

EMPIRE NUMBER.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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VICTORY
OVER
BLINDNESS

CONTENTS

St. Dunstaners' Overseas
Poultry Laying Test Result
St. Dunstan's Chaplains
Wireless Competition Result
After-care Meetings
The World's Largest Mats
and all the Usual
Features

FOR THE AMUSEMENT & INTEREST OF MEN BLINDED IN THE WAR



A MAMMOTH MAT.

One of the great mats made by St. Dunstan's for the British Empire Exhibition being approved by the High Commissioner for Australia, who is seen above with Captain Fraser.

St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY PERRY BARRINGER

No. 85.—VOLUME VIII.

MARCH, 1924.

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

EDITORIAL NOTES

THIS issue of "ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW" forms an Empire Number, and is devoted—so far as is possible without affecting general and monthly news features—to information respecting the activities of those sons of St. Dunstan's who have made their homes outside the borders of Great Britain.

We freely admit that it is with no small sense of pride that we are able to call upon such a wealth of material to prove, if proof were needed, that upon the widespread family of St. Dunstan's the sun never sets. In these pages will be found finely stimulating personal records of the content, the hopes and the achievements of the men of the Empire who have learnt at St. Dunstan's everything that St. Dunstan's can teach, and are supporting by their daily lives in every quarter of the Empire our famous and undying motto. Thus is the Imperial aspect of our work and what it has meant demonstrated with undeniable benefit to protagonists and to cause, but there is another and more intimate side which we would emphasise. Never, we hope, will St. Dunstan's, as an organisation or as a community, be bitten with the virus of commercialism and individualism, when Gunner Jones of London will care nothing of what is happening to Sergt. Smith (A.I.F.) so long as his (Gunner Jones's) personal affairs and own family are prosperous and happy.

The true spirit of comradeship has been largely responsible for "the miracle of St. Dunstan's," as it has been described, and that spirit, we are sure, will last throughout the lifetime of every son of St. Dunstan's. We are confident that the news we are able to give in this issue of St. Dunstaners overseas will be read with the keenest interest wherever our little Magazine penetrates—and that is, we are glad to know, in very many parts of the world, even though it be by virtue of but a single issue.

Before our next number is published perhaps the greatest Exhibition history has ever seen, and certainly the one bearing the greatest imperial significance to Britons, will have been opened, and at that Exhibition the work and achievements of St. Dunstan's will be adequately presented to the world. So long as St. Dunstan's men and St. Dunstan's work can justly claim the recognition and attention we are sure both will arouse in such surroundings, none of us need have any fear that the people of the Empire will forget the great sacrifices St. Dunstan's men have made.

We publish in this issue the final results of the Poultry Laying Test. The records achieved are such that everyone participating is to be heartily congratulated. A word of special praise is, we are sure, due to Mr. Thomson Brown, St. Dunstan's Poultry Superintendent, who has devoted so much time and work to this Test.

St. Dunstaners Overseas

Greetings and News from Comrades in all Parts of the Empire

IN this Empire Number of "ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW" we are able to call upon an exceptionally large number of letters which Captain Fraser has received recently from St. Dunstaners overseas.

We are very glad to note, and are quite sure that our pleasure will be shared by all our home readers, that the great bulk of these messages from abroad evidence a high measure of content and prosperity. Surely there can be no community in the realms of philanthropic enterprise which can beat the record which the sons of St. Dunstan's have achieved in so many activities of work and recreation. We send our heartiest congratulations and the best of good wishes, not only to the correspondents whose letters we quote below, but to every St. Dunstaner in backwoods, veldt or any distant places of our far-flung Empire. And now let the letters speak for themselves—we take them haphazard from the goodly pile before us.

It is appropriate that first place should have been secured for quotation by D. A. Kirstein, of Rooms 12 and 13, Atlas Buildings, St. George's Street, Cape Town, if only because of the great event in his life which has recently taken place, and to which further reference is made elsewhere. This St. Dunstaner played such a big part in the sporting as well as the working side while with us, that he will have many friends glad to receive news of his well-being. Kirstein, who left us to take up residence in South Africa in 1921, says in the course of his letter:—

"I am glad to say I am being kept very busy in my private work, and, in addition to this, I have been appointed as half-time masseur at the New Somerset Hospital."

The next letter is from Alex. H. Craigie, of "Cefn," Frederick Street, Albany, Western Australia. His letter and also the press cutting which he sends us gives so much news of general interest to St. Dunstaners that we make no apology for printing it in full. It is quite clear that there is no lack of the spirit of real brotherhood among St. Dunstaners in Australasia, even when meetings with old friends necessitate journeys which run to a mileage almost unknown to us in this "tight little island."

DEAR CAPT. FRASER,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your

Christmas letter with all its good wishes, which are heartily reciprocated.

The same mail brought the "REVIEW," containing the account of the Canadian old St. Dunstaners' Re-union, which made very interesting reading, as we had only just brought our third Australian Annual Re-union to a close.

This year it was held in Adelaide, South Australia, and proved a huge success. There was a representative gathering from Melbourne (distance 480 miles), Sydney (1,000) and Western Australia (1,100 miles). It was much regretted that members from Brisbane and Tasmania were unable to attend.

On 20th November the first of the representatives arrived by the Melbourne express, and were met by members of the Association and entertained at morning tea at the Blinded Soldier and Sailors' Club, which is a wing of the Cheer-up Hut, there they met the South Australian members and many friends and helpers. That evening they were the guests of the manager of the Majestic Theatre, where an enjoyable evening was spent.

21st November.—Representatives from Sydney and Melbourne arrived by the express and were again entertained at morning tea in the Club. Early in the afternoon the representative from Western Australia arrived by boat, and the

welcoming dinner was held that night at the Returned Soldiers' Club; the President of the South Australian Branch of the Association, Mr. George McEwin, welcomed the visitors in a short speech, as did also the patron, Sir Frank Moulden.

22nd November.—At an afternoon tea given in the Cheer-Up Hut, Major Carey, editor of "The Digger," addressed the blinded soldiers, and gave a very hearty welcome to both them and their wives. In the course of his address he spoke of his work with and friendship for Sir Arthur Pearson, so his visit had an added interest. In the evening there was a concert and supper at the Henley Beach Town Hall, where the Mayor welcomed the visitors on behalf of the town. The concert was arranged by the Vice-President of the South Australian Branch of the Association, Mr. C. Yeomans, and the Ladies' Committee of Henley Beach entertained the Association at supper.

23rd November.—In the afternoon Sir Tom and Lady Bridges entertained all members of the Association and their wives to tea at Government House, later on a very good concert was given. In the evening a wireless concert was given in the Cheer-Up Hut, and dancing was kept up till a late hour.

24th November.—In the afternoon all members of the Association were the guests of the managers of the theatres and in the evening there was a dance at the Cheer-Up Hut, at which there was a large attendance.

25th November.—The Automobile Club had placed cars at the disposal of the Association, and a drive to Long Gully was arranged, where tea was provided.

26th November.—Motor cars provided by the Red Cross Society took a large party to Belair Park, where a programme of sports was carried out; the whole day was spent there, and lunch and afternoon tea was served in the kiosk. In the evening "The Flashes" entertained all members and their friends to their open-air variety show, and Mr. Hart, secretary of the South Australian Branch, invited all members of The Flashes Company to supper and dancing at the club-rooms afterwards.

27th November.—A smoke social at the Returned Soldiers' Club brought the week's programme to an end.

With this programme I am enclosing a press cutting. This is the third re-union; unfortunately, I was unable to be present at either of the previous ones, but from the amount of joy and satisfaction I gained at this meeting with all old St. Dunstaners I resolved that never would I miss another.

The South Australian boys are fortunate in their ladies' social committee, headed by Miss Dorothy Gurner and Miss Olive Hiles—both Old St. Dunstaners. They all worked like Trojans during the whole of the festivities, helping to make the re-union the tremendous success it was. Miss Gurner understands so thoroughly what the boys want. We all envy the South Australian blinded soldiers their luck in having her all to themselves.

Next year we Western Australians hope to hold the re-union in Perth, Western Australia—this means that all the visiting boys and their guides will have to travel at least 1,100 miles, and most of them from 1,600 to 2,000 miles, which is a pretty big proposition. In the event of there not being a sufficient number able to spare time to make the trip west a resolution was passed that rather than forgo the annual re-union it be held again in Melbourne.

All the boys reported good progress, and there were no complaints, a sure sign of contentment in the ranks.

Hoping that all goes well with you, and all at St. Dunstan's,

Yours sincerely,

ALEX. H. CRAIGIE.

A real family letter is that of John R. McGill, who writes from St. Dunstan's, Dunsandel, North Canterbury, New Zealand. The details of the brooder he mentions will be found elsewhere, and this will be of wide interest to our many poultry-farmers. There is no doubt from McGill's letter that his description of his life as a very busy and happy one obviously comes in all truth.

"I have sent a model cold brooder which we use in New Zealand, and hope it arrives in time for the Exhibition. I have given

a full description of the cold brooder to Miss Witherby, and I think it would be a good idea to print directions for making the large brooder and tying it to the model. I leave it to your discretion whether to sell it and put the money to the funds of St. Dunstan's, or if the model was any use to the St. Dunstan's poultry-farmers to keep it for them; but do what you think best.

I hatched about three hundred chicks this year, and they have got to that stage that they don't take so much looking after. The commercial travellers look after us blind fellows very well out here, and they are always ready to help us out of our troubles.

Perhaps Mrs. Bates has told you about the commercial travellers getting me to take in a blind fellow to teach him poultry-farming, and anything else that I could? He came all through the war without a scratch, and lost his eyesight in a blasting accident out here. Mick Lynch is the fellow's name, and he was very quick at picking up the work. I could go away for a day or two and all the work would be done. He would go down the paddock, get the cows in by himself, put them in the bail, milk them, and separate the milk, all by himself. He and I took an old corrugated iron fence which ran along the front of the house and fairly spoilt the appearance of it. We put up a wire fence with green shrubs all along, it makes a big improvement to the place.

The garden is nothing to boast about just now, as there has been such a lot of hot dry wind lately and no rain that it is impossible to grow anything, and when we manage to grow vegetables the blight comes along and takes the lot. All the orchards around this district have almost been stripped bare, including our own. I have three acres sown in oats this year which are almost ready for cutting, but if the hot dry winds continue there won't be much to harvest.

Our wee lass is getting on fine, and is outside nearly all day beside me, and is full of life. Taking it all round, our life is a very busy and happy one. I will conclude with the earnest wish both for yours and Mrs. Fraser's happiness, and

that the good work which Sir Arthur started will prosper.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN R. MCGILL."

There are many wise and helpful notes in the cheery open letter to all St. Dunstaners which is penned by W. Forrest Archibald, of The Forest Poultry Farm, P.O. Gillitts, South Africa. We have not yet seen the series of photographs to which Archibald refers, but are sure they would be of wide interest, and we will see if we can arrange for their publication either in "THE REVIEW" or elsewhere—they should make interesting pictures for our Annual Report, if space permits. We are sure we can reciprocate on behalf of all our readers the good wishes which Archibald sends.

TO MY DEAR OLD COMRADES OF ST. DUNSTAN'S,

This brings you all, although rather late, I am afraid, my very best wishes for the New Year. May you each and all have a very prosperous and happy time during 1924.

I have had a long and interesting letter from our Chairman, Capt. Fraser, about the part it is proposed that St. Dunstan's should take in the coming Empire Exhibition.

As you know, during my short year at St. Dunstan's, I only took up poultry-farming, netting and typewriting, and it would be no use sending either fowls or eggs to such a great distance. But it has occurred to me that I might send a series of good photos both of the interior and the exterior of my "South African farm" just to show what has been done by a St. Dunstan's man in just two years.

I know you all, and especially those of you who have gone in for poultry-farming, will be interested to hear of my progress.

First of all, I have now 19 runs, divided into two, for every house; these I change every three months, giving the vacated run a good turn-over and planting in it corn or oats which, when about 12 inches high, gives me plenty of green food.

I have also planted wheat in shallow wooden boxes, or rather frames, covered over with half-inch wire netting so that the birds can only peck the tops off as it grows through the top of the wire. These boxes I have found a great success.

For scratching I have the luck to have a large plantation of Australian blue gum trees adjoining my property, which shed their leaves very thickly. These are collected and put into the runs about six inches deep. Besides being of great medical value (containing a great deal of eucalyptus) they last much longer than any other kind of scratching material I know of.

