

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

MONTHLY  
PRICE 6<sup>D.</sup>

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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.



#### AFTERCARE MEETINGS

*Top.*—The Exeter Meeting held on 11th December 1925.  
*Bottom.*—The Bristol Meeting held on 5th December 1925.

# St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY PERRY BARRINGER

No. 105.—VOLUME X.

JANUARY, 1926.

PRICE 6d.  
 (FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN.)

## EDITORIAL

THE Council of St. Dunstan's has dealt with the Widows', Orphans and Old Age Pensions Act in a typically St. Dunstan's manner—that is to say they have given the most careful consideration to its effect upon the lives of St. Dunstaners individually and collectively, and have made arrangements to secure that every St. Dunstaner shall get the utmost value out of it to which he is entitled.

In all matters in which the relations of our men and Acts of Parliament and Regulations made under Royal Warrant are affected it has invariably been St. Dunstan's practice to give blinded soldiers every possible assistance in securing maximum concessions, and our Pensions Office, since the beginning of St. Dunstan's, has been successful in adjusting literally thousands of claims for officers, non-commissioned officers and men and their families, fighting appeal cases, securing compensation, &c.

The first need in connection with the Widows, Orphans and Old Age Pensions Act was to see exactly how it affected the St. Dunstaner and to consider what help should be given him to secure its full benefits. Accordingly, our Pensions Office, which has for many years now been under the able direction of Mr. Askew, considered the whole measure, acquainted itself so far as it is humanly possible with every detail of the Act, and is now in a position to answer almost all inquiries which may be addressed to it.

It soon became apparent that the majority of St. Dunstan's men would not come under the Act automatically, for they are settled in their own businesses, and are not in ordinary employment in a factory or workshop. They could therefore only come into this great "all-in" Insurance Scheme under a special clause as voluntary contributors, and this involved the difficulties of filling in complicated forms and coming to a decision as to whether or not it was worth while paying the sum of 1s. 6d. a week, which it must be admitted is a heavy burden on an ordinary St. Dunstaner's income, in order to secure the benefits available under the Act. Having regard to the wide extent of these benefits, however, and to the keen desire that has frequently been expressed by St. Dunstaners to do something to ensure that if they should die from illness or accident, arising not as a result of war service but from a contingency of civilian life, to make some provision for their widows and children, the Council of St. Dunstan's had no hesitation in recommending all St. Dunstaners to become voluntary contributors. But this was not enough, for it left the men with the burden already referred to of inquiring into the intricate details of the Act, securing election to an Approved Society, and, above all, it left them with the necessity of paying 1s. 6d. a week, which, though it provides an insurance policy of amazing value compared with that which could be obtained from any private company, is nevertheless a very heavy contribution. So the Council went thoroughly into the matter and decided that so valuable were the benefits which our men would obtain that it would be in the best

interests of St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners as a whole to do more than merely recommend men to come into this form of insurance, but materially to help them to do so. Thus the momentous decision was made to pay half the weekly premiums—i.e. the Employer's contribution—from St. Dunstan's funds on behalf of any men not employed in a factory or office who cared to join. St. Dunstan's is under no obligation whatever to make such a payment, for we are not the employers of our men in the ordinary sense, and under the Act of Parliament their only method of joining is as voluntary contributors who must themselves pay 1s. 6d. per week. But under the scheme which St. Dunstan's has decided to create, 9d. of this 1s. 6d. will be paid by St. Dunstan's. If all eligible men come into the scheme it is estimated that this will cost St. Dunstan's £2,500 per annum for probably more than a quarter of a century—a very heavy capital liability indeed. It appears to us that the decision of St. Dunstan's Council to undertake such a liability is a measure of the belief they have that the benefits St. Dunstaners will obtain under this Act are worth while. That St. Dunstaners themselves think this also is evidenced by the overwhelming number of letters which Mr. Askew and his Pension Department have received as a result of the circular letter which Captain Fraser sent out on the 6th of this month. Hundreds of applications have already arrived. Almost without exception they approve of the scheme, and express themselves as being delighted that the Council of St. Dunstan's should have had the courage and foresight to undertake this liability and help them to come in. Innumerable are the inquiries made, but these are being dealt with as quickly as possible, having regard to the fact that some, on points of particular principle or technical difficulty, can only be answered after reference has been made to the Ministry of Health or other outside authority.

With a characteristic desire to relieve our men of all those little difficulties which present themselves in most irritating form to people who cannot see, St. Dunstan's has arranged to take over the administration of the whole scheme in its every detail. St. Dunstan's will stick on the stamps, look after the cards, and forward them to the appropriate societies at regular intervals. It may well be imagined what an enormous labour is involved by such an undertaking in the initial stages.

We think there is no doubt that whatever may be the view of our readers as to the lines upon which this Act of Parliament has been passed—and it is not our province to enter into any political controversy here—St. Dunstan's has done the right thing by its men in dealing with the matter so thoroughly, and placing the undoubted advantages which this measure affords within the reach of all St. Dunstaners.

### Our Hosts

Yet once more Mr. Temple Vick and Mr. Keith Morgan with some of their friends entertained a party of St. Dunstaners at the King Edward Hall, together with some wounded ex-Service men from Richmond, Roehampton, and Colindale. There were 180 guests in all, every one of whom enjoyed himself mightily. They were welcomed by Mr. Vick, and one of the first things that happened was that one of our blind men in an eloquent speech proposed a vote of condolence to His Majesty and suggested that a telegram should be sent in the name of all present. The following telegram was dispatched to Sandringham: "I am asked by 180 wounded and blinded ex-Service men

whom I am entertaining here at this moment to beg His Majesty accept their humble, but very sincere sympathy and condolence on the death of his illustrious mother, our well-beloved Queen Alexandra. May God give His Majesty and all the Royal Family sufficient strength to bear up in this unparalleled sorrow.—G. T. Vick."

High tea was served at 4 o'clock, this being followed by a concert by professional artistes. At 6.30 the wounded men departed for their respective hospitals. The St. Dunstan's men remained for dancing, ladies of the neighbourhood attending as dancing partners. Music was by Billy's Arcadian Band. On behalf of the men, Mr. Vick and Mr. Morgan were thanked.

## Wireless and St. Dunstaners

### Assistance and Advice from Headquarters.

IN response to a number of inquiries, St. Dunstan's have recently carried out tests on various types of wireless apparatus in order to advise as to the best one-valve set which can safely and efficiently be used by blind men. The set finally decided upon is the Marconiphone V 1, and this set, with all accessories complete, can be issued to any man, on the understanding that it is used by him for his own personal use, at the special price of five guineas, carriage paid. St. Dunstaners will appreciate that, as this price is very considerably below the retail price, one set only can be supplied to each man.

The outfit comprises a One-Valve Marconiphone set, one Dull Emitter Valve, one high-tension Battery, one low-tension Battery (accumulators are not necessary), one pair of Headphones with plugs to fit to set, one lead-in Aerial Tube, one 100-foot length of Aerial wire, wire flex for connecting low-tension and high-tension batteries and Aerial and Earth to set, and book of instructions.

This set is capable of receiving the local station, and, in some cases where an efficient aerial and earth system is adopted, other stations. If, however, the high-power station at Daventry is required, an interchangeable coil can be purchased at a cost of 11s. 3d.

St. Dunstan's receives a very considerable number of inquiries from men requiring accessories, and we are pleased to be able to announce that arrangements have been made whereby these can be supplied to St. Dunstan's men for their personal use at a discount of 25 per cent. off manufacturers' advertised prices. Valves, high-tension and low-tension batteries and low-tension accumulators cannot, however, be supplied, and cash must accompany all orders for wireless sets and accessories. All goods will also be sent carriage forward.

It is the policy of St. Dunstan's to assist all men to obtain wireless sets, as it is considered that wireless is peculiarly suitable for blind men to while away their leisure hours, and Mr. Howlett, our engineer at Headquarters, to whom all wireless orders and inquiries should be addressed, will always be pleased to give men advice in case of difficulties, and supply them, considerably under retail price, with two or three-valve sets if they require to launch out into the higher realms of wireless telephony.

It is regretted that it is not possible for St. Dunstan's to superintend the erection of aerials and earth connections, but St. Dunstaners will appreciate that, although St. Dunstan's is desirous of assisting to its utmost limit, this would be an impossible task to undertake. St. Dunstaners should note that all inquiries on wireless matters should be addressed to:—

Mr. A. E. HOWLETT,  
St. Dunstan's Headquarters,  
Inner Circle,  
Regent's Park, N.W.1.

F. Ralph, of Purley, whose work is always a credit both to himself and St. Dunstan's, recently constructed an altar frontal in pitch pine for Christ Church, Purley—a difficult piece of work indeed, in addition to its large size. He has had a letter in the following terms from the Vicar, the Rev. H. P. Statham: "I write to say how very much pleased we all are with the altar frontal you have made for Christ Church. It was a big and complicated piece of work, and I think the way you have carried it out is quite remarkable." Well done, indeed!

### Kaiser Question Competition

The result of this will appear in our next issue.



## NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS

THE whist season not only provides entertainment for many a St. Dunstaner, but augments our list of prizewinners. The last lucky man (so far as we know) is C. E. Porter, of Le land. He has just carried off a pair of bronzes as a "First." They should make fine ornaments for a mantelpiece in the new house to which Porter hopes to move early on in this year. The boot trade is still good with him, it is satisfactory to hear.

\*\*\*

Friends of A. Knight will be glad to know that he is making good progress after his operation and is hoping to leave the convalescent hospital and go home ere long. We hope so too.

\*\*\*

We trust the Christmas rush of trade engulfed J. W. Kerr, of Widnes, for of late he has not been quite so busy as he would like with his small ware. He has, however, varied his work by devoting more time to mats, which is most sensible. He is to be congratulated inasmuch as one of his boys has won a scholarship for the secondary school he attends. We send him good wishes for further successes.

\*\*\*

"Fairly good all round," in health and work too, is the report we hear from that determinedly go-ahead fellow, W. Lilley, of Leigh. He is now at work upon a set of drawers.

