD J. F. GOODWIN

(Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry).

THE toll of those St. Dunstaners whose efforts to benefit to the full from their training and after-care was greatly hindered by continued ill-health is once again added to by the death of this man.

Enlisting in February, 1916, Goodwin received his wounds in January of the following year in France, and was finally discharged from the Army in February, 1918. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's some time afterwards, and while with us learned both mat and basket making, at which occupations he did quite well in spite of the constant handicap of illness.

Leaving us in June of 1920, Goodwin was settled in business at Ramsgate. He carried on quite successfully until, on the 10th of January last, he died as the result of a paralytic seizure.

At the funeral, which took place on the 23rd January, three St. Dunstaners, W. T. West, J. S. Bailey, and C. Marshall, attended and laid a wreath on the coffin, while a splendid floral tribute was also sent "from Captain Fraser and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's." The Chaplain of the British Legion conducted the service, and members of the British Legion also attended in the large concourse of mourners.

Goodwin leaves a wife and one child.

PRIVATE JAMES LILLIE.

(7th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment).

One of the earliest recruits to the Forces, this St. Dunstaner was severely wounded at St. Eloi, and was admitted to St. Dunstan's care in January 1917. The severity of his wounds, however, had set up general paralysis, and he passed away on the 1st January last.

The interment took place at Mere Knolls Cemetery, Sunderland, and the military authorities arranged for buglers to sound the "Last Post," while the coffin was covered with the Union Jack. The wreath "from Captain Fraser and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's," which invariably represents the final tribute paid to the memory of a son of St. Dunstan's, was among the many tokens of regret which were laid on the grave.

Lillie, whose occupation in civil life was that of a miner, leaves a widow and two sons, one of whom was married as recently as last May.



SPORTS CLUB NOTES

IT was quite a happy idea to have our Saturday Sports in the Bungalow whenever the Sports ground was found to be unfit. Judging by the condition of the Park at the present time, it looks unlikely that we will be able to do much outdoors for some little time. Even the football pitch is impossible, and so we will have to wait in patience to have a good kick at the big ball. We made a start, however, last Saturday at the Bungalow, and the new type of sport arranged there appeared to cause much excitement. We start off with skipping and then try a shot with the Medicine Ball. This article must not be confused with a medicine bottle—it is far larger and not so easily broken, besides it would take an elephant to consume its holding capacity! The Medicine Ball is like a huge football and is filled with some sort of packing and weighs about eight pounds. It is useful for indoors as a substitute for the "weight," and already the boys are making quite good shots, over thirty-two feet being reached. Next we try bowling the football. Each man is allowed two shots and the idea is to bowl the ball along the ground at a target, in the case of the S.S. about fifty yards, and of the T.B.'s about twenty-five yards away. Ten points are given for a "bull" and five for an "inner." Now we find ourselves playing basket ball 'a la St. Dunstan's. Three "bottomless" baskets are hung up 9 feet high. The men endeavour to place the ball through one from a distance of six feet. Ten points are awarded for the centre basket and five each for those at the sides. Jumping in single and double jumps is next tried and after the Swedish drill is over, we all feel that we have put in an interesting morning. The leading points are:—

T.B.		S.S.	
F. R. Pawley ..	120	F. G. Teagle ..	130
C. Wilshaw ..	90	H. Prior ..	125

G. Wootley ..	90	J. Muir ..	115
J. Edwards ..	80	J. Salt ..	60
E. Roberts ..	60		
A. Chiverton ..	45		
W. H. Hill ..	30		

FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

We have got seven teams just longing to get at each other, but the ground strongly objects! However, we hope that things will be more favourable in the course of the next few days. Our teams include: Oddfellows (cup-holders), Goodfellows, The Radistors, Tally Ho's, The Lodgers, The Saints, and the Brightonians.

OLD BOYS' SPORTS.

We resumed our sports on 8th January, and the interest is well kept up. May I say once more that we would be most happy to welcome any "old boys" who care to come along and join us—it is not only an opportunity for getting in some profitable exercise but it is interesting socially. The leaders are:—

T.B.		S.S.	
J. Henry ..	1,382½	A. Brown ..	1,600
S. Webster ..	1,250	N. Downs ..	1,280
H. Nicholls ..	1,210	A. James ..	1,095
S. Gamble ..	1,207½	W. Scott ..	1,055
J. Hughes ..	1,155	W. Taylor ..	235
H. V. Kerr ..	480		

WALKING.

Our first handicap walk was held on Saturday, 26th January, and was in every way successful. We received a total of twenty entries, but unfortunately the strike prevented several who lived in Hereford, Frinton and Birmingham from taking part. I was so sorry because we wanted to have the pleasure of meeting these boys again, but Mr. Donoghue, of the Queen's Park Harriers, who was kindly seeing to the escorts and officials, told me that it was practically impossible to postpone matters because his friends had every Saturday engaged for some

considerable time. However, fifteen competitors turned up and were started on their six-mile walk by Captain Fraser. The walk was made exciting by the fact that the handicap was "sealed," and so the competitors did not know of their allowance until the race was over. The day was ideal and the walking was exceedingly good. Birch at once forced the pace and led on the first round. He was too closely followed by Gransby to be sure of winning, but he retained his lead and came in first comfortably by nearly 1½ minutes from Gransby. It was a very good performance on the part of Birch to complete the six miles in 54½ minutes, and it was fine walking that kept Gransby so close. The handicaps, however, gave Gransby first place, and he thoroughly deserves the honour. P. Holmes, whose first competitive walk it was, walked excellently and got second place; he should do well in future if he can get somebody to train him. S. Gamble did exceptionally well to get third place, and W. J. Lowings kept up his reputation by coming fourth. A Bronze Medal was offered for the fastest novice, but as Holmes had secured the second prize, the medal was awarded to Nicholls, who walked excellently. S. Webster walked with wonderful pluck, considering that he got up from a sick bed to compete. We all feel that each competitor made a fine show, and it is very satisfactory to find that each man completed the course, and that under seventy minutes.

