

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

MONTHLY PRICE 6^D

No. 86 VOL. VIII
APRIL 1924



VICTORY
OVER
BLINDNESS

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FOR THE AMUSEMENT & INTEREST OF MEN BLINDED IN THE WAR

Published at St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.



THE NINTH ANNIVERSARY DANCE.
A GROUP OF THE MERRY-MAKERS AT THE OLD BUNGALOW ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 4TH, 1924.
(Copies may be purchased as announced elsewhere in this issue.)

St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY PERRY BARRINGER

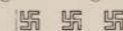
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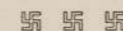
PRICE 6d.
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN.]

EDITORIAL NOTES

THE ninth Anniversary! To most of those present at the old Bungalow on the 4th April it must have seemed almost impossible that nine years have passed since St. Dunstan's first opened the doors of its hospitality; and yet so much has happened to us all since that day in February 1915 when the little handful of war-blinded men entered into possession of the new home of hope. There is always a leaven of sadness in anniversaries of any event. One recalls the old friends who are gone; the happy times that those past years saw, and in the forefront of every St. Dunstaner's memory on such occasions is always the voice and personality of our great Chief. But there is always much, too, of pleasure and achievement to look back upon—the cementing of old friendships; the making of new ones; and above all, the long proud record of sustained success in which everyone connected with our great Organisation can claim some part.



We have received a considerable number of suggestions from past and present St. Dunstaners suggesting that a Fund should be raised to provide a Testimonial to Captain J. E. Williams, who, as our readers know, is leaving us to take up his new incumbency this month. We have reason to know that the Authorities at Headquarters would have been very glad to make an official appeal to St. Dunstaners for such a Testimonial, but for the fact that so many calls of a similar nature have been made within the past year or two. At the same time the Editor recognises that the wishes expressed in the communications he has received on this matter should be put before his readers, and he will be glad to hear from any St. Dunstaners who may wish him to open a Testimonial Fund in the columns of the "REVIEW."



In his speech at the Anniversary Dance, Captain Fraser paid tribute to the splendid assistance given by the men of St. Dunstan's in removing misconception in connection with an appeal for funds made by a civilian blind charity not long since. We have emphasised on many occasions how great the influence of St. Dunstaners can be in the furtherance of our appeals to the public. Even as we write a practical instance comes before us, when a sum of nearly £80 was raised from a Carnival Dance organised by the Ex-service Men's Inner Club of the Newfoundpool Working Men's Club and Institute at Leicester. This splendid result was almost entirely due to the work of Mr. W. H. Gaunt, who acted as Organising Secretary, and to W. A. Biggs, of Leicester, a St. Dunstaner who can always find time in the brief leisure of a very busy life to champion the cause of St. Dunstan's.

Our Ninth Anniversary Dance

A Merry Scene at the old Bungalow

REFERENCE is made in our Editorial Notes to the outstanding event of this month—the 9th Anniversary Dance at the Old Bungalow. This scene of so many interesting gatherings was gaily decorated for the occasion. A large company of past and present St. Dunstaners with their wives, sweethearts, and friends attended. Captain and Mrs. Fraser, Mr. Kessell, Mrs. Bates, and Miss Power (Matron), were among those present.

High spirits and a determination to enjoy to the full every minute of the flying hours was the impression gained. All had worked with a will to make the most complete preparations for everyone's enjoyment. The fact that the Tramway and 'Bus Strike had necessitated a postponement of the original date fixed had no effect on the attendance, and very soon after the hour of opening the floor was crowded with a company of dancers representing every variety of costume. It proved a matter of no small difficulty to arrange for groups for the flashlight photographs, but after these had been made it was decided to follow at once with a ceremony which was to mark one of the features of the evening. Captain Fraser, who with "Old Bill" on one side and "St. Dunstan's Cigarettes" on the other, had also posed for a photograph, called for silence. He said: "Before we carry on again with the dancing I want you all to gather round for a little happening . . . which all of you have looked forward to with eager anticipation. This is to ask Miss Pain to accept some small mementos of the gratitude of past and present St. Dunstaners for her nine years of devoted service as Head of the Braille Department. I will now call on Mr. Toft, to make the presentation." The spokesman thus called upon then handed Miss Pain a beautifully illuminated address on vellum (of which the text appears

below), a gold brooch in the form of St. Dunstan's Badge, and another brooch of diamonds set in platinum. He said:—

"Miss Pain: My fellow St. Dunstaners have asked me to be their spokesman and to present you with a small gift in token of the gratitude we feel towards you for all your patience, kindness, and understanding, whilst Head of the Braille Room.

"The choice of this gift has caused us much embarrassment because as soon as we thought we had found something suitable someone dashed our hopes to the ground, saying, you already had it, so wishing before anything else to please you I was sent to ask you what you would like best. You chose two brooches, one the St. Dunstan's Badge, and another, and I cannot say how touched we are by your choice. We know that you cannot forget your nine years hard labour spent in our midst, but that you should wish to be constantly reminded of them is a fact of which we can be proud. May these two brooches and the address which accompanies them be an emblem of the grateful thanks of a thousand men.

"I am glad of this opportunity, which enables me to thank, in the name of other St. Dunstan's men, all those Braille Teachers who helped Miss Pain in her work. It was their devoted co-operation which turned the monotony and drudgery of learning Braille into a delightful pleasure. We hope that Braille Teachers, past and present, will accept out most sincere and grateful thanks."

Enthusiastic and long applause greeted Miss Pain when she stepped forward to receive the gifts. Obviously moved with the warmth of the reception accorded her and speaking with deep sincerity, Miss Pain said:

"To all my friends at St. Dunstan's, I hardly know how to thank you. This

is the proudest moment of my life. You have already given me so much and now you give me something more—to keep as a memory all my life. There is nothing I shall value so much and it will be a mark of your friendship. Thank you very much indeed."

From every quarter of the room cheers for Miss Pain were called for, and these were given in most hearty fashion.

Captain Fraser then addressed the company. He was listened to throughout with the keenest attention, and spontaneous bursts of approval punctuated his speech, of which the following is a *resumé*:—

"There are one or two things which I want to take this opportunity of saying. This is the ninth anniversary of St. Dunstan's. Nine years is a very long time indeed; but I am amazed to think how swiftly six of those years, which have been my share, have passed, and I sincerely hope that those who have seen the whole nine years have felt them pass as quickly. It is just over two years since the Committee of St. Dunstan's placed upon me the honour and responsibility of being their Chairman, and a few days later in this room where you are now, the largest gathering of blinded soldiers which has ever been held, including most of you present to-night, unanimously assured me of your confidence and support. They were anxious times, and even more anxious years were to follow, because our greatly respected Chief died at the beginning of a very troubled and most depressing period in the history of our country. The year following his death, and those succeeding, have been lean years for all philanthropic effort, and I think it is well you should know something about the triumph of St. Dunstan's over these difficulties, because, as I shall presently point out to you, it is upon your shoulders that the credit of that triumph rests.

"Where, almost without exception, similar Organisations to ours have had to go to the State and say 'We cannot carry on' St. Dunstan's has not. There is not another Organisation for ex-service

men or any blind charity comparable in size with St. Dunstan's which has not received assistance from the State. St. Dunstan's independence of such help is, I think, a very remarkable tribute. (Hear, hear.) Now I want to tell you very briefly of some of the changes which have taken place in St. Dunstan's. Two years ago we had reached a stage where we could not balance our income and our expenditure. We were in the position of having to draw heavily upon reserves. This we could not regard as safe or sound business, as it was impossible for us to say then, as indeed we cannot say now, what may be the extent and duration of our future responsibilities. There was but one way to remedy this serious state of affairs, and that was to reduce expenditure in every way possible without sacrifice of the service and help we were giving our men. The closing of Annexes, the reduction of staff, and the other essential economies of which you are aware, were, you may be assured, not done without the most serious thought; but necessity knows no law, and we felt it immeasurably better to curtail while curtailment was possible, rather than go on exhausting resources which we may sorely need one day.

"The very admirable way in which you and your comrades all over the country have come to our assistance in this reorganisation has helped us very greatly. I am glad to be able to tell you now that our present position is such that I do not anticipate that any further great changes will now be necessary. I see no reason why the cuts which have taken place during the past two or three years should not suffice to enable us to run along fairly smoothly, and I think, without financial embarrassment.

"It may interest you to know, and it is important that you should know, that during this trying period, when money was so hard to find for all charitable efforts, the organisations which deal with the civilian blind were hit more severely than were we. Possibly because of this, an endeavour was made in many quarters to give the public the impression that St.