I should say that I am fortunate in having secured the services of a man who is not only conscientious and painstaking, but an enthusiast as well, which means much to me.

We started the dry mash in June last, and find it more satisfactory than the wet mash. I have three incubators going, two 100 and one 40, and two cold brooders respectively.

During the past year I have collected 22,347 eggs, starting the first month with 581.

I am fortunate in finding a ready sale for these, mostly to private customers, though, of course, during some months, eggs are so cheap—chiefly owing to the Indian competition—that they scarcely pay for the cost of production.

Unfortunately, people are not yet educated up to the fact that carefully tended and properly fed fowls must produce healthier eggs than the wretched, often diseased, creatures that scratch up and eat what filth they can pick up in the insanitary backyards of the ordinary Indian and round native kraals, who spend nothing on their upkeep, so can afford to undersell the poultry farmer who runs his farm on scientific and hygienic lines.

Fortunately, again, I have a never-failing supply of beautiful spring water, which is pumped up to the house, an expensive but necessary outlay.

Now I think you will have a fair idea of what I am doing on my farm.

I often think of the many friends I made while at St. Dunstan's, and I wish I could join in some of your re-unions, but that would mean a month's travel, and a greater expense than, in these early days, I could bear.

But I do look forward in a year or two to being able to save enough from my farm to take a trip home.

Meanwhile, I never forget all that I owe to St. Dunstan's, and the very great kindness I received there from everyone connected with that marvellous Institution.

Again my best wishes to you all, and

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

W. FORREST ARCHIBALD.

Our next letter comes from the Far East, the writer being Alex. A. Biggs, of Room 501 Chung Foo Union Buildings, 25 Jin Kee Road, Shanghai. The grateful tribute Biggs pays to St. Dunstan's and to the Massage Department gains great emphasis in view of the remarkable claim he is able to make with regard to his professional work out there. It is indeed a record which home masseurs would find difficult to equal, but then, of course, conditions in China are in every way different, and, indeed, beyond our knowledge. Biggs is to be congratulated on the sterling work he is also doing on behalf of St. Dunstan's generally.

"It is two years now since I landed in China. During that period I have corresponded with you but never touched on the topic of my career in the Far East.

"Now I have my opportunity. Mr. Cowen, as you undoubtedly know, is out here in Shanghai, having just returned from Peking. I have been able to help him in the raising of funds for St. Dunstan's out here.

"I had to attend a banquet on the 11th of this month, where I managed to collect £50 for St. Dunstan's. At the same time, I have been appointed as representative of St. George's Society on the permanent committee of St. Dunstan's in Shanghai.

"We are having a lecture with film illustration on the 28th of this month, at

which Mr. Cowen has asked me to give my experiences whilst at St. Dunstan's. I can and will only speak in the highest terms of St. Dunstan's.

"I am having a number of paper-weights made in the form of St. Dunstan's badge, which I intend to sell at the lecture.

"Now I will go back to the original intent of this letter. Since landing in Shanghai I have gone ahead in a remarkable manner, many little ups and downs, but never far down.

"All thanks are due to the admirable way in which St. Dunstan's turn out the finished article—to this I must couple the name of Mr. P. Way from the masseur's point of view, all credit must reflect on him.

"My clientele has been very large and varied, the support of the medical men splendid, after proving myself worthy of support, which I have been able to do through the high standard of training received whilst at St. Dunstan's.

"During my term of practice out here I have had 1,800 patients, many of them having travelled as much as 700 miles for treatment, i.e. from Hankow, Tientsin, Hong Kong, Swatow, Canton and Singapore.

"Out of this number I have been able to cure 1,794, leaving very little for anyone to grumble about. I am not putting this in any boastful spirit, but in case this letter appears in print, it will show the outside world the way St. Dunstan's trains a man, and the way the public's money is spent."

Mention of several friends is included in the letter received from D. Vernon, of 131 Stamford Hill Road, Durban, Natal. Vernon, it is obvious, has not been having such a smooth passage through life as some of our other correspondents, particularly as regards weather and trading conditions. However, he seems quite as cheery as ever.

"We had quite a cool Christmas here for a change, but I am sorry to say that we are making up for it now. At present, and for the last four days, the heat has been terrible, registering 104 in the shade. We had a very severe thunderstorm last night,

accompanied by heavy rain, which cooled the air considerably at the time, but this morning the sun is again blazing away and just as hot as ever.

"I paid a short visit to Johannesburg last November, and I was not sorry to leave it again. It has changed so much since I last saw it. Everyone is more or less grumbling at the state of the country, and I understand everyone looks so terribly shabby, so different from the old Jo'burg of a few years back. Durban, I am glad to say, is about the best off at present, but I expect we shall have our turn sooner or latter.

"I have not seen many of the old boys since my return to this country. I had a visit from Kirstein and his fiancée; they came down to the boat when we were at Cape Town. He was just the same as ever. Owen and Mrs. Owen I called on in Johannesburg, and they seemed quite fit and eager to hear all the news of St. Dunstan's, and I also called in at Nava's place, which is next door to the Owens', and found him suffering with rheumatism. I, however, saw him again last July, when he brought Mrs. Nava and family down to Durban for a month's holiday, and he was quite a different man when he left. I think a rest was what he needed. I also saw Stobie, who has since gone to Pietermaritzburg, and who, I understand, is doing very well in the massage line."

Enterprise and initiative are evident in the news which J. H. Palmer, of Box 267, Whitby, Ont., sends of his activities. It is an interesting experiment for a St. Dunstaner, and we wish him every success in his venture, which already seems to be promising very well.

"You will be interested to know, like a great many other St. Dunstaners, I have branched out in a new line. I have opened a woodyard, and up to the present the business has been going very well, as a great many people burn wood over here rather than coal. I buy the wood in by car load from the lumber mills in four-foot lengths, and have it sawed into stove wood length by a circular saw driven by a gasoline engine right off the car, as I have

my yard rented from the Canadian National Railway, which saves me the expense of haulage. My opposition wood-yard is right across the railway-tracks from mine, so we are in a position to keep good tab on one another, which makes it quite interesting."

It is with blushing modesty that we print the little message received from T. C. Roden, of 1936 Sixth Avenue, Grandview, Vancouver, B.C. Seriously, however, it encourages us to note how widely our little house magazine is appreciated by the boys overseas as well as those at home.

"Referring to the 'REVIEW,' I do not think its value can be over-estimated, inasmuch as it serves to eliminate the distance between us and our brothers in different parts of the world."

A visit to the home country is the anticipation which induces Andrew M. Johnston, of "Knowetop," Broughton St., Gore, New Zealand, to send us a comparatively short letter. Many of his old friends will look forward to meeting Johnston during his stay in the Old Country, and there will be plenty of time for him to arrange such meetings before he sails.

"Taking all things into consideration we (Mrs. Johnston and the boy and myself) have had a very happy year, and look forward to a still happier one, especially since we have our passage booked on the "Ruahine" for the 3rd of May next *en route* to the home country. I am not going to make this letter a long one, as it will not be so very long till we may again have the opportunity of having a talk face to face. If the boat sails on the date mentioned, we should be home about six weeks later. We will make our headquarters at Mrs. Johnston's home in Scotland and intend to be away from New Zealand about six or eight months. We have arrived at a stage when we can get away more easily now than we will in future, as I have been very successful on my small farm, and intend going in for poultry, &c., on a bigger scale. If we delay our coming we may not find it so easy to get away. I would be pleased if you could make the fact of our coming home known through the magazine, and in this way we will be

able to get in touch with our old friends much sooner."

T. P. Drummond, of 97 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide, S. Australia, reports such good business that he cannot even find time for a summer holiday. This is fast going, indeed. Drummond writes:—

"I wish you and Mrs. Fraser a happy and prosperous New Year, and hope all the boys now present at St. Dunstan's spent an enjoyable Christmas, and wish those who have recently left every success on taking up their various vocations.

"There seems every prospect of splendid weather for the holidays; I am not going off anywhere myself this year, as I have a couple of patients to see daily for massage treatment, and am quite pleased at having had a busier month than any previous one since starting in Adelaide."

A St. Dunstaner of high scholarly ambition is Dudley A. Tregent, of "Braemar," Walsh Street, South Yarra, Australia, whom we wish every success in his studies. He writes:—

"I have this month successfully completed my third year at Melbourne University, securing First Class Honours in "Political Economy," and am therefore entitled to take out the B.A. degree. I intend to carry on for the LL.B. and LL.M. degrees. This will necessitate extending my course for a further period of two years.

"Kindest regards from us both to all friends at St. Dunstan's."

There is a strong vein of the philosophic resignation in the letter received from W. T. Woods, of 182 Fitzgerald Avenue, Christchurch, New Zealand, of which an extract is as follows:—

"Christmas in New Zealand was accompanied by unusual weather, thunder and lightning prevailed upon the day, heavy downpourings of rain made excursions unpleasant and damaged many crops in the country. To-day, just a week later, a scorching sun and dry winds are burning up the plains, bush fires are sweeping across the northern part of this island, and many homesteads are being converted into smoke.

"And so, 'each changing place with that which goes before,' the years slip rapidly past and over our heads, our hair becomes more scanty, while the circumference of our lower regions increases somewhat—we have perforce to realise that extreme youth is no more.

"With all good luck, kindest regards and thanks."

A busy and capable worker is Arthur Carter, of Moree, Australia, and one of our boys who is able to carry on the work he was engaged in before the war. Our only blinded wool-growing St. Dunstaner has obviously the grit that scoffs at difficulties.

"Thank you for your Christmas greetings.

"I note what you say *re* exhibition. I have nothing to exhibit, as I am a wool-grower and meat-producer. Unfortunately, my wool clip was sold when I got notice of the Exhibition, otherwise I would have sent three fleeces to be exhibited, as I suppose I am the only blind soldier in Australia in this particular line of business. I have done very well since my return, notwithstanding the fact that I lost a lot of cattle over the 1921 crisis. This loss cannot be attributed to my blindness, as some of the oldest and shrewdest men lost several times the number I did, and in many cases the cattle men went insolvent. Had I been solely a cattle man I might have done the same, but the sheep and high prices for wool 'saved my bacon.'

"Of course I have not learnt this business since losing my sight. I was a hard, practical man and was one of the keenest fellows at the game in pre-war days, and as I fully intended to carry on the same business I did not take up any trade at St. Dunstan's as nothing there interested me.

"For occupation, I run a stock and station agent's office; it keeps me busy, and facilitates the handling of my sheep and cattle property, but it does not show much profit, as the expenses are so high, and business fluctuates, but I would not give it up as it keeps me well in touch with all stock matters.

"With kindest regards and compliments of the season to you and Mrs. Fraser."

Our old friend, B. R. Swenerton, Hd. Office, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, 18 Beverley Street, Toronto, Ont., whose activities in connection with the Canadian Blind are well known to our readers, writes as follows:—

"I am returning herewith duly signed the postcard *re* tablet to be erected to Sir Arthur's memory, and would like to say that I consider this a splendid idea and am sure that blinded soldiers as a whole will be extremely grateful to your committee for their suggestion. I can think of no person who has been more worthy of commemoration in such a manner than our old 'Chief,' to whom we all owe such a debt of gratitude. I trust that we will have an opportunity of subscribing to this tablet when its erection is definitely decided upon.

"I trust that all is going well at St. Dunstan's, and that you and Mrs. Fraser are enjoying the best of health.

"I have recently gone in for radio, and I am starting with a single-tube reflex amplifier. I am having fairly good success; my furthest distance being about 1,100 miles, but hope to improve this somewhat. I see by the newspapers that England has gone radio mad. It is certainly a fascinating pastime. Taking this opportunity of wishing you a bright and prosperous New Year."

One of the few St. Dunstaners resident in America is Joe Hesketh, of Buffalo, New York, who wants to get closer into touch with his Canadian comrades. We have no doubt, however, that the publication of this letter will bring him correspondence from many whom he will know. Hesketh's comments on baskets will interest many of our men at home.

"There has been some very good reading in the 'REVIEW' lately, and I always look forward to its coming. I read the article about the Canadian's annual meeting, and it made me a little envious to think that I was not present—'alone on a raft,' so to speak, 'so near and yet so far.' I am only a couple of hundred miles

from Toronto and Pearson House. It is too bad to think that many of our boys live so near and I am not in touch with them. I would indeed be pleased if you would send me some addresses.