\*\*\*

Good health is also the portion of W. Fitchie, of Rufford, and likewise of his fine family of five children, one of whom is now at work. What with rugs and poultry Fitchie finds few idle moments in his days.

\*\*\*

In Malmesbury, J. Boon is happily settled and looking forward to the time

when he will have worked up local trade and educated the Malmesbury people to a proper appreciation of his baskets. We feel confident that Boon will do all that is possible in this direction; friends have a way of widening one's circle in unexpected ways.

\*\*\*

It is not often that those who once start pigs give them up, but W. Woodrow, of Ebbsbourne Wake, has decided that he does better when he concentrates on poultry. He expects to increase the number of his birds in the spring. His friends will be glad to hear that he is much better.

\*\*\*

A very busy man is D. McCarthy, of Breamore, and therefore he is as happy and contented as ever.

\*\*\*

The winter offers no terrors to A. Wilkins, and he says that open air and plenty of exercise does him good, whatever the season. He must get plenty of the latter, for he has a fine list of customers (almost reaching to the 100) to whom he sells tea, cocoa and coffee.

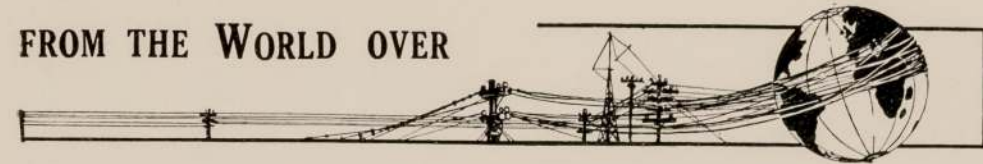
\*\*\*

The scourge of whooping-cough has attacked the home of J. Ballantyne, of Isleworth, and all the children fell victims. They are getting over it well, however, and Ballantyne is now finding more time to attend to his work. A friend is going to display a mat in coloured work and is confident that the showing of it will bring orders. For Ballantyne's sake we hope they will come with a rush.

\*\*\*

Although a number of St. Dunstaners have appeared on concert platforms, there are few who indulge in private theatricals, so it is all the more interesting to hear that

## FROM THE WORLD OVER



F. E. O'Kelly is shortly to make his debut in a local play. Perhaps he will let us have an account of his experiences? "A St. Dunstaner behind the Footlights" should make quite an attractive little sketch for THE REVIEW.

\*\*\*

A streak of bad luck has befallen H. A. Gardiner, of Leytonstone, who has had the misfortune to lose his purse. It was one he particularly valued, as it was given to him by Sir Arthur.

\*\*\*

The change to the south has done the whole Parkinson family much good, and they have settled in well at Bilsham, near Arundel, which is a charming place. He is working away steadily at his baskets.

\*\*\*

As usual F. C. Fleetwood has got together a good stock, and his shop made a very brave show of Christmas things. We hope that he will have all the trade with which he can cope.

\*\*\*

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Blundell are now in Canton, Cardiff, and should have plenty of society, for there are relatives on both sides within easy reach. He is busy with joinery. The baby is a constant source of pleasure to him as it is developing remarkably fast, we hear.

\*\*\*

In Stourbridge, A. Waite is doing a fair trade in his shop, and says the Christmas demand for boxes of chocolate was keen. If he could sell as many baskets as he does boxes of chocolate he would be a busy man indeed. The shop looks very attractive, and Waite is another of the St. Dunstaners blessed with a wife who is thoroughly capable.

\*\*\*

A number of local orders for mats have come the way of R. Finch, of Upper

Gornal, of late. Some of these were obtained through the local Welfare Centre. Have other St. Dunstaners considered tapping similar sources?

\*\*\*

H. Kidger is now happily settled into his new home, and is engaged in making friends. Doubtless some of these will turn into customers as well as friends in the near future.

\*\*\*

In Mauchline, D. Livingstone is doing fairly well with his poultry but does not find as much sale as he would like for mats. Oddly enough, J. McAvoy, of the same district, reverses things and finds that he does better with mats than with poultry.

\*\*\*

While speaking of mats and mat-makers, it will interest several to hear that M. Carey, of Tottenham, is now at work upon a very large-sized one to adorn a local nursing home. Such orders are particularly valuable, as they frequently act as an advertisement.

\*\*\*

Luck is with G. Woodburn, of Kil-marnock, also a mat-maker, in that a titled lady in the district has just given him an order for quite a number of mats. This is particularly satisfactory, for he is also busy in his other line—boots.

\*\*\*

A very constant worker with baskets is W. Buckle, of Mortlake, and the one for which he was awarded a certificate recently is an excellent piece of work. He has every reason to be proud of it. Of late he says there has been quite a run on his teapot stands; he supposes people were finding them useful as Christmas presents.

A Williams has now moved from Bulwark to Chepstow, Mon., and has established himself and his family in quite a cheery little village. The village Institute is only a few yards from the house, so there should be no lack of interesting meetings to attend. Williams' poultry stood the journey well and within a few days of arrival twelve hens produced eleven eggs, so they promise to be satisfactory. Oddly enough, the only entrance to the house when Williams took it was through a neighbour's garden, and this, it was recognised, might lead to friction. Permission was therefore obtained and Williams went to work to make another way in. It was a task that many men would have jibbed at, for the path had to be excavated—at the deepest end it must be over five feet—but Williams carried the job through splendidly and has made an excellent path at an easy gradient. We congratulate him upon his achievement.



Not very far distant from Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have found a new home, and this too promises to be a great success.



Boots, clogs, and poultry are keeping F. Marsden, of Blackburn, busy. He now has some 250 birds.



Another who has no difficulty in disposing of both eggs and chicks is J. Selby, of Larkfield.



In November, H. White, of Croydon, again exhibited at the Surrey Handicrafts Exhibition, and did even better than he has done in the three previous years, disposing of a large number of his centre cane trays and dolls' cradles, the latter being quite a speciality of his. White has been doing a considerable amount of centre cane work, and is always anxious to extend his range of baskets, and to introduce fresh designs and shapes.

### News in Brief

A local order for trays is keeping W. Brogan, of Great Shelford, busy. His health is as good as usual.

W. H. Gordon, of Oldham, is working away at boots as energetically as ever. We know that he spares no effort to make his business a success.

What with baskets and poultry, W. Holmes, of Witton Park, is "doing well," we are glad to know; and the latter part of the sentence might also be applied to W. S. Kirkup, of Neville's Cross.

Everybody's sympathy will go to W. Paul and his wife, for she has broken her leg. Such an accident is always painful and somewhat lengthy; the accident seems doubly bad when it happens at such a busy time of the year.

In his kiosk near the Town Hall at Croydon H. J. Crane is doing a good trade—doubtless because he always keeps up an excellent stock.

With mats to employ him, H. Northgreaves, yet another Croydon man, is, we are glad to learn, working hard. His baby is bonny, we hear, and wonderfully advanced.

At South Ealing, T. W. Walton is employing himself making wool rugs, and he looks very well—still the after effects of his excellent holiday at Scarborough, he says.

Friends of J. Hughes, of Streatham, especially those near enough to go a-visiting, will be glad to learn that he is very pleased with his new house and is settling in most comfortably.

Another man who has recently moved is H. Abbey, now of Bagshot. His health is much better since he went south, and mats are keeping him busy. The boot trade will have to be shared apparently, for another repairer has taken up his abode in the same road. Never mind, personality counts, we know.

R. J. Sanders, too, now of Sheffield, has, since his move last May, found his health distinctly improved. He has a very nice little home.

A mat-maker who has a somewhat unusual piece of work in hand is A. Edmonds, of Accrington. The manager of a local theatre has asked him to make a semi-circular mat.

"All well" is the word we receive from F. Cooper, of Fareham, and he is optimistically expecting to move into a larger house early in the New Year, when he anticipates being yet more comfortable.

Goats and poultry leave W. A. Burtenshaw, of Swindon, with few idle moments, but he seems to find the two give interesting occupation.

T. Batt, of Stokes' Croft, is looking splendidly well and fit, we are glad to hear, and the same can be said of A. T. Iddiells, of Paddington; W. J. Roberts, of Westcliffe-on-Sea (who is still at work in a wood-yard, although he finds some time for basket-making); S. Webster, of Clapham; H. M. Steel, of South Woodford; G. C. Shields, of Wickford, Essex, and B. Varley, who is getting on well with his poultry near Colchester. Another contented man is G. B. Swanston, of Lockerbie, who says he can hardly keep up with his orders.

### Concerts

During the last month parties of our boys have been, through the kindness of Supt. Hammett and Chief Inspector Phillips (S. Div.), entertained to performances given by the Police Minstrels at the Kilburn Empire, Bedford Palace and Golders Green Hippodrome. Judging by the manner in which these two gentlemen dispensed the refreshments and tea that followed each performance, we gathered that even their prisoners have a fairly good time!

Supt. Bacchus (B Division) also invited our boys to a boxing tournament held at the Duke of York's School. An excellent programme was arranged between Army and Police boxers, also a competition confined to amateurs. Our party had a most enjoyable evening and many promises of future invitations.

On 4th January we attended the National Sporting Club, when the Stable

Boys gave us their annual exciting display. At one time our boys were engaged in conversation with Steve Donoghue, Joe Beckett, Jimmy Wilde, George Cook, Walter Earl, Ben Tillett, and Lionel Bettison, only to mention a few. Tommy Wilson's autograph book was very busy, and Sammy Webster has a programme chock full of celebrities' autographs. We all thoroughly agree with the Press reports that this is the boxing show of the year.