Dunstan's had unlimited funds at its disposal, and that money was being subscribed by the public to St. Dunstan's which should more fairly come to these civilian charities. In effect, it was said: 'The men of St. Dunstan's have pensions; the civilian blind have not. We should have the support of the public; they do not need it.' That, I may say at once, is a view of the matter which I entirely refuse to accept, and which, so long as I am entrusted with the welfare of St. Dunstan's, I shall combat by every means in my power. (Applause.) I do not believe that the people of this great Empire consider for one moment that because you receive a pension from the State that you have no further claim upon the gratitude of the public. I believe the public very rightly recognise a wide difference between blindness brought about in the service of King and Country and blindness due to other causes. A very great number of people consider that the men of St. Dunstan's, who lost their sight as the result of war service, stand in an entirely different category from the civilian blind population. They regard the pensions awarded St. Dunstan's men as merely a State recognition of services rendered, and not by any means as a commensurate compensation for the great sacrifice made. They are proud and happy to subscribe funds which will add to the comfort and happiness of the men of St. Dunstan's, and that, and that only, in my opinion, is the reason why we can still count upon the support of the public to our funds for the work we do for our men. (Hear, hear.) I am convinced that these attempts by other organisations to decry the special claims the men of St. Dunstan's have upon public sympathy and public support will do us no harm in the long run; indeed, I think it probable that they will re-act upon those who are responsible, whether deliberately or not, for giving such impressions. Every man of St. Dunstan's received from me some time since details of a particular instance of money-raising by a civilian blind charity which was, to say the least of it, likely to lead to much misconception in the minds of the

charitable public, and without going more fully now into this instance, which will be within the memory of all of you, I should just like to say how extremely helpful were the vigorous and practical steps so many of you took in response to my letter. Now I am sure our coffee is all getting cold, and I will not detain you any longer, beyond wishing you one and all the very best of luck, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening on this our anniversary night." (Applause.)

Dancing to the highly effective accompaniment of St. Dunstan's own band was then resumed, and was carried on with the greatest zest to a late hour.

THE ADDRESS.

The following is the full text of the beautifully illuminated address presented to Miss Pain.

To Miss DOROTHY ALICE PAIN.

We, past and present St. Dunstaners, ask you to accept this expression of our grateful thanks and high appreciation of the services you have rendered the men of St. Dunstan's, by your untiring and splendidly efficient control of the Braille Room.

Since February, 1915, when you took charge of this important branch of St. Dunstan's work, until the termination of your labours at Christmas, 1923, many hundreds of war-blinded men have learned to enjoy again, through the medium of Braille, the unlimited pleasure of personal reading.

Through all these years, you have spared neither time nor trouble in your endeavour to help us—When discouraged and disheartened in the re-education of our reading and writing it was your patience, sympathy, and understanding, which inspired us to renew our efforts, and enabled us ultimately to achieve success.

We desire to give you our heartfelt assurance that you take with you into your new sphere of activity our most sincere wishes for your happiness.

St. Dunstaners Overseas

SOME of our most interesting letters this month have come from Australia. Here is one from W. F. Folland, of New South Wales.,

"Yes," he writes, "the report about my marriage was quite correct. I married one of my old school mates on the 25th April 1923 (Anzac Day), and we had a very nice little wedding indeed.

"I have been in Sydney since, working in the Blinded Soldiers' Tea Company, and often see other St. Dunstaners. Frank Hyde is still living at Bathurst—and still single. M. Petro is at Cakembra, a suburb of Sydney, and has a lovely home, with two bonny children.

"I had a very slack Christmas this year, as I was in hospital suffering from Nicotine poisoning, but am well again now.

"The dairy farmers about this district have been having very dry times of late, but, thank God, the drought has broken, and things are now looking brighter.

"I hope it will not be many years before I can come for a trip to the old country and see you all again. Meanwhile, on behalf of my wife and myself, I thank you sincerely.

A second correspondent from New South Wales, is C. H. Hills:—

"I find myself guilty on three counts," he tells us, for he has three St. Dunstan letters unanswered, one being descriptive of our arrangements for the British Empire Exhibition. "To this," writes Hill, "I am sorry to say I shall not be able to contribute, for I feel that a record of my sales for the Tea Company during the past four years would hardly be an exhibit of interest to visitors!

"My spare time has been taken up with developing my own little place, and my neighbour, a Yorkshireman, suggests that I send a small section of concrete footpath, a sod from four lawns, a rail

from the baby's cot, and also a small piece of wire gauze from my meat safe, together with an assortment of vegetables grown by me! These represent my work since I came back and settled down here, so I am much afraid that you have drawn a blank so far as a display from me is concerned, not that I feel the Exhibition will be noticeably deficient on account of this. There have been record sailings from here up to the present, and we have not reached the full swing of it.

"Now I come to think of it, how would it be to send small samples of our tea for the Exhibition? It might certainly interest any of our customers who are over this year.

"The annual Conference, or rather Re-union, was held recently in Adelaide, and a goodly number turned up. New South Wales was represented by five, and as this meant a trip for them of well over 1,000 miles in the hottest time of the year, I think it was very creditable.

"I should like to have gone myself, but in this case I proposed and H.M. the baby disposed!

"Summer is certainly with us, for the temperature is well up to the 100° in the back block towns, but we get the cool breezes from the coast at night, which makes a tremendous difference in one's comfort.

Mr. & Mrs. C. F. THOMPSON

have acquired

The Bijou Tea Table

10, WHITE LION ROAD,
AMERSHAM, :: BUCKS.

(between Chalfont and Amersham Stations,
Metropolitan R'y.),

and would like to see some old
friends from St. Dunstan's.



NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS

BUSINESS is "going strong," according to A. Taylor, of Lye, Nr. Stourbridge, and we are glad to hear it. He does not get many boot repairs, but that is because there are few to be had, hard times having made people energetic enough to do their own, "but" as Taylor says, "that keeps me busy in the leather and grindery way"! It is in regard to clogs he scores, getting everything there is to do in this line.

Another optimistic note is struck by L. Hutchinson, of Skelton, whose health is "splendid" by the way. He says he has done very well since leaving St. Dunstan's, and his home is certainly very desirable. Hutchinson is one of the many blessed with capable wives and Mrs. Hutchinson thinks nothing of cycling off to York with all the saleable eggs on her handle-bars.

For some little time past E. W. Wakelin, of Northants, has been contemplating the purchase of a tandem, but now he has copied some friends, who had their machines coupled, and the result is most successful; already he has cycled a number of miles with considerable enjoyment. Others who have followed Wakelin's example are the Bruce's of Huntingdon, and we look to hear additions to the list very shortly—it is an idea that should surely commend itself to A. Taylor, for instance.

"Trade is slack" according to R. Vine, of Ewhurst, but luckily he has a very real interest in the local choral society, in which, as he has a good tenor voice, Vine is quite one of the leading lights, we are glad to hear.

A man who has a good deal in hand is F. C. S. Hilling, of Acton. He intends

to build a good-sized poultry house in his back garden and also wants to make several items of furniture. As a start he has made his tool boxes and little sets of drawers for nails, etc., and these certainly are extremely well done, despite the fact that Hilling has only had short training.

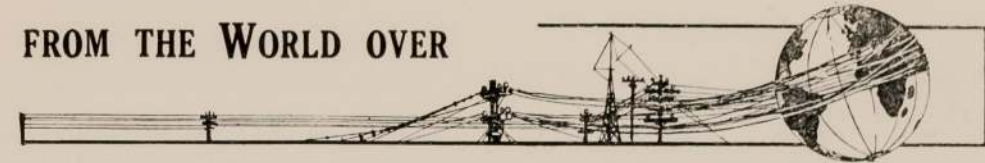
Congratulations to C. Negus of Northants, on his energy. We hear he is very busy indeed working up stock for the Northampton Trade Exhibition, which is to be held in May. Last year, when Negus exhibited, he sold out his supply in two days! Also, if we remember aright, he secured orders enough to keep him busy for many months to come.

It is some time since we had word of T. Parrish, of Wellingborough, but now that it comes it shows him as original and enterprising as usual. Having a large yard at the back of his premises he has christened it "The Fair Ground," and has secured three caravans, all of which have tenants! This is a mere "side line," too, for Parrish is as busy as ever among the furniture dealers.

Another with whom things are prospering is A. J. Holland, of Rushden, Northants who has quite a show farm. It is "a pleasure to walk round it" we hear, for "everything about the place is so well kept." Holland has had wonderful results, which are well deserved. Part of this is doubtless due to the fact that Holland reports his health as "splendid."

Haulage work is a new line for even a St. Dunstaner to take up, but this is the job that is keeping T. G. Bibbins, of Warwick, busy and happy, he having joined his brother in his venture. We wish the pair every success.

FROM THE WORLD OVER



From Chelmsford comes word that the window display of T. Kent has been attracting considerable attention, though, despite its artistic excellence, not all the custom it should. We hope the recent spell of sunny weather will have done something to remedy this.

Several S. Dunstaners have written-in lately, voicing their grievances that a non-sighted man or woman must sign his ballot paper at the polling station in the presence of the presiding officer. The latest to complain is A. C. Evans, who takes a deep interest in politics, and has just had a bye-election in his district. We sympathise with his objections—but would remind him, and the others who share his feelings, that it is a big matter to get a law changed, and that in any case the officer is pledged to secrecy.

