

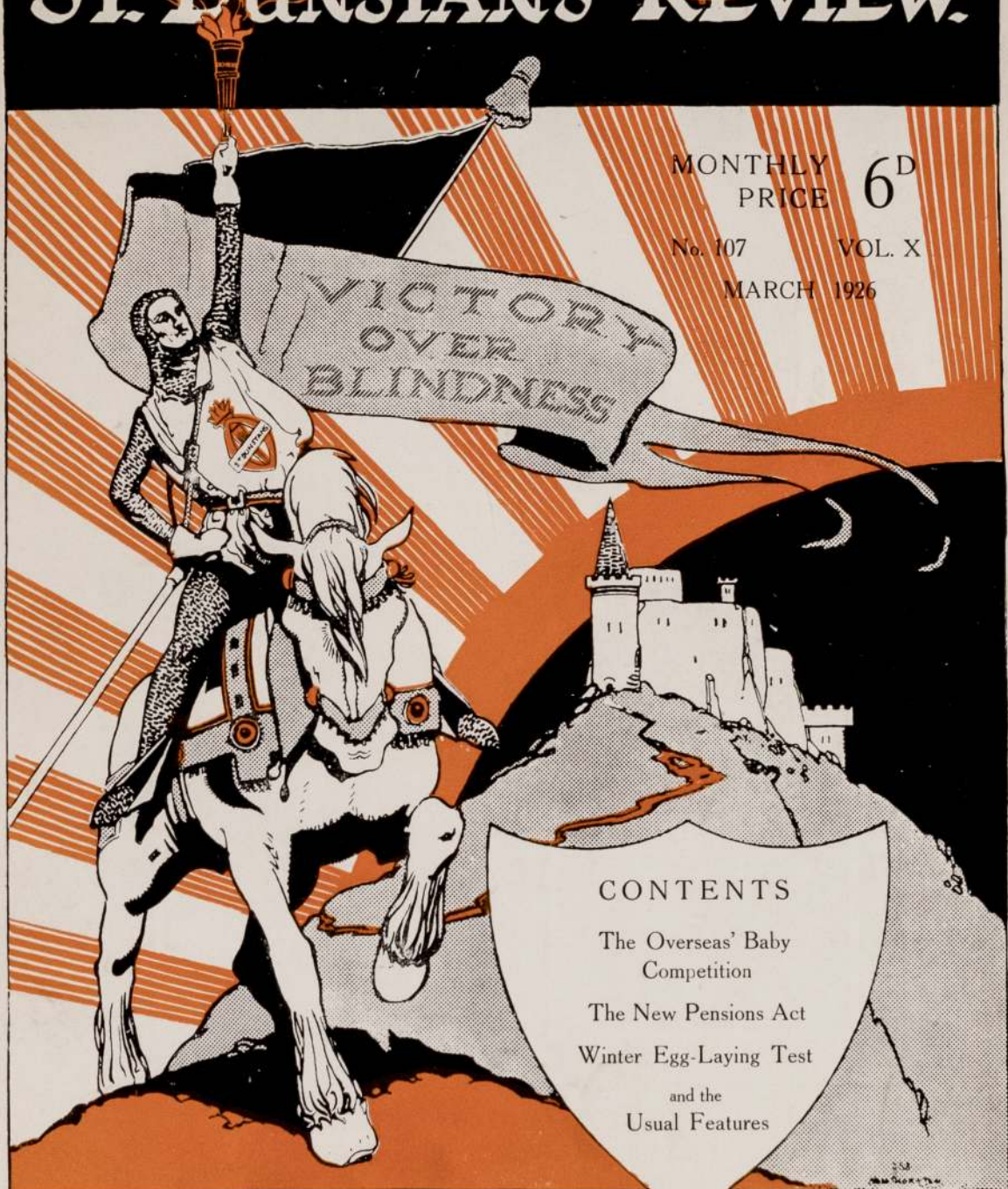
THE OVERSEAS' BABY COMPETITION

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

MONTHLY PRICE 6^D

No. 107 VOL. X

MARCH 1926



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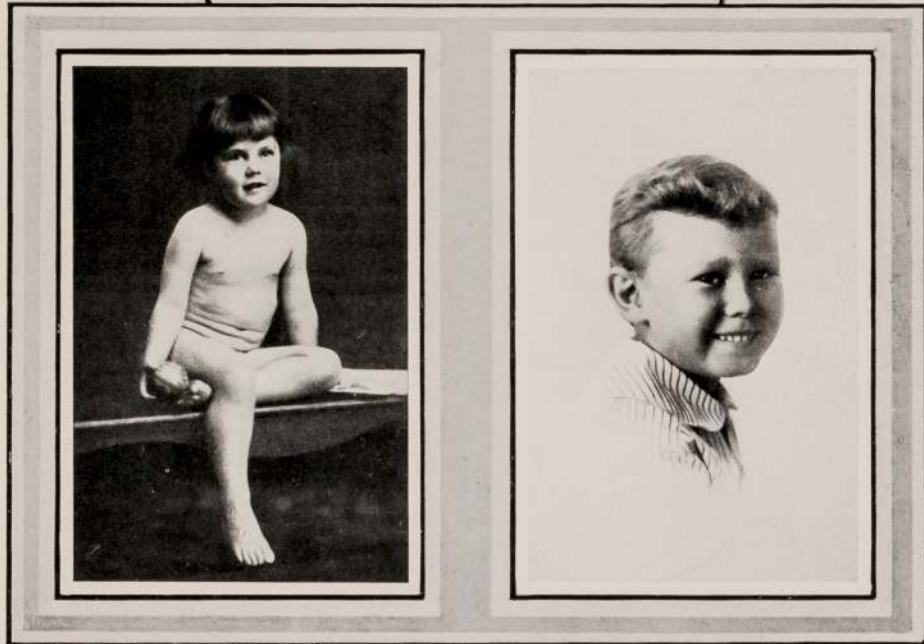
The Overseas' Baby Competition

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and the Usual Features

FOR THE AMUSEMENT & INTEREST OF MEN BLINDED IN THE WAR



ST. DUNSTANERS OVERSEAS.

PRIZE WINNERS IN THE BABIES' COMPETITION.

Top.—Dorothy Fairfield, of Toronto, Canada.

Left.—Merle Joyner, of Melbourne, Australia. *Right.*—Ronald Hoey, of Subiaco, Western Australia.

St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY PERRY BARRINGER

No. 107.—VOLUME X.

MARCH, 1926.

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

EDITORIAL

The Eleventh Milestone

SHORTLY after this issue of THE REVIEW is in our readers' hands St. Dunstan's will have placed yet another milestone on the road of endeavour and achievement. To those who recall the first steps upon that road, which was destined to blaze so splendid a trail through the most crucial and stirring times in our Empire's history, it seems almost incredible that eleven long years have passed since St. Dunstan's first opened its doors. In that non-realisation of the passage of time lies perhaps the true secret of the success our great organisation has achieved. The St. Dunstaners of eleven years since is in every sense as much a St. Dunstaner to-day. He is in as close and constant touch with those who perhaps first guided him towards the conquest of his handicap as he was when resident at the Hostel; he feels as much at home in St. Dunstan's when he comes to London as he did when all his hours of work and play were spent there, and he finds among the men now under training the same spirit of *camaraderie* as he found in the days of his own apprenticeship, and he makes the same quick but lasting friendships. As with the men of St. Dunstan's so with the administrative and executive staff which watches over their interests. Many as have necessarily been the changes in the personnel of both as the years have sped, yet this association of staff and men has been so close and continuous, and new helpers have so quickly bound themselves into the knowledge and traditions of our brotherhood, that every St. Dunstaner knows he has always friends dealing with his individual needs who have every knowledge of himself, his family and his work. It is that spirit of comradeship which has kept the torch of St. Dunstan's burning undimmed through eleven years of war and peace—years which, in spite of all the changes which have taken place in the world and its ways, have brought no severance of a single strand of the bonds of friendship which, throughout the length and breadth of the Empire, unites St. Dunstan's men and those who have their welfare in charge.

Do It Now!

On another page of this issue we deal with the splendid progress being made in securing for St. Dunstan's men all possible benefits from the 'Widows', 'Orphans' and 'Old Age Contributory Pensions' Act. We make no apology—instead we regard it as a duty—to again emphasise the wonderful opportunity this measure offers St. Dunstaners, particularly in view of the great inducement to participate in the benefits which the Council are giving. We cannot believe that any man eligible will fail to enrol, and we would only venture to point out that the most practical way of expressing appreciation of the willing and arduous labours of the department dealing with this work is to send in applications at once and so relieve to some extent the inevitable pressure which will come with the approach of the closing date for claiming registration.