"I am glad to hear that the boys have taken so kindly to the radio. It is certainly a wonderful thing and passes away many a dull hour.

"Our kind of basket does not go very well in this city. The cheap shaggy kind seems to have the monopoly, and I could never make it pay, so I am studying shorthand, and when I am efficient I will apply for a post somewhere. I re-cane chairs occasionally. This is a very paying hobby, and one could even make a good living at it.

"Wishing you and yours (and also the boys at St. Dunstan's) a very happy and prosperous New Year, and assuring you that any news of the activities of St. Dunstan's and all St. Dunstaners will be more than welcome at any time."

Some interesting information with regard to his exhibit for the Empire Exhibition is sent by Aubrey P. Archibald, of Victoria, B.C. Here, again, is another philosopher who refuses to be depressed by bad trade and other conditions.

"With regard to the St. Dunstan's exhibit at the Empire Exhibition, the only entry which I could make to that would be something in the line of cabinet-work, which is one of my greatest hobbies and pastimes. Now, anything that I may produce along this line is quite dependent upon the spare time that I may have to devote to it, and since that time is now fully occupied and will be for some time to come, it will not be possible to get out anything specially for this exhibit, but will send something available that complies with the requirements, although it is very small. It is a little smoking stand. This consists of a cigarette container, a match-box and an ash-tray of hammered brass, all resting on a rectangular base about four by eight inches. It is made of mahogany and each surface is decorated with a continuous strip of hair-line boxwood inlay, forming a rectangle conforming with the outer edge of that surface. It is made

of numerous small pieces all cut from the same board, and although the completed article itself is small and not very imposing, yet it represents the expenditure of much time and no end of patience, and I am quite willing to enter it on its own merits.

"During the past two months I have been devoting a great deal of my spare time to making a gate-legged table of oak, after the Jacobean style, and probably two months more will have passed by before it is finished. It is very heavy and too large to meet the requirements of the exhibit, and besides the legs are to be carved, which has to be done by a sighted person, which again precludes it.

"Work at the office still goes on in its same monotonous course, each day being like the others and following on with the unvarying regularity of the cogs in a wheel. But of that one should not complain, for he who has a job of any kind is the lucky one these days. Everything is very dull here and there is a great deal of unemployment, but it doesn't begin to compare with the discomfort, the unrest, hardship and suffering which overhangs England.

"But we will say no more of this gloomy subject, but hope that the year 1924 will acquire a brighter and more cheerful tone, and that before its close there may be some gleam of prosperity in view."

We hope with J. R. Macpherson, one of our masseurs now resident in Victoria, British Columbia, that he will be able to make a trip home this summer, when he can be sure of a very welcome home-coming and many friends to see. Macpherson writes:—

"I am afraid I am a very bad overseas correspondent, as my calling is one which one cannot write about much. We have had exceptionally good weather out here this winter. We are always pleased to hear news from the old boys and were sorry for our inability to be present at the re-union at Toronto last September, but if we get any luck this year we hope to make the trip to old England and meet you all once more.

"I think it a good idea for St. Dunstan's to have severed their connection with the N.I.B., as it now helps the public to know definitely whom they are helping with their contributions.

"I think wireless is a splendid hobby for the sightless men, as it helps them to keep up to date, and in touch with current topics of the day. I am sorry to be unable to contribute to the Overseas Exhibition, as the profession of a masseur leaves little time for hobbies.

"If we have the luck to return to the Old Country this summer we hope to make the journey via the Panama Canal, which will take us about seven weeks. I might mention that we shall bring a prize bulldog with us—hope he won't be seasick! He's such a dear, we cannot leave him behind. Wishing you all of the best in the coming year, and tons of good luck to St. Dunstan's."

A South African St. Dunstaner with many and varied activities is F. S. Owen, of Johannesburg, who, we are glad to note, is doing very well. Owen is going to form another recruit to the great army of radio enthusiasts, and we are sure he will be bitten quite as hard as every other one of us who takes up the hobby.

"Mrs. Owen and I had a very happy Christmas, going round visiting friends, and, in the afternoon, some friends came round to see us. We spent New Year's Day with some friends on the Crown Mines (a spot which, I daresay, you know well) and had a very pleasant time there. We are both in the best of health, but Mrs. Owen has had a very busy time with the fruit; the season, so far, has been a very dry one, and I am afraid the farmers are having a bad time. In spite of the drought our fruit has been good and plentiful, especially apples, nectarines and plums. Plums, in fact, have been so plentiful that we could hardly get rid of them, so what we could not sell we bottled and made jam of. As for poultry, well, we balanced accounts at the end of the year, and found that we were well on the right side of the ledger. We have escaped hail so far, but Pretoria, Potchefstroom and Auckland Park suffered terribly, especially

Pretoria. We had a very welcome visit from Mrs. Vincent in November, and we did enjoy seeing her so much—we blinded soldiers here are very lucky to have such good friends in Mr. and Mrs. Vincent. We have heard a lot about broadcasting and listening-in lately, and have made up our minds to have a listening-in set as soon as ever we can. I have also been very busy basket-making, and considering I have only one arm, have done very well at it. With all good wishes and happiness for your family, yourself and all St. Dunstaners for 1924, from Mrs. Owen and myself."

Another tribute to the way "THE REVIEW" keeps St. Dunstaners abreast of "family" news is paid by E. Beckham, of South Vancouver, who writes:—

"To tell you a little about myself, there is not much basket work doing in Canada, but I received quite a nice order from Jimmy Downie, an old St. Dunstaner, the other day. I have also made one or two dolls' prams, and I am making one of these for the Exhibition which is to be held in Wembley, and will forward it when finished. I am pleased to tell you I receive my 'REVIEW' regularly, for which I thank you very much, for it keeps me well supplied with news. Wishing you and all St. Dunstaners a Happy New Year."

Congratulations to George A. Sugden, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, both on the arrival of a grandson of St. Dunstan's and on the excellent recovery his wife made from her illness. We hope to hear more from Sugden at a future date.

"I spent a very nice time at the re-union in Toronto when I met several of the old boys, and while there I visited my old birth-place, which is sixty miles from Toronto. We have a little son, born on 27th October, we have named him Lorne Wesley. Mrs. Sugden has been very ill but I am glad to say that she is now well on the way to recovery. Hoping that all at St. Dunstan's are well, and wishing to be remembered to any of the old boys that were at St. Dunstan's when I was there."

A little letter from Robinson, of Stoke, Nelson, New Zealand, announces the birth

of a daughter, on 18th January last. Both the baby and Mrs. Robinson we are glad to hear were getting on famously when he wrote.

A St. Dunstan's Wedding

We have received a copy of the *Cape Argus*, of 20th February, giving a lengthy and interesting report of the wedding on 19th February of Alec Kirstein and Miss Lucy McGregor, which took place at the Dutch Reformed Church, Three Anchor Bay. We regret that pressure on our space only allows of brief extracts from the report; but both the bride and bridegroom will know that they carry with them the best of good wishes for future happiness from every reader of "ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW."

The ceremony was performed by the father of the bride, assisted by the Rev. P. J. G. Meiring. The bride looked dainty and charming in a dress of ivory marocain. She carried a shower bouquet of white roses and spider lilies, arranged with maidenhair fern, and wore a gold slave bangle, the gift of the bridegroom. There was one bridesmaid, Miss Lily Kirstein, younger sister of the bridegroom, and three little flower girls—Buda Kirstein, sister of the bridegroom, and Rina and Jeanne Hofmeyr, cousins of the bride. Mr. J. J. Theron, of Worcester, acted as best man. After the ceremony a reception was held in the Eldridge Hall.

One of the most honoured guests was Mrs. C. H. Vincent, of the After-Care Department of St. Dunstan's, who is guide, friend and "fairy godmother" to all our South African blinded soldiers. She had come specially to be present at the wedding, and to her fell the honour of proposing the health of the bride and bridegroom, which she did in a charming little speech, in which she outlined the bridegroom's war career and his successes at St. Dunstan's, both in study and sport, and congratulated him on having passed heart-whole through the garden of English flowers to gather his own little South African rose. She had known Miss McGregor from childhood, and knew she would be a right hand to him.

Mr. Kirstein suitably replied, and the toast of the bride and bridegroom's parents was proposed by Rev. Mr. Meiring, and responded to by Rev. Mr. McGregor. Mr. Bowen, the blind barrister, proposed the health of the bridesmaids and "the ladies generally."

There was a very large number of guests present, and many delightful presents have been received.

Guests of the Pensions Issue Office

Once again St. Dunstaners in residence have been the recipients of an invitation from the Adair Wounded Fund. On this occasion the social and tea was held at the Pension Issue Office, Acton Vale, when officers and staff were hosts—and splendid hosts.

Entertainment was provided by the Pension Issue Office Dramatic Society in "Raffles," and the players acquitted themselves admirably, their efforts being greatly appreciated. There was an impressive sight afterwards, when 650 sat down to tea, the assembly including a number of stretcher cases, who have been unable to attend any of the 75 previous functions owing to the limited space at Wigmore Hall. Dancing took place immediately after tea, the afternoon, altogether, being one of the most memorable in the short but crowded history of the A.W.F.

Wisps of Wisdom

FEW individuals have made mistakes through too great boldness in pushing forward, but thousands fail through lack of courage.

ALL life is summed up in being, doing, and saying.

NEVER boast of victory till you've won the battle.

HABITS are the only cobwebs that grow into cables.

SUCCESS is usually due to holding on, and failure to letting go.

WHEN we refuse to meet an emergency it is apt to overtake us.

Poultry Notes

St. Dunstan's Laying Test

Our Test finished on the 27th ult., and I think we may all congratulate ourselves on its success.

It has brought to the front some first-class laying strains and these should be a

The final results are:—

Pos.	Owner	Breed	HEAVY BREED SECTION.		Total	Total Eggs to date	Test Value
			Eggs laid Fifth Period				
			Grades				
			1st	2nd			
1	Fowler, J.	Rhode Is. Reds	58	—	58	341	341
2	Crabtree, F.	W. Wyandottes	59	3	62	301	301
3	Griffin, A.	W. Wyandottes	55	—	55	300	300
4	Condon, C. T.	Rhode Is. Reds	71	5	76	304	277
5	Stamper, T. D.	W. Wyandottes	52	23	75	310	258
6	Levitt, J.	W. Wyandottes	73	—	73	256	256
7	Trigg, A. E.	Rhode Is. Reds	42	12	54	203	249
8	Nelson, H.	Rhode Is. Reds	72	4	76	246	246
9	McLeod Steel, Mr.	Rhode Is. Reds	51	—	51	239	239
10	Hargreaves, H.	W. Wyandottes	60	22	82	264	231
11	Holmes, P.	Rhode Is. Reds	42	8	50	230	230
12	Woods, E. L.	Rhode Is. Reds	58	14	72	243	222
13	Tebble, E.	Rhode Is. Reds	52	21	73	325	219
14	Boorman, F. W.	Rhode Is. Reds	37	18	55	289	213
15	Wright, W. H.	W. Wyandottes	50	11	61	228	212
16	Littlejohn, Mr. D.	Rhode Is. Reds	34	—	34	205	205
17	Clark, R. A.	Rhode Is. Reds	59	20	79	268	195
18	Maclaren, Mr. D.	Rhode Is. Reds	47	12	59	219	191
19	Boyer, R.	Light Sussex	55	12	67	171	167
20	Bissett, Mr. L. A.	Rhode Is. Reds	57	1	58	165	165
21	Smith, Mr. G. R.	Rhode Is. Reds	30	8	38	155	155
22	Woodrow, W.	Rhode Is. Reds	30	30	60	218	120
23	Hamilton, B.	Rhode Is. Reds	59	4	63	107	107
24	Last, W.	W. Wyandottes	9	56	65	162	69
25	Letch, S. J.	W. Wyandottes	11	7	18	53	53
LIGHT BREED SECTION.							
1	Bulman, Mr. C. R.	White Leghorns	74	—	74	345	345
2	Ramsden, Mr. N.	White Leghorns	58	8	66	314	311
3	Pink, A.	White Leghorns	36	2	38	264	264
4	Coulson, A.	White Leghorns	27	6	33	261	252
5	McIntosh, C.	White Leghorns	43	5	48	280	238
6	Burgin, W.	White Leghorns	50	14	64	280	232
7	Tindall, J. H.	White Leghorns	50	13	63	280	224
8	Irvine, Mr. T.	White Leghorns	47	4	51	218	218
9	Owen, Capt. W.	White Leghorns	30	2	32	197	197
10	Webb, W.	White Leghorns	44	14	58	236	180
11	Hetherington, T.	White Leghorns	53	3	56	198	178
12	Brown, C. H.	White Leghorns	37	8	45	199	174
13	Carlton, W. E.	Black Leghorns	17	3	20	162	162
14	Hawkins, G. H.	White Leghorns	30	13	43	155	155
15	Capper, Mr. A. H.	La Bresse	30	24	54	219	152
16	Harris, F. J.	Black Leghorns	27	—	27	151	151
17	Gwyn, I.	White Leghorns	44	10	54	158	138
18	Irish, Mr. H.	Anconas	43	6	49	120	120
19	Whitingslow, J.	White Leghorns	24	7	31	164	114
20	Horsnell, N.	White Leghorns	9	54	63	308	77

source of profit to their lucky owners when the next rearing season starts.