W. A. T.

Our Chairman has received many appreciations of the charming Christmas and New Year Greeting Card which he and Mrs. Fraser sent to every St. Dunstaner. In connection with Christmas cards, it is interesting to note from a letter sent to Captain Fraser by E. T. Hughes, of South Wales, that he received also a Braille Christmas card from his cousin at Poole, Bournemouth. Hughes says that his cousin thought it would be very nice for him to be able to read his Christmas card himself, but that he had great difficulty in getting it. Hughes adds that his wife, baby and himself are in excellent health and that he is getting as much work as he can possibly do in boot-repairing—so much so, in fact, that he can find no time for mat-making. His wife is a great help, as she does all machining and finishing off, otherwise Hughes says he could not cope with his orders. He also pays tribute to the assistance which the After-Care instructor in his district so frequently gives him, and concludes by wishing all St. Dunstaners a very happy and prosperous New Year.

(Braille greeting cards can be obtained from the National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, W.1.)

### Dancing and Tea

Six St. Dunstaners were present among the guests at the second of the "Thés Divertissements" arranged by the "Not Forgotten" Association at the Hyde Park Hotel just before Christmas. An attractive musical programme was given by many well-known artists, and our men joined heartily in the dancing.

### Poultry Notes

#### St. Dunstan's Winter Egg Laying Test

RECOGNISED BY THE NATIONAL POULTRY COUNCIL

THERE is little improvement in egg production to report for the Second Period which ended on 26th December. The continued severe weather has, no doubt, been largely responsible for the comparatively low egg yield. We look for better weather during the next month, and a very much higher rate of production.

The birds are now in very much better bodily condition, and the majority should

be able to maintain continued production.

1,733 eggs were laid, of which 1,275 were first grade, 392 second grade, and 25 third grade, with 41 unrecorded. This shows an increase of 141 eggs over last month.

The following table gives the number of first, second and third grade eggs laid in each section, together with the average number of eggs laid per bird for the Second Period:—

Section	No. of Birds	Number of eggs. Grades			Total	Average No. laid per bird
		1	2	3		
1 Rhode Island Reds	84	499	142	3	644	7.66
2 A.O. Heavy Breed	28	167	82	5	254	9.07
3 White Leghorns	72	426	118	15	559	7.76
4 Single Heavy Breed	18	133	38	1	172	9.55
5 Single Light Breed	13	50	12	1	63	8.84
		1,275	392	25	1,692	
		Unrecorded			41	
					1,733	8.06

The percentage of second grade eggs is 22 per cent.—3 per cent. less than last period.

The average number of eggs laid per day was 61.9 from the 215 competing birds. The highest daily production was 72 eggs, on the 3rd December, and the lowest 47, on the 5th December.

One bird has been broody—Ring No. 22.

Several birds have been neck moulting, but at the close of the month most of them were well through and "reddening up."

13 birds laid 20 eggs or over during the 28 days, and on the other hand we have 24 birds that have not yet produced an egg, whilst 21 birds have laid from 1 to 5 eggs.

There is one death to report—Ring No. 21—cause of death being congestion of the lungs.

The general health of the flock has been excellent. There have been a few cases of cold, but nothing of a serious nature.

The results of the leading pens are as follows:—

#### SECTION ONE.—RHODE ISLAND REDS

Position	Owner	Eggs laid. 2nd Period. Grades			Total all Grades			Test value
		1	2	3	1	2	3	
1	Bisset, Mr. L. A.	53	3	—	108	8	—	116
2	Condon, C. T.	36	15	—	81	27	—	108
3	Lea, J. H.	36	16	—	72	32	—	104
4	Coman, A. E.	39	8	—	82	11	—	93
5	Tindall, J. H.	32	22	—	49	41	2	90
6	Nelson, H.	14	4	—	59	23	—	82
7	Chaffin, A.	26	10	—	41	26	—	67
8	Holmes, P.	39	5	—	56	6	—	62
9	Benning, A.	20	—	—	55	5	1	60
10	Hill, R. E.	36	6	—	51	9	—	60

#### SECTION TWO.—ANY OTHER HEAVY BREED

Position	Owner	Eggs laid. 2nd Period. Grades			Total all Grades			Test value
		1	2	3	1	2	3	
1	Maclean, D.	46	8	—	88	9	—	97
2	Ashwell, R.	35	17	3	44	34	4	78
3	Holmes, P.	21	21	1	31	41	8	72
4	Bulley, F. E. C.	31	13	—	53	15	—	68

#### SECTION THREE.—WHITE LEGHORNS

Position	Owner	Eggs laid. 2nd Period. Grades			Total all Grades			Test value
		1	2	3	1	2	3	
1	Tindall, J. H.	38	23	5	64	40	12	104
2	Ramsden, Mr. N. A.	38	5	—	81	11	1	92
3	Bulman, Mr. C. R.	41	9	—	78	13	—	91
4	Lowrie, R. K.	53	15	—	55	21	1	76
5	Roach, D.	49	4	—	67	8	—	75
6	Knopp, H. A.	31	1	—	55	19	1	74
7	Brown, C. H.	34	—	—	58	3	—	61
8	Whittingslow, J.	10	14	—	23	31	2	54
9	McIntosh, C.	29	—	—	46	7	—	53

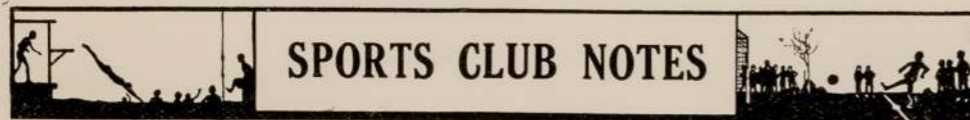
#### SECTION FOUR.—SINGLE BIRD—HEAVY BREED

Position	Owner	Eggs laid. 2nd Period. Grades			Total all Grades			Test value
		1	2	3	1	2	3	
1	Urry, A.	10	8	—	23	13	—	36
2	Carter, T. A.	7	15	—	21	15	—	36
3	Bisset, Mr. L. A.	17	—	—	33	—	1	33
4	Burgin, W.	17	1	—	39	3	—	33
5	Chaffin, A.	13	—	—	39	—	—	39
6	Coman, A. E.	15	—	—	29	—	—	29
7	Webb, W.	4	2	—	25	2	—	27
8	Bulman, Mr. C. R.	10	11	—	15	12	—	27
9	Maclaren, Mr. D.	12	—	—	19	—	—	19
10	Capper, Mr. A. H.	16	—	—	16	—	—	16

#### SECTION FIVE.—SINGLE BIRD—LIGHT BREED

Position	Owner	Eggs laid. 2nd Period. Grades			Total all Grades			Test value
		1	2	3	1	2	3	
1	Holmes, P.	10	—	—	23	—	—	23
2	Nolan, J.	12	—	—	21	—	—	21
	Woodhouse, J.	10	—	—	21	—	—	21
3	Chaffin, A.	3	—	—	16	—	—	16
4	Hamilton, B.	1	11	1	12	—	—	12
5	Capper, Mr. A. H.	10	—	—	16	—	—	16

G. G.



OUR little Swimming Gala held at Marylebone Baths on 11th December was in every way successful. There was an excellent number of entries, and the swimming and plunging, as will be seen by Instructor Jones' report, was more than satisfactory.

In the Senior 1 Length event there was a remarkable final. Bawden (scratch) dead heating with T. Wilson (2 secs.), with Cookson (3 secs.) third. In the toss-up for first place Wilson was successful.

In the 1 Length Novices more splendid racing was witnessed. Thompson (4 secs.) won by 1½ yards from Cowley (5 secs.) with Scott (scratch) a good third.

The Plunging Competition was very good, and resulted as follows:—

	ft.	ins.
Bawden .. ..	42	7
Cowley .. ..	31	0
Jock Shepherd .. ..	28	11
Birch .. ..	27	9½
T. Wilson .. ..	26	0
Henry .. ..	25	9½
Cookson .. ..	23	9
Scott .. ..	23	1
Thompson .. ..	23	0½
Rhodes .. ..	21	6
Day .. ..	17	5½

Both the Baths Superintendent and Mr. Walter Brickett, an English champion, spoke highly of the men's swimming capabilities, and we are most grateful to the Superintendent, Mr. I. N. Ellis, not only for presenting the prizes to the winners, but for all the courtesy he has shown us throughout the year.

#### MR. JONES' REPORT

"The races were, in my opinion, the best seen among the boys; the heats proved such close finishes that only one yard separated all competitors. The handicapping of S.S. and T.B. mixed was also an experiment which proved to be successful. This was done to save time, which was limited.

"The plunging was splendid. Bawden, with a fine 42ft. 7ins. plunge, is to be

complimented, but not more than Cowley (second), who has improved rapidly of late. I was very pleased to see so many of the old boys present, and also some quite new ones. Thompson won the Novices' Race by a touch from Cowley, and Wilson and Bawden dead-heated in the Seniors, which shows how very keen both races were contested.

"Considering the short time we had, I am sure that all will agree that the evening was a huge success, and I trust that this was the first of many such galas."

#### PHYSICAL JERKS

May I heartily congratulate the following men who have not once missed their jerks throughout the term except through sickness or leave. It has been a difficult time as far as nice mornings are concerned, but the men have been thorough sportsmen in turning out, wet or fine, and I am sure they all feel better for it.

Jones.	Parrick.
Healey.	Mason.
Short.	F. Shepherd.
Crook.	Harkness.
Hill.	Radley.
Bateman.	Haugh.
Jock Aitken.	White.
Comley.	Tetley.
Rodgers.	Peach.
Bowring.	Phelps.
Eden.	Bayer.
Knight.	S. Williams.
Boyce.	Jock Shepherd.
Eason.	Russell.
Joe Aitken.	Bedford.
Mordue.	

#### OLD BOYS' SPORTS

I think this has been, so far, one of the most successful winter sessions we have had since the Old Boys' Sports were commenced, and I am convinced that the grouping together of T.B. and S.S. has done much to strengthen the competition. The following list of points will prove very interesting, but I expect there will be some alterations after the recommencement on 12th January.

We hope that it may be possible to arrange one evening when an athletic match can be arranged between the Old Boys and those at present in residence. It is bound to be an exciting affair.