The New Pensions' Act

SPLENDID progress is being made at Headquarters by the department which is dealing with the working of the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions' Act, as it affects St. Dunstaners and their families. When we mention that, at the time these notes are being penned, no fewer than 707 forms have been received and submitted to the various approved societies, some idea can be gained of the energy and enthusiasm with which the extremely complicated and highly detailed work connected with securing our men the fullest benefits possible is being carried out.

In addition to the forms already submitted there are still a considerable number to come in, the applications in respect of which have entailed some delay owing to queries being raised which necessitate reference to the Headquarters of the Ministry of Health. So soon as the Ministry have given a ruling as to these they will be put forward with all speed.

The approved societies are dealing with the forms as rapidly as they can, but obviously some time must elapse before applicants can be admitted to membership, as all details regarding previous National Health Insurance have to be verified. Notification will be sent to each applicant when he is accepted by his chosen society, and he will be advised of his membership number and the date from which stoppage from his pension will be made. Will readers specially note this and so save the Pensions Department much work in answering such inquiries?

We promised last month to quote some typical questions received, which had a general application and interest, and now append a selection together with the replies:—

Does the wife of an insured person receive medical and sickness benefits?

No. These benefits are only given to the insured person.

Does the wife of an insured person receive the Old Age Pension at sixty-five as well as her husband?

Yes, but if older than her husband she will not obtain it until her husband reaches the age of sixty-five. If younger than her husband she will have to wait until she is sixty-five. The husband in either case obtains the pension at this age.

Can a person residing in the Irish Free State become a contributor?

No; as the Act does not extend to this part of Ireland.

Can members of the Colonial forces become voluntary contributors if they are permanently residing in Great Britain?

No; unless they were previously insured under the National Health Insurance Act for at least two years and have paid 104 contributions. Time served with the Colonial forces cannot be taken into account as no deduction was made from pay in respect of insurance, the Act not operating in the Colonies.

Is it necessary for a widow to have at least one child under the age of fourteen (or sixteen if going to a full-time day school) in order to obtain the widows' pension?

No. It is not necessary where the insured person dies after the 4th of January 1926, provided he qualifies so far as the number of payments into insurance is concerned.

These questions have in most cases been duplicated from a number of readers, and it is probable therefore that the answers to them given here provide information wanted by other St. Dunstaners, and will thus save them the necessity of writing direct to Headquarters. Our Pension's Department, however, are we know most anxious to make any point in the administration and application of the Act clear to any reader who may be doubtful on any particular point, and no hesitation need be felt in

The Bible in Braille

As our readers know, the National Institute for the Blind is the main Braille printing house of the Empire, and was responsible for publishing the Bible in Braille. The Institute are producing a new edition if the necessary funds can be raised, and in support of this object many private efforts are being made to assist. We are sure, therefore, that our readers will be interested in the following letter received from Mr. E. Smith, who has rendered valuable help in this connection. St. Dunstaners who would like to contribute gifts of articles made by them should send them direct to Mr. Smith, whose address is Bryn Willow, Paignton, South Devon:—

4th March, 1926.

DEAR SIR,

For some years past I have been doing what I could to raise funds towards the re-publishing the new edition of the Braille Bible which the National Institute of the Blind is bringing out.

For the last two years I have had a sale of work, and I am venturing to ask if you think any of the members of St. Dunstan's would like to contribute a little gift of work to the same. Many blind persons sent contributions of work last year, and seemed very pleased to do so, and anything, however small, will be a great help. You will, I am sure, understand that it is difficult to get together a sufficient number of things to make a sale a success, especially when it is a private undertaking such as mine.

Anything sent me before the end of June would be in time. The late Mr. Stainsby kindly announced my sale in "progress" again this year, but I sometimes find a personal appeal more effectual, so I thought perhaps you would kindly ask your St. Dunstaners if you think fit.

With kind regards and thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

E. SMITH.

applying for such assistance. As we have said the whole intention of St. Dunstan's is to secure for its men the greatest possible benefits this excellent measure affords, and we cannot too strongly reiterate that it is up to St. Dunstaners generally to see that the opportunity does not pass them by. Furthermore, it must be remembered that there is not a great deal of time left now, and as it is impossible to say what unforeseen delays may arise in individual cases to prevent enrolment by the closing date, we sincerely hope that no one of our readers will let one more day pass without getting into touch with our Pension's Department, if they have not already done so. There is sound wisdom and warning too in the old proverb:—

"Boast not thyself of to-morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

At the New Scala Theatre, London, on the evening of 8th March, a large number of St. Dunstan's men, resident in London, were among the guests of the Stock Exchange Dramatic and Operatic Society on the presentation by the company of the well-staged play, "Ambrose Applejohn's Adventure." Having taken their seats the visitors were presented with cigarettes and settled down to enjoy themselves. The *dramatis personae* may congratulate themselves ungrudgingly on the success of their efforts. From beginning to end the play was followed with the utmost ease by the blind portion of the audience, and this was mainly due to the clear articulation of actors and actresses alike. Throughout the presentation the men's laughter and involuntary ejaculations of appreciation of the humours of the situation showed that they were never for a moment out of touch with the story of the play, and even the minor parts as played by Lush, the butler, the Chinese Pirate, Aunt Agatha and Inspector Dennett, the policeman, were all keenly followed and appraised. The guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to another such opportunity.

J. W. H. P.



NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS

IF hard work can secure success there is small doubt of the ultimate victory of E. J. Burley, of Cornwall. He tackles any job that comes his way in an undaunted spirit, and is ably helped by his wife. During the last heavy rains one of Burley's fields was badly flooded and damage to the poultry seemed inevitable; Burley refused to be dismayed, and set to work to dig a deep drain right across the field, with the result that his birds are now safe on dry ground. It was a big piece of work, but after it was accomplished Burley had energy and ambition enough to set to work preparing the foundations for his new poultry houses.

Another St. Dunstaner of whom we have good news is W. J. H. Clamp, of Wolverton. He has an exceedingly nice shop and a good stock of boots as well as an excellent trade in "repairs." He is sometimes busy thirteen hours in the day.

Friends of J. Harker, of Hove, will be glad to hear that he is getting on well at the Gas Works and is steadily winning friends among the staff; he is very keen on making a success and we have full confidence that he will succeed.

News from J. Benson, of Borough-bridge, is decidedly satisfactory of late. He has about sixty particularly healthy young chicks of a comparatively safe age, to say nothing of several dozen eggs in his incubator. As for other livestock Benson owns some ducks, a goat and a couple of pigs almost ready for bacon!

From Long Rock, Cornwall, comes news of J. Martin, who is as busy as ever. He has moved his chickens into the front garden and enclosed a space for them with the fine meshed wire netting in the hope of warding off the attacks of a

neighbouring cat which did him great damage last year, capturing no less than forty. The particularly serious part of the affair was that the cat's owner declined to admit the cat's crime although it was once actually caught with a chicken in its mouth.

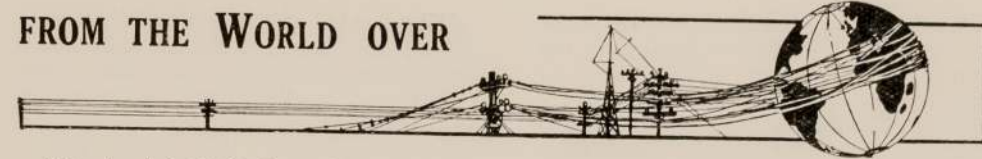
Another Cornish man, and one of whom we have had little news of late, is G. Nancarrow, of Fraddon. Friends will be sorry to hear that he has had a good deal of illness in his family which has naturally interfered with his work. We are glad to say that Mrs. Nancarrow is better and with this anxiety off his mind we are confident that Nancarrow will be able to forge ahead again at increased speed.

There has been a good deal of illness about in all quarters, but few can have had such a family of invalids as J. Curnow, also of Cornwall; six out of his nine children have had or are having the mumps!

Another family to be stricken, and even more thoroughly, is that of A. Welland, of Bramley. In fact the whole household had it, even Welland himself, and also his wife. Curiously enough mumps has attacked many adults in this district. Trade is good with Welland we are glad to know; he gets repair jobs from quite a wide area, and this is no doubt due to the close attention he gives to his business and the care he takes with his shop, stock and window display.

In his charming little home at Todmorden, C. E. Thomas keeps busy and happy. He attends the local market with his wares and expects to do something with brushes also when the spring-cleaning season begins.

FROM THE WORLD OVER



Friends of J. F. Besley, of Cheltenham, will be glad to hear that there is a decided improvement in his health since he moved into his bungalow and that he can now walk a little; he gets an immense amount of pleasure out of his wireless set.

Another of our shopkeepers in the same district is W. Baughan, of South Cerney. Quite a nice amount of boot work has come in and it is evident that Baughan is increasing his circle of friends as well as of customers.

Perhaps the same should be said of T. Meredith, who is working away in Cheltenham. His latest employment has been the putting up of extra shelves in his shop, which has greatly improved it in both convenience and appearance.