Our Test Manager's full report, which follows further on, will, I am sure, be read with great interest by all the competitors.

Again this month the weather has been most unfavourable to egg production. Almost throughout the fifth period the wind was in the north and east, bringing with it three falls of snow. The birds have necessarily been confined to their houses a good deal. In spite, however, of adverse climatic conditions, the average production for the month has been well maintained, although there was a slight drop about the middle of the month.

The Test concluded on the 27th February and the birds were returned to their owners on the 3rd and 4th March.

The weather during the five months of the Test must, with the exception of a few bright intervals, be described as wet and cold and very adverse to winter egg production. There had been little natural shelter for the birds, as the test ground lies exposed to the north-east.

The total number of eggs recorded was 10,380, or an average of 57.72 eggs per bird for the twenty weeks. 7,015 eggs were first-grade and 3,365 were second-grade.

In the Light Breed Section the average number of eggs laid per bird in the 20 weeks was 56.48, and in the Heavy Breed Section 58.62.

The breed average per bird in the 20 weeks was as follows:—

W. Leghorns	60.4
Rhode Island Reds	59.64
W. Wyandottes	58.56
La Bresse	54.75
L. Sussex	42.75
B. Leghorns	39.12
Anconas	30.

Many of the birds were very immature on arrival, and on the other hand many were in full lay, and consequently the change put them off and encouraged a partial moult. It was noted that the birds were in one of these conditions in the following pens:—10, 11, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 31, 32, 39, 40, 41 and 42.

We have been entirely free from disease, and only two birds have been in hospital with slight colds, and one bird for three months suffering with a distended crop. The only cure would have been an operation, but it was not considered advisable to undertake this.

Only two deaths have occurred. Pullet No. 10, in January, *ex* Whitingslow's pen, and No. 80, *ex* Carlton's pen, about ten days before the close of the Test.

Both deaths were due to ovary trouble, as reported by the Veterinary Department of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

No second-grade eggs have been laid by the winning pen in the Heavy Breed Section during the last three periods, and only 16 throughout the Test.

The winning pen in the Light Breed Section has laid only 26 second-grade eggs; none during the last month.

The following awards have now been distributed:—

HEAVY BREED SECTION.

	Score
First prize (silver cup) to J. Fowler	341
Second Prize (gold medal) to F. Crabtree	301
Third Prize (silver medal) to A. Griffin	300
Award of Merit to C. T. Condon	277
Award of Merit to T. D. Stamper	258
Award of Merit to J. Levitt	256
Award of Merit to A. E. Trigg	249
Special Prize, for pen with highest number of first-grade eggs (pair of silver spoons), presented by the S.P.B.A. to J. Fowler	325
Special Prize, for highest individual record (silver flower vase), to F. W. Boorman	110
Special Prize, for pullet with highest number of first-grade eggs (small poultry-house, presented by Mr. C. A. S. Hannaford), to J. Fowler	98
Ditto to Stamper, who tied with Fowler	98

LIGHT BREED SECTION.

First Prize (silver cup) to Mr. C. R. Bulman	345
Second Prize (gold medal) to Mr. N. A. Ramsden	311
Third Prize (silver medal) to Pink, A.	264
Award of Merit to A. Coulson	252
Award of Merit to C. McIntosh	238
Award of Merit to W. Burgin	232
Award of Merit to J. H. Tindall	224
Special Prize, for pen with highest number of first-grade eggs (pair of silver spoons), presented by N.U.P.S. to Mr. C. R. Bulman	319
Special Prize, for highest individual record (silver flower vase), to Mr. C. R. Bulman	102
Special Prize, for pullet with highest number of first-grade eggs (small poultry-house presented by staff at King's Langley Farm), to Mr. C. R. Bulman	98
And Special Prize for best pen in Test (one 60 Hearson Incubator presented by Messrs. Spratt's Patent, Ltd.), to Mr. C. R. Bulman	345
Are we to look forward to another Test next winter?	

J. T. B.

譯 語

A very appreciative note from a customer was recently received by J. Brocker-ton, of Coleraine, Ireland: "I must say I have never seen such mats before," wrote this gentleman, "they are absolutely splendid. Several people have already spoken to me about them and you may be sure I shall guarantee them to everyone and give your address." A pleasant message to receive and as appreciation makes for good work, we expect to hear that yet other testimonials come Brocker-ton's way. He is busy on quite a large mat order for the Provincial Bank of Ireland, one of these is quite the largest mat he has ever tackled.

St. Dunstan's Chaplains

Captain the Rev. J. E. Williams, who has been Chaplain to St. Dunstan's for five years, will be leaving St. Dunstan's Headquarters at the end of the Easter term. It will be a matter of great regret to the men of St. Dunstan's that the association between them and their Padre should thus be brought to an end, but the circumstances connected with his leaving, and the promise that he will still keep in touch with us, will greatly temper our feelings in the matter.

I greatly appreciated Captain Williams' attitude when a little time ago he told me that he thought the time had come when St. Dunstan's could do without a whole-time Chaplain and carry on the spiritual and social work, which it has always been the function of this officer to encourage and attend to, in some other way. I did not like the thought that St. Dunstan's should part with Captain Williams, but when he placed the facts before me I could not help agreeing that the number of men in training had been reduced to a limit which made it unnecessary for a Padre to devote the whole of his time to them. Of course, Captain Williams had lately taken on many duties of an administrative character which kept him very well occupied, but he felt that his place was in the Church, and that the time had come for him to seek to get back into parochial life. Accordingly, Captain Williams accepted a living which became vacant in Lincolnshire, and will be taking up his duties there on Easter Sunday.

St. Dunstan's has been extremely fortunate in the service and help which has been given in connection with the religious aspect of our work. While Captain Williams was Chaplain to the Forces, and was serving with the Armies, the work so far as the Church of England was concerned was undertaken by the Rev. L. G. Tucker, while right through from the first days of St. Dunstan's until the present time Reverend Prebendary E. N. Sharpe has, in an entirely voluntary capacity, supervised chaplaincy arrangement, and during

the busy times when some hundreds of men were at St. Dunstan's he helped, himself, with our services and with spiritual work generally.

I have had the advantage of a consultation with Prebendary Sharpe when he very generously informed me that he would like to continue to exercise the duties of Honorary Chaplain, and that now that Captain Williams was leaving, he would see to it that adequate arrangements were made for those men who wished to attend Divine Service, be prepared for confirmation, or avail themselves of his help and advice. Prebendary Sharpe has also been so good as to say that he will accept office as a member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council—a position to which I and my colleagues are delighted to welcome him.

Fortunately, too, Captain Williams wants to keep in touch with St. Dunstan's, and apart from representing our cause wherever he may be stationed, which is a duty we all knew he would willingly impose upon himself, he has volunteered to continue to keep an eye upon our rowing and walking races and other sports, and thus maintain continuity of direction and policy in this very important sphere. I understand that Captain Williams intends in any event to be in London one or two days a week, and this will enable him adequately to do this work, and continue to meet personally his many friends among present and past St. Dunstaners at their Tuesday evening meetings.

Of course, the formal thanks of the Council of St. Dunstan's have been rendered to Captain Williams for his splendid service and he has been appointed to, and has accepted the office of, additional Honorary Chaplain to the organisation. I feel, however, that formal thanks, in whatever words they were conveyed, would be inadequate, and accordingly I want to place on record my personal appreciation of all the help and friendship which he has given us, and I know that in doing this I shall be voicing the feelings of all St. Dunstaners.

IAN FRASER.

"Buckshee"

AN APPRECIATION.

We have received the following cheery and homely appreciation of Captain Williams from a St. Dunstaner, and gladly give it insertion.

My first meeting with our big-hearted little Chaplain was not of a promising character. I had had a "week-end," and being of an economical turn of mind, I had stretched it a bit, with the result that I did not get back to the workshops till Monday afternoon. The next day I was "on a blue 'un" as they say in the Army, or, in other words, I was on the mat for being absent. Well, best get it over, I thought; it was a good week-end anyway and was worth it!

I wandered down and knocked at the door. "Hallo, Lowings," said a cheery voice, "did you have a good week-end?" Then followed a reproof, which made me feel ashamed in its gentleness. A typical example this of the way in which "Buckshee" worked his way into many a heart.

I live in a far off corner of Hampshire where they know him, and was speaking of him one day in a local concert room. "Captain Williams?" they said, "never heard of him." Then a thought seemed to strike one man: "Do you mean 'Buckshee?'" he said. "That's the man," I answered. Then I heard an interesting little tale of the help and encouragement he gave to the wounded at the big camp here during the war.

Here is one typical story which I know he would laugh at the recollection of: There was a concert at the camp, and, of course, "Buckshee" was busy. The Colonel was to be there—rather a peppery old colonel he was. Now one of the favourite songs of the boys had a not very flattering reference to a colonel's wife. But "Buckshee" got over the difficulty: "Look here, Hellicker," he said to the singer, "when you sing the song about the Colonel's wife just put in the parson's wife instead."

The situation was saved, and none clapped so heartily as the Colonel. (By

the way, I do not think that our parson had a wife at this time.) His unfailing good humour and steady going forward with the courage of conviction, have endeared him to everyone, and one of my pleasantest recollections of St. Dunstan's is of those simple little services conducted every Sunday at the dear old Bungalow. Just a few hymns of our own selection, and a plain, honest talk in our little Chapel with its simple dignity. Our Padre is a good sportsman who loves a sportsman, a thorough gentleman who knows that it takes all sorts of people to make up a world. May he prosper in his new sphere—he is their gain and our loss. I cannot think of a "walk" which will be complete without him.

W. L.

More Praise for Wireless

The following letter received by Captain Fraser refers to his talk, not about St. Dunstan's, but on radio matters, which he gave on behalf of the Radio Society of Great Britain on one of the Section Committees of which he is chairman.

BOURNEMOUTH,

9th March, 1924

CAPTAIN FRASER.

Dear Sir,—It gave me very great pleasure to hear you speaking from 2 L.O. last Thursday. This was the first time I have had an opportunity of listening to a voice I know being broadcast, and I was surprised to find how accurately the sound waves can be transmitted. Although my reception was not good that evening, the voice was unmistakable.

I not only regard wireless as one of the best hobbies, but I think it is the most useful link with the outside world that a blind man could possess. I hope hundreds of St. Dunstaners enjoyed Thursday's experience and are looking forward, with me, to further pleasures of this kind.

Yours sincerely,

C. J. RHODES FAWCETT.

NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS



We have not had much news from A. Yates, of Brighton, of late, so note with interest that he hopes to start basket-making again now that he will be able to give his whole time to his business. It may be remembered that he once did particularly good work in this line, being one of the men permitted to help execute an order received from Queen Alexandra.

"Everything prospering as usual" is the excellent news from H. Harding, of Gloucester. His little tobacconist's shop, although quite a small place, is always beautifully kept. Harding sits in a small room just behind, so is very much "on the spot." His friends will congratulate him on having worked up such a nice little business. He is another who says that he has had an excellent response from a circular letter.

A very busy man is W. T. Jones, who finds that pigs and poultry together give him scant leisure. Unfortunately, the local markets have had to be closed on account of the foot and mouth disease, so he has not been able to sell his pigs as he had anticipated. We hope the ban will soon be removed.