At length J. Anderson, of Whiteabbey, Ireland, has secured what surely must have been the desire of his heart, for he has settled into one of the ex-service men's houses, and seems very comfortable. The rent is reasonable, and he has about half an acre of land, on which he has erected a small fowl house. Already his poultry numbers something like 29 to 30 hens.

F. Ralph, of Purley, is certainly one of those born under a lucky star, for almost invariably he reports business as good. He gets a fine supply of orders and has just finished a really beautiful little gate legged table and also a cabinet for his wireless installation.

Another ambitious man is H. Jacklin of Brighton, who has started a picture-frame business. With excellent fore-

sight he has arranged for the use of a display window in a restaurant, so has assured himself of an excellent opportunity of showing his wares to a stream of customers. Jacklin is determined to make good.

Another Brighton man is H. Randall, whose shop is always kept beautifully clean and tidy. Trade has not been as good as it should be, but we confidently anticipate, as does Randall himself, that the brighter weather will bring him more customers, especially for the artists requisites, which he has started as a side-line to his picture framing.

A different kind of "side line" has been started by P. Varley, of Folkestone, who has joined with a couple of other men and formed a jazz band. Already the trio have secured several engagements, and we hope that each of these will lead to others.

Quite a record in breaking things has been set up by J. Brown, of Cupar, according to his own humorous account. Since returning home recently he has smashed the spring of his watch, a gramophone, and his own artificial eye, just to mention the more important disasters. He seems the more perturbed at the first disaster, as he finds all the watch-repairers "must have returned to Der Vaterland." In other ways things are going smoothly, we are glad to hear. Brown has a couple of hens sitting, and counts himself fortunate in this respect, as the weather has "been awful," and being situated very high, Brown and his family experience the worst of the March gales.

"Eyeless Sight"

CAPTAIN Fraser has asked us to publish a short note which appeared in a recent number of *Truth*, and a letter which he wrote to the Editor on the subject. He has only to add to this the statement that a reply has been received from a correspondent with whom he got into touch in Paris which does not appear to be very encouraging, and that Monsieur Jules Romains, the author of the book, has not as yet answered Captain Fraser's letter. The book is so carefully and well written that it would be unwise to jump to the immediate conclusion that the author has been himself misled by his observations, and Monsieur Jules Romains' standing as a leading French writer should dispose of any suggestion that he is deliberately trying to deceive. On the other hand, Captain Fraser thinks that it would be unwise for any blinded soldier to be misled by statements he may have read in any of the newspapers, and to think that the practical application of M. Romains' theories is likely to lead to any of us being able to make use of what he calls papoptic vision, or skin vision."

From the review of the book in *Truth* :—

I have been looking into the remarkable book, "Eyeless Sight" (Putnam's Sons), by Professor Romains, which has already been pretty widely noticed in the press. M. Romains asserts that vision is quite possible without the use of the eyes, and he gives a very full account of numerous experiments which he has made on the subject. He infers from these experiments that sight takes place through the skin by means of cells associated with the nerve-endings. These cells to all intents and purposes are microscopical rudimentary eyes. They are sensitive to light, and convey images to the brain. The professor gives an account of his experiments by means of the face, the chest, the hands, the forearms, and the back of the neck, and he asserts that it is even possible to read a column of a newspaper or a page of a novel without the use of the eyes at all.

In fact, if the eyes are at all brought into use the sightless vision ceases.

The Professor's assertions seem to have met with a good deal of scepticism in France. This is not surprising, for the experiments have chiefly been carried on through the agency of hypnotic subjects. There has been so much fraud mixed up with hypnotism that the association of such subjects at all with the experiments is quite enough to throw doubt upon their validity. Some years ago I had an opportunity of interviewing some professional hypnotic subjects who had been associated with Dr. Charcot in some of his experiments, and the way the medical men had been bamboozled was quite enough to throw doubt on any experiments produced through their agency. However, Professor Romains himself seems to have succeeded in seeing by means of his own skin, and he has made some experiments with men blinded in the war, and he certainly makes out a good case for further research. What has "St. Dunstan's" to say on the subject?

This was Captain Fraser's reply.

To the Editor,

Truth.

SIR,

In your issue of 12th March you briefly review Professor Romains' book, "EYELESS SIGHT," and ask the question "What has St. Dunstan's to say on the subject"?

"I think this is a question which should be answered, and accordingly would be obliged if you would publish this letter.

"Opportunity has not yet arisen for the matter to be brought before St. Dunstan's Council, or submitted to our Honorary Ophthalmic Advisors, and accordingly I can do no more than briefly refer to my personal views and action thereon.

"I have read the book with extreme care and interest, and agree with you that the matter deserves careful investigation. I am at present in communication with Professor Romains with a view to ascertaining if particulars of

any further experiments he may have carried out with blinded soldiers since the publication of his book, may be sent to me, and if he can put me in touch with any qualified persons in this country who have interested themselves in the subject, and/or have collaborated with him.

"Strange and extraordinary as his revelations are I am prepared to approach an investigation of them with an open mind, and though I permit myself two observations upon the book—which is the only source of information I have at present—I do not want it to be thought that these indicate that I have any preconceived prejudices.

"Firstly, Professor Romains does not, as I should have expected him to, devote any substantial part of his book to a discussion of the possibility that Hypnotic suggestion has been in some way responsible for the alleged extra-retinal vision of his subjects or pupils. It is true that in one or two places Professor Romains refers to particular experiments, where he states that neither he nor anyone else in the room knew what particular letter or design was being read by his subject, but I should have thought his case would have been much stronger if he had made a special point of dealing with this possibility.

"Secondly, it is stated in the book that two blinded soldiers were given preliminary instruction in the art of extra-retinal or skin vision, and that they achieved some measure of success. It appears that after a few sittings, however, these soldiers returned to the Institution in which they were lodged, and that he was forbidden by the Authorities there to see them again. With the scanty information the writer gives upon this episode it is impossible to hold more than a tentative opinion, but it occurs to me that if these soldiers had in fact perceived letters and figures, without ill effect, no disciplinary action on the part of the Managers of any Institution would have prevented them and their comrades from continuing their course of training.

"If preliminary investigations upon these and some other points, which space does not permit me to deal with, are

satisfactory, we shall, of course, go thoroughly into the matter, and will at a later date make known our opinion.

Yours faithfully,

IAN FRASER,

Chairman—St. Dunstan's.

Anniversary Dance at Brighton.

ON Friday evening, March 28th, the blinded soldiers and sailors of St. Dunstan's Brighton Annexe celebrated the ninth Anniversary of the opening of this great institution.

The first part of the programme was allotted to a most enjoyable concert by some of the blinded soldiers and their friends.

On the conclusion of the concert all present adjourned to the dining room, where an excellent supper was prepared. Supper over, the blinded ex-service men and their friends thoroughly enjoyed the dance which followed.

During the evening the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton visited the Annexe. The Mayor expressed his keen appreciation of the work done at St. Dunstan's in helping the men who had lost their sight in the war, to become useful citizens again. He said it showed good sound judgment on the part of the St. Dunstan's Committee to keep this Annexe open when it had been necessary to close all the other annexes. No better place than Brighton for convalescence could be found, and he said the existence of this local annexe was one in which he and the Corporation were keenly interested.

The Matron thanked the Mayor and Mayoress for their kindness in visiting the Annexe on this occasion.

Both the Mayor and Mayoress took part in the dances during the evening, and thoroughly enjoyed their first experience of a "St. Dunstan's Dance."

Think twice before you pronounce an opinion on important matters, and even then, more often than not, the world will not lose anything if you remain silent.

Poultry Notes

St. Dunstan's Laying Test

The results of St. Dunstan's Laying Test have aroused a good deal of interest in the Press, and we reprint below articles on the subject which have reached us from "The Poultry World" and "The Hereford Times."

Our Blind Heroes as Poultrymen

ST. DUNSTAN'S WINTER LAYING COMPETITION.

By WILL HORLEY, F.Z.S., F.B.S.A.

ST. DUNSTAN'S Laying Competition, held at King's Langley, on the farm connected with the wonderful work amongst the blind heroes of the Great War, is carried on for the help and interest of those officers and men who have lost the most precious of all gifts for the sake of their country—*for you—for me.*

What that loss is one can only faintly imagine. To go out one of these lovely spring days, to face the warm sun, and listen to the Lark, and then to close our eyes, and think what the loss of sight must be. Yet these men who will never behold the nestling primrose, or even the dear faces of their sons and daughters can and do take an interest in their poultry farms. Here they have sent 180 birds of *their own breeding, rearing, and selecting for the competition.* Here they are, at King's Langley, in four large laying houses on the hill side, and below are the results. It is not because records have been broken, but in token of admiration for the spirits of "The Boys" that have conquered endless difficulties that these lines are written.

We frequently lavish praise on prominent sighted breeders, and these, I am sure, will join in congratulations on what the St. Dunstan's men have achieved.