I trust that Mr. Donoghue, Mr. Ives (timekeeper), and the members of the Q.P.H., Surrey, Highgate and Ashcombe clubs, will recognise how much we appreciated all that they did to make our walk so enjoyable. Mr. Donoghue deserves great credit for arranging the handicaps, it was a difficult job, but he succeeded admirably.

We also wish to thank the Q.P.H. for the medals and Mr. Hancock and Mr. Gordon Brown for the cups they presented.

After a good rub-down, we all adjourned to tea and found that Miss Davies and her co-workers had prepared a delicious repast for us. During the tea, Miss Hamar

Greenwood, in her own very charming way, kindly presented the prizes, whilst the Adjutant briefly thanked all those who had helped. I hope that Miss Davies, the Misses Cunynghame, Woolrych, Brant, Paterson and Bamberger, with Mrs. Broughton, will accept our gratitude for arranging us such a delightful tea.

The table on the next page gives the various times.

St. Dunstan's Football Club

The following amusing—and imaginary—rules for the conduct of a St. Dunstan's Football Club have reached us from an unknown contributor. They will interest, and we hope amuse, many past and present "old boys."

A few rules compiled for the use of old and new players.

(By O. N. E. SPORT.)

The teams are made up of one captain and three goal scorers. The names of the teams should be as ridiculous and as difficult to pronounce as possible, for this greatly amuses those privileged to read out the results and also the printers of the REVIEW.

Matches will be played at noon on weekdays. Players are requested not to hurry in leaving the workshops on match days. If you are obliged to leave at 12 o'clock go somewhere for a drink or take a stroll round the park before going to the playing field, as the referee and the goalkeeper, to say nothing of your opponents, like waiting for you. They do not bother about dinner on these days as they enjoy the fresh air so much.

All S.S. men are requested to go over together as the T.B. men much prefer to find the way for themselves.

When on the playing field use as much bad language as possible, as the spectators in the park love to hear it.

When the match is in progress, argue the point as often as you can with the referee. He likes this, as it greatly improves his knowledge of the game.

When kicking the ball, aim anywhere but between the posts, as the goalkeeper always stands there and is liable to get hurt.

If you should be unfortunate enough to score, do not fail to apologise to the goalkeeper. He knows that it was unintentional, but it looks so much nicer to say so.

The captain of each team should always have a liberal supply of change with him, to supplement the usual half-crowns given by the referee to the scorers.

Any player scoring four goals in six successive matches will be required to report to the Medical Officer with a view to transfer either to Chelsea or the Pie-hards.

If you are on the losing side, do not stop to cheer your opponents, as they are quite satisfied with the two points you have given them.

TRAINING FOR WALKING.

I have just heard from the Captain and Secretary of the Stock Exchange Walking Club that they will arrange for certain members of their Club to attend each Tues-

day from 6.15 to 8 p.m. at the Bungalow, and they will be delighted to arrange some walking and perhaps running practice on this evening for any of our boys. I am personally very grateful to both Mr. Gordon Brown and Mr. E. Harrison for their goodness, because facilities for training have always been difficulties in our walks. I would, therefore, be glad if those men who are interested will avail themselves of this opportunity.

Chiming Clock for Brighton

We learn from the Matron of our Brighton Annexe that by the kindly generosity of Mr. Rydon, Greatham Manor, Pulborough, a charming old English chiming clock has been presented for use in the Annexe. Naturally, it provides a most acceptable gift, and in the large lounge its beautiful old chimes are giving much pleasure to the men and all who visit the Annexe.

OUTER CIRCLE WALK.

RESULT.

Comp. No.	NAME	Escort and Club	Time		Order of finish	Handicap	Net Time	Final Position
			1st Rd.	Total				
2	Gransby, H.	Mr. Burnett, Q.P.H.	27.12	55.56	2	5.45	59.11	1
3	Holmes, P.	Greening, S.A.C.	28.33	57.35	3	5.30	52.5	2
5	Durkin, C.	Cobb	34.31	68.50	14	12.30	56.20	11
6	Lowings, W. J.	Goodwin, S.W.C.	28.36	57.52	4	5.15	52.37	4
8	Gamble, S.	Smith, Highgate	30.5	60.4	7	7.45	52.19	3
9	Nicholls, H.	Burles	29.20	59.56	6	5.30	54.26	5
10	Webster, S.	G. Brown, S.W.C.	32.43	66.12	12	7.45	58.27	13
11	Birch, W.	Travell, Q.P.H.	26.55	54.30	1	—	54.30	6
12	Wilson, T.	Wilmott, S.W.C.	35.4	69.47	15	5.30	64.17	15
13	Pawley, F. R.	N. Ewall, S.W.C.	33.0	68.12	13	6.15	61.57	14
14	Chiverton, A.	P. Brown, S.W.C.	30.9	60.51	8	6.0	54.51	9
16	Lenderyou, H.	Stupples, Ash C.	29.17	61.38	9	6.0	55.38	10
17	Rhodes, F.	Tilbrook, S.A.C.	30.47	63.28	11	8.45	54.43	8
18	Boorman, H.G.	Heed, A.A.C.	29.20	59.0	5	4.30	54.30	6
20	Roberts, E.	Brook	31.26	63.7	10	5.30	57.37	12

PRIZES.

1st.	Cup presented by Mr. Hancock.	Won by	H. Gransby.
2nd.	Cup presented by Mr. Gordon Brown.	..	P. Holmes.
3rd.	Silver Medal presented by Q.P.H.	..	S. Gamble.
4th.	Bronze Medal presented by Q.P.H.	..	W. J. Lowings.
5th.	Bronze Medal presented by Q.P.H.	..	H. Nicholls.

(For fastest novice.)

E. W.

Poultry Notes

St. Dunstan's Laying Test

HEAVY BREED SECTION.