It is not often our basket makers report a "waiting list" of people eager for a special type of basket, but A. C. Evans, of Newport, is in this pleasant position. He is turning out excellent work, and the local demand for baskets of his latest design are remarkably strong.

Have none of our St. Dunstaners some good dog stories to retail? Perhaps J. Fay, of Cheltenham, will start the ball rolling. We know that when he came down to Wembley Exhibition with his little terrier sitting on his knee in a chair the two created quite a sensation. A man and a dog can hardly be inseparable companions without the former being the richer by a fund of anecdotes. We want to hear them!

A man who is never short of orders is F. Stew, of Tewkesbury. He works well and steadily, so has a number of baskets for disposal, but always contrives to have orders ahead of him. At such special "selling seasons" as Christmas he finds

it necessary to work in the house in the evenings in order to fulfil the demand.

"Wembley-on-Tour" should do a good deal for St. Dunstaners in a business way and for one, at least, it has brought about a pleasant hour's reunion with a fellow soldier. When F. Hesketh dropped in at the Cheltenham "Wembley" he found a man on the Canadian Fur section who had been in the same battalion as himself during the war.

Quite a number of our young Kentish St. Dunstaners have been carrying off prizes at fancy dress parties of late, among them the little daughter of W. J. Hallam, one of A. Charman's little girls and two of W. Newland's children. Congratulations to them. We hope the prizes were extra specially nice ones.

"Holding his own" is the news that comes to us concerning A. Tillotson, of Nelson, who is a very busy man indeed, since he attends various markets with his wares. It is interesting, if exacting work, since it takes him about the country and brings him into touch with a wide circle of people.

Braille music is proving itself a very absorbing study according to T. Eaton, of Liverpool, in fact he finds it almost as intriguing as his singing lessons with which he is making good progress.

Another man who has struck out in, or rather developed, a new line from an old one is E. Sayers, of Upper Harbledown, Canterbury. He has been making a most attractive "breakfast tray" of coloured tiles and finds that he can sell them as fast as he can make them. We congratulate him on his enterprise and ingenuity. Sayers' children, by the way, have all been down with the measles.

Another family that has been under the weather with the same complaint as the young Sayers is that of G. Moore, of Canterbury, but before this notice appears they will doubtless have forgotten the trouble. The Moore family has grown out of its house, like so many others, and the problem of obtaining a larger one is occupying Moore's mind in his leisure intervals.

Cheap foreign made maunds have been encroaching on the market A. Tanner, of St. Ives, Cornwall, had made for himself, and the local Co-operative store is proving itself a formidable rival. Our opinion is that the fishermen who have been led away from "British-made Goods" will soon realise that cheap goods are not economical; when this happens Tanner will doubtless find a rush of work coming his way.

Fish baskets of another kind are occupying D. Munro, of Aberdeen. We are glad to hear that his health is good.

G. F. Smith is working away at joinery at Stoughton, near Guildford, and has some trays, knife-boxes, and a meat safe on view, into all of which he had put good workmanship. At present the question of his eldest son's future is occupying his mind a good deal, since he is to leave school in a few months' time.

An excellent start in mat-work has been made by H. W. Allen, of Devonport. We send him congratulations on the way he has picked up the trade again, together with all possible good wishes.

The new workshop of J. Dennick, of Bengeworth, Evesham, is a fine big one, and he has plenty of room in it to work on both baskets and mats, so before long we hope to hear that he, too, is a busy man.

Another who has every reason for contentment in his workshop is E. Williams, of Shipley; work we hear is coming along very fairly.

We are glad to know that W. Street, of Evesham, has had a local order for a large barrel and has carried it out so well that it can hardly fail to prove a fine advertisement for him. He is looking forward to visiting "Wembley-on-Tour," and we hope he, like others, will meet friends there.

A St. Dunstaner who is particularly thankful that spring is upon us is W. H. Hildick, for his poultry houses have been sorely tried by gales and snow. They have stood firm despite the attack of the elements, however, and are a testimony to his efficiency as a carpenter.

So far H. Birley has not succeeded in stirring up much local interest in Pendleton, but we are sure this will come in due course. Luckily, his work is known in a wider circle, so many people send him their jobs from a distance.

In Sheffield A. Oldfield and his wife are steadily improving the appearance of their little shop, and as they spare no effort to please people their circle of customers is on the increase.

Another of our shopkeepers is W. Morris, of Burslem; he too finds the work interesting. Morris is just about to join the wireless band we hear.

Netting is occupying T. W. North, of Walsall, and he is as cheery as ever.

Cheeriness and contentment, too, is the note in the message from G. T. Shaw, who finds that if orders for baskets and mats do not come in quite as fast as he could wish, that there is always work to be done in his little general shop.

What with his garden, his poultry and his mats A. Jarvis, of Eversley Corner, Whitehill, has few idle moments. So soon as he has enough birds to enable him to guarantee a good supply of eggs, Jarvis has hopes of securing steady orders from a near-by camp.

Friends of J. Kirkham will be glad to hear that his move has been successfully accomplished, and he is now settled in at Waltham Chase. He is not straight yet, so has not begun to stir about for local orders, but there is every hope of these, so soon as he has time to attend to them. We offer Mr. and Mrs. Kirkham our congratulations on the success of their boy at school, and hope that his ambition to get into the Air Force as a draughtsman will soon be realised.

W. E. Carlton, of Monkton, is going off to market once a week and has no difficulty in disposing of his produce. The new home is a great success.

A busy mat-maker is A. G. Rogers, of Langford, but he likes variety, so has gone in for boots and net-making as well; local orders are developing in a promising manner.

Boots and clogs fill up the time of J. S. Lever, of Pendleton, and he has succeeded in developing a very steady trade we are glad to know.

The mainstay of C. E. Gill, of Teddington, is also boots, but his joy is his new little daughter.

Another St. Dunstaner whose family has increased of late is H. C. Ollington, of Earlsfield. While Mrs. Ollington was away, Ollington and his brother ran the home entirely on their own, and naturally they now consider themselves competent housemen. Congratulations to them on the hitherto unsuspected household talents.

There is little to report concerning J. Printie, of Edinburgh, but all that is to hand is good. He is getting on well at his job, and at last has secured the much desired house.

"All well" and "doing well" is the satisfactory report that comes from P. Maskell, of Rochester.

The same might be said of T. Ashe, of Sunbury, who finds little slack time on

his hands with a shop to manage as well as his poultry.

In Barnstaple E. W. Jarman is steadily building up a connection, and as he has succeeded in winning the confidence of some of the leading doctors in the place every year tells in his favour.

Everyone will be glad to know that W. J. Gilbert, of Barnstaple, who recently had to return to hospital, has taken a decided turn for the better. His magnificent fighting spirit has helped him tremendously and enabled him to make headway when many a man even with less years behind him would have given in. He is a lucky man in both temperament and family. Every member of it is devoted to him.

A man who seems to have good prospects ahead of him is A. E. Clewlow, of Brown Edge, Stoke-on-Trent. His health is good, for country suits him better than London, and at the time of writing he is very busy clearing the ground and getting ready for the building of his workshop. There is no other joiner in the district, as the only competitor died not long since, so there is small doubt that Clewlow's efforts will be appreciated.

In the same district is R. B. Blackshaw, whose health, by the way, is much better. He and Clewlow are near enough to meet occasionally and enjoy a good gossip over their old training days.

Baskets and mats are keeping C. E. Beck, of Bishops Stortford, busy as usual.

Several orders for baskets have come the way of H. Bridgman, of Derby, of late, mainly owing to the fact that he originally made a small barrel basket, which, on account of its design, became suddenly fashionable in his district. We hope that his next effort will be as successful.

Recently mention was made of G. Hawkins, of Cannock, and his venture in turkeys. Friends will be glad to hear that he did well with them. Indeed, he has had several repeat orders, some of which he was unable to fulfil from his own farm. His poultry and pigs are now doing well.

Joinery has been keeping T. Till, of Lancaster, busy for some weeks, but at the moment, as many of the mills are on short time, there is a bit of a lull. Till is employing it in getting up stock and rearranging his window display, which, we hear, is excellent.

W. Murray, of Hawick, is busy with repair work for the mills. His friends will be glad to hear that he is "feeling pretty good," and indeed no one who was not in good health could work as steadily as does Murray.

In Dublin, J. Goodison is working away at mats, and has a delightful new workshop; local orders have begun to come in.

Another St. Dunstaner settled not far distant from Goodison is R. Bell, of Sandymount. He, too, has a new workshop. He is working hard at baskets.

In Newbury A. E. H. Brown is doing very well with his twin occupations of baskets and mats. A. Mears, of Leyton, and F. Dance, of Bishops Stortford, are also securing a number of orders for mats. The former, we are sorry to hear, has had rather a bad spell of rheumatism.