McFarlane .. ..	605
Nichols .. ..	545
Fleming .. ..	530
Henry .. ..	530
Cookson .. ..	510
Brown .. ..	485
Kerr .. ..	455
Gover .. ..	435
Webster .. ..	430
Thompson .. ..	385
Burran .. ..	330
Prior .. ..	330
Ashton .. ..	295
Bawden .. ..	175
Downs .. ..	135
Gamble .. ..	125
Bartlett .. ..	120
Scott .. ..	25

We would like to add that Hayter, whose name was omitted from our list last month in error, scored twelve goals in our last football competition.

#### ROWING

I hope all those who may be considering entering for our Summer Regatta will be making arrangements for practice this term. It will be found much more helpful to take things gradually rather than putting in too strenuous days just before the regatta. I know that our Sports Sister, Miss Stacey, will be glad to arrange anything that is at all possible.

#### WALKING

Our walk for the Present-Care men took place on Saturday, 12th December, with a three-miles distance. Our final competitors were not as numerous as the entries, yet we had a very satisfactory time. The walking was exceedingly good and promises well for the future. In the T.B. Section, Chambers did a very fine performance in winning in 28 mins. 34 secs., just 17 secs. in front of Tetley, who deserves our warmest congratulations, with Peach third in 31 mins. 33 secs.

In the S.S., Comley was first, in 27 mins. 17 secs. I am sure our walking chums will recognise this as an excellent performance, especially as, I believe, this is

Comley's first competition. He will do well in future with training and experience. Davis walked splendidly for second place in 28 mins. 35 secs., and Bedford was third in 30 mins. 25 secs.

After the walk we repaired to the bungalow, and found an excellent tea prepared for us by Miss Davis and her co-workers. Miss Hamar Greenwood, in her usual delightful way, presented the prizes, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the guides, workers, Mr. Donoghue for timekeeping, and all those who had helped to make our walk so happy and successful. Our special thanks are due to Miss Greenwood for her kindness in coming so far to be with us, and to the ladies who gave us such a topping tea.

#### RESULTS

Position	Name	Escort	Time min. sec.
1	Chambers	Mr. Livermore	28 34
2	Tetley	.. Kelly	28 51
3	Peach	.. Martin	31 33
4	Boyter	.. Steer	33 12

Position	Name	Escort	Time min. sec.
1	Comley	Mr. Lomas	27 17
2	Davis	.. Fitzgerald	28 35
3	Bedford	.. Nesbitt	30 25
4	Craddock	.. Stone	31 11
5	Bentley	.. —	33 38
6	Phelps	.. Monty	34 37

#### THE SIX-MILE HANDICAP

I dislike intensely changing a date that has been settled upon, but I have just had a very kind letter from Mr. Donoghue, the Secretary of the Q.P. Harriers, and our Handicapper, to explain that a big outside walk has been arranged for 30th January and that it would prevent many who would be guiding us from being present, and suggesting that 6th February should be our day. As we will need all the guides we can get, it would be unwise under the circumstances to hold to 30th January, and so we must say 6th February, at 2.30 p.m. I hope all intending competitors have duly entered, so that our arrangements as to handicapping, &c., can be made.

J. E. W.

## After-Care Meetings and News

### EXETER

THE Exeter meeting was held in Holy Trinity Hall on Friday, 11th December. It is lucky that Holy Trinity Hall is large, for the news that "Jan Stewer" was coming in to entertain us made it a very full gathering, and the hum of conversation as the West Country exchanged news of the year's happenings was most cheery.

During the afternoon the Misses Stewart very kindly played to us on violin and piano, and their happy selection of tunes was much appreciated.

There was just time to work in a few competitions and we were all glad to see J. Gilbert, of Barnstaple, win the cake. He tied with F. Reason, of Bridport, last year, and lost on the re-guess; this year he won with an excellent guess very near the exact weight.

The Bean Bag was won by A. Horsnell, of Charlton Adam.

Ladies' Bean Bag by A. Back's escort.

So great was the gathering that it became quite a problem finding seats for all at tea; we only hope no one got too squashed.

Captain Fraser's message and Mr. Swain's cheery speech both seemed to remind us of how St. Dunstan's becomes more and more a happy family as the years go on, Headquarters and the furthest St. Dunstaner being equally pleased to hear of each other's doings. F. Westaway, of Yeovil, made a most eloquent speech in reply for himself and the other St. Dunstaners present, touching also on the British Legion, a subject which, as we know, is very near his heart.

The photographer and Mr. A. J. Coles ("Jan Stewer") arrived almost at the same moment, so we were able to have a flashlight taken with "Jan Stewer" in our midst.

To those who know Mr. Coles and his Devon dialect stories there is no need to say more than that, delivered in his own delightful way, they provided a treat which the Exeter meeting is not likely to forget, and when he concluded his programme with "Widecombe Fair" we felt that there could not have been a more fitting ending to a Devon meeting. His kindness in coming all the way up from Torquay to entertain us was very much appreciated.

Mr. Swain had his usual busy time with interviews, and many were glad of the chance of a personal talk with him.

D. I. M. A.

### BRISTOL

The Bristol After-Care Meeting was held in St. Paul's Lecture Hall on Saturday, 5th December. This, the oldest of all the meetings, becomes more and more a cheery friendly gathering as we get to know each other better.

Though it was a bitterly cold day there was a very full muster, and a large open fire was soon surrounded by an animated group of happy talkers.

Everyone was very delighted that Mr. and Mrs. Martin had braved the long, cold journey. It was such a great pleasure having them with us and there were many very sincere wishes expressed that Mr. Martin will soon recover from his eye trouble and regain his sight. To many Miss Lloyd always recalls happy memories of the Second London Hospital, and it was good to have her with us again, and as this was Mrs. Paul's second visit to a Bristol meeting we are beginning to put her on the list of well-known and valued friends also.

The presence of Mr. Osborne was a pleasant surprise to many. We do not

know whether all the animated conversation of which he seemed to be the centre was about mats, but in any case there was no doubt of his welcome.

It was a disappointment that Mr. F. Wilshire, who had promised to come in and entertain us, was prevented by a legal engagement elsewhere. However, Miss Mitchell, Miss Webley and Miss Pantall very kindly played for us a splendid selection of music, and Mrs. Mussell's sister gave much pleasure with her songs.

Canon and Mrs. Haigh came in to see us during the afternoon, and Canon Haigh, in a very charming little speech, said he would like to take the opportunity of saying how he had not forgotten the war and the sacrifices made in it, and that he was glad to have the pleasure of lending his church hall for the use of a St. Dunstaners' meeting.

After tea, Mr. Swain gave us a cheery, helpful speech, with a much-appreciated message from Captain Fraser; and Mr. Martin also spoke, and was listened to with much interest.

Competitions seemed to be going on all the time, and it was quite a big business making sure that all had their chance.

The Cake was won by J. Harris, Swindon (it is hoped that he did not find it too great a weight to carry home!); Bean Bag by F. Aubrey, of Bristol; Ladies' Bean Bag by Mrs. H. Perrett, of Devizes.

During the afternoon Mrs. Martin made a presentation to Mrs. Haigh of a St. Dunstan's-made basket filled with flowers, as a little recognition from all present of the kindness she and Canon Haigh have shown the Bristol After-Care Meeting during the last six years.

D. I. M. A.

(Photographs appear on our frontispiece page.—ED.)

### Princess Mary's Party

PRINCESS MARY was personally present at the party at Buckingham Palace in the Royal Riding School, arranged just before Christmas by Miss Marta Cunningham, the founder of the "Not Forgotten" Association.

The party began with a substantial tea, after which there was a distribution of crackers. In a few minutes every man was wearing a paper cap, and either blowing a striped cardboard trumpet or swinging a rattle. The Riding School had been decorated with flags, balloons, holly, mistletoe, and the green leaves of rhododendrons and other shrubs. A huge Christmas tree lit up with coloured electric lamps stood on a raised platform, and the Frank Ivimey Band played popular melodies. In such a setting soldiers who still know pain and suffering, seven years after the end of the war, forgot their afflictions and sent the choruses of "It ain't gonna rain no mo'," "Show me the way to go home," and other songs echoing to the roof.

Princess Mary arrived while the men were singing. She was received by members of the Committee and was taken first to a basket bed on wheels where Mr. A. Gallifant, a patient from the Princess Alice Home at Slough, asked her to accept a bouquet of roses, violets and lilies-of-the-valley. Rousing cheers followed the presentation, and these were repeated as Her Royal Highness passed down the lines of tables to the centre of the building. Four large Christmas cakes, each with the inscription "The Season's Greetings from Princess Mary," traced in pink on white sugar icing, stood on a table, and these she cut for distribution among the guests. More than twenty "senior" men, who have been longest in the hospitals represented at the party, were then called up to receive from the Princess a special gift, and afterwards Her Royal Highness presented to the Association an enormous green-and-red cracker. This, when pulled, produced a rather feeble "crack," but within its covering were presents for 180 "cot" patients at the hospitals who were not well enough to attend.

Enthusiastic cheers were given for the Princess, and then Her Royal Highness made a tour of the tables, talking to many of the men.

Many well-known artistes contributed to the fine entertainment which followed.



### One Happy Day

“LAST year on one of the days when we had already more than the number catered for (1,200) outside the gates stood mothers with their children, very anxious for them to be admitted to the Riverside Pleasure Park.

“One woman, who had a child in her arms and three others holding on to her dress, remarked: ‘Surely you are not going to turn my kiddies down! You took me thirty years ago to Scout Lane Farm with the Fresh Air Fund.’

“TEN YEARS OLD AT SCOUT LANE FARM: NOW FORTY YEARS OF AGE.—*The Pleasant Recollections of a day in the country still fresh in her memory.*—She had walked nearly three miles on the off-chance of getting her little ones into the park to enjoy, as she had done years ago, ONE HAPPY DAY. The children were admitted. The mother smiled as they passed through the barrier, threw them a kiss and then trudged home with the baby.”

That is but one of the many real-life tributes paid to the wonderfully appealing work done by Pearson's Fresh Air Fund. It is contributed to the Thirty-fourth Annual Report.