Pen No.	Breed	Owner	Eggs laid Fourth Period		Total	Total Eggs to date	Test Value
			Grades	2nd			
35	R. Island Reds	Fowler, J.	54	—	54	283	283
38	W. Wyandottes	Griffen, A.	60	5	65	245	245
42	W. Wyandottes	Crabtree, F.	49	6	55	239	239
26	R. Island Reds	Trigg, A. E.	29	28	57	209	207
30	R. Island Reds	Condon, C. T.	41	27	68	228	206
43	W. Wyandottes	Stamper, T. D.	43	18	61	235	206
33	R. Island Reds	McLeod Steel, Mr.	59	9	68	188	188
39	W. Wyandottes	Levett, J.	82	3	85	183	183
23	R. Island Reds	Holmes, P.	29	19	48	180	180
28	R. Island Reds	Boorman, F. W.	28	33	61	234	176
40	W. Wyandottes	Hargreaves, H.	55	22	77	182	171
29	R. Island Reds	Littlejohn, D., Mr.	51	6	57	171	171
31	R. Island Reds	Nelson, H.	43	12	55	170	170
36	R. Island Reds	Tebble, E.	29	28	57	252	167
25	R. Island Reds	Woods, E. L.	52	28	80	171	164
37	W. Wyandottes	Wright, W. H.	44	15	59	161	156
34	R. Island Reds	Maclaren, D., Mr.	33	20	53	160	144
27	R. Island Reds	Clarke, R. A.	25	35	60	189	136
32	R. Island Reds	Smith, G. R., Mr.	27	16	43	117	117
22	R. Island Reds	Bissett, L. A., Mr.	53	3	56	107	107
45	Light Sussex	Boyter, R.	29	13	42	104	104
24	R. Island Reds	Woodrow, W.	20	39	59	158	90
44	W. Wyandottes	Last, W.	—	53	53	97	60
21	R. Island Reds	Hamilton, B.	27	4	44	44	44
41	W. Wyandottes	Letch, S. J.	19	11	30	35	35

LIGHT BREED SECTION.

Pen No.	Breed	Owner	Eggs laid Fourth period		Total	Total Eggs to date	Test Value
			Grades	2nd			
9	W. Leghorns	Bulman, C., Mr.	69	5	74	271	271
15	W. Leghorns	Ramsden, N., Mr.	57	15	72	248	248
13	W. Leghorns	Pink, A.	45	9	54	226	226
14	W. Leghorns	Coulson, A.	35	22	57	228	225
5	W. Leghorns	McIntosh, C.	37	12	49	232	195
7	W. Leghorns	Burgin, W.	22	23	45	225	182
4	W. Leghorns	Tindall, H. J.	34	24	58	217	174
12	W. Leghorns	Irvine, T., Mr.	39	9	48	167	167
2	W. Leghorns	Owen, Capt. W.	45	12	57	159	159
18	Black Leghorns	Carlton, W. E.	30	1	31	142	142
10	W. Leghorns	Brown, C. H.	36	17	53	154	137
8	W. Leghorns	Webb, W.	36	29	65	178	136
6	W. Leghorns	Hetherington, T.	18	9	27	152	125
17	Black Leghorns	Harris, F. J.	31	—	31	124	124
20	La Bresse	Capper, A. H., Mr.	19	33	52	165	122
16	W. Leghorns	Hawkins, G. H.	33	18	51	112	112
11	W. Leghorns	Gwyn, I.	22	24	46	104	94
3	W. Leghorns	Whitingslow	7	39	46	133	90
19	Anconas	Irish, H., Mr.	25	17	42	71	71
1	W. Leghorns	Horsnell, N.	1	74	75	245	68

Our Test Manager reports that the fourth period has shown an increased egg-production, 2,467 eggs having been laid, as against 1,985 in the previous period.

Of these the light breeds have laid 1,033 and the heavies 1,434.

The average number laid per bird in the 28 days works out as follows:—

Light Breeds .. 12.91 eggs.

Heavy Breeds .. 14.34 ..

One bird has died in the light breed section through ovary trouble. In accordance with the rules, the bird was sent to the Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and their report has been passed on to the owner.

The general health of the birds remains excellent.

The results for the fourth period are given overleaf.

J. T. B.

The following interesting article appeared in the issue of a well-known poultry paper "Eggs," last month. The tables, as published in the REVIEW, followed.

Visit to St. Dunstan's Laying Tests at King's Langley, Herts

By JOHN MEEKINGS.

It was with very great pleasure I accepted, on behalf of the Council, Mr. Thomson Brown's kind invitation to inspect the competition recently started for the St. Dunstan's men.

The farm is situated in one of the prettiest parts of Hertfordshire, nestling on the slopes of charmingly wooded hills, which at this season of the year looked their best in varying autumn tints. Mr. Thomson Brown was kind enough to motor me over from Watford to his farm. There I was introduced to the Test Manager, and we at once proceeded to inspect the Test grounds.

I think readers of "Eggs" would like to know that this Test is being run exclusively for the blinded men of the Great War. There is no need for me to remind them of the very valuable work that St. Dunstan's has done in training these men for their various occupations; I think I am right in saying that over 200 such men are now carrying on poultry farming, apart from the many who have been set up with a backyard poultry plant.

I was extremely interested when informed that every pen of birds entered in the St. Dunstan's trials were bred and selected by their blinded owners! It says

much for the training of these men that of the 45 entries, comprising 180 birds, very few were really second class in type or poor in condition. White Leghorns and Rhode Island Reds seemed to vie for first place in popularity. I saw two excellent pens of Black Leghorns, a pen of La Bresse, one of Anconas, and one of Light Sussex. There were also a few Wyandotte entries, but undoubtedly the St. Dunstaners have plumped for the Leghorn and the Red. It is too early in the day, the Test only commenced on the 11th October, to prophesy, but I have every confidence in saying that there will be some interesting records put up by these birds. The Test is a five-months' one, and will embrace that period which is most important in the hens' laying records; it began on 11th October, and will end on 27th February 1924.

The birds were in their quarters a month before the trial began, and arrived in splendid condition, with one or two exceptions. They are, therefore, now comfortably settled down in quarters which should assist them in their most arduous task.