Allotment work is occupying R. C. Ray, of Southend-on-Sea, who is going in for flower-growing. In such a place, where summer visitors flock in daily by the thousand, it should be possible to work up good sales, and we hope Ray will have every success. His other interests are chickens and rabbits, so he is not guilty of putting all his eggs into one basket.

A new occupation has been found by W. J. Roberts, of Westcliffe-on-Sea. In conjunction with another ex-service man he has started up as a wood merchant, and

has already found regular customers among retail oil-shops and grocers. His main difficulty is in obtaining enough wooden cases.

Another flower lover is A. Stevens, of Wokingham. He is getting his garden into excellent shape for the summer, we hear, and should have a splendid show of flowers later on.

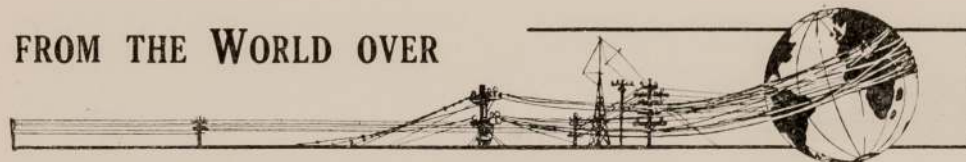
Land is also taking all the energies of W. A. Foolkes, of Bow Brick Hill, as he is getting an extra strip ready for his poultry. He anticipates having 300 birds this year.

Congratulations to J. Levett, of Kingston-on-Sea, who, at the first whist drive he had ever attended, succeeded in carrying off the first prize!

How would St. Dunstaners with workshops like the little experience that befel G. T. Shaw, of Walsall, the other day? A neighbour came rushing in with the news that smoke was pouring out of the side of his workshop. Shaw dashed out with visions of a general conflagration in his mind, but found that the root of the trouble was a collapsed stove-pipe, so the worst trouble was that a new one had to be put in, quite bother enough, we admit, but small after all when one thinks of the "might have been."

Yet another who finds perpetual interest in the branch of the British Legion to which he belongs (he is a committee-man, by the way) is W. G. Sewell, of Stafford, who is always cheerful even when he does not get quite so much work in his own line as he could wish. His back-yard poultry outfit has proved such a pleasure that he now has a wild ambition to run a small holding!

FROM THE WORLD OVER



More modest in his desires, if equally courageous, is G. E. Eades, of Reading, who takes a great interest in the excellent baskets he turns out, and has found an outlet for some of his energies in giving pleasure and help to others less fortunate than himself. He goes weekly to a cripples' home, where he is teaching unskilful fingers to make the simpler kind of baskets. We can imagine how eagerly his coming is watched for.

Congratulations to J. Caple, of Cardiff, who has been expending his skill as masseur on a small boy patient, who, after a severe attack of influenza, was left apparently paralysed. The child is now walking, we hear, and Caple's success has brought him considerable local recognition.

Another who has been in the public eye recently, although in a different sphere of usefulness, is W. J. Gilbert, of Devon, for when a gathering was held at the Rifle Club Rooms, Instow, he gave an evening exhibition of mat and net-making, and according to the press notices proved a great attraction during the concert interval.

In a previous number mention was made of the success of G. F. Furniss, of Bolton, in connection with chair-seating. Finding this work is a valuable adjunct to other occupations, Furniss is specialising in it, and is showing great initiative. As soon as they can get settled in their own home he intends to canvas the district thoroughly, and we hope with him that Bolton's inhabitants will find much that needs doing when he calls their attention to his capacities in this line.

Our list of those intending to send in an exhibit for the British Empire Exhibition

Competition is growing. S. Holmes, of Belfast, hopes to be among the competitors, but so far he has no place to work in, so is more anxious than ever to secure a new house in order that he may begin his task.

We are glad to hear that with A. W. Bundy, of Gloucester, trade continues satisfactory, and he is keeping his regular customers. We are not surprised at this, for the shop looks as clean and nicely kept as ever.

Some time ago we mentioned a pig belonging to G. Davis, of Gloucester, from which great things were expected. Other pig-owners may be interested to hear that it turned the scale at 13 score. Davis salted the greater part down for his own use, so his family should not be on short rations, where bacon is concerned, for some time to come.

As a result (he believes) of the sending out of trade cards, R. V. Newman, of St. Leonards, has had quite a number of regular orders in lately, so he has become a firm believer in the power of advertisement. A valuable opening has also been found in the form of a shop at Tunbridge Wells, which is proving itself able to sell some of his goods. We join Newman in hoping that all his avenues of opportunity may grow wider.

The continued cold weather is making many St. Dunstaners look around for fresh hobbies, and we hear that W. C. Ward, of St. Leonards, is finding considerable pleasure and making good progress with the violin. Congratulations to him on his courage in that he has chosen the most difficult of instruments.

We are pleased to hear that W. Street, of Evesham, is making "splendid" baskets

and is taking great interest in so doing. Like many others, however, he is suffering from the competition of cheap foreign baskets, so does not succeed in getting as much local recognition as he deserves.

One of our most enthusiastic workers is F. G. Braithwaite, of Guildford, who reports himself as "very fit, as usual." We are as proud as he that he is on the King's Roll of Honour on account of the percentage of disabled ex-service men that he employs. His complete staff numbers eight, including a traveller.

Another particularly ambitious man is G. Craddock, of Cambridgeshire, who is very anxious to enlarge the scope of his business. We hope soon to hear that his hands are as full as even he can wish.

From Somerset comes word of R. W. Chaplin, who is getting a fair number of boots in for repair and has had several good orders for mats of late. One, for a school, gave particular satisfaction, and there is every hope that it will lead to "repeats." Chaplin, by the way, is one of the men brought into local prominence by the fact that he was presented to the Prince of Wales. Another was F. Westaway, also of Yeovil, who, by the way, has just been re-elected a committee member on the local branch of the British Legion, and "with a very big majority"—certainly a cause for congratulation.

Yet another Somerset man is C. G. Clarke, who, while not having quite all the orders he might wish, is yet kept "comfortably busy." In these times of universal shortage of work as well as of everything else, a pleasurable condition indeed.

The fish and chip shop which J. Robinson, of Salop, is running with the help of his able wife, has naturally been affected by the recent strike, and now, to complicate matters still further, there is almost a potato famine in the neighbourhood. Luckily, Robinson has an amount of courage

and realises that slices of bad times must come between the good, so we look with confidence within a very few weeks to receiving an optimistic report of progress made as well as anticipated.

Having heard of the pleasure back-yard poultry outfits have given to others, F. C. S. Hilling, of Acton, hopes to start up this hobby soon. We are glad to hear that his wife has nearly recovered her usual health, while the baby is "simply wonderful." Hilling has great hopes of carrying off a prize with her at the next baby show, whensoever that may be held.

It is good to hear that the world is a rose-coloured place to the mind of D. Pettitt, of Wellingborough, at present. Long may it continue to bear this hue! His health is "splendid," he is doing well at his work (shorthand-typist), and has many friends, as well as outside interests, to engross him. To add to his happiness he has succeeded in getting a house near his work, and now hopes to be married just before Easter. We are sure all St. Dunstaners will be wishing him "health, wealth and prosperity" when the propitious day arrives.

Another concerning whom cheery reports are reaching us is A. Benning of Warwick. He is finding great joy in his wireless outfit, and his wife is as keen an enthusiast as himself. Each finds it a matter of difficulty to tear herself and himself from the fascinating box of tricks at a reasonable hour for bed!

W. Ellinson, too, is a Warwick man, and he is busy with baskets. We hope he will do even better than he expects at the Auction Mart, for which he is now getting up stock.

Those who have been experiencing a spell of prosperity of late will feel sympathy with J. Collier, of Croston, who has had a run of bad luck that we feel sure must have reached its end by now. It culminated when his poultry became diseased and had to be disposed of.



SPORTS CLUB NOTES



Our Saturday morning sports continue to go well, and the boys are showing great interest and keenness. The sports ground remains quite unfit, so we are regularly using the Bungalow, but it seems to me that many will be sorry to leave the indoor for the outdoor even when the Sports ground is ready for service. The Basket Ball so far appears to cause the most difficulty, and it is not very often that a man scores ten with each shot, whilst the Medicine Ball still refuses generally to go beyond thirty feet at a throw. Inman is particularly good in the jumps, and already has done sixteen feet in the two-jump competition. I wonder if any of our boys can beat this. Remember that the first jump is from a standing start with heels together. The chief scorers up to date are:—

T.B.		S.S.	
Pawley ..	740	Prior ..	730
Edwards ..	650	Muir ..	620
Wilshaw ..	620	Inman ..	515
Roberts ..	515	Jervis ..	410
Wootley ..	445	Salt ..	400
Chiverton ..	330	Williams ..	395
Gill ..	55	Teagle ..	295
		Fallowfield ..	80
		Lovell ..	65

OLD BOYS' SPORTS.

I know that a number of our old boys are looking forward to the opportunity of resuming our summer sports on the Sports ground, and I hope that we will be able to commence somewhere about the first week in May. However, I will give due notice in next month's REVIEW, that is if the Daylight Saving Bill has been definitely passed. I do want any old boys who live convenient to back up these sports, even if they have not even attempted this sort of thing before. The exercise and healthy engagement will prove to be of great benefit and after all the more we have taking part the better for the sports. We will keep to our old arrangement of Tuesday and will start punctually at 6.40 p.m.

In the meantime our winter sports in the Bungalow are keeping up well. Brown is leading fairly comfortably in the S.S., but the struggle for the T.B. is very keen.

T.B.		S.S.	
Henry ..	1,902½	Brown ..	2,175
Webster ..	1,850	Downs ..	1,875
Gamble ..	1,697½	Scott ..	1,500
Hughes ..	1,445	James ..	1,095
Nicholls ..	1,405	Taylor ..	515
Kerr ..	480		
Burran ..	420		

FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

It is extraordinary how that the interest in this sport is kept up term by term. The new boys are splendidly carrying on the old tradition and some excellent games are seen. The composition of the teams may prove interesting.

Oddfellows.—Prior, Roberts, E. J., Turnock, Judd.

Tally Ho's.—Roberts, E., Chiverton, Hunt, Jarvis.

Radiators.—Hill, Pawley, Salt, R. F. Williams.

Goodfellows.—Muir, Wood, Goodison, Fallowfield.

Saints.—Inman, Teagle, Brammer, Wilshaw.

Lodgers.—Watt, Edwards, Lovell, Wootley.

Brightonians.—Evans, Dawes, Anderson, Tebutt.

LEAGUE RESULTS.

Feb.	
5th. Saints ..	4 Lodgers .. 1
Brightonians ..	2 Goodfellows .. 2
7th. Tally Ho's ..	2 Oddfellows .. 1
Radiators ..	2 Lodgers .. 1
8th. Saints ..	5 Brightonians .. 1
Oddfellows ..	6 Goodfellows .. 2
12th. Tally Ho's ..	2 Radiators .. 1
Brightonians ..	4 Lodgers .. 3
14th. Saints ..	1 Goodfellows .. 1
Oddfellows ..	2 Radiators .. 0
15th. Tally Ho's ..	2 Lodgers .. 1
Brightonians ..	2 Radiators .. 1
19th. Saints ..	6 Oddfellows .. 3
Tally Ho's ..	3 Goodfellows .. 1
21st. Radiators ..	4 Saints .. 3
Lodgers ..	3 Oddfellows .. 1
22nd. Tally Ho's ..	4 Brightonians .. 4
Goodfellows ..	3 Radiators .. 1
26th. Saints ..	3 Tally Ho's .. 3
Oddfellows ..	4 Brightonians .. 1
28th. Lodgers ..	2 Goodfellows .. 1
29th. Saints ..	3 Lodgers .. 2
Goodfellows ..	4 Brightonians .. 1

The highest scores are:—

T.B.		S.S.		
Roberts ..	5	Inman ..	..	13
Edwardes ..	4	Teagle ..	..	9
Tebutt ..	4	Hunt ..	..	8
Wootley ..	3	Muir ..	..	7
Judd ..	3	Prior ..	..	6
Turnock ..	3	Fallowfield ..	..	6

No.	Name	Goals					Pts	
		P.	W.	L.	D.	F.		
1.	Saints ..	7	4	1	2	25	15	10
2.	Tally Ho's ..	6	4	0	2	16	11	10
3.	Oddfellow's ..	6	3	3	0	17	14	6
4.	Goodfellows ..	7	2	3	2	14	16	6
5.	Brightonians ..	7	2	3	2	15	23	6
6.	Lodgers ..	7	2	5	0	13	17	4
7.	Radiators ..	6	2	4	0	9	13	4

WALKING.