The Report, which has been sent to us by Mr. Kessell, who, as most of our readers know, has acted as Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary to the Fund ever since its inception, thirty-four years ago, bears the title of “The Children's Birth-right.” It is in every way a most attractive little volume, and with its daintily coloured cover picture and the intensely human record of happiness brought to the lives of slumdom's children, it must form one of the most appealing and inspiring reports of charitable work ever issued.

Every St. Dunstaner will know that the Fresh Air Fund first had birth in the brain of our own Chief, Sir Arthur. Indeed, it was his initial venture into the

world of philanthropic endeavour, in which he was later to become so splendidly energetic a figure. But, quite apart from the sympathy which St. Dunstaners will feel for the Fresh Air Fund by reason of its association with Sir Arthur, we know that it has always made deep appeal to our readers on the merits alone of the beneficent work it does. The aims and ideals of the Fresh Air Fund are simplicity in themselves. It has no claims to rid the world of sin, to pull down idols or build monuments; it sets out to do one thing and one thing only, to bring an occasional ray of sunshine into the drab lives of hundreds of thousands of little children who, by sheer force of circumstances and no sin of their own, would find that sunshine in no other way.

Let us tell as briefly as possible, but in figures which bear their own sunshine, some little of what the Fresh Air Fund has done. Since its formation a day's holiday in the country has been given to nearly five million children, and a whole fortnight of bliss in country or seaside environment to over eighty thousand. In the past year alone, 135,332 children had a day's outing, and 4,203 a fortnight's holiday. Do not think that only the slums of London, the dark streets of Whitechapel and Hoxton, form the recruiting ground for these joy-days and joy-weeks. The children of every big town in Great Britain have had their quota of the sunshine the Fresh Air Fund spreads everywhere. For example, five thousand have been dealt with from Liverpool, six thousand from Manchester, three thousand from Belfast, and three thousand from Glasgow, in all of which places there is as much of misery, as much of shadow, as among the teeming millions of the Metropolis.

May we end by saying that we sincerely hope that every one of our readers who can spare a trifle for the furtherance of the work of this most human of charities will do so? Mr. Kessell will personally acknowledge all contributions sent to him, either here or at the offices of the Fund at 17A Henrietta Street, London, W.C.

### Births—Marriages—Deaths

#### BIRTHS

- AUBREY.—On the 9th of December, a son to the wife of R. Aubrey, of Bristol.
- CLEVITT.—To the wife of A. D. Clevitt, of Durrington, a daughter (Lily), born on the 18th of December.
- CORNWALL.—On the 21st of December, to the wife of C. H. Cornwall, of Ipswich, a daughter.
- LORAM.—To the wife of S. C. Loram, of Bristol, a daughter (Gertrude Adelaide), on the 3rd of December.
- SMITH.—At Northwood, to the wife of S. W. Smith, a daughter, on the 20th of December.
- WATMORE.—On the 3rd of December, a daughter (Ellaline Violet Alice), to the wife of T. Watmore, of Eastbourne.
- WHITHAM.—On the 9th of December, to the wife of J. W. Whitham, a son.

#### MARRIAGE

- FARMERY-LAVERSUCH.—On the 19th of December, William Farmery to Miss Lydia May Laversuch, at Bournemouth.

#### DEATHS

We send our sympathy to:—

- ADAMS.—G. Adams, of Hurstpierpoint, who lost his mother in November last.
- BAILEY.—J. Bailey, of Ramsgate, whose father, aged 82 years, died on the 13th December, after an illness of several months' duration.
- BURGIN.—W. Burgin, of Sheffield, who lost his father on the 11th of December. Mr. Burgin, Senior, had been an invalid for many years.
- CORNS.—I. Corns, of Yarmouth, whose mother died during November.
- GLOVER.—F. Glover, of Neasden, whose little son, born on the 19th August last, died on the 7th December.
- MILNER.—T. Milner, of Liverpool, who on the 13th December lost his father very suddenly. This was a severe shock to Milner.

SIMPSON.—J. W. Simpson, of Leeds, whose little son (Kenneth) died on the 9th December, aged 11 months.

#### Death of Mr. Henry Stainsby

We much regret to announce the death on 22nd December of Mr. Henry Stainsby, the Secretary-General of the National Institute for the Blind. He may be said to have died in harness, for he was at work on the day before his death. In the world of the blind few names were more familiar than his. For forty-five years he had devoted himself to the cause of the sightless. His connection with the blind dated from 1880, when he entered the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham—now the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind. On his retirement from that organisation the “Henry Stainsby Pension Fund” was founded to commemorate his work at Birmingham.

In January 1909 Mr. Stainsby took up the duties of Secretary-General of the National Institute for the Blind. In 1912 Sir Arthur Pearson joined the Council of that body, and as its hon. treasurer raised sufficient money to provide new premises for the institute in Great Portland Street. Mr. Stainsby's advice as to the methods of education and training of the blind was invaluable to Sir Arthur, who had the highest regard for him both as a colleague and personal friend.

A memorial service was held at Holy Trinity Church, St. Marylebone, on 31st December. The principal organisations for the blind were represented, and the service was conducted by the Rev. W. E. Lloyd, the Chaplain for the National Institute, while an address was given by Mr. H. E. Preece. Mr. Ernest Kessell, our Treasurer, represented St. Dunstan's at the service.

### Departmental Notes

#### NETTING NOTES

In view of the putting into operation of the amended Wild Birds Protection Act, we think it well to warn our readers about the making of bird netting for the purpose of trapping wild birds. This practice is now illegal, so that we must not undertake to make special nets to be used for this purpose. From time to time our After-Care netters pass on orders for nets of this description, but we wish to make it quite plain that we shall not in future be able to undertake any such orders, and it would be as well if our After-Care netters refused to undertake to make them themselves. Instead of making nets to catch the birds, let us try and sell in larger quantities our nets which exclude the birds from attacking small fruit. We shall start our selling season this year with splendid sections of all sizes, so that we can execute orders without delay. Will our netters do their best to recommend these splendid fruit nets, which are now supplied outlined with cording inclusive to our listed price of 1s. per square yard.

G. H. W.

#### BRAILLE NOTES

Heartly congratulations to T. Shepherd and T. W. Fletcher on passing their Reading Test, and S. Bush on passing his Writing Test.

#### TYPEWRITING NOTES

Our best wishes to S. Aitkin, T. A. Bentley, T. Foster, and G. Phillips, who have passed their Typewriting Test.

M. H. R.

"Mummy, isn't that monkey like Uncle George?"

"Hush, darling, you mustn't say things like that!"

"But the monkey can't understand, can he, mummy?"

### Detours

By DR. FRANK CRANE  
Copyright by Dr. Frank Crane

We cull the following from the *Morning Chronicle*, Halifax, Nova Scotia:—

When you are out automobiling and come to a detour you don't sit down and cry or wait for somebody to come along and take you to an asylum. You make the detour and rather enjoy the adventure.

Life is full of detours, necessary but unexpected and unwanted new roads. Those who arrive at contentment must follow many a by-path.

Sir Arthur Pearson, the great English publisher, was the proprietor of five big English dailies and a string of magazines throughout Great Britain. In the prime of life, in the midst of a career of wealth and power, he mysteriously lost his sight. The greatest specialists could do nothing. This man in the thick of a myriad activities was suddenly condemned by fate to spend the rest of his days in darkness.

He had come to a detour. He took it like a good motorist. He had not lost his nerve, he said: he had simply lost his optic nerve.

He sold his papers and devoted himself to the business of showing the blind how to get on. He became the head of St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors in Regent's Park, London. There he taught the Gospel of Happy Detours.

His philosophy is good medicine for everybody. "Don't pity the blind," he says. "They don't want your pity and can't use it."

"I know that the average conception of how to treat a blind man is to read the Bible to him and play soft music. We don't believe that. We believe that the blind are normal human beings who, having lost one faculty of perception, must develop others."

According to Sir Arthur's point of view, happiness does not come from accumulating things or leading a comfortable existence; neither does it come from any

### St. Dunstan's Singers

OUR Shantie Singers scored a great success at the splendid Invitation Concert arranged by Miss Violet Coleman in aid of our funds, at the Æolian Hall, on 17th December last. The following is an extract from *The Daily Telegraph* music critic's report of the concert:—

"The most striking performance was given by St. Dunstan's Singers, who began with the finest of all sailor's shanties, 'Shenandoah.' This they followed by the lively sea ballad 'The Admiral's Broom,' adding by way of an encore Parry's 'Jerusalem.' These blind singers won the applause of the audience by the excellent spirit and discipline of their ensemble. There is no question that they provided the climax of the entertainment."

Miss Coleman is to be most heartily congratulated upon her success in arranging a Concert which was not only a great musical treat but, it may be added, raised a substantial sum for our funds at practically no cost to St. Dunstan's.

### Adair Wounded Fund

Some interesting competitions are announced with regard to this Fund, for which all St. Dunstaners, we know, have a very grateful regard. The Fund has recently extended its activities to the promotion of dances at which every lady purchasing a ticket has had the pleasure of personally acting as hostess to one of the boys. We know that St. Dunstaners have thoroughly enjoyed themselves at these functions. In order to provide further funds for these dances and other entertainments, a number of public dances have been arranged; the first, organised by Miss Fay Compton, will be held at the Dance Hall, Olympia, on 20th January, and the second, arranged by Miss Peggy O'Neill, at the Palais de Danse, Hammer Smith, on 16th February.

#### WHAT IS?

Teacher: "Jones, name me a unit of electricity"

Jones (just waking up): "What?"

Teacher: "Right."

self-given order to be "glad." Happiness comes from doing, from the forthputting of one's creative faculties; he who has learned this needs no man's pity.

The only real tragedy of life is inhibition, paralysis by discouragement or fear.

The man who has lost his sight, the king who has lost his throne, the child that has broken her tea set, or the woman who has lost her love, are apt to be panicky.

But the triumph of life consists in defeating defeat.