The birds are housed in four Hannaford houses, loaned for the purpose, capacious buildings, providing ample floor and air space, and well lighted. The houses are in the centre of grass pens. I was glad to hear from the Test Manager that no hard and fast rules of feeding had been adopted by the Committee. The Committee, by the way, is very representative of the Institute. Mr. Thomson Brown and Mr. Gutbridge represent the official side of St. Dunstan's, whilst Mr. Capper speaks for the blinded officers and Mr. Burgin voices the men's views. Dry mash (one of Tom Newman's formulas) is in front of the birds all day, and a small scratch feed night and morning keeps the stock exercising. At mid-day the birds are given the choice of a wet mash and this undoubtedly helps the pens, which have been reared on wet feeding. Unfortunately for some of the competitors, the birds that were laying on arrival are moulting, which seriously handicaps them in a test of only five months' duration. But every care in the feeding and management will result in a quick recovery, and some of these rested birds may yet run the now steady producer hard. Maize is a popular

grain feed, not only with the test birds, but on the farm generally. The Manager testified to the quick response made by the sluggish layers after a few days' extra maize feeding. Looking through the records, I observed that a certain pen of Black Leghorns were making a good lead, and this particular group of Blacks I was struck with because of their excellent type and condition. On the whole, the competitors are to be congratulated on the type and health of their entries, and also in having the Test run under such fortunate conditions, and we shall be very interested to know later the news of the winners.

The records are being tabulated on the Bentley principle.

The object of this Test is not only to stimulate the interest of the St. Dunstaners but will, we hope, convince the public of their ability to breed and maintain poultry of high value.

Is there any need for me to depict the odds in their case, in their struggle to become successful poultry farmers? These men are the owners of pure-bred poultry and are maintaining a very high standard of efficiency in their yards. They are assisted by expert advisers, and all have the benefit of Mr. Thomson Brown's knowledge, which I am sure is ever at their disposal. In their far-away villages, with their new work, and facing the future in the same way as they faced the enemy in the war, we can appreciate the purpose of this Test, and help them by our practical sympathy.

THREE MONTHS' WORK.

The following is a transcription from the Braille letter received recently from F. J. Guiseley, of Cleckheaton, Yorks.

DEAR SIR,

No doubt you will be very pleased to have a little account of my past three months of poultry-keeping, for the "REVIEW," as an amateur.

Before 1st October I had ten old hens and two pullets, and also I managed to

hatch ten chicks on the 4th June last. This, I know, was late, but as I could not get a broody before, I did this.

During September I got rid of my ten old stock, and had managed to get the two pullets over the moult, and they began to lay on the 1st October. From the 1st to the 11th October I had 19 eggs from the two. Then on the 12th I bought six buff Rock pullets, and on 11th November I received the ten White Wyandottes from King's Langley, which were laying right away.

I had kept an account of all the eggs, and on 31st December I had received a total of 230 eggs.

I have built a scratching shed 14 feet by 7 feet, and fitted it with three windows and made a perch and drop-boards, and now I have about 1 foot of straw in this.

I have two runs of 7 yards square and one of 7 yards by 3 yards, and I have three colours of hens, namely, W. Wyandottes, Buff Rocks and Black Leghorns.

I am looking forward to being very busy with them during the next month or two.

I find the work very interesting, and I make great pets of the birds, which I find gives better results.

Auto-Strop Safety Razors

Mr. Cooper, the managing director of the Auto-Strop Safety Razor Company, who is very interested in our work, has recently offered most generously a gift of his firm's razors to Captain Fraser. The razors are being held at Headquarters, and will be given as prizes in sporting events and "REVIEW" competitions in which St. Dunstaners may compete. In addition, Mr. Cooper has notified Captain Fraser that any individual St. Dunstaner who is wanting one of these razors, which, fully plated in case with three blades, are usually sold at 6s., can have one on request at half the price. Those St. Dunstaners desiring to avail themselves of this offer should apply for a razor through the After-Care Department.



NEWS FROM THE WORKSHOPS AND STORES

THE new men who have commenced their course of instruction this term have started on their various jobs with keen interest, and are already showing some ability. We may, in particular, mention the work of J. Evans on mats. He has made a good number, and improved his style of work with each mat. The work of A. Chiverton on mats, during the last three months, has also shown a steady advance, some letters which he recently put in were thoroughly well done. A. Jarvis has, during the same period, advanced steadily, and turned out satisfactory work, with letters and insertion borders. One mat with a blue scalloped border was very well reported on. Similar work by H. R. Prior was also distinctly above the average; his work in the use of coloured fibre is distinctly good. The work done by C. Wilshaw has been regular, and has shown a steady advancement.

Of the new men here W. Judd has done thoroughly well with barrel baskets, and has already commenced trying his hand on oval work. The work of G. Fallowfield is also particularly creditable to him, in view of his double handicap. He has given his instructors great pleasure with his ready advance, and we think that he has been equally gratified himself. After a start on small oval work, he has advanced to a square basket. B. E. Roberts has done some very nice work on round soiled linens, and special commendation, too, should be given to a slewed bushel basket, as, for a first attempt, it was done remarkably well. We have also been particularly pleased with the general advance of all the work of J. Thornton. An 11-in. round soiled linen basket, with French randing, just completed, is the best piece of work he has done, and there is great credit due to him.

A new recruit in the boot shop is R. J. Williams. After a plucky try at baskets he felt that boot repairing was the trade

in which he would be much more interested, and, from the work he has done up to now, we feel that he was quite wise in making the change. J. Whittingham has been making all-round improvement in his work every week, and is now turning out quite a good job. A. E. Turnock has also been making good use of his opportunity to revise his work in the boot shop, and the regular reports show that he is making satisfactory progress.

J. Edwards has shown distinct promise in his elementary work in the joiners' shop, and we wish him equal success with his more difficult work to come. J. Lovell is also developing well; since finishing his kitchen table he has made two oak trays and an octagonal table. Similar work has also been done by R. Watt, who has, in addition, made a toilet cabinet, and is now busy with a pair of steps. He is a keen man, and the way in which he tackles his difficulties promises well for the future. W. H. O.

It will be of interest to all the joiners and picture-framers who have come under the tuition of R. Caven in the St. Dunstan's workshops to learn that he has recently retired from headquarters, and is now settling in Mossley, Yorkshire—a district where he spent many years of his pre-war life. Caven entered St. Dunstan's in November 1917 and selected joinery as his occupation, proving so successful that he was made pupil teacher and later was placed on the permanent staff, where he remained until just recently. It is needless to say that Caven has been a most patient, persevering and efficient member of our staff. His cheerful disposition, coupled with untiring energy, will be remembered by all who have received instruction at his hands. His six years' experience gained in the workshop should stand him in good service, and all St. Dunstaners will join in wishing him better health and a bright and successful business career as joiner, cabinet maker and picture-framer. E. H. A.