I have already been asked about our next walk and already two kind friends have supplied us with two excellent prizes. The anonymous donor of the first prize has given a very beautiful silver flower stand, and I am sure that if the wives of certain of our competitors saw this prize they would stir up their husbands to go in and win it. Miss Hamar Greenwood has generously presented a handsome cup for second place. Now, boys, get busy and do some training, and I will let you know the date as soon as I can fix it up. The conditions will be similar to our last walk—a six-miles handicap event.

REGATTA.

I am so glad to say that we are to continue our enjoyable regattas this year and hope to find a favourable day towards the end of June. I am not sure whether we will be able to arrange one race with the Fire Brigade. You remember that they beat us twice last year, but then they are so used to water, aren't they? If they will row us, we must arrange the strongest four to represent us that it is possible to get. I am giving a rough programme here so that our rowing men can arrange about their fours, pairs and doubles early on.

PROGRAMME.

- 1.—Single Sculls. Present boys, T.B.
- 2.—Single Sculls. Present boys, S.S.
- 3.—Single Sculls. Old boys, T.B.
- 4.—Single Sculls. Old boys, S.S.
- 5.—Double Sculls. Present boys (open).
- 6.—Double Sculls. Old boys (open).
- 7.—Pair Oars. Present boys (1 T.B. at least).

8. Pair Oars. Old boys (1 T.B. at least).
 - 9.—One Armed Pairs. (Open).
 - 10.—Open Fours. (At least two T.B.).
 - 11.—Final "Fours" and Invitation Race?
- N.B. 1.—Men may only enter two events.
N.B. 2.—If there are insufficient entries for any one event, this event may be joined to another.

Our rowing men will be sorry to learn that Mr. H. J. Finch, of the Leander Club, has been seriously ill. He is, however, much better now, and we look forward to having his services again at our Regatta training.
J. E. W.

Anniversary Dance

As in previous years a dance will be held to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of St. Dunstan's. This ninth Anniversary Dance will take place at The Bungalow on Friday, 28th March, and it is hoped that all men in London will be able to come. It is hardly necessary to add that everything will be done to make the function an enjoyable one.



From Leicester comes news of C. V. Smith, who says the supply of pullets he received from St. Dunstan's last October are of a particularly obliging disposition, since they stated laying almost at once and have been averaging 35 eggs a day ever since. Smith is now hard at work on a large house, and when he gets it finished intends to increase his stock considerably. It is fortunate that poultry promises well with him, since, like a good many others, Smith finds that the cheap imported basket ware has a detrimental effect on his trade.



Joseph Hughes, of St. John's Wood, informs us that he is embarking on a new enterprise, that of selling miscellaneous overalls and warehouse coats. Hughes also mentions that he would like to hear from friends in the neighbourhood of St. Dunstan's who would like to come out on to Primrose Hill in the mornings "to kick a ball about." They will get some good exercise, for Hughes is accompanied on these jaunts by an ex-player of some twenty years' experience.

From the Pensions' Officer

The Ministry of Pensions have notified us that, in future, the certificate reproduced below will have to be completed and signed by all men receiving attendant allowance. This form will be in addition to the ordinary life certificate.

The form in question has not been devised especially for blind pensioners, but is applicable to all cases of very severe disablement where constant attendant allowance is issuable. Disabled men, other than St. Dunstaners, have had to complete the form for some considerable time, and as the Ministry of Pensions are desirous of instituting a uniform practice, they have decided that the form shall be applicable to totally blinded men in future.

Several men are, apparently, unaware that special arrangements have been made whereby completed ring papers or books can be rapidly renewed if they are sent to Mr. Askew instead of the Pension Issue Office. All men should make a note to send their ring papers or books the day after the last ring has been stamped so as to ensure a new book being available for the following pay-day.

P.F. 28L.

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.

PENSIONER WITH CONSTANT ATTENDANT.
Any person wilfully making a false declaration will be liable to prosecution.

DECLARATION.

I hereby declare that I am the Pensioner named below and that I have been waited upon by a Constant Attendant during the last six months and that such attendance has been necessitated by the disability for which I am drawing my disablement pension.

- Name of Pensioner.....
- Rank or Rating.....
- Regiment or Ship.....
- No. of Certificate of Identity.....
- Rate of allowance granted for a Constant Attendant.....
- Occupation (if any).....
- Pensioner's Signature*.....
- Pensioner's Address.....

*The Pensioner must either sign or, if he cannot write, make his mark.

Note.—This Certificate should be forwarded to the Pension Issue Office with the Ordinary Life Certificate.

Captain Fraser

All St. Dunstaners will have read with the liveliest interest the announcement in the Press to the effect that our Chairman has been adopted as prospective Conservative and Unionist candidate for the North St. Pancras Division of Parliament. We cull the following from a recent issue of the "St. Pancras Gazette," which is accompanied by a photograph of Captain Fraser.

NEW CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE FOR NORTH ST. PANCRAS.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the North St. Pancras Conservative and Unionist Association was held on 26th February, to which Captain Ian Fraser, C.B.E., L.C.C., had been invited in connection with the vacancy for a Parliamentary candidate for the Division.

After hearing Captain Fraser's views, it was unanimously agreed to recommend his adoption as the prospective Conservative and Unionist candidate to a meeting of the Association which will be held in the near future.

Captain Fraser is no stranger in North St. Pancras; he is one of the sitting L.C.C. members for the constituency, being elected by a substantial majority in 1922, and both he and his charming wife have increased their popularity during the last two years. Captain Fraser was born at Eastbourne in 1897, and was educated at Marlborough College and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, where he was senior cadet officer in 1915. Gazetted to the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, he served in France with the 4th Gloucesters in 1916, and was blinded at the Battle of the Somme, July 1916. Promoted captain on retirement from the Regular Army in 1917, he became a member of the Council of the National Institute for the Blind, 1917-1922, and has been a governor of Worcester College for the Higher Education of the Blind from 1918 to the present

time. Assistant to Sir Arthur Pearson at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, 1917-1921, and now chairman of the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's, Captain Fraser is also a member of the Council of the London Municipal Society. In December 1922 Captain Fraser was promoted Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Our Wireless Competition

Our competition proper in connection with wireless has not brought so many entries as the initial contest asking for suggestions. At the same time, the quality of the entries was high, and the adjudicator, Captain Fraser, has been faced, we are sure, with no small difficulty in deciding upon the order of merit.

It will be recalled that we offered as prizes in this competition two pairs of head-phones for the competitors who sent in "*The best six short sentences explaining the particular advantages which wireless offers to the blind.*" As was almost inevitable, there has been a considerable amount of duplication in entries. The final awards made by Captain Fraser are:—

(1) S. A. Chambers, 193 Selly Oak Road, King's Norton, Birmingham.

(2) J. L. Brooke, 113 Cowhill, Chad-derton, Oldham, Lanes.

Chambers' entry is as follows:—

1. Through wireless you enter a new world, where you have no handicap, but rather an advantage over the sighted listener.

2. It stimulates your imagination by providing greater scope for mind pictures of the announcers, performers and scenes depicted.

3. It keeps you in closer touch with current events, sports, politics and general news.

4. It brings the best music to your fire-side, cultivating your taste, chasing away depression and worry.

5. It is a liberal education by reason of the talks broadcast by specialists in every field of knowledge.

6. The manipulation of a wireless set is a most fascinating and inexpensive hobby.

Brooke's entry is:—

1. Cost of receiving set within reach of all.

2. Pleasure of hearing the best in music and song.

3. Knowledge of world affairs up to date.

4. Information for business and profit.

5. Benefits without personal discomfort or danger.

6. Makes the world a happier and lighter place to live in.

Honourable mention is given to:—

A. Palfrey, Cadoxton, Barry.

A. H. Osmond, Walthamstow, E.17.

J. Watson, Houghton-le-Spring.

W. C. Scott, Manchester.

T. S. Whitelaw, Westcliff-on-Sea.

A New Competition

For Overseas St. Dunstaners only.

We are sure no St. Dunstaners at home will begrudge our providing in this special Empire number a competition to be open for entry only to men resident overseas. It has not been possible in any of our recent competitions to give a time limit for entry which would enable Colonial St. Dunstaners to compete on equal terms with their home comrades, so now they are to have a little competition entirely to themselves.

Here are the particulars of it. We offer a prize of £5 for the best description received of

"MY HAPPIEST MEMORY OF MY STAY AT ST. DUNSTAN'S,"

and provided the number and quality of the entries justify, we will give second and third prizes of £3 and £1 respectively.

We want to make it quite clear that this is in no sense a literary competition. It is initiated with the express purpose of giving every St. Dunstaner, whether he has "the gift of the gab" or not, an equal chance of winning the prize. Entries must not exceed two hundred and fifty words in length and they may deal with any minute, hour, week, month or year of the competitor's sojourn at St. Dunstan's. It may be, for example, that the happiest memory of a competitor will be the completion of his first piece of personal

work—a mat, a basket, or the passing of his examination in Braille and so on. Again, the winning of a sporting event may have given the greatest joy to another competitor. Others will plump for the day of their engagement or marriage, or the arrival of the son and heir as the outstanding memory of their lives in England, but we set no rules and no conditions as to the occasion which provides the happiest memory, and we do not care whether the tale of that memory is expressed in perfect prose, witty verse or just in the every-day form of a letter.

All we ask is that every overseas St. Dunstaner, wherever he may be, will make it a point to enter for this competition. We have been at some trouble to devise something applicable to everyone, and we are glad to announce also that the Editor of the *Empire News* has kindly consented to act as adjudicator.

All entries should be written on one side of the paper only, and addressed "Memories Competition," the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, Headquarters of St. Dunstan's Work, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, N.W.1.

Entries must be received on or before 30th June 1924. A condition of entry is that competitors agree to accept the decision of the adjudicator as final.

HARDLY CONSOLING.

Nervous Lady: "The water looks very deep, boatman. I hope you won't tip me out. Are people ever lost in this river?"

Boatman (cheerfully): "Oh, no, mum. We always find 'em in a day or so."

A stranger journeying to a far-distant dale in Yorkshire proceeded at the railway station to engage a seat in the horse-vehicle plying to his destination.

Asked if he required a first, second, or third-class ticket, he took a first-class one, though he was not a little mystified by the request.

However, after a five-mile run on the level, the driver pulled up at the foot of a tremendously long, steep hill.

"First-class passengers," he directed, "sit still; second-class, get out and walk; third-class, get out and push."

Braille Room Notes

We sincerely congratulate C. Wilshaw on passing his Braille Reading Test.

We also congratulate the following men on having passed the Braille Writing Test:—

H. Wood, W. T. Watt, R. C. Muir, A. G. Herne.

We must apologise to H. Wood for not publishing his success earlier, as he passed his Braille Writing Test at the end of last year, but unfortunately his name was overlooked.

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

"Light of the Western Stars," Zane Grey.

"Voice from the Void," William le Queux.

"Arundel," E. F. Benson.

"Inisheeny," G. Birmingham.

"Star of India," Alice Perrin.

"Delectable Duchy," Sir A. T. Quiller-Couch.

"Swiss Family Robinson," M. Wiss.

G. J. S.

Netting Notes

Wool rug work will be fully represented at our Kiosk at the British Empire Exhibition, as not only will some of our one-handed fellows be at work there, but we shall have a fine collection of special bordered and patterned rugs on view as well.

Among these will be a real work of art in the form of a cable rug 5 ft. × 2 ft. 6 in., with St. Dunstan's torch most beautifully represented in colours on a black background. This has been designed and made by F. W. Thompson, of Tavistock, and is perfect both in design and execution. Very great patience and skill would be necessary for a sighted worker to carry out such an elaborate design in wools, so that its execution by someone totally blind is an amazing achievement. This beautiful exhibit will be framed, and will occupy a special place of honour at our Kiosk.

G. H. W.



CHAPEL NOTES

I feel sure that all who have been in any way associated with our Chapel will be sorry to know that the last of our regular services will be held on Sunday, 13th April. This will permit us to finish the term and I will be enabled to take up duty at my new parish of Rippingale on the following Sunday, Easter Day. It may be that there are in London many of the boys and sisters who would like to come along on this day, please do let me assure them how very delighted I shall be to see them. The service will be at 11 a.m., followed by Holy Communion at 11.45 a.m.