Some 200 of these officers and men are now installed in poultry farms all over the country, and a large number have small units, which are not poultry farms. The test has been under the management of Mr. Thompson Brown and Mr. Gutbridge. (The results of the leading pens are given in detail, but these have already appeared in our columns.—EDITOR *Review.*)

ON THE FARM.

Mr. Thompson Brown conducted me round the farm, where there is much of interest: a large incubator room with 7,000-egg capacity is engaged in a good work, as it produces pullets for those chaps who cannot have farms, and who keep, say, eight birds in their backyard runs. These pullets are replaced yearly by St. Dunstan's, which ensures a regular egg supply.

Some 40 acres of land are available, and, though still in the making, one can see on every hand Mr. Thompson Brown's careful organisation.

Griffin gets excellent publicity from his local paper, *The Hereford Times* :—

Silver Medal Eggs

LUGWARDINE HENS AT ST. DUNSTAN'S

BLIND SOLDIER'S PRIZE.

After four years poultry farming at Lugwardine, near Hereford, Mr. Albert Griffin, of the Hollies, has just achieved his first competitive success with his birds at the first attempt.

According to the provisional award list issued this week, a pen of four of his White Wyandottes stand third in an important egg-laying competition organised by St. Dunstan's for St. Dunstaners. The competition, which ran for five lunar months, was divided into two sections, one for the light breeds and the other for heavy breeds, and it is in the latter that Mr. Griffin's hens have brought him distinction by annexing a silver medal.

Yet in this stroke of success there was an element of bad luck. A couple of eggs more and he would have secured second prize, the score of his pen being 300, compared with 301 laid by the second prize pen. The score of the pen which

carried off the premier award—a silver cup—was 341. Rhode Island Reds were first, and White Wyandottes second and third. Right up to the last Mr. Griffin's birds occupied a good position in the table of results, and were beaten at the post, so to speak, by one of his hens going broody during the closing days.

The test, carried out under the strictest supervision at St. Dunstan's poultry centre at King's Langley, Hertfordshire, represented 46 blind war-hero poultry farmers in all parts of the country, and the breeds in the heavy section were Rhode Island Reds, White Wyandottes, and Light Sussex. A great deal of interest has been taken by all the St. Dunstan's poultry farmers, who number over 200, in this contest, and incidentally the results demonstrate the value of a beneficent institution in giving blinded soldiers, sailors, and airmen a training in arts and crafts and industry to fill the void in their lives created by the misfortune of war.

Like every other St. Dunstaner, Mr. Griffin is an optimist, and his interests are by no means confined to poultry farming. His knowledge of horticulture is remarkable, and amongst flowers, roses and gladioli are his chief delight. As in the case of his fowls, none but the best specimens are good enough for him. Carpentry is another hobby, and of course is a useful one where extensive poultry runs and houses have to be maintained. A triple gateway just completed, leading from the garden to the orchard, containing the fowl runs, is a specimen of the handiwork and perseverance of himself and a Hereford friend also handicapped by the loss of sight. Hammock making and type-writing are amongst Mr. Griffin's other accomplishments. In the latter art it is worthy of note that he passed the St. Dunstan's qualifying tests after only 12½ hours' tuition, and though the amount of practice he gets—in typing his business letters—is necessarily small, his speed and accuracy would give many a sighted typist furiously to think.

Mr. Griffin lost his sight through mustard gas on the first day of the final German advance in March, 1918, and suffered other injuries, which, in addition

to total blindness, still greatly handicap his physical activities. He was a prisoner of war in Germany for eight months, and suffered much from German callousness. Before the war he was a printer, and lived at Kidderminster.

At Wigmore Hall

The usual little group of St. Dunstaners were among the guests at Wigmore Hall, when the Adair wounded Fund resumed their series of Concerts. The occasion was of particular interest, because Captain Fraser was the M.C., while Mrs. Fraser distributed the gifts in the lucky draw. Many of these, by the way, were the work of St. Dunstaners.

Influenza caused the absence of four artists, but extra turns from the artists present made up for the loss. Dinkie Jeune opened and closed the programme, her archly-rendered chorus songs being admirably suited to the audience. Walter Barker and Stanley Graham were in great form, and each gave three items, which were hugely appreciated. Mr. Barker's numbers included the excellent sketch, "Counsel for the Defence," which George Ellis has recently written for him. Those old favourites with A.W.F. audiences, Eric Richmond and Lettice Newman gave five numbers before they were allowed to quit the stage, while Doris Cloud's artistic violin playing, and some splendidly rendered vocal items by Gladys Ashton and Dorothy Robson were in great demand. Prior to the concert the Regent Dance Orchestra played lively selections, and the accompanists were Billy Vaughan and Richard Tonking, Sydney Warwick again acting as musical director.

A true friend will multiply your joys and divide your sorrows.

Some people speak from experience; others—from experience—don't speak.

True genius is the power to see a little clearer and a little deeper than most other people.



CHAPEL NOTES

AS these are being written a fortnight before the date of our last regular service, I thought that perhaps a few statistics concerning the Chapel and its services might be of interest. Our original Chapel was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of London on December 14th, 1916, when the Rev. Prebendary Sharpe was Hon. Chaplain, assisted by the Rev. L. G. Tucker. I took over the work from Mr. Tucker in March 1919, whilst Prebendary Sharpe remained Hon. Chaplain all through.

During this time 920 Services have been held, and over 4,000 have made their Communion. There have been 66 Baptisms and 58 men have been prepared and presented for Confirmation. We were not authorised to conduct Marriages in our own Chapel, so that these services were held at the Parish Church of St. Marylebone. Here I officiated on over seventy occasions, so it can be seen what I am responsible for?

I do feel that this little record will give just a small idea of how our beautiful House of God has been used. I am personally grateful for having had the privilege of taking a small part in the spiritual side of the work at St. Dunstan's, and I am indeed sorry that the time has come when our services will not be needed. Yet I know that all those who have worshipped with us will keep the spiritual needs of our boys foremost in their intercessions, so that even if our Chapel services cease here, the voice of prayer and thanksgiving will not be silent.

Baptism

REES.—On April 13th, in St. Dunstan's Chapel, Mavis, daughter of Arthur and Olive Rees.

Births

BLACKETT.—On 13th March 1924, to the wife of C. Blackett, of Devonport, a fine boy. Mother and child both doing well.

COOKE.—On 7th March, to the wife of H. G. Cooke, of Wardend, Birmingham, a daughter.

FEARN.—On Saturday, the 8th of March, to the wife of E. Fearn, of Moira, Nr. Burton-on-Trent, a fine boy.

GROVES.—To the wife of A. F. Groves, of Sittingbourne, a son on the 20th of February last. (Albert Arthur George).

HURST.—To the wife of H. Hurst, of Derby, a son on the 19th of February.

JAMES.—To the wife of E. James, of Reigate, a daughter (Ida Maude) on the 15th of January.

LANE.—On Saturday, the 8th March, a daughter (Audrey Violette) to the wife of A. Lane, Devon. Mother and child both doing well.

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

McMULLEN.—On the 6th February, a son, to the wife of R. McMullen, of Oxford. Mother and baby both doing well.

MILLER.—On 9th February, a daughter (Elsie Eileen) to the wife of H. Miller, of Notting Hill. Mother and child both doing well.

PHYSICK.—On the 30th January, a daughter (Hilda Dora), to the wife of F. Physick of Fulham.

PINK.—To the wife of A. Pink, of Ashcott, Nr. Bridgewater, a daughter (Vivian Georgina May) born on the 13th January.

ROBINSON.—On the 18th January, a daughter to the wife of J. P. Robinson, of Nelson, New Zealand. Both doing well.

Marriages.

DONLAN—MURPHY.—On the 3rd March, Henry Donlan, late of Folkestone, now of Rose Cottage, Kersney Avenue, River, Dover, to Miss A. Murphy, at the Roman Catholic Church, Folkestone.

GARTHWAITE—SHEPHERD.—On February 24th E. Garthwaite, of 40 Wilton Lane, Holmes, Nr. Rotherham, Yorks., to Miss Rosa Gertrude Blanche Shepherd.

PEEL—BARBER.—On 10th March at St. Marks Church Notting Hill, London, J. Peel, of 6 Hall St., Wibsey, Bradford, to Miss Elsie Barber, of Cornwall Road, Notting Hill. The ceremony was conducted by the Vicar of St. Marks' Church, the Rev. H. B. Chandler. (NOTE.—The reception was held at the bride's home, after which the happy couple left for Wibsey, where they will reside.)

Deaths

LOVETT.—We send our sympathy to G. W. Lovett, of Worthing, who lost his wife on the 6th March. Mrs. Lovett had been ill for some considerable time, and we know that her husband has suffered much anxiety.

Another who is in trouble is A. C. Rodgers, of Wrexham, as on the 29th February he lost his mother who has been ill for some time.

Departmental Notes

Braille Room Notes

We sincerely congratulate A. Chiverton and E. Roberts, on passing the Braille Reading Test.

Typewriting and Telephony.

We sincerely congratulate the following men on having passed the Typewriting Test:—A. W. Tebbutt, J. Evans, J. Edwards.