CHAPEL NOTES

I AM so glad to find that in spite of our greatly reduced numbers that we are able to carry on our little services Sunday by Sunday. Especially are we glad to welcome the "Old Boys," who come along from time to time. I know that it is difficult to get to us from all parts of London, especially on Sundays with the reduced "bus service," but their effort is greatly appreciated.

May I ask any men thinking of confirmation to communicate with me right away, because I am hopeful of presenting one or two candidates to the Lord Bishop of London before Easter.

Births

BREWER.—On 12th January, to the wife of G. Brewer, of Cornwall, a son (Leonard).

BILLINGTON.—To the wife of J. Billington, London, W., a son, on 5th January.

CRABTREE.—On 21st January, to the wife of F. Crabtree, of Fakenham, a daughter (Muriel Joyce). Both doing well.

FORRESTER.—On 17th December, to the wife of L. Forrester, of Govanhill, a son (Lundie).

INGRAM.—On the 16th January, to the wife of J. Ingram, of Maidenhead, a daughter.

KERR.—On the 22nd December, a son (Neville) to the wife of J. W. Kerr, of Widnes.

MINCHIN.—To the wife of W. H. Minchin, of Worplesden, a daughter (Beryl Priscilla), on the 10th January. Mother and child both doing well.

POLLEY.—On the 23rd December 1923, a son (Percy George) to the wife of G. Polley, of Challock. Both doing well.

RANDALL.—On the 14th January, a daughter to the wife of H. Randall, of Brighton.

ROBBINS.—On the 10th January, a son to the wife of A. C. Robbins, of Charfield. Mother and boy both doing well.

SPENCE.—On the 4th January, to the wife of A. R. Spence, of Croydon, a daughter. Both doing well.

STEVENSON.—To the wife of E. W. Stevenson, of Eccles, a son, on the 15th January.

Marriages

SWANSTON-REID.—On the 9th ult., at Hutton Manse, Lockerbie, by the Rev. J. C. Mack, M.A., George Blake, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Swanston, Kennels, Balgray, to Mary Ann Grant Fraser, only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Reid, 25 Moncrieff Terrace, Edinburgh.

We have also heard that J. Peel, of Bradford, was married on the 25th January but so far no formal details have reached up. These we hope to have the pleasure of inserting later.

Deaths

This month we send our sympathy to :—
BACK.—A. W. Back, of Shaldon, who has just lost his father.

CATLOW.—S. Catlow, of Nelson, whose father died very suddenly at the end of the year. Mr. Catlow had been to give assistance with his son's birds, was taken ill and died at 11 o'clock the same morning. Catlow, his mother and grandmother, are all feeling the loss acutely.

GODING.—W. Goding, of Leicester, whose wife, returning home from hospital at her own wish, died on the 28th December.

MILLWARD.—T. Millward, of Sheffield, who has lost his wife in tragic circumstances. The funeral was at Burning Greave Cemetery, Pitsmoor, Sheffield, on 3rd January.

POLLEY.—G. Polley, of Challock, who has lost his mother through a motor accident on Election night. She was taken at once to hospital, but no care could save her.

SMITH.—G. J. Smith, of Warwick, who also has lost his mother. She was living with her son, and we know that her sudden death on the 3rd January has been a great shock both to Smith and his wife.

Wireless Applause at Last

BY AN ENTERTAINER AT 2LO.

THE following article taken from the "Evening News" will be of interest to many readers of ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW who are wireless enthusiasts. The series of symphony concerts mentioned in the article, and of which the proceeds are being generously devoted by the B.B.C. to our funds, mark a new era in broadcasting. We are sure these concerts will be of special interest to St. Dunstaner listeners-in, and we shall be glad to receive reports as to how reception was secured by such readers and the effect in comparison with the entertainments broadcasted from the apparent solitude of the studio:—

Those who entertain us by wireless have been working until now under a heavy handicap. Listeners do not quite realise what that handicap must be; so let us take a "Suppose."

Suppose you are a successful public entertainer. You have the priceless gift of getting "across the footlights" and electrifying your audiences. When you have finished your "turn" you are accustomed to face a sea of delighted faces and to hear a roaring surge of applause. Two, three, or four times the heavy curtains are parted for you to re-appear and bow your acknowledgments.

All through your entertainment your best points have been taken up and rewarded with instant laughter. In fact, there has been clear and gratifying evidence that you have "gone down" and that "the house has eaten it."

Then someone leads you to an empty drawing-room and tells you to amuse, say, a standard lamp. You must not touch it and you must not move about. When you have finished there may be a whispered word of thanks and an ultimate cheque but you are *not* called before the curtain; and the preoccupied stage manager is busy with his next victim.

The blessed gift of imagination which enables you to visualise your audience in hundreds of thousands may be a help to you, but not all of us possess it.

So the B.B.C. realises that an audience

is a very real help to its artists, and on the 22nd of this month a start is to be made in filling this gap. Beginning on that date half-a-dozen *wireless* concerts are to be given at the Central Hall, Westminster. The hall will hold 2,700 people, and the public will be admitted at popular prices, the profits going to St. Dunstan's.

UNSEEN, BUT SYMPATHETIC.

It is clear that the policy of "audiences for artists" may be extended in the near future. Mr. C. A. Lewis, organiser of programmes to the B.B.C., has just published a book, "Broadcasting from Within." In this he states that the stimulus of regular audiences for wireless artists will probably be provided in the near future.

And it *will* be a real help. Even such an experienced artist as Mr. Hayden Coffin confessed to me at the B.B.C. that broadcasting had some of the drawbacks of singing to "Mr. and Mrs. Wood" (as a rehearsal before empty benches is termed).

Yet that great unseen, unheard audience is immensely sympathetic and responsive in reality. If a wireless "uncle" confesses to a bad cold he will get dozens of letters telling him the best thing to do for it, as well as a bottle or two of home-made remedies.