Mats and boots together keep busy A. Chiverton, of Alesford; when one branch of trade is bad the other usually stirs. Another who combines the same two occupations with the same results is J. Elder, of Leith. At Gateshead M. Mulvaney finds himself generally well employed, but just occasionally his customers all seem to buy new boots at once, with the result that a slack time

ensues. And much the same account of progress reaches us from Montrose where K. J. Howes is established.

In Alton W. H. Agate finds all the boot repairing he can undertake, and what spare moments he can compass are filled with the pleasure given him by his pianola.

R. Stanners is doing as well as ever in his shop at High Wycombe all will be glad to know. And the news from G. Whall, of Wellesbourne, is what his friends hoped for. He is gradually improving, and has put on weight since he left hospital. Picture framing is his chief interest when he finds himself equal to tackling work. We hope that the time he is able to give to it will lengthen gradually.

Good reports continue to reach us from most of the poultry men. R. Riddell, of Bonjed Ward, says that his birds are now laying well after the set-back given to them by wet and cold weather. D. Gibson, of Ancrum, is also doing well; and likewise J. McAvoy, of Mauchline, and D. Livingstone, of the same locality. F. E. Parker, of Kintore, is also busy with his birds, but they leave him leisure for pigs, so he is now making a sty.

Last year G. C. Stacey found that his luck was out, but this year all his birds are proving more satisfactory. The farming activities of G. Dawson, at Carlton, near Newmarket, are increasing, and like so many others his cry is "more land."

E. Gregory is yet another who is doing well with poultry as is also F. Bulley, of Crampmoor. The latter has been trying ducks, as a variation, but has decided that they are not as profitable as fowls, so is about to get rid of them. Bulley has no trouble in disposing of his eggs as a number of customers call regularly and take all he can supply.



I AM glad to see that so much interest is being taken by the Present Boys in their Saturday Sports. Our numbers are keeping up extraordinarily well, and great interest is being taken generally in each event. In the T.B. section Peach is doing exceedingly well, but he will need all the points he has to retain his place when the handicaps are against him. In the S.S. Section Williams has risen to the top of the tree with Parrick in second place. However, there are still a number of Saturdays to put in, so there is time for much alteration in the score sheet.

POINTS	
T.B.	S.S.
Peach 565	Williams 410
Haugh 400	Parrick 360
Tetley 350	Rickaby 350
Day 315	Craddock 325
Bull 265	Eden 280
Gregory 245	Namen 270
Cook 210	Park 265
Gamble 160	Cole 245
Savory 140	Crook 240
Wayne 110	Muncaster 205
Freeman 85	Baxter 205
	Buchanan 200
	Squires 125
	Massey 125
	Moore 100
	Bedford 100
	Smith 85
	Stock 85
	Short 60
	Bentley 45
	Comley 35
	Jones 30
	Bowering 15
	Miles 5

AFTER-CARE SPORTS

"Tiny" Fleming is topping us, not only in height but in points, but it is really splendid to see MacFarlane and Nichols in second and third places and comparatively only a few points behind. Cookson and Henry have also done uncommonly well, and the results show clearly that the general competition of T.B. and S.S. is working very well. Each

week we are sure of keen competition and good sportsmanship.

POINTS.			
Fleming 1,105	Kerr 885	MacFarlane 1,065	Webster 655
Nichols 1,060	Ashton 635	Cookson 1,045	Burran 575
Henry 1,020	Prior 495	Brown 995	Chambers 495
Thompson 920	Bartlett 135	Gover 910	Downs 135

FOOTBALL.

There is very little fresh to be said about our Football Competition, and our readers know and can guess that our men are continually kicking the big ball, but the matches continue to prove very exciting. It will be seen that the Rackabites head the table with 17 points—I do not know whether their title suggests that they are total "abstainers," but their methods of strict training are evidently bringing them points, if not pints. A great deal undoubtedly is due to the presence in the team of Jock Aitken, the old Middlesbrough player.

The Peachers are second with 14 points, with the Spurs close on their heels.

LEAGUE TABLE (up to and including March 8th)

Team	Goals					
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A. Pts
Rackabites	11	8	2	1	47	28 17
Peachers	9	7	2	0	29	29 14
Spurs	12	6	5	1	61	51 13
Wireless	11	5	5	1	56	44 11
Didos	11	4	5	2	45	47 11
Allrights	10	3	6	1	28	44 7
Bowerings	10	2	6	2	34	41 6
United	10	3	7	0	35	51 6

ROWING

At the present moment there seems to be a rowing epidemic and Miss Stacey is consequently having a very busy time. I understand that not only are our rowing enthusiasts keeping the six Bedford College ladies busy each morning coxing, but also a number of House Sisters, too,

are kind enough to assist. There is nothing like getting into practice early on, and I am sure that those men who have been keen enough to get up and put in this extra work will find it more than useful when the Regatta days draw near.

WALKING

I find that after all it is impossible to hold our twenty-one miles qualifying race on 24th April, as previously arranged, because unfortunately there is to be a ten-miles walking championship arranged by the Civil Service Association on that afternoon to be held round the Outer Circle. It seems to me, therefore, that 17th April, being a free date generally as regards Guides, &c., our walk had better take place then. Will all walkers please note therefore that only those men will be accepted for the Brighton Walk who pass this qualifying race, and entries *must be in not later than Tuesday, 6th April*. I think it is understood also that this walk will be a scratch event. If sufficient entries are received from the S.S. men for a scratch twenty-one miles event we shall be pleased to arrange their race for the same time. This race will start at 2.30 p.m., so that all those who enter are requested to be in good time.

LEAGUE MATCHES

I feel sure that everybody will be interested to know that a great number of supporters regularly go each Saturday from these Headquarters to Arsenal, Chelsea or Fulham matches. Somehow or other we appear to bring luck to Fulham, for they always seem to win when we are present. Unfortunately, we were not able to be there at the last cup-tie with Manchester United, and that, of course, accounts for their defeat. J.E.W.

Anniversary Dance

We are asked to remind our readers that those desirous of attending the Anniversary Dance on 26th March must obtain their tickets beforehand. Dancing will be from 8 p.m. to 11.30 p.m., and there will be prizes for the best men's fancy dresses.

"The Student Prince" Company at Headquarters

Twenty-five members of the successful play, "The Student Prince," from His Majesty's Theatre, came to Headquarters on Sunday, 7th March, and gave a most delightful concert to the men in residence. Naturally there was a big muster, and the men, who fully appreciated the fact that the company had given up their only free evening in the week to entertain them, enjoyed immensely the splendid chorus singing, and the solos and musical monologues which made up the fine programme. Very hearty thanks were accorded the visitors at the end.

We are very glad to hear that J. S. Lever, of Pendleton, is getting along very well. He has had introductions to several factory managers with a view to estimating for clogs, and has received some very useful orders. Lever is a hard and keen worker, and with the splendid assistance of his wife should build up a flourishing business. The arrival of THE REVIEW, we learn, is looked forward to with eagerness each month.

G. A. Millen, of Birchington, had a stall again this year at the Margate Exhibition, in the Pavilion Winter Gardens, from the 13th to the 20th of February. He was, we are pleased to hear, supported exceedingly well, his mat and basket stall being much admired. Councillor Dowling made special reference to Millen in his speeches, and Mr. Barber (Secretary to the Margate Chamber of Commerce) and the Pavilion staff showed him every kindness.

FOR SALE.

RALEIGH TANDEM BICYCLE: In good condition; has 3-speed gear with Dunlop front and Magnum back tyres. Price £10.

PEDIGREE ROLLER CANARIES.—A few good cocks and hens for sale. Also a few double breeders with all appliances and in good condition. Must clear—room wanted. Special terms to St. Dunstaners.—Stamp for particulars, F. Tait, 458 Halliwell Road, Bolton, Lancs.

Poultry Notes

St. Dunstan's Winter Egg Laying Test

RECOGNISED BY THE NATIONAL POULTRY COUNCIL

THIRD TEST—1ST NOVEMBER, 1925 TO 20TH FEBRUARY, 1926

THE fourth period of the test concluded on 20th February. There has been an improvement in egg production—the average per bird being 13.24 against 11.3 for the third period.

The total number of eggs laid was 2,846, of which 2,172 were first grade, 617 second grade, and 3 third grade, whilst 54 were unrecorded.

The table of production given below shows the number of first, second and third grade eggs laid in each section together with the average per bird. The uniformity of production in sections

1-4 is an interesting feature of this month's results.

Four birds have been broody during the month. Rings No. 52, 57, 70 and 261. One death has occurred—Ring No. 70—the cause of death being internal hemorrhage following rupture of the liver.

Two birds have been in hospital suffering with digestive troubles. One of these speedily yielded to treatment; the other, however, was not better when it was returned to its owner, and is hardly likely to recover.

Weather conditions have been better and on the whole favourable to egg production.