I cannot close these notes without saying how deeply grateful we are to Miss Bird, who has just been transferred to the After-Care visiting staff, for all the practical interest and keen enthusiasm she has shown in our Chapel work.

I have been most fortunate in my Chapel sisters all through, but Miss Berry and Miss Bird have been just splendid. Sunday after Sunday have they arranged their Chapel "parties" and their sympathy in the spiritual work has been most helpful. I am sure that Miss Bird will bring along in her visiting work that spirit of gentleness and sweet kindness that so characterised her work at Headquarters.

J. E. W.

Baptism

On Sunday, 9th March, at St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead, Barbara Francis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Ingram.

Births

BIRCH.—On the 23rd January, to the wife of W. Birch, of Paddington, a son (Robert).

BROGAN.—To the wife of William Brogan, of Cambridge, a son (Dennis Arthur), on the 11th February.

HORNSBY.—On the 10th January, a daughter (Marjorie Ethel), to the wife of A. J. Hornsby, of Sheffield.

LAWLOR.—To the wife of G. Lawlor, of Dublin, on 1st February, a boy (Francis

Laurence), this being the seventh son. Mother and child both doing well.

LEEMAN.—On the 25th of January, to the wife of J. Leeman, of Skegness, a son. Both doing well.

MORGAN.—To the wife of D. G. Morgan, of Tredegar, a son, on the 28th of January. Mother and child both doing well.

MYFORD.—To the wife of H. Myford, of Burnham-on-Crouch, a daughter (Phyllis Victoria), on the 25th of December 1923.

SHEPPARD.—On 22nd January, to the wife of C. Sheppard, of Warnunster, a fine boy (Cyril William).

THOMPSON.—On the 14th of January, a son (Edward), to the wife of A. Thompson, of Upton Beacon.

WENLOCK.—To the wife of R. Wenlock, of Ticehurst, a daughter on the 14th of February.

Deaths

We offer our sympathy to those who are in trouble:—

DEEGAN.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Deegan, of Brixton, who, on the 25th of January, lost their infant son, Frank Leslie. The child, who was barely three months old, passed away in his sleep. The shock to his parents must have been great, since there had been no illness to prepare them.

FEARN.—Another who is in sorrow is E. Fearn, of Moira, near Burton-on-Trent, whose brother, aged 30 years, died of bronchial pneumonia on Tuesday, the 12th ult.

McGEE.—J. McGee, of Merville, Ireland, has suffered the loss of his father, who died on the 11th of February, and was buried in Ballybrach Cemetery on the 13th ult.

PETERS.—All who have children will feel deep sympathy for Mr. and Mrs. W. Peters, of Liverpool, in that on the 31st of January they had a little son, still-born.

PURVIS.—Also for Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Purvis, of Middlesbrough, in that after a brief three days' illness they lost their baby daughter, Winifred, aged seven months.

SPACKMAN.—To F. Spackman, of Watford, who, on Tuesday, the 12th of February, lost his brother. We know that he is feeling the loss acutely.

WHITE.—And to Mr. and Mrs. P. White, of Leominster, who on the 16th of February, after an illness of fourteen hours' duration, lost their baby daughter, Winifred Mary.

News from the Workshops

A. E. Chambers has been getting along very nicely with round-arms and barrel baskets; he is taking a keen interest in the work, and we feel that he will develop quite well. E. Watson is taking centre cane work, giving it careful attention, and making steady progress. The work done by J. Salt during February has been better in several respects. His staking and upsetting has improved, and he is working his rods much better.

Special congratulations are due to F. G. Teagle, who commenced in January, and, before the end of the month, was making mats with five diamonds. He has since done scalloped borders, in which his fibre was placed very well. His last piece of work is particularly creditable, as it is a mat with pieces out of two corners, and he has made an insertion border of red diamonds, following this shape.

W. Tebbutt got going on his boot-repairing quite well from the commencement, and has already had varied experience on different kinds of work. For a new man he has done particularly well with finishing. J. Fleming has been doing very useful work during his revision course; he has made marked improvement in riveting, and is getting his work much more level and shapely. Since our last report, C. Brammer has made steady progress generally, trying hard to improve on all points,

and has had some useful practice with toe-capping. G. Anderson's work on the bench has also been decidedly better.

D. Hunt has, during the year, had experience with trousers presses, oak trays and a kitchen table. This work has been quite satisfactory, and he is making good progress, which promises well for the future.

To Mat Makers

A notice concerning the reduction in prices of raw material and plain mats has been posted to all mat-makers. If, by chance, any man has not received it, will he kindly make an application for a copy.

Stock-taking

As this will be in operation on the 29th and 31st March there may be some delay in despatching orders and in payment for finished goods, so that men are requested to order well in advance of that date.

W. H. O.

To St. Dunstan's Joiners, Cabinet-Makers and Picture-Framers

The Spring winds are now making themselves evident, all wood workers know this means especial care regarding all classes of timber. Mouldings of all kinds should stand perfectly erect, and to be kept out of a draught or sunshine. Hard wood boards should be laid flat with sticks between them, and as much in the dark as possible. Soft wood boards are best stood erect resting on their edge, so that the atmosphere has equal effect on all sides. Spring winds, sunshine or a damp room have disastrous effect upon our finished work if precautions are not taken to counteract this condition.

E. H. A.

From A. Herriot, Isle of Cambrae, Scotland, comes word that he has now received his furniture safely, so as he puts it, "we are now very comfortable and most grateful to St. Dunstan's for all the help given."

After-Care Meetings

Our Scottish Re-union

THE third annual reunion of the Scottish soldier and sailor St. Dunstaners was held, on the 14th of February, in Glasgow, and on the 15th in Edinburgh. As all know, the object of these gatherings, which are held periodically throughout the country, is to give the men an opportunity of renewing friendships made during their period of training at St. Dunstan's, and of discussing with officials of the After-Care Department matters of communal interest.

After tea, Captain Ian Fraser, chairman of St. Dunstan's, addressed the gathering. He said that having regard to the continued unemployment and distress throughout the country, the support which St. Dunstan's was receiving was highly satisfactory. There had been a deficit in the accounts of the institution for the past three years, but he was hopeful that they would be able to balance the account for this year. (Applause.) He was glad to say that support had been received from Scotland, as from all parts of the Empire, and it seemed to be fairly well recognised now that, though the headquarters of St. Dunstan's were in London, the organisation as a whole was responsible for the welfare of over 100 Scotsmen. There were those who said that Scotland should reserve its support on behalf of blinded ex-service men for Newington House, Edinburgh, on the ground that it was a local institution; but it was encouraging to know that the people on this side of the Border were coming more and more to realise that St. Dunstan's as well as Newington House had a definite claim upon their sympathies. (Applause.)

Referring to the men's training, Captain Fraser said that all over the country those working at home had made excellent progress. Those who had been trained as masseurs were doing astonishingly well, many having by now established themselves in practice with the goodwill of the medical profession. In Edinburgh there was a

blinded officer practising massage, and local medical men spoke highly of his abilities.

Captain Fraser then went on to speak of the need for recreation if men were to keep happy. He said that a number of blinded ex-service men found listening-in a splendid hobby. It might almost have been invented for the blind, for its enjoyment depended entirely upon a sense of hearing. He knew personally of well over a hundred St. Dunstaners who had their own listening-in sets, and derived great pleasure from this form of recreation. A blind man could manage his set without assistance from a seeing person.

He advised those men who had not already taken up the subject to do so without delay, more especially as the British Broadcasting Company was shortly installing a relay station in Edinburgh.

At the Glasgow meeting a company of 62 sat down to tea, and after Captain Fraser's speech an entertainment was given by Mr. Murray and Mrs. Wylie, while J. W. Broadbent, of Hamilton, also sang several songs.

The Edinburgh gathering totalled practically the same number, and the entertainment was provided by Mr. Eric Scott, the well-known Scottish entertainer, while W. E. Edmond, of Dunbar, contributed several violin solos, and Sergt. Watt, of Montrose, caused much amusement with his fragments from "Bobbie Burns."

HASTINGS.

An After-Care meeting was held at the Grand Restaurant, Hastings, on Friday, 22nd February. About thirty people sat down to tea, after which Mr. T. E. Swain made a short speech to the men. J. E. Plunkett, of St. Leonards, returned thanks and also wished on behalf of himself and his comrades to be remembered to Captain and Mr. Fraser.

The meeting was a very cheery one and the men were admirably entertained by the Pier Concert Party, who kindly came along and gave their services. Miss

Woolrych was very fortunate in having the assistance of the Misses Brown, Taylor and Tickell, and during the evening Miss Brown presented a cake, which was made the subject of a guessing competition and which was eventually won by G. Brooks, of Hastings.

READING.

An After-Care meeting was held at the Central Cafe, Reading, on Friday, 29th February. About fifty-three persons sat down to tea. A. H. Luker, of Boars Hill, won the guessing competition, and A. Wernham, of Binfield, won a doll which was presented by Miss Brown. Several ladies came in during the afternoon and helped to entertain the men, and W. Megson, of Clanfield, sang several songs.

PORTSMOUTH.

The following cheery account from a St. Dunstaner of the Re-union at Portsmouth is to hand:—

A GATHERING OF THE CLANS.

Yes, I think that is the best description of the gathering that met at Madden's Hotel on the 6th of March. It reminded one of the reunion of a large family whose members had been scattered to the four winds, and that, in effect, is what it was. The family was that of our old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Martin, and was made up of all the boys (and most of their wives), who live in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and Portsmouth was deemed to be the most central point.

We began to arrive in force at two o'clock, and by three o'clock most of those who were expected had arrived. An early arrival was Mr. Swain, accompanied by the ever cheerful Miss Rush, who were ably assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Martin, Basket Instructor Mr. Smith, Mat Instructor Mr. Panton and Boot Instructor Mr. Marcus. Every one of the boys was met and conducted to a large room in which a substantial meat tea had been laid. Meanwhile Mr. Swain hurried round to find someone who would supply the talent for a concert, as the concert party who had promised to attend had most of its members under the doctor with influenza.

Happily, there were substitutes forthcoming in the shape of a lady of the staff who worked hard at the piano, and a comedienne (Miss Freeman), who kindly stepped in at a moment's notice and rendered some excellent songs, the rest of the talent was supplied by the boys themselves, and one felt that the music lessons at Headquarters had not been in vain when listening to A. F. Mathews in such numbers as "The Trumpeter" and "Shipmate O' Mine"; W. Lowings in "Friend o' Mine," "I'll sing thee Songs of Araby," &c., and Horsley sang a swinging song, the title of which I believe is "On the road to anywhere." A. P. Knotwell gave a delightful recitation of the Battle of Jutland, which finished with the chorus of "The boys of the old Brigade." These and other items helped to pass a pleasant couple of hours away, but hold on a minute, I have left out quite a lot. The concert followed the tea at which there were somewhere about sixty people. During tea a small deceitful parcel containing a cake was handed round to the boys for a guessing competition, now how can a mere man be expected to guess the weight of a cake . . . I was hopelessly out, but W. Clampett, of Eastleigh, came within half an ounce of the correct weight and bagged the prize.

Mr. Swain, in a short but sincere address to the boys, after expressing Captain Fraser's regret at being unable to be present that afternoon and best wishes for a thoroughly enjoyable time, said that he hoped to make this an annual affair. It is an excellent idea, as it gives every man an opportunity of coming into personal touch with those who have their finger on the pulse as it were of all that happens in the After-care movement. Every one of the boys had a personal interview with Mr. Swain, and I am sure he must have come back to London with his pockets bulging with data for future reference.

Mr. Martin made touching reference to the wish of Sir Arthur to visit every one of us at our homes, and had the happy inspiration of sending a greeting from the meeting to Lady Pearson and Captain Fraser.

A meeting at Pompeii could not be complete without that old sea-dog Griffiths, and his hearty greeting showed that he is still his old cheerful self.

From seven o'clock onwards there was a thinning of the party to catch trains homewards, and I think that everyone got back to their homes safely except one who lost his train but was made comfortable for the night at the hotel.

So ended a pleasant day, which will live in our memory till its repetition next year I hope.