In the early B.B.C. days of temporary fittings, I myself fell from a soap-box after telling stories to the hard-hearted microphone.

The crash was heard at least as far as Brighton and Chelmsford, for messages expressing the hope that I wasn't hurt came from both places.

Sympathy

The following amusing sketch has been sent to us by a contributor:—

Scene: A large room, about a dozen beds, with as many snoring occupants.

Time: About two o'clock on a Sunday afternoon.

Enter a gentleman of the Red Cross. "Does anybody want to go to the Wigmore

'All?' No answer. Musingly, "Funny nobody wants to go and a young lady with a car waiting, too." Signs of animation from the beds. Speaks again, "Does anybody want to go to the Wigmore 'All?'" Voices from beds: "How many will she take?" "Only one." There are distinct signs of life at this from one of the sons of rest. He jumps up and vigorously brushes his clothes, meanwhile the gentleman of the Red Cross waits patiently, and so eventually they get to the door where the lady waits.

Lady: "Shall I take your arm or will you take mine? I sent my daughter away with the car—it is such a beautiful day—what regiment were you in?—are you married?—how many children have you got?—where were you wounded?—I had a son in the Army—I wonder if you would know him; his name was Arthur—he was in the Blankshires. I think he was an officer or something, he always had a stripe on both arms. Oh! a lance-corporal! Perhaps that was it. I know it was a responsible job he had, and he only got four leaves all the six months he was in France." Proceeds at about half a mile an hour. "Am I going too fast for you; tell me if I am. Mind the step."

They eventually get there, the young man wishing he had not been tempted by "the young lady and the car."

We will meet them coming out of the hall. "Where shall we go to tea?" Fed-up one: "Oh, anywhere." They go to a teashop, where the fed-up one disposes of half a dozen currant buns, and then gently walk back towards St. J—'s L—. Fed-up one: "Do not let me take you out of your way, madam?" Madam: "Not at all, I was going this way." Fed-up one (desperately): "Only I have an appointment to go to church to-night, madam." "Oh well, in that case, where shall I leave you?" Fed-up one: "Please leave me at Clarence Gate, madam." "Well, here we are." Fed-up one (under his breath): "Never again." Madam: "Oh yes, I hope we shall. I will come round next Sunday." Fed-up one makes up his mind to be out, and makes his way via the railings, and across the road, to where kindred souls do gather, where the name of an

ancient Royal House is the sign. Here we will leave him relating his adventures to a sympathetic crowd of friends.

P.S.—There is no prize for the reader who guesses the name of the orderly, the house or the hostelry.

Departmental Notes Netting Notes

Last month we wrote about our pretty frame-made articles that are made by the crippled fellows. This month we have something to say about the golf nets, which represent the skill of our able-handed netters. We realised some time ago that whereas our heavy material was excellent for small sections of golf netting, the very great weight of large nets made their erection on supports a difficult and costly business. We therefore started making sectional nets of light-weight twine, which could be safely erected on a lighter framework. As we now have good stocks of these nets, we want our After-Care workers to bear this fact in mind when they receive enquiries for large nets for golf clubs and driving schools. G. H. W.

Braille Room Notes

We sincerely congratulate the following men on having passed the Braille Reading Tests:—

A. G. Herne, A. W. Cima, G. Fallowfield.

We give below some of the books that have recently been added to the National Library for the Blind:—

"Iron Trail," Rex Beach.

"Sir Isumbras at the Ford," D. K. Broster.

"Ghost Stories of an Antiquary," M. R. James.

"Wizard King," David Ker.

"Parnassus on Wheels," C. Morley.

"Damsel in Distress," P. G. Wodehouse.

"Heroes of the Scientific World," C. Gibson. G. J. S.

Will St. Dunstaners kindly note that contributions to the M.P. Contributions Committee should be sent in by the end of February, as it is hoped that the presentation will be made at the Anniversary Dance at the Bungalow on or about 26th March?

Mah-Jongg

During the month a presentation Mah-Jongg set was received by Captain Fraser on behalf of St. Dunstaners. This was given by the kindness of Mrs. Nevill Jackson, who came herself to hand over the gift and describe something of the game, accompanied by several leading members of the League, including Miss Olga Racster, compiler of "The Official Rule Book," a little manual invaluable to new players, a copy of which was given with the set of pieces.

The League has also offered to supply teachers. Two or three would-be players have already entered their names, and if all others interested will come forward arrangements can be made to accept these kind offers and a weekly class might be arranged, and a new bad-weather entertainment will be introduced to St. Dunstaners. Captain Fraser is considering a method by which the pieces might be marked in Braille.

The words "Mah-Jongg" mean "Sparrow," and the game has been played for centuries in China, where it originated. The pieces are shaped like dominoes, and the Chinese play by touch, as each "tile" is incised. For St. Dunstaners it will probably be necessary to institute an additional system of marking. In addition to the domino-like "tiles," counters are used; these are bone or ivory sticks marked with dots according to their value, and there is some throwing of dice.

The object of each player is to make up a hand of 14 pieces (in some cases more) and to declare this hand before any of the other players.

The game is not particularly difficult. It is played by groups of four, each working separately, and it seems to exercise such a fascination over its devotees that, the rules once mastered, they rarely want to play anything else!

The origin of the game is lost in the mists of antiquity. Legend has it that some bored Chinese fishermen sitting on the edge of a bank awaiting a bite got the idea of fishing from a boat. Unfortunately, the sea was rough, and each and all were overcome by *mal-de-mer*! Eager to distract their attention from their troubles, the leader devised

the game of Mah-jongg which soon engrossed them to such a degree that they forgot their misery.

A few centuries later, a certain Chinese general discovered that his sentries were falling asleep; he remembered the game introduced to calm the feelings of the fishermen, and ordered that it should be played by his soldiers when on sentry-go!

Now, in this troubled world of to-day it has come across the waters to beguile us in our leisure hours. E. T. C.

ALI BABEE.

Young Ali Babee was a wonderful boy,
No other was like him—his mother's great joy;
So when the wheat paddocks their bounty did yield

She carried young Ali out into the field.