TABLE OF PRODUCTION FOR FOURTH PERIOD

	Section	No. of Birds	Number of Eggs Grades			Total	Average No. Laid per Bird
			1	2	3		
1	Rhode Island Reds ..	84	865	239	1	1,105	13.15
2	A. O. Heavy Breed ..	28	263	115	2	380	13.54
3	White Leghorns ..	72	766	181	—	947	13.15
4	Single Heavy ..	18	193	49	—	242	13.44
5	Single Light ..	13	85	33	—	118	9.08
			2,172	617	3	2,792	
			Unrecorded ..			54	
						2,846	13.24

FINAL RESULTS

(First grade eggs during the first four weeks of the test were those weighing 1½ oz. or more, and for the second period of four weeks those weighing 1 15-16ths oz. or more, and for the subsequent period of the test those weighing 2 oz. or more. Second grade eggs were those weighing not more than 1 oz. less than the respective weights fixed for first grade eggs.)

SECTION 1.—RHODE ISLAND REDS—FOUR BIRDS COMPETING

Position	Owner	Eggs laid. 4th period. Grades			Total all grades	Eggs laid to date. Grades			Total all grades	Test value
		1	2	3		1	2	3		
1	Bisset, Mr. L. A. ..	63	15	—	78	231	29	—	260	260
2	Condon, C. T. ..	53	6	—	59	194	39	—	233	233
3	Tindall, J. H. ..	54	13	—	67	160	71	2	233	220
4	Coman, A. E. ..	58	9	—	67	192	27	—	219	219

SECTION 1 (Continued).

5	Lea, J. H...	49	8	—	57	150	52	—	202	202
6	Holmes, P.	59	4	—	63	161	13	—	174	174
7	Hill, R. E.	50	—	—	50	156	11	—	167	167
8	Chaffin, A.	45	25	—	70	107	65	—	172	167
9	Emerton, T. D.	34	19	—	53	116	46	—	162	162
10	Nelson, H.	23	3	—	26	114	37	—	151	151
11	Benning, A.	45	7	—	52	128	18	1	147	146
12	Urry, A.	40	17	1	58	111	35	1	147	146
13	Foulkes, W. A.	26	49	—	66	86	74	1	161	146
14	Carlton, W. E.	28	1	—	29	121	15	—	136	136
15	Smith, G. J.	38	—	—	38	126	9	—	135	135
16	Webb, W.	25	36	—	61	63	99	2	164	123
17	McLaren, Mr. D.	43	17	—	60	79	38	1	118	117
18	Gregory, E.	42	5	—	47	104	6	—	110	110
19	Woodcock, W. J.	43	—	—	43	97	4	—	101	101
20	Trigg, A. E.	27	—	—	27	97	—	—	97	97
21	Jarvis, A.	20	14	—	34	42	46	9	97	88

SECTION 2.—ANY OTHER HEAVY BREED—FOUR BIRDS COMPETING

1	Bulley, F. E. C.	64	17	—	81	155	48	—	203	203
2	Maclean, D.	42	3	—	45	161	23	—	184	184
3	Ashwell, R.	43	25	—	68	121	76	4	201	181
4	Carter, T. A.	24	39	—	63	88	92	1	181	148
5	Holmes, P.	26	28	2	56	75	105	10	190	135
6	Jackson, G. C.	48	—	—	48	95	17	—	112	112
7	Woodcock, W. J.	16	3	—	19	40	16	2	58	56

SECTION 3.—WHITE LEGHORNS—FOUR BIRDS COMPETING

1	Bulman, Mr. C. R.	53	13	—	66	187	33	—	220	220
2	Lowrie, R. K.	51	17	—	68	150	57	1	208	207
3	Roach, D.	52	8	—	60	175	20	—	195	195
4	Tindall, J. H.	37	27	—	64	134	85	13	232	194
5	Knopp, H. A.	52	2	—	54	159	23	1	183	182
6	Ramsden, Mr. N. A.	39	4	—	43	155	15	1	171	170
7	Brown, C. H.	58	2	—	60	161	6	—	167	167
8	Horsnell, N.	40	9	—	49	103	53	3	159	156
9	Hamilton, B.	40	25	—	65	89	69	10	168	149
10	Newell, C. L.	61	6	—	67	117	30	—	147	147
11	Hight, A.	27	18	—	45	89	50	4	143	139
12	Owen, Capt.	46	7	—	53	95	32	1	128	127
13	McIntosh, C.	42	1	—	43	116	9	—	125	125
14	Whittingslow, J.	30	8	—	38	62	60	2	124	122
15	Fisher, T. M.	37	8	—	45	75	25	—	100	100
16	Woodhouse, J.	37	2	—	39	88	11	—	99	99
17	Burgin, W.	29	20	—	49	44	51	1	96	96
18	Bulley, F. E. C.	35	4	—	39	71	15	—	86	86

SECTION 4.—HEAVY BREED—SINGLE BIRD

1	W.W. Urry, A.	17	3	—	20	60	17	—	77	75
2	R.I.R. Bisset, Mr. L.	18	—	—	18	18	69	—	70	69
3	R.I.R. Burgin, W.	18	2	—	20	50	7	—	57	57
4	L.S. Webb, W.	17	8	—	25	47	10	—	57	57
5	W.W. Chaffin, A.	20	—	—	20	54	—	—	54	54
6	R.I.R. Coman, A.E.	11	—	—	11	52	—	—	52	52
7	R.I.R. Knopp, H. A.	15	—	—	15	44	1	1	46	45
8	R.I.R. McLaren, Mr. D.	7	—	—	7	44	—	—	44	44
9	R.I.R. Bulman, Mr. C.	—	—	—	—	27	19	—	46	42

SECTION 4 (Continued).

10	W.W. Carter, T. A.	2	20	—	22	23	50	—	79	38
11	R.I.R. Capper, Mr. A.	19	—	—	19	36	—	—	36	36
11	R.I.R. Trigg, A. E.	20	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—
12	R.I.R. Condon, C. T.	19	—	—	19	35	—	—	35	35
13	W.W. Riddell, R.	3	13	—	16	8	19	—	27	23
14	R.I.R. Burtenshaw, W.	5	—	—	5	15	—	—	15	15
15	W.W. Roach, D.	—	—	—	—	12	2	—	14	14
16	R.I.R. Tindall, J. H.	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	7	7
17	W.W. Brown, C. H.	2	3	—	5	4	3	—	7	7

SECTION 5.—LIGHT BREED—SINGLE BIRD

1	W.L. Holmes, P.	17	—	—	17	56	—	—	56	56
2	W.L. Nolan, J.	14	—	—	14	47	—	—	47	47
3	W.L. Chaffin, A.	7	—	—	7	38	2	—	40	40
4	W.L. Gregory, E.	9	—	—	9	38	—	—	38	38
5	W.L. Woodhouse, J.	3	—	—	3	37	—	—	37	37
6	W.L. Foulkes, W. A.	6	12	—	18	15	23	—	38	39
7	La.B. Capper, Mr. A.	1	1	—	2	28	1	—	29	29
8	B.L. Owen, Capt.	14	—	—	14	25	2	—	27	27
9	W.L. Lea, J. H.	9	1	—	10	21	1	—	22	22
10	W.L. Hamilton, B.	—	16	—	16	1	32	1	34	16
11	W.L. Catlow, S.	5	3	—	8	6	4	—	10	10
12	W.L. Fisher, T. M.	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	8	8

PRODUCTION TABLES

RHODE ISLAND REDS—84 BIRDS COMPETING

			First	Second	Third	Total	Average per Bird
First period	..	..	456	160	11	627	7.46
Second ..	..	..	499	142	3	644	7.66
Third ..	..	..	829	193	2	1,024	12.24
Fourth ..	..	..	865	239	1	1,105	13.15
			<u>2,649</u>	<u>734</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>3,400</u>	<u>40.51</u>

ANY OTHER HEAVY BREED—28 BIRDS COMPETING

First period	..	..	129	55	10	194	6.93
Second ..	..	..	167	82	5	254	9.07
Third ..	..	..	176	125	3	304	10.86
Fourth ..	..	..	263	115	2	380	13.54
			<u>735</u>	<u>377</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>1,132</u>	<u>40.40</u>

WHITE LEGHORNS—72 BIRDS COMPETING

First period	..	..	314	165	28	507	7.04
Second ..	..	..	426	118	15	559	7.76
Third ..	..	..	564	170	2	736	10.22
Fourth ..	..	..	766	181	—	947	13.15
			<u>2,070</u>	<u>634</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>2,749</u>	<u>38.17</u>

SINGLE BIRD—HEAVY BREED—18 BIRDS COMPETING

First period	..	..	141	10	—	151	8.39
Second ..	..	..	133	38	1	172	9.55
Third ..	..	..	156	37	1	194	10.78
Fourth ..	..	..	193	49	—	242	13.44
			<u>623</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>759</u>	<u>42.10</u>