All good wishes to J. Holmes, who has obtained a post as telephonist at Vigo Bros., Knightsbridge; also to T. Meredith, at the Standard Bank of South Africa; and to G. Kilsby, who has begun work at Italia House, Wigmore Street.

The following are a few of the books that have recently been added to the National Library for the Blind:—

"Winding Stair," A. E. W. Mason.

"Amazing Quest of Mr. Ernest Bliss," E. P. Oppenheim.

"Mystery of Dr. Fu Manchu," Sax Rohmer.

"Jim Maitland," 'Sapper.'

"Inimitable Jeeves," P. G. Wodehouse.

"Widecomb Fair," Eden Phillpots.

"Under Two Flags," 'Ouida.'

"Found Money," G. Birmingham.

"By Right of Purchase," H. Bindloss.

"Under Western Eyes," J. Conrad.

"Duchess of Wrexhe," H. Walpole.

G. J. S.

Netting Notes

I am sure our netters and rug-makers will be interested to know that Headquarters has been conducting a small advertising campaign to help the sales of the goods of these departments during the past few weeks. The response has been very satisfactory from a business point of view, but what is even more gratifying is the receipt of many letters expressing high admiration of the beautiful workmanship of the goods. I wish it were possible to publish quotations from some of these letters; they would, I am sure, make our men even more determined to maintain the high standard of work of which our department is so proud. We shall hope to have further opportunities of pushing sales of rugs and nets at our stand at the British Empire Exhibition as well as furthering the sales of all other goods made by St. Dunstaners. The wintry weather has been very much against netting sales and more springlike weather is sincerely to be hoped for. G. H. W.

Coming On

A CLERGYMAN taught an old man in his parish to read. After his lessons were finished he was unable to call upon him for some time, and when at last he did, found only the wife at home.

"How is John?" said he, "and how does he progress with his reading?"

"Oh, nicely, sir."

"I suppose he can read his Bible quite comfortably now?"

"Bible, sir!" exclaimed the woman.

"Lor' bless your soul, why, John was out o' the Bible and into the sporting papers long ago!"



OUR Football Competition has again been remarkably successful. The Oddfellows, who had topped the league on the last three occasions, have at last been deposed, and this time we congratulate the Saints on a well deserved triumph. They have played consistently well all through the Competition, and the fact that they scored 45 goals shows how deadly was their shooting. The Runners-up also did well, although they had rather a bad spell in the second half of their programme, when they only managed to secure 3 points out of 12. The Lodgers made a wonderful recovery and actually got eight points out of the last ten. If they had started the season in this form they would have been near the top.

A glance at the goal scorers' list will be of interest to the T.B.'s. Turnock easily heads the bill with 13 goals, a splendid performance. Roberts again is well up with 8, with Wolshaw, Wootley, Edwards and Brammer close behind. Prior once more heads the S.S. with 17 goals, but Hunt and Teagle did exceedingly well in scoring 16 goals. Inman is again amongst the leaders with 15 goals, followed by Evans and R. J. Williams, with 12.

LEAGUE RESULTS.

Mar. 6.—Saints .. 5	Brightonians .. 2
Oddfellows .. 6	Goodfellows .. 1
7.—Tally Ho's .. 4	Radiators .. 0
Lodgers .. 2	Brightonians .. 1
11.—Saints .. 4	Goodfellows .. 4
Oddfellows .. 8	Radiators .. 4
13.—Lodgers .. 5	Tally Ho's .. 4
Radiators .. 5	Brightonians .. 3
14.—Saints .. 4	Oddfellows .. 2
Goodfellows .. 3	Tally Ho's .. 2
18.—Radiators .. 5	Saints .. 3
Oddfellows .. 2	Lodgers .. 2
20.—Brightonians .. 3	Tally Ho's .. 0
Goodfellows .. 1	Radiators .. 1
21.—Saints .. 4	Tally Ho's .. 1
Brightonians .. 6	Oddfellows .. 1
Oddfellows .. 4	Tally Ho's .. 4
25.—Lodgers .. 4	Radiators .. 2
Lodgers .. 1	Goodfellows .. 1

LEADING GOAL SCORERS.

T. B.		S. S.	
Turnock 13	Prior 17		
Roberts 8	Hunt 16		
Wilshaw 7	Teagle 16		
Wootley 7	Inman 15		
Edwards 6	Williams, R. J. .. 12		
Brammer 6	Evans 12		
Tebbutt 5	Muir 11		
Pawley 5	Fallowfield 9		
Judd 4	Anderson 8		
Wilks 4	Roberts 8		
Hill 3	Watt 7		
Chiverton 3	Salt 6		
Goodison 3	Lovell 5		
	Jarvis 2		
	Murphy 2		
	Williams, E. 2		
	Wood 1		
	Hemmett 1		

No.	Name	P.	Goals				Pts	
			W.L.D.	F.	A.			
1.	Saints ..	12	7	2	3	45	39	17
2.	Tally Ho's ..	12	5	4	3	31	30	13
3.	Oddfellows ..	12	5	5	2	42	35	12
4.	Lodgers ..	12	5	5	2	27	27	12
5.	Goodfellows ..	12	3	4	5	24	30	11
6.	Brightonians ..	12	4	6	2	30	38	10
7.	Radiators ..	12	4	7	1	26	35	9

MARRIED v. SINGLE

It is usual after the League Competition is concluded for a match to be played between the Married heroes and the Single unfortunates. The match is generally preceded by challenges, which are effectively read out by Matron. Suitable replies are invariably sent and her services are again in demand. I cannot do better than give the words of the Challenge and acceptance in full, it will give a better idea of the state of mind of both parties. The happy-go-lucky bachelor who thinks he is lucky in being happy, and the lucky-but-happy married man who is both lucky and happy.

THE CHALLENGE.

"We, the single men of the Lodge, who are not encumbered by any matrimonial difficulties, throw out a challenge to our poor unfortunate brothers, who have doomed their lives in married bliss, to a game of football, to settle which kind

of life is more congenial to sporting men. We ask the married men to choose their best men, as we are quite confident of proving to them that 'a bachelor's life is a gay one'.

"Marriage certificates will not be asked for, but any man not liking his name classed in the 'married' section in the *Review* should not volunteer to play. We are willing to play the match at any time providing that the exponents of connubial happiness can find sufficient men courageous enough to form a team to pit their lot against such formidable opponents."

The Gay Bachelors.

THE ACCEPTANCE.

"We jeer with somewhat mixed emotion at the challenge issued to us by a few of the 'Gay Lotharios' here. We feel that the Challenge has been prompted more by their overweening vanity than their ability. We accept the challenge, feeling sure that the result will be disastrous to their prestige. We are of the opinion that if a man is courageous enough to take a lady 'For better or Worse' at the 'Altar,' it should not prove a very difficult task to prove his superiority over these challengers. In glad anticipation of the forthcoming contest, and feeling sure of the result.

We remain,

Yours more in sorrow than in anger,

Men of Happy Married Bliss.

All that need be added is that the match was played on Friday, and resulted in a victory for the Married men by 7-6. It was a narrow margin, but the result might have been different had R. J. Williams turned up to play for the Single men, who had to play one short. I haven't heard yet why Williams missed this game, was it due to an appointment—feminine gender!!!

The Teams and the Goal scorers are as follows:—

Single.		Married.	
Wilshaw	Roberts		
Goodison 1	Edwards		
Pawley 1	Tebbutt		
Jarvis 1	Evans 2		
Williams	Anderson 1		
Wilks 1	Fallowfield 1		

Hunt 2	Inman 2
Muir 0	Prior 1
6	7

It is only necessary to congratulate both teams on an excellent game and a splendid exhibition of Sportmanship. Truly the Married men get all the good things—a charming wife, and a football victory.

G. ZIPFEL.

I am exceedingly sorry to say that we will not be able to have the services of Zipfel in Goal next Term owing to his appointment to assist at the St. Dunstan's Stall at Wembley. May I say here how very grateful we are to him for all his help, willingly and cleverly given, and for the enjoyment he has given our boys.

SATURDAY SPORTS.

Our Bungalow Sports continue to be most successful and many of our boys are becoming quite expert in this interesting form of exercise. Pawley continues to lead in the T.B. Section with 170 points more than Edwards, with Wilshaw an excellent third. In the S.S. Prior is easily top, being 230 points ahead of Muir. There are still two or three Saturdays to go before the term ends, so that there should be exciting struggles for second and third places.

T.B.		S. S.	
Pawley 1,015	Prior 1,030		
Edwards 850	Muir 835		
Wilshaw 825	Inman 725		
Roberts 790	Jervis 620		
Wootley 725	Williams 520		
Chiverton 590	Salt 490		
Gill 70	Fallowfield .. 375		
Lee 50	Teagle 295		
	Hemmett 80		
	Lovell 65		

OLD BOYS' SPORTS.