She first laid him down 'neath an oak's shady leaves,

Then built him a beautiful palace of sheaves.
This beautiful palace was three storeys high,
For forty such sheaves would reach to the sky.

In this beautiful palace she laid Ali down,
Where the sun might not scorch and the wind dare not frown;

Where the rain might not enter, if wet it might be,
For nothing must trouble young Ali Babee.

Young Ali he kicked and young Ali he crowed,
With childish good-nature he fairly o'erflowed.
He laughed and he chuckled, he chortled with glee,

For naught came amiss to young Ali Babee.

A beautiful princess came cantering by

As fair as a lily, eyes blue as the sky.

She stopped, she dismounted, she bent on her knee,

The minute she noticed young Ali Babee.

"Oh! I have got acres and acres untold,

And great jars of money, the purest of gold.

Of jars I'd give forty—yea, forty," quoth she,

"If I might possess little Ali Babee."

So she asked Ali's mother if she'd let him go,

But Ali's poor mother she promptly said "No;

A world full of gold would be nothing to me

If by it I lost my young Ali Babee."

Oh! some folks have land and some folks have gold,

And some folk have wealth that is almost untold.

But their hearts are empty—as empty can be—

If they don't possess a young Ali Babee.

Oh! some folks have little, their rations are scant,

Their food is the coarsest, they even feel want;

Yet they have a treasure, who sits on their knee,

The greatest of treasures, young Ali Babee.

My story must stop and my rhyming be done,

I must to the post ere the set of the sun,

That my little niece, who lives over the sea,

May hear this quaint tale of young Ali Babee.

THIRD RESERVE.

Breeding Canaries for Profit

Although there may not be quite so much money in canaries as the following article implies we think the breeding of songsters might be an interesting pursuit for those lacking a hobby, so make no apologies for reproducing the following notes at a date which will give plenty of time for consideration. April is the usual time to begin canary farming.

IT is a fascinating hobby and gives big returns to the successful breeder.

Singing canaries were never in greater demand than they are to-day, and the prices for good birds are high. Before the war Germany sent thousands of the yellow songsters to this country, but that trade has been greatly reduced in favour of British canaries, which are superior in shape, size and colour.

Canaries can be farmed in two ways. An empty room can be divided by a partition of half-inch mesh wire netting, stretched on a light frame, with a door for entrance.

HOW TO BEGIN.

For outdoor breeding, a shed with a wire front can be erected in any sheltered part of a garden on which the sun shines some part of the day—early morning for preference. In either case perches should project from the back wall of the aviary, and twice as many nesting boxes or earthenware nests as there are birds should be suspended from nails near the perches and at about the same level, but not lower.

In half a room or an outdoor shed, 10 ft. by 4 ft. and 6ft. high, it will be possible to run four canary hens with one cock bird. No second cock should be included. Four hens may be placed in the aviary, and the cock bird should be placed in a cage.

There should be plenty of white canary seed in one dish and a small quantity of small summer rape in a second dish. Also there should be a wide, shallow dish—a large flower-pot saucer will do—for drinking and bathing purposes. These feeding dishes can be passed through a

small door at the bottom of the aviary, a system which dispenses with the need of entering the place. There should also be plenty of dried moss and cow hair for building purposes, and also gritty sand.

Before allowing the birds to pair it is important that they should be in perfect condition. The cock should be singing powerfully and the hens should be restless, flying rapidly from perch to perch and flapping their wings. To obtain this condition a pinch of green food—lettuce, dandelion leaves, or cress—may be given daily, together with a teaspoonful of hemp-seed and a teaspoonful of niger seed.

In a few days the hens will fly to the cock, and he will feed them through the bars of his cage. When this occurs he may be liberated and left with the hens.

Nest-building will begin almost at once. The birds must not be interfered with at this stage, but they will not mind their owner tending them.

When the eggs arrive, sitting will occupy thirteen or fourteen days, and then any mistake in feeding may spoil the luck of a whole season.

On the thirteenth day pack a glass jam-jar (half full of water) with dandelion leaves, watercress or flowering chickweed. In a day or two it will disappear. Keep on filling it throughout the season. At the same time keep on the floor of the aviary a dish of crushed hemp-seed. Small mills for crushing the seed are sold cheaply at bird shops.

One or two soft sweet biscuits must also be supplied. They should not be broken up. On this system the young will be reared without any of the usual trouble in preparing egg food.

Cards to Watch at Whist

PRIZE-WINNING TACTICS.

AT most whist drives the standard of skill is fairly high, and obvious mistakes in play are infrequent. All the same, many instances occur in which tricks are thrown away through want of "card knowledge."

Take the concluding rounds of a game, where each player has only two or three cards left. How often will the player with the lead throw out a card at random, sayings afterwards, "I had no idea what you held, partner, so I had to trust to luck"?

STUDY YOUR OPPONENTS' PLAY.

"Trusting to luck" is all very well when you happen to hit on the right lead; but the fall of the cards in previous rounds should give a fair indication of your partner's strength and weakness.

"Watch the discards" is a maxim that should be followed by every whist player. When "throwing away" it is the habit of most good players to discard from weakness at first. Consequently, when the closing stages approach, you should certainly know what *not* to lead.

Thus, when the trump suit—hearts, say—has been exhausted, and your partner has thrown away a club on a spade lead, you would do well to play a diamond. In the same way, by paying attention to the cards your opponents throw away, you will learn a great deal about the distribution of strength and weakness in suits.

That you should make a point of remembering the first lead of your partner, and of returning the suit at the earliest opportunity, goes without saying, but it is not everyone who pays proper attention to the cards led by opponents.

If you are the dealer when hearts, say, are trumps, and the player on your left leads the two of spades on the first round, you should know that he or she does not hold more than four cards of any one suit, and has three spades left, including, probably, one court card.

If your partner plays a small card, the player on your right the queen, and you take the trick with the king, you will

be fairly safe in assuming that the first player still holds the ace and two more spades—so watch for the first lead of a deuce. It means that the player does not hold a long suit.