SINGLE BIRD—LIGHT BREED—13 BIRDS COMPETING

First period	.. .. .	67	7	—	74	5.69
Second ..	.. .. .	50	12	1	63	4.84
Third ..	.. .. .	117	14	—	131	10.08
Fourth ..	.. .. .	85	33	—	118	9.08
		<u>319</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>386</u>	<u>29.69</u>

SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION OF THE FOUR PERIODS

	Section	No. of Birds	Number of Eggs. Grades			Total all grades	Average No. Laid per Bird
			1	2	3		
1	Rhode Island Reds ..	84	2,649	734	17	3,400	40.51
2	A. O. Heavy Breed ..	28	735	377	20	1,132	40.40
3	White Leghorn ..	72	2,070	634	45	2,749	38.17
4	Single Heavy Breed ..	18	623	134	2	759	42.16
5	Single Light Breed ..	13	319	66	1	386	29.69
			6,396	1,945	85	8,426	
			Unrecorded ..	..	..	176	
			Grand total ..	..	..	8,602	
			Average per bird ..	..	..		40.40

FINAL REPORT

The above production tables give the number of first, second and third grade eggs laid in each section together with the average production per bird for each period, and the summary of production gives the total number of first, second and third grade eggs laid throughout the test, and the average number of eggs laid per bird. These tables should be studied in conjunction with this report, and it is hoped they will be found instructive.

The total eggs laid—8,602—is equal to an average daily production of 76.80 eggs from the 215 competing birds. This is a daily percentage production of 35.72 eggs.

Twenty-three per cent. of recorded eggs were second grade and 1 per cent. third grade. The percentages of second grade eggs in each section were as follows: Section 1, 22 per cent.; Section 2, 33 per cent.; Section 3, 23 per cent.; Section 4, 17 per cent.; and Section 5, 17 per cent.

The high percentage of second grade eggs is an unsatisfactory feature of the test, and is undoubtedly largely due to the fact that so many birds were immature and undersized on arrival. The food given

is for egg production, and so possibly brings many birds in to lay sooner than is desirable. But after all this is a laying competition and not a maturing station.

In fairness to many pens and individual birds it may be said that the majority of the second grade eggs were laid by a comparatively small number of pens or birds. For example, in Section 1 seven of the twenty-one pens were responsible for over 60 per cent. of the second grade eggs. And in Section 4 four of the eighteen birds laid 83 per cent. of seconds.

Last season's test gave an average of 44.45 eggs per bird for the four months, as against 40 eggs this year. This retrograde step is most regrettable and calls for serious thought.

We may, perhaps, find some comfort in the fact that the weather experienced throughout the greater part of the test was most unfavourable to a high egg yield, but it must also be admitted that the average quality of the birds sent in was below that of last year and the year previous.

Special mention should be made of D. Maclean's pen in Section 2. At the end

of the third period he was leading his section, and at the close of the test was only nineteen eggs behind the winning pen, and at this only three birds laying. One of his birds—Ring No. 133—has not laid an egg since the first few days of the test, owing to a misplacement of the oviduct. The eggs, or rather the yolks, have undoubtedly been produced, but have fallen into the "cushion" instead of the oviduct. The bird visited the nest regularly for many weeks. There is no known cure for such a condition. But for this piece of misfortune Maclean would probably have been a serious competitor for the cup.

A TWO-YEAR TEST—A SUGGESTION

It has been suggested that St. Dunstan's should have a two years' laying test.

This is almost a new idea in laying competitions, and so the opinions of our poultry farmers would be very welcome.

It has been thought that the usual winter test might be continued, and that a certain number of the leading pens should be eligible for competition in the two years' test.

Some arrangement would have to be made for the competitors to obtain a certain proportion of their eggs for sitting purposes. The hens would be mated to pedigree cockerels during the second year.

If the idea appeals to a sufficient number of men the Committee would be called to draw up draft proposals.

Send along your suggestions, please!

G. G.

At a successful concert arranged in aid of our funds at Clacton-on-Sea a handsome tray, made by G. Price, was put up for auction during the interval. It produced some spirited bidding and after being sold and resold several times realised a total of £7—a handsome addition to the total raised at the conclusion of the concert. Price thanked, in a very happily phrased speech, all those who had helped to ensure the success of the effort and paid high tribute to the value of St. Dunstan's work.

Deaths

This month we send our sympathy to:—

ALLEN.—H. W. Allen, of Devonport, whose father, aged 80, died at the end of January after a short illness.

BANNISTER.—J. Bannister, of Skelmersdale, who has had a great deal of trouble of late. He has now lost his sister; she died in Liverpool after an operation.

BIGGS.—W. A. Biggs, of Leicester, whose father, aged 75, died very suddenly on 21st January.

BRAITHWAITE.—F. Braithwaite, of Guildford, who, on the 29th of January, lost his father.

BROADLEY.—J. Broadley, of Glasgow, who lost his little daughter on the 26th of December, 1925.

FAY.—F. Fay, of Cheltenham, whose mother passed away very suddenly on the 14th of January after only three days' illness.

GRAY.—A. T. Gray, of Dalston, whose mother, aged 91, died on the 1st of February.

GRIFFITHS.—Mr. and Mrs. J. Griffiths, of Petersfield, whose little child, born on the 24th of January, has slipped away from them.

HAMLETT.—A. Hamlett, of Winsford, Cheshire, whose sister, Mrs. Spann, aged 31, was burnt to death in the great fire that destroyed Oulton Hall on the 14th of February. She leaves a widower and twin girls to mourn her.

MARTIN.—E. W. Martin, of Tottenham, whose mother died on the 14th of January.

McMULLEN.—R. McMullen, of Horton-cum-Studley, as he has suffered a double loss. His father died on the 21st of December, and his brother-in-law barely a week later.

PINK.—Mr. and Mrs. A. Pink, of Ashcott. Their little son, born on the 5th of January, died on the 18th of the same month.

After-Care Meetings and News

HULL MEETING

THERE is surely something suggestive of a grown-up family party about the Hull reunion, an impression largely due, no doubt, to the atmosphere created in the very first instance by the staff at Fields Café. One might almost say that they represent a "host of hostesses" in themselves, so spontaneous is their welcome and service to each and all of us. And don't the tables lend an additional air of welcome and festivity—particularly this year with their decoration of daffodils in tiny bowls of uniform black.

Mr. Swain's speech and the reading of Captain Fraser's message resulted in P. Sparkes, on behalf of his comrades present, requesting Mr. Swain to convey their invitation to "our Chairman" to the next Hull meeting. A nice thought delightfully expressed! This was seconded by A. Urry.

Mrs. Evers came over from Cottingham to sing, bringing Miss Sawden with her, and their duets, "Awake" and "Night of Stars," gave great pleasure. P. Sparkes recited "The 11.59" (an old favourite) and "Coffee Cup's Race" with great pathos! The latter describes an incident in the life of a race (?) horse putting even "Tishy's" record to shame. As the story was unfolded to us our tears "Also ran" in silent sympathy with "Coffee Cup." Mr. Parker was with us again too, and as an entertainer and accompanist was invaluable. Miss Adams' rendering of "Annie Laurie" was enthusiastically applauded—Miss Adams, by the way, is a niece of Miss Marshall, of Fields Café, and it was exceedingly nice of her to give us this unexpected pleasure.

Results of the bean bag competition were as follows:—

Ladies.—Miss Dee, Hull—Guess 150. Actual number in bag 149.

Gents.—C. Temperton, Hull—Guess 155. Actual number in bag 149.

Miss Dee's prize was a black silk hand-bag and C. Temperton received a cake.

To the three absentees—Featherstone, Hartley and Hill—we sent our sincere regrets that they were unable to complete the family circle, but hope that this may be possible next year. And isn't it surprising how soon "next year" comes after all? E. E. R.

LEEDS MEETING

19TH FEBRUARY 1926

Of Leeds we have quite a lot to say, if only because it proved to be the largest After-Care Reunion yet held, anyway in the provinces. I always thought Yorkshire was capable of rising to the occasion, and now we know. Altogether there were 155 present, and it is marvellous how Mr. Swain managed to have a word with everybody and catch the 5.30 p.m. train back to London, in spite of his long speech. (Not too long, of course.)

The vote of thanks of C. Greaves, Sheffield, was very nicely expressed, and was well seconded by H. Heeley, of Wakefield. Then T. E. Skelly did everybody a good turn when he asked Mr. Swain if he would explain a small matter which might quite easily assume larger proportions in individual cases. Mr. Swain's explanation was very helpful and, as Skelly had predicted, satisfactory to all present.