I have just heard that the date for the commencement of Summer time is April 13th, so this will give us the opportunity of commencing our Summer Sports on Tuesday, 29th April, in the Park, and conclude Winter Sports on the 15th April. I hope, therefore, that any men living in the London vicinity who are interested will join us. We start at 6.40 and finish about 8 p.m. Should the weather be wet,

we will hold the sports in the Bungalow, so that each Tuesday, wet or fine, something will be doing!

Our present Sports are in a very exciting stage, especially among the T.B.'s. Henry just leads by $32\frac{1}{2}$ points over Webster, whilst Gamble has $37\frac{1}{2}$ points over Nicholls for 3rd place.

Brown is easily first in the S.S., and

Downs seems to be assured of second place.

T. B.		S. S.	
Henry ..	2,162 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brown ..	2,560
Webster ..	2,130	Downs ..	2,135
Gamble ..	1,882 $\frac{1}{2}$	Scott ..	1,720
Nicholls ..	1,845	James ..	1,235
Hughes ..	1,690	Taylor ..	515
Burran ..	510		
Kerr ..	480		

J. E. W.

Wireless News and Notes

The Cost of Wireless—Floyd's New Set—Another Recruit

A correspondent, writing in reference to our Wireless Competition, queries the claim made "That the cost of wireless brings it within the reach of all." He suggests that it would be helpful for those of our readers who may have been deterred from indulging in the joys of radio by considerations of the cost involved if we provided some approximate idea of the minimum expense required for effective reception. We have accordingly asked for a contribution on these lines from an expert on wireless, who is very fully cognizant with actual costs, and the following is the information he gives. We may add that while, of course, there may be exceptions amongst St. Dunstaners, we should imagine that the twenty-two million "listeners-in" covered by our correspondent's estimates should embrace most of St. Dunstan's men.

THE COST OF WIRELESS.

I do not think it would be an exaggeration to state that 11,000,000, or nearly a quarter of the English population, could receive the various British Broadcasting stations on a crystal set. This is, of course, by reason of the fact that these stations are established in large cities which are densely populated areas. The cost of installing a crystal set for reception can be as low as £1 3s. 5d. Such a set is made up of the following:—

	s	d
Crystal ..	0	6
Aerial wire ..	2	0
Insulators ..	0	5

Lead-in ..	1	0
Earth wire ..	1	0
'Phones ..	14	6

Of course we have heard of cases where the cost is even lower than this, but these people have time to look out for Government disposal stuff and general "junk."

I should think a one-valve set would be sufficient to make up for another 11,000,000 of the population to receive broadcasting from the various stations and there are sets which are quite good for reception which can be procured for £5 2s. 8d. This is made up as follows:—

	£	s	d
Detector panel ..	1	10	0
Valve ..	0	11	3
Accumulator ..	0	17	6
High tension ..	0	10	0
Aerial wire ..	0	2	0
One pair 'phones ..	0	14	6
Insulators ..	0	0	5
Lead-in ..	0	1	0
Earth wire ..	0	1	0
Tuner ..	0	15	0

To the detector panel an additional low frequency can be added at a cost of approximately 35s. extra.

In both cases it would be necessary to add to these expenses the ros. B.B.C. license. Of course, it is possible to get good quality reception with such cheap sets as these, but this could not be guaranteed. It is very important that a wireless set should be made up of the

best components and so constructed that it is easy to add to.

Some interesting experiences with a new wireless set are reported by T. Floyd in the following letter, which we reprint for the benefit of other "radioists."

34 London Road,
Twickenham,
Middlesex.

9th April 1924.

DEAR CAPTAIN FRASER,—You will, I know, be interested to have some details about my new receiving set which I have had for several weeks. It is a one-valve and crystal reflex circuit, employing tuned anode coupling between high frequency and crystal, tuning on both aerial and tuned anode circuits being by means of basket coils and variable condensers. I have tried my set on three other aerials in the neighbourhood besides my own, and I must say they have given better results, this being due I think to the fact that in each case the aerial was above the level of the roof, while mine is no higher than the gutter. London comes in very strong and works a full size loud speaker with good strength, filling a small room ten feet square; this I consider is good seeing that I am nearly ten miles from 2 L.O. All other B.B.C. stations come in well on 'phones, Manchester and Cardiff being the weakest, the others being louder than I can receive London on a good crystal set; Ecole Superiere also comes in well, while amateurs are very plentiful. The reception of distant stations is not freak, as it applies to all the aerials on which I have tried the set, although my own aerial proves its inferiority more on the distant stations than on 2 L.O.

T. FLOYD.

Rose Villa,
Grt. Birstead,
Billericay

DEAR CAPTAIN FRASER

I must thank you very much for your kind help in the matter of the assistance you have given us men in obtaining help in the matter of the purchasing of wireless outfits. I have now set myself up with a set, thanks to the reduction in the price offered to the St. Dunstan's men by the B.B.C. I obtained the 20 per cent. discount on all my purchases, thanks to you. I went to the Radio Equipment Works at Wickford,

this being my nearest place, and began with a one-valve set—it is a very good set, being of their improved pattern—and then bought a two-valve amplifier and a small loud speaker; and so now we can all listen in instead of taking turns with the headphones. I have picked up Glasgow and Birmingham, Newcastle, Bournemouth, and Cardiff, and London can be heard all over the house. I knew nothing about wireless when I purchased my set, but as it is of a very simple pattern to work and the instructions so clearly given to me about fixing up I managed to get it going just as though I had done it all before. I have always regarded music as a serious hobby, if it can be put in that way. Or I might say I am passionately fond of music, and now I can revel in it. The "From my Window Talks" appeal to me very much. My set is called "The Simplex," and is, as its name implies. However, if I was buying again, I should get a two-valve set, and then the two-valve amplifier, so as to make it up to four-valve strength and so get the more distant stations clear enough to enjoy. I do not know much about wireless yet, and so do not know if I can do anything to my outfit to get more strength unless perhaps get more, or rather another amplifier. I should like you, please, to recommend me to a hand-book telling how to get the best reception and how to avoid howling or oscillating. I do not offend in these matters as far as I am aware, but as I am so much a novice I feel that I ought to know something of these matters. A word of warning might be given to intending purchasers of sets, and it is this: There is quite a trade being done now in buying parts and assembling them and then advertising the set and making a substantial profit. A set bought like this may, or may not, be as efficient as it ought to. When replying to an advertisement like one of these, it would be as well to get it on approval. I mention this in case you might like to draw the attention of any of the men to it, who may be thinking of taking wireless up. About every third man one meets makes up sets or knows someone who does, and I often wonder if they are reliable and efficient.

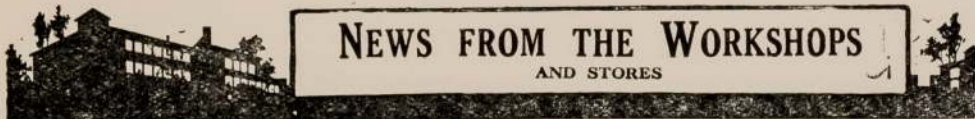
Some time back you sent me a letter to give to my local branch of the British Legion dealing with the subject of the N.I.B. and their assistance to a civil section of ex-service men. Well, I took it down to the Secretary and he had it read to the Committee and members and thanked you for sending it.

Yours sincerely,
FREDK. J. HARRIS.

ANY act by which a man makes one enemy is in the end a losing game.

OUR greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

THE top rung of the ladder of life is the most dangerous—but it affords the best view.



NEWS FROM THE WORKSHOPS AND STORES

A REVISED price list of boot sundries has been despatched to all boot repairers. If, by any chance, a man occupied in this trade has not received one, will he kindly apply to the Stores at Headquarters for it.

In the Boot Department, E. Williams has been making good progress with the work generally, since he came at the beginning of this term. J. D. Lee has also been working with us since the end of January, and has advanced quite well with his marking and riveting, as well as getting some useful experience in other parts of the work. H. D. S. Wood has also been getting through a good quantity of work of all kinds; he is a good tryer and should, with care, do quite well.

The men in the basket-shop still keep busy. W. Judd has made a number of oval-arm baskets of different types. The bottoms have given him some difficulty, but he is doing quite well with the randing and the shape. H. A. Mann is still on centre cane work, and has been making waste papers, barrels, and work-baskets; barrels are certainly his best line. W. Murphy is still on the spot, and has been showing us what he can do with suit-cases and hampers, the work of which was quite on the right lines. Since our last reference, G. Matthews has made some square and three-cornered soiled linens and clothes baskets, in addition to smaller work. W. T. Harris still continues in his steady, determined manner, making definite and useful advance with each piece of work. He has, during this year, made workbaskets, oval-arm baskets, three-cornered soiled linens, oval clothes baskets, and butchers, which is a most useful range. He is working very independently and on the right lines. J. Thornton has also continued to do exceedingly well, adapting himself quite easily to new shapes and strokes. In addition to cycle baskets, barrels with enamelled cane handles,

and some square work, he has also broadened his experience by handling centre cane and making trays and a baby-basket. He is to be congratulated on his very satisfactory standard of work.