* * *

As evidence of the interest and pleasure afforded by the re-unions which the After-Care Department arrange in different parts of the country, we may quote from a letter received from J. E. Plunkett, of Hastings, who writes:—

"I now write these few lines to you to let you know how much we appreciated the re-union which we had on Friday last at Hastings. It seemed like old times at St. Dunstan's to meet old friends and to have a chat with them, and I am sure we all appreciated the opportunity very much. I should like to say that I am doing very well with my work here, and have to-day taken orders for several more mats. Now that my premises are completed I hope to remove into them in the course of a few days, and shall do my best to make a success of the business in general."

Birmingham Social

The following is Miss Hodgson's report on the Birmingham St. Dunstan's Sport Club Social:—

A social evening was held by kind invitation of Mr. Butler, of the Birchfield Harriers, at the Albion Hotel, Edmund Street, 6.30 to 10 p.m., on 6th February. A splendid tea was provided, followed by a very good concert.

The following men attended with wives or escorts:—W. Castle, P. Cashmore, H. Cook, G. Cole, W. Dainter, R. Finch, W. Giles, C. Grattidge, W. Hines, G. Lilley, T. North, H. Shaylor, T. Shaw, W. Trott, E. Varley, A. Waite, V. Wicken, A. Taylor, F. H. Kirkbright.

M. P.

As Wembley Is!

By H. V. MORTON.

AS the shades of night were falling, a haggard figure, travel-stained and splashed with mud, staggered into the "Daily Express" office last evening asking for food and drink. Men crowded round, and recognised with a pang of horror the intrepid young explorer sent out earlier in the day to find out how they are getting on with the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. Let me tell the story in my own way:—

How could I have known that I should have taken water wings, tinned food, a map, an alpenstock, snow shoes, and a prismatic compass? How could I have known that I should have left orders at the gate that if I did not turn up in a week search parties should be organised? With the recklessness of folly I just slipped in behind a brick cart, trying to look like a contractor; and my troubles began at once.

The Empire Exhibition makes the Hampton Court maze seem like your own home. For miles and miles the countryside looks like a compromise between a vast mud bath and the League of Nations come true. Men with armllets stand at every few yards to guide lost workmen home.

I struck out briskly towards Canada, still trying to look like a contractor, pausing now and then to feel a door hinge and to shake a head solemnly at a window frame, because the men in armllets have a sudden way with unofficial intruders.

For three hours I walked quickly round and round the West Indies before fatigue overcame me. Men were digging. Carts were unloading bricks. Drains were being laid, telephone wires planted. From no one could I ask help, because the answer would have been: "How did you get in?"

Near the Malay Straits I bought a ham roll. Where could I eat it? Hours passed.

Then on the horizon I spied the sheltering walls of a mud village. Steps lagging, shoes making bucolic kissing sounds in the mud, I staggered on, calling to mind the heroic endurance of other Empire builders. I entered the mud village, and, with a start of horror, realised that I was lost in Nigeria!

You who sit at home and take your adventures properly in armchairs can have no conception of the horror of my discovery. With a hollow laugh I cast myself down in the mud under a pink stucco mosque and ate sparingly of a ham roll. How much dare I eat? What of the night; what of the morrow?

Suddenly a native appeared. He blew up a coke fire. I approached, making signs of friendship. He accepted my cigarette, removed a clay pipe, thanked me, and quaintly placed my gift behind his left ear—a sign of amity.

Then I showed him the return half of my ticket to Baker Street, and he understood. He told me of a path, the secret of his tribe, which led past the Gold Coast towards Wembley Park.

It was now getting dark. The camp fires were twinkling, and I hurried on, feeling the morass ahead with my umbrella.

Beaten and "all in," I stopped near Malta to beg a night's shelter from a man I discovered living in a little tent with rolls of zinc tubing. He turned me from his door.

Just as I was thinking about pinning a farewell message to the Burma Pavilion, I saw a woman whom at first I took to be Rosita Forbes. What strange mission brought her here? When she spoke I realised my mistake. She was a contractor's widow, I imagine, looking for the body of her lost husband.

Fired by romance, my spirits rose, and we plodded on together, joking in the good old British way, making light of our danger, laughing . . .

"In London now people are thinking about dressing for dinner, a dance, the theatre. Doesn't it seem far away?" There was a sob in my throat.

Then, quite unaccountably, we came to a door in a wall. On the other side was civilisation—a train to Baker Street. . . . Home!

Poultry Successes

The following interesting letter received from Lieut. A. H. Capper, of Padworth, near Reading, accompanies a copy sent us of a leaflet issued by him. Lieut. Capper writes:—

"I am sending you the enclosed, not by way of an advertising stunt, but because I thought you might like to know how things are going. The lady on the front cover (photograph of White Bresse pullet) was the biggest surprise of my life; there were 97 Bresse exhibited at Crystal Palace, and she won in a class of 22 pullets, and won special for best white (all ages and sexes). I have won ten prizes at various shows this season, getting four seconds and five thirds; the next best effort being second at the National Utility Show, and third with a cockerel at Olympia.

"You might also be interested to know that I have written a little book which has already appeared in serial form in a paper called *Eggs*, which is, I think, going to be published in booklet form by the Scientific Poultry Breeders' Association.

"This all brings notoriety, and I propose extending my interest in poultry matters by going to the World's Poultry Congress at Barcelona in May—not in an official capacity, of course, but as a private individual attached to the British Delegation. This should be very interesting and will afford an opportunity of seeing a new part of the world, as, among other places, we go to Madrid, and I hope to have a look at the Pyrenees on the way back.

"Having blown my own trumpet, I should like to blow the trumpet on behalf of the St. Dunstan's Laying Test. The results are most extraordinarily good—in fact as good, if not better, than those obtained at the National Test. Judging by the results of the National Test for the first two months, I find that Fowler's leading pen of Rhode Islands, at King's Langley, has put up a better record per bird than any pen of that variety competing at the National Test, and is only beaten

by three pens out of all the 400 pens competing there. I hope when the test is completed to work out some comparative figures which I think will show that St. Dunstan's men have put in pens which, on the average, compare very favourably with the best breeders.

"I myself have pens competing at the National and at the Harper Adams College Tests, but so far their performance has been very moderate."

The World's Largest Mats

Just before we went to press, an interesting little ceremony took place at Headquarters, when Sir Joseph Cook, the High Commissioner for Australia, inspected what are probably the largest cocoa-fibre mats ever made entirely by hand. They will form part of the covering for the floor of the Australian Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition. Measuring 69 feet by 8 feet 9 inches, the largest of these mats covers an area of 604 square feet, and has woven into it in black fibre the word "Australia" in letters 2 feet 6 inches high. Four of the mats cover a total area of 860 feet.

The following mat-makers took part in the production of these mats:—

A. E. Sherwood, Reading; L. Thomas, Leeds; A. E. Brown, Bridgwater; A. H. Wernham, Binfield; W. T. Collins, West Cowes; W. Robinson, Grantham; F. T. Hill, Redfield, Bristol; F. Reason, Bridport; C. Hills, Bradford-on-Avon; A. Mears, Leyton; A. H. Bradley, Basingstoke; C. F. Spiers, Oxford; J. James, Hove; C. E. Beck, Bishops Cleeve; A. Day, Shaldon; J. J. Morgan, Wantage; P. C. Spurgeon, Halstead; G. Worgan, Cinderford; W. R. French, Heybridge, Malden; R. A. Newton, Fordingbridge; S. J. Letch, Hatfield, Peveril; A. Wilkins, Portsmouth; A. F. Groves, Sittingbourne; A. Keep, Camden Town; W. H. Collins, West Tytherley; H. Elborn, Peckham; A. E. Eden, Sidford, S. Devon.

For three months past the chosen St. Dunstaners have been at work upon these mats in their own homes. The sections, which number 40, were assembled at Headquarters. One of these colossal mats extended almost from the porch to the pillars which mark the turn in the drive at St. John's Lodge. Captain Fraser, Sir Joseph Cook and a number of

St. Dunstaners were photographed with them in an attempt to illustrate their size.

Sir Joseph Cook, in approving of the mats before their despatch to Wembley, expressed his high admiration of the skill of the blinded workers, and his appreciation of the great work that is being done by St. Dunstan's on behalf of the blinded soldiers of the Empire. He had been very happy, on behalf of his colleagues, the Agents-General and the people of Australia generally, in placing this order with St. Dunstan's. (See frontispiece illustration to this issue.)

Memory Sight

[Recently an article appeared in the *British Medical Journal* under the above heading, written by Lieut.-Col. R. H. Elliot, M.D., F.R.C.S. Col. Elliot reviews in his article the general impression which prevails that the totally blind person lives in perpetual black darkness, and he quotes various instances to show that on the contrary most totally blind people see "a bright background." Captain Fraser reviewed these suggestions in the letter which we publish below, and which, in view of his quotations from Col. Elliot's article, is sufficiently explanatory.

It is possible that others of our readers may be interested to contribute to this discussion, giving the details of their experiences and sensations for which we shall be glad to find space.—ED.]

St. John's Lodge.

26th February, 1924.

To the Editor, *British Medical Journal*.

Dear Sir,—I venture to send you one or two observations upon the interesting article entitled "Memory Sight," contributed by Lieut.-Col. R. H. Elliot, M.D., F.R.C.S., to your issue of 9th February.

I have frequently compared notes upon the various forms of mental or memory vision, to which Colonel Elliot refers, with other officers and men blinded in the War. I have found fairly general agreement that those who are dark blind do not "see" black, but some other happier colour. Generally speaking a background

which might be described as rosy was seen, somewhat similar, I should imagine, to that which I used to see when I closed my eyelids and looked at the sun on a moderately bright day. This, too, is my own experience—I lost both eyes from a bullet wound in 1916—though in my case the centre of the field of mental vision is almost opalescent, a certain amount of pleasant greeny-blue colour, and a bright shimmer like that which might be produced by the reflection of moonlight upon water, is mixed with the rosy background, while towards the edges the brightness disappears and an orange shade takes its place. When I refer to the centre of the field of mental vision I mean that point upon which my imaginary eyes are focussed, for if I effect a movement of the muscles of the eye-socket, as if to focus upon something to my right or left, or above or below the location of my head, the bright area moves too, and appears at this imaginary focal point.

Some of my friends used to speak of irregular flashes, balls of light, &c., which would appear to float across the rosy background. This occurred both amongst cases of men who had blind eyes, and with those where the eye-balls had been removed. As a layman I hesitate to suggest a reason, but think perhaps these were only temporary phenomena, caused by the contraction, or settling down, of tissues or nerves which had recently been damaged or cut.

I think Colonel Elliot has confused cause and effect when he says: "It would be difficult to believe that anyone who was surrounded by thick darkness could by any possibility be mentally cheerful." It was my own experience that for the first few weeks after I had realised that my sight had definitely been destroyed, I saw black all the time, and this depressing condition did not change until I found occupation and had adjusted my mental and philosophical outlook upon life to new and inevitable conditions.

I do not think the reticence which Colonel Elliot has noticed amongst blind people to discuss "mental vision" or "memory vision" as he terms it, is due

to a fear that it may excite scepticism or ridicule. At any rate, so far as young blinded soldiers are concerned, I am sure he is wrong, for I have always found them willing and interested to talk over these matters, not merely with their comrades, but with anyone who has sufficient imagination to open up a conversation upon such lines.

I cannot help challenging his assertion that mental vision is a "pitiable delusion." It is not a delusion at all, but a real thing, as I think he tries to prove in other passages in his article, and far from being pitiable it is a most enviable faculty, and one the development and encouragement of which I have most strenuously advocated amongst those who possess it to only a limited degree.

Sir Arthur Pearson wrote frequently about it in the *Blinded Soldiers' Magazine*, and took every possible step to encourage blinded officers and men to cultivate what he called "visualisation." Personally I cannot visualise scenes and images so vividly as could those to whom Colonel Elliot refers, but when I am in surroundings which I have seen—for example, when I look out over a garden in which I spent many years of my life, I can and do, if I so desire, conjure up images of this garden, which, though possibly the passage of time may have made them inaccurate, are nevertheless very pleasing.

There is no space to deal adequately with the subject of blind men's dreams—the study of which is most fascinating—but I might remark that though the power of visualisation appears not to diminish as the years lengthen between the present time and the war, dreams certainly become less frequent and less vivid.

Yours faithfully,
IAN FRASER.

Other owners of ponies and traps will hear with interest that E. Ling, of Brampton, has joined their ranks, and with a brother to help him, is mapping out rounds for himself. It is early days as yet, so we look to receive news of progress later.

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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