What the blind can do, you can do. Oh, Down-and-Outer, Buck up. Make the detour!

### Pierrette

Pierrette nursed a knee,

And watched a glowing ember.

In a reverie

Happy to remember.

Her stockings were of sable silk.

Black pom-poms like great biddy burrs

Bedecked her bodice, white as milk,

And that short frolic skirt of hers.

Ah, Pierrette, who would take a hurt

For thinking on that little skirt?

Pierrette danced that night

Like a tumbled flower,

Swirling, soft and light,

In an eddy's power.

Ah, Pierrette, you were happy, child,

There in the dear familiar hall.

It almost seemed your grandams smiled

Their benediction from the wall.

Did you remember, Pierrette dear,

Your little laughing Cavalier?

Pierrette lay abed

With candles lit about her.

"Better so," she said.

Who am I to doubt her?

Those waxen limbs, composed and chill,

Need have no fear of shame or hurt;

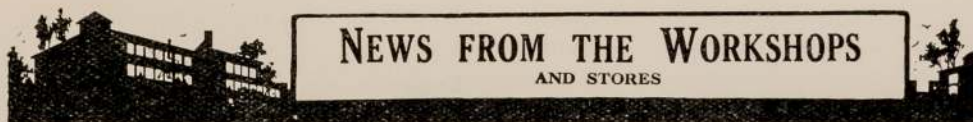
But I go dreaming, dreaming still

Of snowy ruff and flicking skirt.

And all the starry scene is set,

And music throbs for you, Pierrette.

C. R. A.



## NEWS FROM THE WORKSHOPS AND STORES

### BASKET SHOP

**B.** J. DAY has made a remarkably good start in this shop, and the fact that he was working on a round soiled linen within three weeks of starting is sufficient evidence of his progress to any basket-maker. J. Sharpe has not been finding the trade so easy; up to the present he has been doing barrels and waste papers, and is showing improvement, though he finds difficulty in the working of his material. W. Stuart is now coming along quite nicely, and is making steady progress. He has made teapot stands, baby baskets, barrels, workbaskets, and bag baskets. The number of articles of this character, and also centre cane trays, made by men in the workshop at the end of the term was a clear indication of the coming of Christmas. G. E. Bateman had his share in the making of them, and, in addition, did trays and pail baskets. He is coming along well; he makes good attempts with every new job and is to be congratulated on his advance. J. B. Dixon had a try at some oval work, and did a number of workbaskets and other articles. He is still showing considerable ability with the work. Another man who has been doing work of this character in quite a good style is J. Percival; he turned out a good number of very useful articles since the summer. In spite of ill health, F. G. Milligan has been carrying on with his willow-work, gaining a knowledge of plate baskets, oval-arms, dog beds, and three-cornered linens and doing quite satisfactory work.

### BOOT SHOP

For a beginner, W. E. Muncaster has done well, and we are hoping to see very good work from him in the future. T. Eden has been steadily meeting his various difficulties, and particularly in riveting is showing improvement. We are hoping that further experience will enable him to feel more at home with

the work. J. Lomas continued his Revision Course until Christmas, doing fairly good jobs throughout, particularly on heavy work. He made great improvement with regard to his edges, taking considerable pains in using the scraper, and getting a nice square edge. J. Aitken completed his course at Christmas; he was a very keen worker, putting in full time, and giving close attention to all parts of the work. He did not let anything beat him, but went on very independently and produced sound and neat repairs.

### MAT SHOP

O. Cole has continued to do distinctly good work, adding to plain mats insertion borders and diamond borders. One No. 4 mat, made in December, was a particularly good specimen of work. After completing his Poultry Joinery, C. J. Shepherd turned out quite a useful number of mats of all sizes, some figured mats, a lettered mat "Use Me," and key-bordered mats made in December were really excellent, and we congratulate him on such a satisfactory result.

### JOINERY SHOP

During last term J. B. Boyce made some coffee-pot stands and two oak occasional tables; he is careful and painstaking, and the quality of his work is improving consistently. For a beginner A. R. Clover is doing promising work. G. E. Crook is showing plenty of interest and has been gaining useful experience in mortise and tenon joints by making a meat safe and a kitchen table, and he has every reason to be satisfied with the results. E. J. Harlow has now completed his Revision Course in Picture Framing and has also made a trousers press. He put in some extra time during the Christmas holidays in order to prepare himself for his new settlement at Eton. A meat safe and kitchen table have also been occupying G. Newman; he is a steady, interested and progressive worker.

W. H. O.

## Helpful Hints to Poultry Farmers

BY AN EXPERT (Copyright)

*The following amusing skit upon Poultry Farming reaches us from a contributor who, possibly knowing that the Superintendent of our Country Life Section stands something over six feet high, and also that our poultry farmers may look askance at any trespass on the dignity of their vocation, desires to remain strictly anonymous.—ED.*

1.—WARMTH being a matter of considerable importance, keep draughts out by pasting all round doors and other apertures tissue paper. Use strongest glue for this purpose.

2.—PROPER FOOD being also very important, it is advisable to feed the fowl every two hours; a little food often being better than a great deal at long intervals.

3.—REPRESSION OF NATURAL FEELING having been discovered by psycho-analysts to be injurious, special indulgence should be shown to any particularly ferocious female fowl that wishes to peck one's hand when removing the eggs from underneath her, or in the case of any bird that shows an inclination to scream on any provocation.

4.—MUSIC having been proved to be a healing agency, it is suggested that when one enters the fowl-houses it is extremely beneficial to all concerned if one sings or whistles cheerfully. It will be observed that if one persists in this right endeavour the fowl—both cocks and hens—will probably join in too, and so make a chorus that will resound far and near.

5.—BROODY HENS, being of a peculiarly sensitive nature, should be provided with more comfortable nests than usual. On no account should their moodiness or desire to lie fallow be interfered with.

6.—PLEASANT COMPANY being found a distinct incentive to increased egg-production, the following suggestions should be adopted: (a) If the farmer happens to possess a nice-minded cat that is inclined to frequent the fowl-houses, he should invariably be made welcome; (b) if rats are on the premises, it is strongly advocated not only to scatter bacon about the floor,

but fresh eggs, in order to tempt these interesting little quadrupeds to remain.

When the above rules have been consistently carried out, hens lay three times daily, each egg being larger than the preceding one. Other unprecedented results having also been already obtained, it is impossible to forecast what may happen in the near future.

E. A.

The following beautiful verses were printed in the "East London Dispatch" (South Africa) on the occasion of "Heather Day," held on behalf of St. Dunstan's funds, recently:—

Dae ye mind the bonnie heather,  
In the golden autumn weather,  
Rose an' purple in the sunset on the hills  
whaur ye were born?

Or, when gleaming rays cam stealin',  
Owre yon ne'er-forgotten sheilin,  
A' diamond bright wi' dewdrops in the  
rosy glow o' morn?

An' the hope is ever wi' us,  
That a kindly Fate will gie us  
The chance tae see it bloomin' f'resh an'  
fair, afore we dee.

But ye'll tak this sprig an' wear it  
Owre yer hairt an' proudly bear it  
For the sake o' yin wha loved a floo'er  
he never mair can see.

Dae ye ken for what we gether  
When we change the wee bit heather  
For the siller that we ken ye're kindly  
hairt is prood tae gie?

For the lads whose hairts are aching,  
Yearning, burning, weel nigh breaking  
For the common things o' daylight held  
sae cheap by you an' me.

When this faded sprig ye're wearing,  
O, a wee bit share ye're bearing  
O' the heavy cross they'll carry till the  
last reveille calls.

Mebbe, then they'll see the heather,  
Heaven and Scotland a' the gethey,  
In the licht that shines on martyrs when  
the last grey shadows fall. A. C. H.

## Ypres Revisited

By MRS. ATHOL CAPPER

*We are privileged to be able to publish the following exceedingly interesting article by Mrs. Capper, the wife of a St. Dunstan officer. We are sure that all our readers will be glad to have this first-hand account of the present condition of the famous salient, and it must bring back many memories to those who served for any length of time in this, perhaps the most terrible and yet glorious of the great battlefields of the war.*

I AM not sure what exactly I expected to see when my husband and I decided to start our Belgian holiday this summer at Ypres and "do the Salient." I think the dominant idea in my mind, so far as the battlefields were concerned, was Flanders mud, "dug-outs" (about which I had the haziest notions), trenches, shell-holes, and the debris of farms and cottages; while Ypres town I pictured as a town made up of cheap wooden shanties and ruins, in equal numbers. I owed this picture partly to my own imagination, partly to my husband. He was at Ypres at five yearly intervals, beginning with 1915. The town was pretty badly knocked about by then, and the countryside devastated, but somehow his 1915 picture is not one of unalloyed gloom. He talked of mud and of water-logged trenches, of the eerie vast spaces at night lit up by the Verey lights, of the ruined Cloth Hall. But on the whole he managed to find a good deal of enjoyment in life—until the day when he stopped a German bullet at St. Jean, and for six months enjoyed nothing any more, not even the sun or the sight of kindly faces.

In 1920 he came again to Ypres. The town consisted then of the ruins of the Cloth Hall and of the Eglise St. Martin, a wooden shanty put up by the Y.M.C.A., where he stayed, a wooden hut at the station, and heaps upon heaps of debris. That, and nothing more. Light railways were running up and down what once had been the streets, but nothing whatever in the way of a brick or stone building had taken shape. Ypres was literally razed to the ground. But it was when he went out from the town into the battlefields themselves that he first realised the full extent of the catastrophe that had befallen the land. Possibly during the war, when each

man knew only his own small section of the line, it was less easy to gain an adequate conception of the utter desolation of the place. Not one trace of vegetation anywhere, not a tree—only blackened stumps—not even a single blade of grass growing in the poisoned ground. Only a vast, forlorn sea of greenish-grey sticky mud stretching for miles and miles, with here and there as though thrown up by the waves of that sea, the flotsam and jetsam of war—scrap iron rusting in the mud, dud shells (and some live ones unexploded, as inquirers sometimes found to their cost), and barbed wire. Heaps of bricks and stones marked what once had been cottages and homesteads. Dug-outs and trenches were the only landmarks. Of human, animal or vegetable life there was no sign whatever. And over all brooded the gaunt spectre of the once lovely Cloth Hall, holding out scarecrow arms to heaven in mute and terrible reproach. Thus Ypres and the Salient in 1920.