J. Goodison has been doing quite average work on mats, and will now, we expect, with more confidence, advance quite rapidly. E. J. Roberts has made good use of his time since coming to St. Dunstan's, and, in addition to plain mats, has done several with five diamonds, others with borders and designs, and one-lettered mat "Use Me." One No. 4 figured mat finished recently is probably his best piece of work.

W. B. Gill is making very good progress with his elementary joinery work, and has made an oak cutlery case with six compartments. This is a piece of work which does him great credit. J. Edwards has completed his elementary course, and has nearly finished his tool chest. He is a quiet worker, taking great interest, and shows good promise for the future. J. Lovell has completed a pair of steps, and although the workmanship is not of the very best, he has tried hard, and is now taking up a course of picture framing, with remarkable success. D. Hunt has just completed a show case, in oak, with a panelled back and plate-glass front, size 6ft. 4½in. by 2ft. 7in.; this is intended for the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, and is a splendid piece of workmanship.

W. H. O.

Anonymous Donations

We are asked to acknowledge with grateful thanks the following anonymous donations, received at Headquarters:—

	£	s	d
Upper Holloway	1	0	0
Heavitree, Exeter	10	0	0
Birkenhead	10	0	0
London, W.1	2	6	0
Cosham	2	0	0
London, E.C.	1	6	0

Sir Arthur Pearson and St. Dunstan's

A HOSPITAL RECOLLECTION.

The following, which appears in the *Central China Post*, will interest both past and present St. Dunstaners:—

WHILE in hospital in the autumn of 1918 an instance came to my notice of the work that Sir Arthur Pearson, through St. Dunstan's, was then doing for our blinded men. The private hospital where I happened to be at that time was a ducal mansion in Regent's Park, in the Inner Circle, facing the Botanical Gardens, almost next door to St. Dunstan's. In our ward there was a machine-gunner, who had been rather badly messed up in the Somme fighting of that summer. A bullet, hitting one of his guns, had broken up, and the pieces had splattered into his face, completely destroying the sight of one eye, and injuring the other. There was some hope of saving the remaining eye by operation, but it failed, and poor old M. had to be told that he was blinded for life.

He took the news very gallantly, but one could see the anguish written in his face. The sisters, and everyone in the ward, of course, did all they possibly could to help to make his burden easier, but what could one do, in the circumstance. It seemed a farce for one enjoying the faculty of sight to persuade a poor soul whose eyes looked out on utter nothingness, that things were not as bad as they seemed. It was like telling a drowning man that water was a good drink. M. told me afterwards that during those first stricken days he felt he would go mad, as he lay and brooded on what the future held in store.

Shortly after this, however, his whole outlook on life changed. One day two visitors came into the ward. They came in to see M. and we noticed that one of them wore clouded glasses and kept his hand lightly on his companion's elbow. This was Sir Arthur Pearson.

After this he was an almost daily visitor to our ward for some weeks after,

and the effect of his visits on M. was apparent at once. Instead of brooding by himself he began to join in our "coffee-housings" and sing-songs around the fire. Sometimes Sir Arthur would draw a chair into the circle for a yarn with us, and one could not help being struck with the personality of the man—his breeziness and wonderfully cheerful outlook on life, though handicapped with an affliction that would have left most men morose and introspective. To Pearson, blindness appeared to be no more of a disability than, say, a cold in the head, and it was with this idea that he imbued the patients of St. Dunstan's.

From the first, M. was put through a course of exercises for sharpening his remaining senses. One of these I remember was the recognising of people by their footsteps. Sir Arthur possessed this gift to an uncanny extent. After a few visits he would recognise each of us in this way, though most of us wore slippers.

When Pearson was too busy to look into the ward, he would send some inmate from St. Dunstan's in his stead. These men were generally South Africans—M. had farmed there before the war—or fellow machine-gunners, for in the war there was no bond that drew men together so much as the brotherhood of craftsmanship. They all seemed to diffuse that same spirit of self-reliance and optimism, which the founder of their hospital possessed in such a marked degree.

M. left our hospital for St. Dunstan's soon after, and I did not see him again until some weeks later. He was then in riding kit and told me he had been for a canter in Richmond Park. He was taking a course in accountancy and hoped to join a firm of accountants in a Midland town when it was completed. This he did.

Wireless Headphones

A reader, who has just installed a loud speaker, has two pairs of Brown's headphones for disposal. Perhaps the best 'phones on the market, they are in practically new condition, and £2 for the two pairs will be accepted. Letters should be addressed to the Editor.

After-Care Meetings

(FROM SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS)

Canterbury

An After-Care Meeting was held at Gaywood's Restaurant, Canterbury, on Friday, 21st March. About 30 men with their wives and escorts sat down to a high tea, after which Mr. Swain made a short speech. Following this, a short musical programme was contributed by various kind friends in Canterbury, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody. H. Harris, of Loose, sang two songs and received very hearty applause. The rest of the time was devoted to dancing, in which everybody participated with evident enjoyment. The cake-guessing competition was won by T. Horsfall, of Rochester. We were very glad to welcome Mrs. Goodwin, of Ramsgate, and her little son, Roy, to the gathering.

Bedford

An After-Care Meeting was held at the Dujon Restaurant, High Street, Bedford, on Friday, 4th April. About 25 men with their wives and escorts sat down to a high tea, after which Mr. Swain made a short speech. After tea, the men were splendidly entertained by some kind friends in Bedford, who played and sang with untiring zeal. D. T. Edwards, of Sandy, after much persuasion, contributed two songs, which were greatly appreciated by everybody present. Miss Hipwell and Miss Cameron came along and gave Miss Woolrych great assistance in looking after the men. After a short dance, in which everybody took part, the Meeting came to an end and the men departed for their various homes, assuring each other that they had not enjoyed themselves so much for a long time.

The lucky man in the cake-guessing competition was Percy Holmes, of Woburn; he was rather worried, I understand, as W. H. Taylor insisted on having half the cake.

Norwich

An After-Care meeting took place on Friday the 11th instant, at "The Old Curat's House," The Walk, Norwich. About twenty-five St. Dunstaners with their wives or escorts attended and it was a very jolly gathering. Mr. Swain welcomed the men in a short speech.

A musical programme was arranged by Miss Woolrych and was enthusiastically received. Miss G. Channell accompanied the various artists at the piano, in addition to providing popular musical items during the afternoon. Miss Calles, who possesses a very sweet soprano voice, delighted her audience with some songs, while W. Cubitt, of Norwich, who has a fine voice, sang with great expression "Friend o' Mine" and "If I might come to you." Another welcome contributor to the programme was B. Hamilton, of Norwich, who gave us a few reminiscences of "Old St. Dunstan's" which were certainly amusing in the extreme. Hamilton also recited "Kissing Cup's Race," and, in conclusion returned thanks on behalf of his comrades present for a happy afternoon. To these two St. Dunstaners many thanks are due for their generous contribution to the success of the meeting. We were fortunate in securing Mr. Lamb, of Thorpe, Norwich, to sing humorous songs, and his quaint stories kept us all in convulsions. Mr. Kessell, who happened to have other business in the town and happily was able to spend a few hours at the meeting, addressed the men after tea.

Two unlearned visitors at the museum stopped in front of an Egyptian mummy rather thinner than the others. The ticket bore the inscription "B.C. 2470."

"I wonder what that figuring means?" said one of the men.

"Oh, I reckon that was the number of the motor-lorry that flattened him out," said the other one.

"Once Upon a Time"

The following are some excellent stories sent in to us by a St. Dunstaner who writes:—"I know the 'REVIEW' is fond of a good story, and therefore I am sending some which I collected the other evening at the local lodge where convivial souls congregate."

"Nothing to beat that in America"

An American tourist was staying in Scotland, and while there made a friend of his hotel manager, who took him around showing him the "sights."

During a visit to "The Highlands" the Yankee coolly remarked "Say, d'ye call these 'mountains'? Guess they wouldn't make foothills for the Rockies."

Again he was taken to see the Clyde, and remarked, "Gee whiz! D'ye call that a river? Guess that wouldn't do for a stream alongside the Mississippi."

Everything he was shown was belittled, till one day the friend became absolutely sick of it, and took him out to a hill where they could overlook the city, and then pointing to the town inquired if the American could see three large chimneys in the centre of the town. "Guess I can see something sticking up a little," said the Yank.

"Well, mon," said the friend, "That's three distilleries, and they're all working overtime. Have ye got anything to beat that in America?"

"Some Poker"

An American visiting England was talking about the size of American hotels, and said, after seeing some of the finest hotels in England, "We are building a hotel in New York in which the fire-place in the Smoking Room will be larger than any room in this hotel."

A little while afterwards he was being shown round a large engineering works, and in one shop they were turning the

main shaft for the propellor of a large ocean liner. When the visitors arrived there the American watched the work with interest, and asked the friend who accompanied him what they were making. "Oh!" said the friend calmly, "they are making the poker for that fireplace in that new hotel of yours."