In "throwing away," remember that it is more important to give information to your partner than it is to deceive your opponents. Keep to hard and fast rules, and, for choice, discard from your weakest suit in the first instance, unless it happens to be your partner's "first lead."

Thus, suppose hearts are trumps, and your partner leads diamonds. Possibly your opponents get in and force trumps, afterwards making three winning tricks in spades, and leaving you with ace, king, and two small clubs, and one diamond. You should throw away a small club on the next round of spades in preference to letting your remaining diamond go. If clubs are led, you can make your ace and king, and then return to your partner the suit led on the first round.

Anonymous Donations

We are asked to acknowledge with very many thanks the following anonymous donations:—

	£	s	d
To St. Dunstan's:—			
R.M.S.P. "Almanzor," posted on			
the high seas	1	1	0
Dunstable	10	0	
Clapham	5	0	
Bexhill-on-Sea	5	0	
Totland Bay	5	0	
Olympia, Washington, U.S.A. ..			11
To The Secretary:—			
Haywards Heath	2	10	0
Earl's Court	2	0	0
Hove	5	0	
Anonymous	5	0	
Taunton	3	6	
London, W.1	4	0	
Anonymous	2	6	

One who is well ahead with his preparations of exhibits for the British Empire Exhibition, to be held at Wembley this year, is A. E. Sherwood. His photograph has recently appeared in the local paper showing him wearing all his medals (the King's and Queen's Somaliland, 1914-15 Star, and the War Service and Victory medals) and surrounded by mats. He has recently worked twelve mats for the Australian Government, by the way.

The Merry Thought

MUCH LATER.

HE had been talking and talking and talking and talking until she was so tired and sleepy she didn't know whether it was this week or last week or next week, and the clock on the mantelpiece was holding up its hands in protest.

Finally it occurred to the young man that an evening call had its limits, at least in a latitude where the nights were not six months long.

"Dear me!" he exclaimed, starting up suddenly. "It certainly must be time I was going home."

"Oh," said his hostess, in a dazed kind of way, "it must be a good deal later than that."

"ANOTHER case of shameful overcrowding," grumbled Mr. Bluemould, reading from his paper. "There are over three million bacilli in a cubic inch of milk."

ATHLETIC PROWESS.

A YOUNG man, one of a coterie in a cobbler's shop, turned to the old cobbler and asked him if he ever played football.

The veteran thoughtfully blew a cloud of tobacco smoke from his lips.

"Nay, lad, I've never played at none o' them athletic games 'cept dominoes!" he replied.

A FOREIGNER residing in London recently received a Government form, and after much trouble returned it with the following entries:—

Name.—X. Y.

Born.—Yes.

Business.—Not good.

A VISITOR was being shown round the asylum. A large room with twenty beds was reached, but the place seemed empty.

"This is where the mad chauffeurs are kept," said the attendant.

"But where are they?" asked the visitor.

"They're all under the beds examining the springs."

GET A MOVE ON!

ANXIOUS PASSENGER (to conductor of a slow bus): "Can't you make better time than this? I shall miss my train."

Conductor: "Yes, I can make better time, but I must stay with the bus."

PASSING Isaac's shop one day Moses was paralysed by the sight of a brand new sun-blind extended over the pavement, and feeling that such extravagance called for an explanation, he passed through the door, and demanded "Vat it meant."

"Ach," said Isaac, gleefully rubbing his hands. "It is dis vay. De sun is shining very bright. It gets on de window and into de eyes of de people zo zat dey cannot see mine goots vat I vish to sell. So I puts a box on de counter vis a card on it, and de card say "FOR DE BLIND."

Another Wireless Recruit

We hear that M. O. Anker, of 23 Haven Lane, Ealing, W.5, has installed a crystal set, from which he derives much enjoyment, and through which he heard Captain Fraser speak on the 23rd December last.

The paragraph concerning the work of T. Till, on page 7 of last month's issue, should read "a large book cabinet," instead of "a large picture cabinet."

The attention of After-Care St. Dunstaners resident in London is drawn to the fact that only the Tuesday night Dance is held each week, those arranged for Friday evenings having been so poorly attended for the past few months, it was decided to abandon them altogether.

We cull the following from the *Glasgow Bulletin* of the 8th January:—

A BLIND BARITONE.

"Coatbridge filled its handsome Town Hall to overflowing on Friday to hear Mr. Jack Miller—who lost his eyesight as a result of war service—sing no fewer than twenty songs of the most varied nature, ranging from Scots ballad to grand opera, in very delightful fashion. Mr. Miller, who is completing his training in London, is certain to be heard of on the concert platform in the near future."

Trade Advertisements and Notices

[We have decided to devote some space each month to advertisements of goods made or supplied by St. Dunstaners, for which there may be a demand from others of our readers. No charge will be made for the insertion of these announcements, which, as our space is limited, must be as short as possible. They can only be accepted from men who have actually been trained at St. Dunstan's, and we undertake no responsibility with regard to them.—ED.]

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Being in touch with the Sheffield Manufacturers I can supply the Real and best Sheffield made table cutlery of any description at the minimum cost. I can supply readers of "THE REVIEW" with **Presentation Cabinets of 105 pieces of Cutlery** down to the small order of half a dozen **Stainless Dinner, Desert or Tea Knives**, with forks or without.

Write for particulars and prices, which will be sent post free and thus get the present lowest prices of the articles you may want.

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J. A. MORTON, *Furniture Manufacturer,*

NAPHILL, NR. HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.

Offer of Furniture to the readers of "St. Dunstan's Review."

BEDSTEADS, solid oak, full size, carved panels, 55/- each; in solid mahogany, 70/- each. Photo free.
DINING ROOM CHAIRS, drop-in seats, solid oak, £7 5s. per set of 6 chairs.
SOLID OAK DINING TABLES, from 57/6 each.
SOLID OAK TYPEWRITING TABLES, turned legs and recess for paper, 25/- each.
TEA TRAYS—Oak, 16 × 12, 6/3 each; to 24 × 16, at 9/3 each.
Mahogany, 16 × 12, 8/- each; to 24 × 16, at 12/- each.

Trays are polished any colour desired. Postage 1/- extra. Full description of any of the articles above sent on application.

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