Five years have passed since then. When my husband and I stepped out of the station at Ypres we found a flourishing city, dignified and handsome. Where possible, we learnt, the old material had been utilised—fruits of the sorting process that had been going on in 1920—as in the case of the Post Office, a really beautiful pillared building in the old Flemish style. Fine wide streets, flanked with hotels and public buildings and excellent shops, this is modern Ypres. All the mess and muddle has been tidied up, until practically the only traces of war's destruction are to be found in the Cloth Hall, the church and the hospital, and of these the first two are shrouded in scaffolding and the work of rebuilding—again using, as far as may be, the old materials—is going ahead.

When we recovered from the shock of the resurrection of Ypres we decided to look at the battlefields, and sallied forth by the Menin Gate. The name conjured up phantoms, ghosts of men who went out through that gate, past "Hellfire Corner," into the Great Unknown. But there is nothing spectral about the Menin Gate to-day. There are hosts of workmen, a gigantic crane, and great bustle of work. What untidiness there is is not reminiscent of war, but rather of the British Empire Exhibition before its opening last year. Only I fancy Ypres could give points to Wembley here—the Belgian builder seems amazingly orderly and methodical.

As for the battlefields—there are none. Every square inch of the soil is cultivated, every scrap of debris cleared away or turned to some useful purpose. What is so remarkable is that this amazing transformation has been wrought solely by hand, by the people themselves. They did not wait for reparations; they did not wait for Government aid; they came with wheelbarrows and bundles, lived in German dug-outs—which were built with Teutonic thoroughness, to last—or in miserable shanties they put up themselves of corrugated iron found on the spot; and slowly, patiently they dug over the ruined land. Every scrap of the battle area has been dug by the spade and by the spade alone. The agricultural experts said it would take twenty years at least for the land to recover, but the men and women who dug the soil that was their home, part of their lives and souls, worked not as labourers but as lovers, with a creative passion, and wrought love's miracle in less than five years. And to-day the wilderness blossoms—literally as the rose, for we saw roses everywhere. They have ousted the proverbial poppy that is said to thrive on soil watered by blood. Every little cottage and farm has its garden—at Ypres itself, we were told, the people first turned their attention to making a public garden and then to rebuilding the houses. From Ypres to Passchendael, from Kemmel to Zillebeke, stretch pleasant cornfields, fields of maize and of sugar-beet. It is such a peaceful, smiling country—and so dry! That was what impressed my companion,

who has vivid memories of digging no deeper than three feet in 1915 and coming at once to water.

Kemmel is a delightful spot, and grows the best blackberries I have tasted for a long time. Hill 60 has a thriving farm on top. Mortelje Estaminet (name of sinister sound) is conducting business under its old name and selling the beer of the country. Every vestige of war has disappeared—except an occasional German dug-out that makes a useful roosting place for fowls, or a pig-sty. Barbed wire one sees, certainly—it makes such valuable fences and costs nothing. Scrap iron has been industriously collected, and is being now sold back to England, where it fetches a good price!

Trees have been planted along the roads, and the charred stumps of five years ago dug up for firewood. All except the willows, for the willow is a tree whose life only He who gave can take away, and even the Creator must employ all His battery of celestial fire to kill a tree that can withstand four years of bombardment by high explosive and poison gas, and yet venture forth once more into timid bud and leaf.

The extraordinary rapidity of the recovery of Ypres and the Ypres Salient is emphasised by a comparison with other towns rough-handed during the war. Dinant was sacked by the Germans in 1915 and is not yet completely rebuilt. Possibly custom has staled for her the thrill of resurrection, for Dinant has known many sackings. She was burnt to the ground by Charles the Bold in the fifteenth century, when she was a town of 30,000 inhabitants—more than double the pre-war population of Ypres—and it took over twenty years to rebuild her, while Ypres has done its work in five.

Only one thing do I find it in my heart to regret, and that is that Ypres seems to have set her heart on rebuilding the Cloth Hall. There is a tragic dignity about its ruin that no new building can ever possess. Moreover, it stands as a grim reminder of how the twentieth century vied with the fifteenth in "frightfulness," a solemn warning that, unless man deliberately wills it otherwise, history may again repeat itself, and the children who play among the ruins to-day may themselves be the first victims of the next Armageddon.

### Rule 74

OUR walking champions will need no reminder as to the matter to which this heading refers, but for those who are not so intimately concerned we may say that No. 74 is the Rule of the Amateur Athletic Association which at the present time prevents our war-blinded men from entering for open walking races, simply and solely because that rule (framed, of course, long before it was even considered within the bounds of possibility that blinded men would be walking on level terms with sighted athletes) debar a competitor from having any guidance during a race. All St. Dunstaners will, however, be glad to know that we have enlisted the keen interest of some very good friends in the athletic world, and have hopes that they may gain sufficient support to get the rule altered so that our men may enter for such contests.

In this connection it is interesting to quote from a copy of the *Civil and Military Gazette*, of Lahore, India, which has just reached us. The *Gazette* says:—

"Athletics for the blind are full of intriguing possibilities. No one in pre-war days could have foreseen such events as running and walking races for blind men, but they are actual facts to-day. At first small events were tried—rowing, swimming, walking, and special games of cricket and football. Later came the big test of a walking race from London to Brighton. This was such an overwhelming success that it has now become an annual event, and the most recent race showed a remarkable improvement in records; and it is no exaggeration to say that several of these blind war heroes would beat the majority of amateur athletes who are in full possession of their sight. From this London to Brighton race the team spirit has developed just as usually happens in ordinary athletic events among men who can see. Eventually a team walking race was arranged for blind competitors, and the result was decided at Birmingham between teams representing the South,

Midlands, and North. This was a tremendous success with an exciting finish, the Southerners just beating the Midlanders by four points. Here again something like half an hour was knocked off the previous records; in fact, last year's winner of the individual race was only sixth on this occasion, and he himself recorded five minutes faster time in this team race. It has been suggested that the time has now arrived when the English Amateur Athletic Association should recognise these blinded soldier athletes and allow them to compete in certain open events. The only objection to this very desirable innovation appears to be the rule which does not allow a walking competitor to have an attendant, but obviously this rule was framed long before the war brought us our blinded athletes. The public generally would be in favour of the alteration, and it would, indeed, be a very popular amendment.

### Work for the Belgian Blind

MANY earlier St. Dunstaners will remember Oscar Daumont, a Belgian blinded soldier, who in the early days of the war was trained at St. Dunstan's as a joiner. The invasion by the Germans of that gallant little country made it impossible for the Belgian authorities to make at that time any provision for the care of their earlier war-blinded men, and St. Dunstan's was very glad to render such service as we give to our own war-blinded.

We now learn with great interest that Daumont is actively interesting himself in work for the Belgian blind. He writes in a letter recently received:—

I have been busy with the National Association for the Blind, which we started about a year ago, and I am very glad to say we did very well with it. It is really a commercial and work section, and we have bought a house in Brussels, where we have our office, and attached to that house we have a big workshop, because later on we think we may be able to train some boys. Of course there is something very rare—it is money—and without it it is difficult to do things, but we are beginning to be known, and in a year or two the thing will be changed. It is the first association of the kind in Belgium, and you know what difficulty we had to build that up. Still, it gave me some satisfaction, as I was the first to put hand to it.

In writing to congratulate Daumont upon his work, Captain Fraser says:—

It is a very good thing for the blind community of any country if those who are themselves handicapped in a similar way, and who know something of methods for their help, will take an active part in organising efforts for their assistance. It is happily the case that St. Dunstaners in various parts of the world—notably in Canada and New Zealand and other colonies—have taken up the cause of the general blind community, and I think it is a very fortunate thing for the blind people of your country that you are following this lead and interesting yourself in their lives. I hope that your activities will be very successful and that you will be able to go on and expand your plans.

I hope and expect that your own affairs are progressing favourably, and that you are busy and successful with your joinery. You have always the best wishes of all your comrades at St. Dunstan's.

### The House of Happiness

THE following article reaches us from a lady contributor well known to many St. Dunstaners. The author does not give a title to her article, but we feel that the one we have used is most appropriate. Certainly, from the first moment that St. Dunstan's opened until the present day, there has always been splendid justification for the wish that was once expressed by a great writer—that over the portals of the Hostel should be inscribed the words "Nothing is here for tears."

I have just paid my sixth visit to that wonderful institution, St. Dunstan's Hostel. Year by year my admiration for the work done there grows deeper and deeper. To me it is the most wonderful place in London. Each time I enter the doors of the large white house on the Inner Circle, Regent's Park, it is with feelings of pleasurable anticipation. Since my first visit to the home of St. Dunstan's on the Outer Circle, I have been received with such kindness and hearty welcome that the pleasure of my visits has been increased a thousandfold.

When I look round the workshops and class-rooms and see the cheerful

active spirit of the men, when I listen to what they have to say in praise of the Hostel, and think how bravely and cheerfully with true British grit they face their handicap, I feel that after all one cannot do too much on their behalf.

Were I asked what was my chief impression of St. Dunstan's I would reply "Cheerfulness." It is the keynote of the Hostel. It seems to be in the air you breathe. You feel it as soon as you enter its doors. Everywhere you hear the men singing over their work, talking and laughing. If their world is a world of darkness, it is also a world of cheerful contented industry. Cheerfulness and contentment is the predominant expression on all faces. Nowhere did my eye rest on a gloomy or discontented face. If at times the sad aspect of their lot struck one, if one felt from how much they were cut off, that feeling is quickly merged into a feeling of thankfulness that there is so much they can still enjoy.