"The Retort Courteous"

An English commercial traveller had occasion to visit the United States on business in Chicago, and on his journey overland he called the "Newsy" who travels on every train, and asked him if he had any English newspapers. The news boy produced a "Morning Post" and a "Daily Mail," and the Englishman settled down to read.

A Yankee drummer who happened to be sitting opposite gazed at the two papers, and then blurted out "Say, stranger, what two papers are those?" and on being informed he contemptuously replied, "Gee whiz! Guess we use them papers over hyer to wipe our feet on."

The Englishman made no response, but a little while later the American purchased a couple of papers, and the Englishman, looking over his own paper, remarked "May I ask what papers you are reading?"

"Yes," replied the Yank. "This is the "Chicago Blade and Ledger," the finest sporting paper ever printed, and this," tapping the one by his side, "is the 'New York Herald.'" What the "Herald" says to-day, the world goes by to-morrow."

"You'll pardon my passing an opinion," said the Englishman, "but I think if you carry on reading those papers, and wiping your feet on the "Morning Post" and "Standard," you'll soon have more brains under your feet than you have in your head."

(A further selection next month.)

The Bridegroom

Under the above heading there appears in the columns of *The Cape*, a well-known South African paper, the following word sketch of one of our South African St. Dunstaners, A. Kirstein, and his wedding, a report of which appeared in our last issue:—

THE BRIDEGROOM.

I.—*The Darkness.*

Some years ago I wrote about a blind *masseur* who had, and still has, his consulting and operating rooms in a Cape-town building in St. George's Street. There was something very romantic, very pathetic, but also very splendid and courageous about this tall, strong young South African—his name is Kirstein—who came forward as the nurse-attendant showed me into his private room on that long-ago summer's afternoon. My impressions of him and his massage "parlour" are as vivid as they were on that first day when he came to the door, with firm step, with sure, certain hand extended in welcome. Blind! This tall, gentle, strong-bodied young Dutchman from a Klerksdorp farm, who had answered South Africa's call to the historic struggle and faced the daily and hourly tragedy of the trenches. Blind! For I remember how he asked if I wouldn't take the red armchair in the corner, as he wheeled it over to me. I said that I preferred the smaller little old-fashioned chair in the corner, because I didn't want the sun in my eyes. "Oh!" he said, and went over and pulled the blind lower. And I remembered then that there was no sun in his.

It was in this "operating-room" of the Blind Masseur in St. George's Street that I saw the first proofs of the miracles of St. Dunstan, healer of the sightless. For, by a series of circumstances which might have been sheer luck or the Providence of God (just as the reader chooses to think), Mr. Kirstein, coming out of the black night, like thousands of others who were blinded by the impious lightning of the Great War, was brought to St. Dunstan's Home, where the Blind Knight,

its host, led him through the stages of the miracle.

So, here was Mr. Kirstein, in his St. George's Street chamber, a certificated masseur, with the highest diplomas obtainable, showing me his electrical apparatus—all wires and keyboards and shining brass levers and little brass bolts, softer and infinitely more delicate than the strings of a violin. And every time his fingers felt them with a sure, infallible touch. "This one!" he would say, and go over and press one little button amongst a score of others on his electric keyboard. Or, again, he would switch on a little brass lever, with "Now, this . . ." There seemed to be eyes in the tips of his fingers! Sitting and watching him, I was flooded with the soft summer light through the shaded window. Almost impossible to realise that he was walking in black darkness across the room, glittering with instruments, with the sunshine picking out the soft colours of the carpet under my feet. The miracle of St. Dunstan's! It seemed to me that it was I who was blind.

II.—*The Beloved.*

On Tuesday of last week the Blind Masseur was married. The wedding took place at the Dutch Reformed Church at Three Anchor Bay, and the celebrant of the affair was my friend the Rev. A. M. MacGregor, the pastor of the church. And since you are again scenting romance in the picture, I think I can satisfy you. The bride was the pastor's own daughter. Into the care of the blinded victim of the war, into arms of strength and resource and courage, the grey-haired clergyman confided the daughter of his house. May I quote from *The Cape* some remarks of a colleague of mine: "The little girlish bride was making vows of unusual moment—promising not only to 'love, honour and obey,' but to play a bigger part in the life of her husband than falls to the lot of most wives. She was dedicating her youth to long years of service, pledging herself to be 'sight to the sightless.' Her husband was one of the men who had gone down into the dark valley at his country's call and had emerged

blinded by the fierce fire of the enemy guns." And how tenderly, yet confidently, how proudly and happily she leant upon his arm—her new husband's. Not he upon hers.

The story is not yet ended. There was a fairy godmother at this wedding! With the bride's mother at the top of the hall at the wedding feast stood Mrs. Lilian Vincent, the South African representative of St. Dunstan's, the bright angel of the South African blinded. Happy as a queen, she stood, the most honoured of the guests. Like the bride's mother, she carried a bouquet of gay flowers; but gayer than the flowers was her heart, and more beautiful her smile. This was another day of triumph for her and for St. Dunstan's, and for the memory of Arthur Pearson, the Blind Knight, now in the kingdom of Light, and his gospel of courage and gladness.

The gay colours of St. Dunstan's suddenly appeared above the wedding party. Under a kind of arch of these triumphant streamers the little bride went out with her husband into the new world of wonder and love. There were only two persons in the wedding party who could not look upon the quiet beauty and graciousness of her as she went. One was her sightless husband and the other was Mr. Bowen, the Blind Advocate. And this Blind Advocate of ours said a great and a fine thing before the wedding journey began. "We," he said, in so many words, "can no longer see the softness and the beauty of women's faces; but St. Dunstan's has taught us—as only the blind can be taught—to see the firm nobility of their character, to gaze upon the tender, delicate beauty of their souls."

One caught one's breath at these few wonderful words. And you had a feeling that the spirit of the Blind Knight of St. Dunstan's, the Apostle of the Light, was there too, listening. D.

Photographs of Anniversary Dance

Our frontispiece forms one of the excellent photographs taken on the occasion of the Anniversary Dance. The

other photographs show, respectively, a group of St. Dunstaners in fancy dress, and the band only, and the picture of Captain Fraser, "Ole Bill," and "St. Dunstan's Cigarettes." We have arranged that our readers can purchase mounted copies of either of the first two, which measure fourteen inches by eight inches at 2/6 per copy, or the third, measuring ten inches by seven inches at 1/3 per copy. Orders and remittances should be addressed to "Dance Photograph," c/o The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review," Headquarters of St. Dunstan's Work, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, N.W.1.

Miss Pain's Thanks

As we go to press we receive the following from Miss Pain:—

83, Goldhurst Terrace,
Hampstead, N.W.6.

My dear St. Dunstaners,

I wish that it could have been possible for me to see you all last Friday, and so to have been able to thank you personally for the beautiful presentation that was given to me at the Anniversary Dance, but since that could not be I take this opportunity to tell you how deeply I value the expression of your friendship.

All my life I shall treasure these beautiful brooches, and I am indeed proud to have the right to wear the St. Dunstan's badge given me by St. Dunstan's men.

The gifts are a great joy to me and the feelings conveyed in the words of the illuminated address have made me very proud and very, very happy.

I have always regarded it as a great privilege that it has been my good fortune to share in the life of St. Dunstan's, and I am sure that I speak for all Braille teachers when I say that it is a real happiness to know that the work of the Braille Room has been so much appreciated.

Once again thanking you and wishing you all every possible happiness,

Always your sincere friend,

DOROTHY A. PAIN.

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.]

FIRST-CLASS WORKMANSHIP	<h3 style="margin: 0;">THE "VICTORY OVERALL"</h3> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 75%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">Price post free</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Once a</td> <td>8 oz. Blue or Brown Drill (Super-Cloth) Boiler Suits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">12/9</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> Ditto ditto ditto Bibs & Braces</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7/6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> Ditto ditto ditto Jackets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7/6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> Ditto ditto ditto Trousers</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7/3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Customer</td> <td>8 oz. Khaki Drill (Super-Cloth) Warehouse Coats</td> <td style="text-align: right;">12/9</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8 oz. Blue ditto ditto ditto (or Butchers') Coats</td> <td style="text-align: right;">12/9</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8 oz. White Drill (Super-Cloth) Warehouse Coats</td> <td style="text-align: right;">12/9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">ALWAYS</td> <td>Khaki Drill Warehouse Coats (Qual. 650)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10/3</td> </tr> </table>			Price post free	Once a	8 oz. Blue or Brown Drill (Super-Cloth) Boiler Suits	12/9		Ditto ditto ditto Bibs & Braces	7/6		Ditto ditto ditto Jackets	7/6		Ditto ditto ditto Trousers	7/3	Customer	8 oz. Khaki Drill (Super-Cloth) Warehouse Coats	12/9		8 oz. Blue ditto ditto ditto (or Butchers') Coats	12/9		8 oz. White Drill (Super-Cloth) Warehouse Coats	12/9	ALWAYS	Khaki Drill Warehouse Coats (Qual. 650)	10/3	EXCEPTIONAL DURABILITY
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