There must have been many music lovers among us who wondered whatever S. Wright did with his 'cello last year. His solos were lovely, and gave real delight to all. Mr. George Lister kept us in fits of laughter for quite a long time, and brought with him Miss C. Wilks and Mr. H. Harrison. Miss Wilks has a beautiful contralto voice, and Mr. Harrison as a pianist is exceptional. Another St. Dunstaner artist deserving of praise was A. Turrell. He sang "Glorious Devon," but in spite of his good voice it took a considerable amount of gentle

persuasion, and later physical force, to get him within singing distance of the piano, where the clutching hand of Mr. Harrison awaited him.

It has been agreed by a large majority that it is a good scheme, as in this instance, to extend the areas for meetings wherever possible. By combining Sheffield with Leeds a greater number of old acquaintances and friends were able to meet, and many happy incidents were recalled and recounted. The Yorkshire Press has referred to our reunions as "St. Dunstan's Brotherhood," but one wonders if they realise how very appropriate such an expression is for at both Hull and Leeds the atmosphere of "Home and Brotherhood" went hand in hand—a relationship born of splendid understanding, real affection, not a little optimism and everything else in fact that is proof of brotherhood always, and in all ways. E. E. R.

After-Care Concert

It was a very happy thought that suggested itself to some of the After-Care men to give a concert to the present men in training. We knew that many of them had done remarkably well on various public platforms, and the suggestion of an informal entertainment to be given in the lounge, and just for our friends, was particularly gratifying. The date chosen was 11th February, and a packed audience more than filled the lounge and overflowed into Ward 5.

There was a nice "homey" atmosphere, and one sensed the feeling of unity and friendliness that is such a pleasant asset in our big family at St. Dunstan's.

The programme was a very attractive one and each item was so well rendered and gave such obvious pleasure to the listeners that had the artists responded to all the desired encores the dawn of another day might still have found them singing!

Owing to a busy night at the "House," Captain Fraser was unable to be present, but he sent a message of regret and good wishes.

The programme was arranged by Mrs. Branker and the accompaniments were played by some of the ladies who so kindly help with the music at the Bungalow. In a very fluent and happy little speech G. Crook proposed a vote of thanks to the After-Care men, who had given this delightful concert, and voiced the general hope that at no distant date they might again give us a similar treat.

Some excellent refreshments were provided by the generosity of a lady who is a well wisher of St. Dunstan's, and this unexpected little treat was fully appreciated by the boys and their friends. The programme was as follows:—

PROGRAMME

1. S. Webster: Song, "Roadways."
2. M. Burran: Song, "Chip of the Old Block."
3. P. Nuyens: Violin Solo, "Chant Hindou."
4. J. Doubler: Song, "Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes."
5. H. W. Costigan: Song, "The Floral Dance."
6. J. Macfarlane: Song, "Ninety-four To-day."
7. J. Fleming: Song, "Young Dietrich."
8. T. G. Roden: Song, "Douna."
9. M. Doyle: Song, "The Two Grenadiers."

1. P. Nuyens: Violin Solo, "Londonderry Air."
2. M. Burran: Song, "The Gay Highway."
3. J. Doubler: Song, "I Love Thee."
4. S. Webster: Song, "Tommy Lad."
5. T. G. Roden: Song, "The Gypsy Trail."
6. H. W. Costigan: Song, "Prologue from Paggiacci."
7. J. Macfarlane: Song, "When I was Twenty-one."
8. M. Doyle: Song, "Simon the Cellarer."
9. J. Fleming: Song, "Sea Fever."

The little three-year-old daughter of G. J. Webster, of Leeds, who fell and broke her collar-bone a few weeks ago, has now entirely recovered from the effects of her accident.

E. Bryer, of Yate, was largely responsible for the organisation of a very successful dance in aid of St. Dunstan's funds which was held at Iron Acton recently.

Our Baby Competition for Children of Overseas St. Dunstaners

FOR a long time past photographs of every size picturing all kinds of babies have been arriving at the Editor's office. Great, however, as was the temptation in the stern round of work to study individually these delightful pictures of the bairns of the overseas St. Dunstaners, it was resisted, and not until the day of judging arrived were all the photographs displayed.

Our President, Lady (Arthur) Pearson, most willingly consented to act as one of the judges, and the Editor was fortunate in securing also the services of the Art Editor of that great national picture paper, *The Daily Mirror*.

The whole competition, it will be remembered, was purposely made of so open and simple a character that the judges were faced with a task of no small difficulty in making the awards. The entries, it may be stated, reached a very gratifying total, and they came from almost every part of the British Empire where the big family of St. Dunstan's is represented. Babies from South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Tasmania were among the competitors, and it is but the literal truth to say that rarely before can such a collection of sturdy young sons and daughters of the Empire have been entered for a competition of this kind.

Before setting out in detail the names of the prize winners it may be of interest to comment on the high proportion of boys who have secured the judges' verdict, particularly as regards consolation awards. Certainly the girls win the first and second prizes, but as we have said, in the consolation awards the boys very nearly "scoop the pool."

The first prize of £10 is awarded to Dorothy Jean Marie Fairfield, age 3 years 9 months, of 443 Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The second prize of £5 goes to Merle Sylvia Joyner, age 3 years 6 months, of 13 Glencoe Street, Corfield, Melbourne, Australia.

The third prize of £2 10s. is won by Ronald Hoey, age 6 years, of 11 Rupert Street, Subiaco, Western Australia.

The nine consolation awards of £1 1s. each are won by: Doris June Thom (1 year 6 months); Lorne Wesley Sugden (2 years 2 months); Beatrice Jean Mason (2 years); John Rennie Glew (4 years 5 months); Phillip Harold Flatt (3 years 9 months); John Hills (2 years 1 month); Gilbert Walter Hough (6 years); Edwin Mario Nava (6 years); Arthur Thomas Joseph Cooper (3 years 10 months).

It only remains for us to offer our heartiest congratulations not only to the prize winners and their parents, but to all the other little ones, and the fathers and mothers who so worthily uphold the health and beauty of our race. It is probable, we may add, that the photographs of some of the prize winners will secure wide attention by publication in *The Daily Mirror*.

The St. Dunstaner contributor of the recent interesting series of articles on "Canary Breeding," F. Tait, informs us that he has had a very successful season. Among the prizes he has secured have been second, third and Highly Commended at Bolton; first, third, fourth and two Specials at Wigan; first, third and Special at Swinton and Pendlebury; first, Very Highly Commended and Special at Radcliffe; and seventh at the Bradford National Show. A splendid record indeed! We learn that several St. Dunstaners have purchased birds from Tait which they are very pleased with. He is wanting room for improvements in his bird house, and so has a few good cocks and hens for disposal. Particulars appear elsewhere in this issue.



NEWS FROM THE WORKSHOPS AND STORES

BOOT SHOP

THE interest which E. J. Squires is showing in his work will stand him in good stead. He has passed well out of the elementary stages, and is making improvement in all directions. W. H. Bedford also tackles his work very intelligently, and is generally getting on well. With his previous knowledge of the trade, we rather thought that R. W. Comley would have been further on than he is; he still has difficulties in many directions, but his work, during February, has shown general improvement. F. Craddock continues to progress satisfactorily, and we feel sure that, with further experience, he will soon reach a high standard. G. Parrick does good, solid jobs, and gets nice clean edges. He has also been having some experience with hand-sewing and repairing welts. There are points that H. Jones must note, and he is giving them attention, so that we may anticipate that quite shortly he will have mastered the various difficulties that give him trouble at the moment.

BASKET SHOP

A new man this term in the Basket Shop, E. B. Parke, shows very good promise; he has already done barrels and waste papers, and is now on with dog-beds. This speaks well for his future progress. J. B. Dixon still maintains his good standard of work at the Centre Cane table, and he has lately been making rather a speciality of scalloped borders. A waste paper and a pail basket made by H. C. Bayer, in January, were both good, and he has since been tackling some workbaskets. We are expecting that he will be able to get this standard in all his work. J. Percival has been doing a useful variety of work, and is gaining confidence. An improvement in finishing off would be a good thing for him to secure. H. A. Russell

has also been showing ability in tackling various articles; during February there was a decided improvement in his finishing strokes.

MAT SHOP

Two beginners in the Mat Shop are doing quite nicely. T. W. Moore places his thrums well and his cutting and bordering are good. The same can be said of R. Cook, though he has a tendency to use too much hammer. A. J. Bentley continues to progress satisfactorily, and has already started working with coloured fibre, the use of which he judges very well. The general style of his work leads us to expect that he will be quite a good man. We must also again mention O. Cole on account of his very good style of work all round; he has recently done well with a lettered mat. F. J. Shepherd has also been using coloured fibre, and getting satisfactory results with his mats. He continues to do good work in the Boot Shop, getting a very nice clean finish.