These men are not gloomy, they are not morbid. They are so cheerful, so brave under their heavy handicap, that one's chief feeling towards them is not one of pity, but of admiration, of pride, that they are proving themselves in their fight against physical limitations, fighting with a cheerfulness and courage worthy of their race.

It takes courage. They have to face the world under a new aspect. A world in which touch and hearing have to take the place of sight, and they are facing the life of darkness which is henceforth theirs with a simple courage, a steadfast heroism, a spirit of true manhood which arouses our highest admiration.

And they are content. Content and happy in their work, glad to know that the world still holds a place for them. That knowledge means much to them. It means that they are not useless, they are not dependent, but that they have before them a life of happy activity.

As I passed through the workshops full of busy cheerful men, I felt I could realise as never before what the men owe to their "Chief," Sir Arthur Pearson—the man

who knew so well from his own experience the difficulties and trials of the men who came under his care. He led them into a new world, he gave them a new grip on life and he taught them that being blind did not necessarily mean the end of things, but the beginning, the beginning of a new endeavour, a new achievement.

Thanks to him the men of St. Dunstan's have vindicated their triumphant motto—"Victory over Blindness."

If they have lost much they have gained much, gained a new independence, a greater strength of character, and a determination to make the very best of life. They are fighting a battle greater than the one they waged in France or Flanders, and as they proved victors then they are proving themselves victors now. It is a battle which must be fought every day; a battle against loneliness and despondency and the longing for what can never be again. But in spite of all this there is no doubt as to the ultimate victory. They will go forward as bravely on the battlefield of life as they did on the battlefield of their country, and whatever the future holds for the men of St. Dunstan's, it holds no defeat.

They have learned in their darkness to pick up with groping fingers the broken threads of their lives, and to weave them anew. Not perhaps with the gorgeous brilliant colours of old, yet the tapestries of their darkened lives are woven of the golden and rose-coloured threads of cheerfulness and contentment. For many of them the old spheres of labour, the old ambitions are gone for ever, but they are proving that life holds for them great possibilities and greater hopes. They are proving their manhood in a way they might not otherwise have done, and they have given to the world an unequalled example of courage and steadfastness. In right of that they claim from us the tribute not only of our admiration and sympathy, but of our support.

They have given so much for us. For us they faced death in its most appalling forms on the battlefield. To-day they are facing a world of deeper darkness, which will never more be lifted till it merges into the no deeper darkness of the grave. Is it

too much to ask that we should aid them in every way we can?

They owe so much to St. Dunstan's and its founder. In its halls they have been led into a new life, a new manhood. They have been lifted up from the depths of despondency unto the heights of hope and achievement. Can the example of splendid, brave endurance which the men of St. Dunstan's have given to the world meet with anything less than a generous response?

It is ten years since Sir Arthur Pearson founded St. Dunstan's. To-day, they stand as much in need of help as ever. Sir Arthur, St. Dunstan's beloved "Chief," is dead, but his work still goes on, carried forward by those whose one aim and object is to carry out his aims, his ideals. His spirit still animates and guides them, and as long as there is one St. Dunstan left alive so will they be always ready to guide, to encourage, to help the men whom their Founder has left in their charge.

"Victory over Blindness" is the motto of St. Dunstan's, and as during my visit to the hostel I looked around me and saw all the evidence of an active cheerful life, as I heard the laughter and singing of the men who in their darkness are building up a new and nobler life, I felt that for the men of St. Dunstan's there could be no more fitting epitome than the lines of our poet laureate:—

Though much is taken, much abides, and though

We are not of the strength which in old days moved earth and heaven

That which we are, we are,

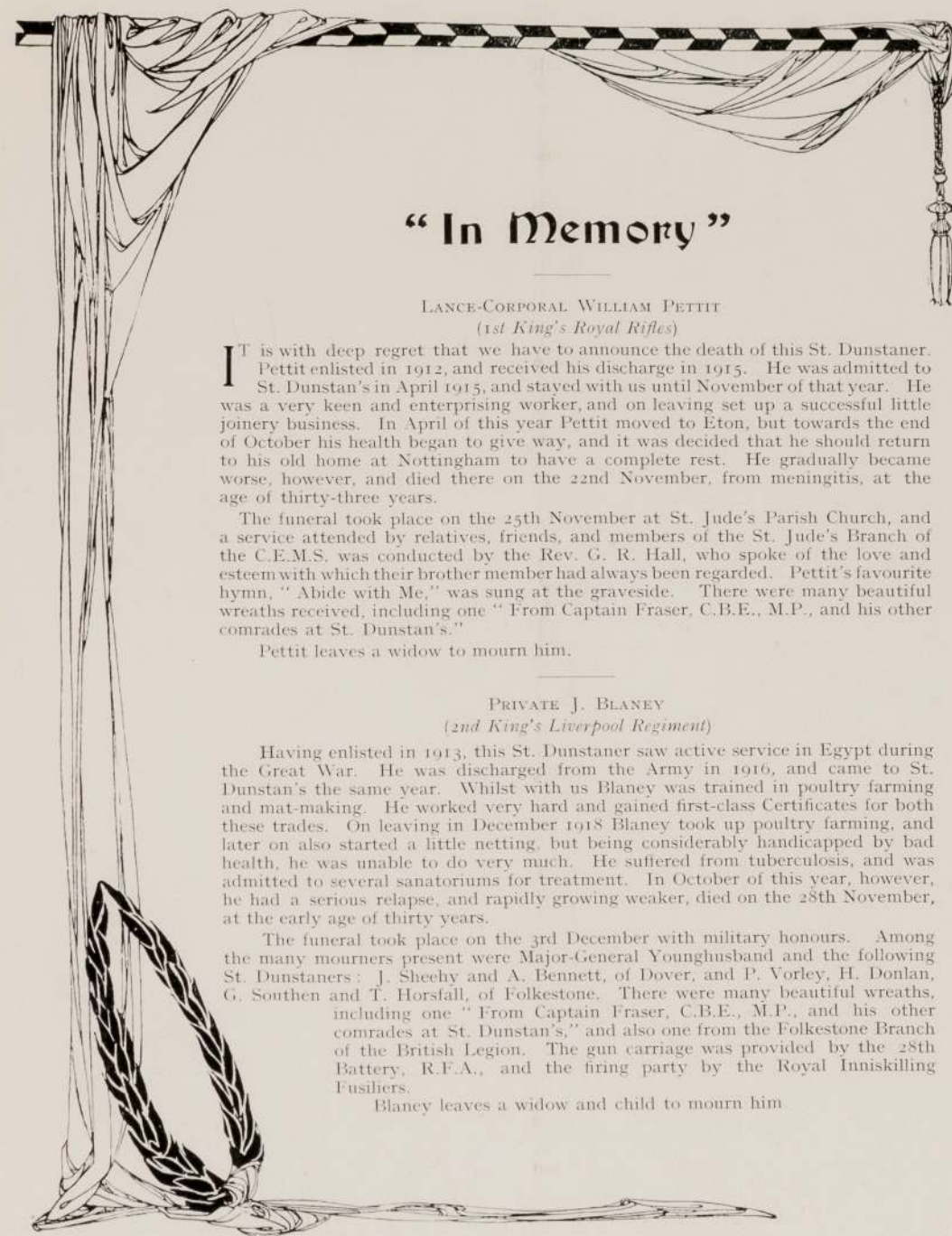
One equal temper of heroic hearts

Made weak by time and fate, but strong and will,

To seek, to strive, to find, but not to yield.

NINA STEPHENSON-BROWNE.

H. E. Raymond, of St. Annes-on-Sea, in sending a large order for material, tells us of an interesting piece of work he is now doing. This is the making of a six-foot set of drawers for a milliner's shop. Raymond also says that he is very busy with wireless cabinets, and has enough work to last him for a very long time yet.



## "In Memory"

LANCE-CORPORAL WILLIAM PETTIT  
(1st King's Royal Rifles)

IT is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of this St. Dunstaner. Pettit enlisted in 1912, and received his discharge in 1915. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in April 1915, and stayed with us until November of that year. He was a very keen and enterprising worker, and on leaving set up a successful little joinery business. In April of this year Pettit moved to Eton, but towards the end of October his health began to give way, and it was decided that he should return to his old home at Nottingham to have a complete rest. He gradually became worse, however, and died there on the 22nd November, from meningitis, at the age of thirty-three years.

The funeral took place on the 25th November at St. Jude's Parish Church, and a service attended by relatives, friends, and members of the St. Jude's Branch of the C.E.M.S. was conducted by the Rev. G. R. Hall, who spoke of the love and esteem with which their brother member had always been regarded. Pettit's favourite hymn, "Abide with Me," was sung at the graveside. There were many beautiful wreaths received, including one "From Captain Fraser, C.B.E., M.P., and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's."

Pettit leaves a widow to mourn him.

PRIVATE J. BLANEY  
(2nd King's Liverpool Regiment)

Having enlisted in 1913, this St. Dunstaner saw active service in Egypt during the Great War. He was discharged from the Army in 1916, and came to St. Dunstan's the same year. Whilst with us Blaney was trained in poultry farming and mat-making. He worked very hard and gained first-class Certificates for both these trades. On leaving in December 1918 Blaney took up poultry farming, and later on also started a little netting, but being considerably handicapped by bad health, he was unable to do very much. He suffered from tuberculosis, and was admitted to several sanatoriums for treatment. In October of this year, however, he had a serious relapse, and rapidly growing weaker, died on the 28th November, at the early age of thirty years.

The funeral took place on the 3rd December with military honours. Among the many mourners present were Major-General Younghusband and the following St. Dunstaners: J. Sheehy and A. Bennett, of Dover, and P. Vorley, H. Donlan, G. Southen and T. Horsfall, of Folkestone. There were many beautiful wreaths, including one "From Captain Fraser, C.B.E., M.P., and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's," and also one from the Folkestone Branch of the British Legion. The gun carriage was provided by the 28th Battery, R.F.A., and the firing party by the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

Blaney leaves a widow and child to mourn him.

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