JOINERY

Since our last reference W. A. Smith has accomplished a good deal; a shooting-board, trousers press, and oak trays have only been a few of the articles which he has made. He evidently finds the Joiners' Shop a very comfortable place, for he is there at all hours, and we should like to congratulate him on his careful and painstaking work. A new man this term, R. W. R. Thompson, has got through his elementary course in unusually quick time, and the quality of work on his tool chest was excellent. In spite of ill-health A. R. R. Clover has been showing keen interest, and the way in which he is turning out his work is most encouraging; his octagonal table was quite good. S. Aves has also been making very satisfactory progress since Christmas, showing keen interest, and giving every promise of making a capable workman.

W. H. O.

Departmental Notes

Netting Notes

It was about this time of the year in the early spring of 1915 that the first St. Dunstan's string bags were being made. I remember one morning early in April of that year when I made my debut in the lounge, and after a formal introduction by Miss Pain to a peg-frame and a ball of Macrame was asked to carry on. Our acquaintance very soon became an intimate one, although even then I felt that a string bag should not be the beginning and end of our string work, which was why I so soon introduced the netting. But this is another story! We have progressed since then, and the evolution of a string bag has resulted in a perfectly made and useful article with but one fault—it lasts too long! Also, alas! all fashions change, and for the last few years it has been increasingly hard to sell enough bags to keep all our frame workers busy. We got down to this problem when the second season at Wembley was over, and have since then been planning a series of useful woollen articles which can be made on peg-frames and which we hope will be a pleasant occupation for our regular bag workers. A few days' tuition is, of course, necessary, and this we are giving at present to those of our bag workers who are well enough to stay for a few days at Headquarters. We have so far succeeded with children's caps, bedsocks and gaiters—these things being made on special frames. The stitch is a new one, and we don't think that anybody would know that these pretty woolly things have not been knitted on pins. We shall have more to say about this next month, but meanwhile, if any of our readers can send me some bright ideas, we shall be very glad to consider them.

G. H. W.

Braille Notes

Hearty congratulations to T. W. Fletcher and J. Boyce on passing their Braille Writing Test.

Typewriting Notes

Our best wishes to T. Parrick, A. R. Clover, R. W. Comley and H. Buchanan, who have passed their Typewriting Test.

Telephony Notes

Hearty congratulations to the telephonists who have obtained posts this month:—

W. Pearce—Hendon Electric Co.—18th February.

J. Davis—British Thomson Houston Company—22nd February.

S. Bush—Boones & Co., Acton—24th February.

C. Jeffries—Rootes' Motor Garage—26th Feb.

We wish them all every success

M. H. R.

Staff Sergt.-Major J. H. W. Porter, of the Legion of Frontiersmen, who underwent a serious operation last July, is now making good progress towards recovery and is going to the Brighton Annexe in April to recuperate. At a recent meeting of Frontiersmen in Peckham, Lieut. G. F. Morgan extended to him a hearty welcome and he also received the very sincere congratulations of his comrades on his recovery. He was also the subject of kindly reference by the Chairman at the annual dinner of the Park Lodge, R.A.O.B., of which order he is a Primo. He asks us to inform his St. Dunstaner colleagues that he is a printer and will be glad to execute work for them at T.U. prices.

We are glad to hear that the daughter of J. P. Farrell, of St. Leonard's, is doing well as a probationer at the Princess Alice Hospital at Eastbourne. She has chosen a splendid profession.

Friends of E. J. Summers, of Hastings, will be glad to know that his hand, which was badly poisoned, is going on well; it has been a very painful affair, and Summers has had a good deal to endure.

Only the Blind See

By LADY CLARKE.

(A True Story.)

DAISIES and buttercups, clustering round the village war memorial, sent shining chains across the grass to the wild chervil that swept like a bridal veil to the wreathed hawthorn of the hedges. Circling in the blue sky the lark sang ecstatically. The other occupant of my bench beneath the elms sat very still, shading his eyes with his hand.

Two women, whose weeping eulogies of dead sons seemed to reproach the joyous glory of the day, were strewing buttercups round the monument.

"Poor blind souls!" said the man beside me, and I turned indignantly. "Would you have them forget the sacrifice their sons made?" I asked heatedly.

"Sacrifice is only the road," he answered quietly, "and who bothers about the hardships of the road when he has reached the journey's end? If only those women," he waved his hand towards them, "could see, they would know that whoever sent all the glory and beauty of the spring knows how to take care of their sons, who were part of it, better than they could ever do."

I looked at him with a new interest. He had an air of intense concentration as if listening for something even while he spoke. "I knew a man who never saw the beauty of the earth till he'd lost both eyes—nor heard all the ringing melody that God sent into the world for a marching song. Hark at that!" He lifted his face towards the rippling cascade that seemed to flow from the heavens. "He thought of nothing but cocktails and holidays till the war tripped him up. And when he knew he was blind he nearly went mad. Then it came to him somehow that you could see more in the shade than when the sun was dazzling you, and from that minute he began to see things he'd never seen before."

"He must have been a religious man," I hazarded.

"I don't think so, ma'am. He just wakened up inside, and learned to see and

hear all round him the wonder and beauty of the world, and to know himself one with it. He only became alive when he was blind. Bit by bit he learned what those fellows," he nodded towards the Cenotaph, "learned all at once. I suppose you might call his a sacrifice too—just the road."

He stood up to go—six feet high and magnificently built. And as he moved away, his fine head lifted towards the sky, he tapped with his stick along the grassy edge of the path.

He had been talking of himself.

"Abide with Me."

The following letter, which appeared in *The Times* recently, should be of particular interest to St. Dunstaners, since the Rev. Henry Francis Lyte, author of "Abide with Me," was the great-grandfather of Sir Arthur Pearson. He died barely two months after writing the hymn.

AN ANSWERED PRAYER

To the Editor of "The Times."

SIR,—As one of the few living descendants of the author of the hymn "Abide with Me," which nightly thrills the great audience in the Wembley Stadium, I have been greatly interested in the correspondence in *The Times*. It is only those who know the tragic circumstances under which this beautiful hymn was written who can explain the inner meaning of the words "Fast falls the eventide."

My great-grandfather, the Rev. Henry Francis Lyte, the author of the hymn, was vicar of Lower Brixham, in those days a picturesque little fishing village on the shores of Torbay. He was the author of numerous poems and hymns, some of which are in "Hymns Ancient and Modern." During the latter part of his life he devoted himself to the service of the humble fisher folk of Brixham, among whom were many of his best friends. His labours undermined his health, but he persisted in his noble work until his health broke down completely under the strain and his doctor told him he must go abroad at once. He was then dying of consumption. He preached his farewell sermon the following Sunday evening in Lower Brixham Church and, after the service, walked slowly home to his house at Berry Had. It happened that on that night there was one of those glorious sunsets which are sometimes to be seen at Torbay. The sun was setting in a blaze of glory and the purple hills of distant Dartmoor stood out darkly against a flaming sky. In the foreground was Brixham harbour like a pool of molten gold. Several times on

the way home the poet stopped to rest and to gaze on this wonderful manifestation of nature. We can well imagine his feelings. He had just said "Good-bye" for the last time to his parishioners, and he knew that he had only a few weeks at most to live. The setting day reminded him insistently of his life, which was drawing swiftly to its close.

It was during this walk that he prayed that before he died he might be allowed to write one message of consolation to humanity which would endure for ever. On arriving home he went to his study and there and then wrote the immortal hymn which has enriched our language and brought comfort and consolation to millions. His prayer was, indeed, answered. No one who knows the circumstances under which the hymn was written can sing it without feeling some of the emotion which inspired the poet as he wrote about the eventide of his own life. The final verse, which is, perhaps, the finest and most beautiful of all, represents the triumph of faith and hope over despair:—

"Hold Thou Thy Cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom and point me to
the skies,
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain
shadows flee,
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me."

Yours faithfully,

W. MAXWELL-LYTE.

37 Onslow Square, S.W.7.

Births

COOKSON.—On the 5th of February, a daughter to the wife of J. W. Cookson, of Hornsey.

DUNCAN.—On the 3rd February, to the wife of S. Duncan, of Sutton, a daughter.

GILL.—On the 1st February, to the wife of C. Gill, of Teddington, a daughter.

GLENDENNAN.—On the 4th of January, a son (Frank Percival), to the wife of H. G. Glendennan, of Kilcullen.

HORNSBY.—On the 30th of January, to the wife of A. J. Hornsby, of Sheffield, a daughter.

LAWLOR.—On the 14th of February, to the wife of G. Lawlor, of Blackenhall, near Walsall, a daughter (Alice Agatha). Mr. and Mrs. Lawlor have seven sons; Alice Agatha is the first girl.

LAWLOR.—On the 12th of January, to the wife of J. Lawlor, of Dublin, a daughter (Emily).

MACFARLANE.—On the 29th of January, to the wife of J. Macfarlane, of Dundee, a son (Robert Fairley).

MAHER.—On the 28th of December, 1925, a daughter (Rosina Elizabeth) to the wife of H. Maher, of New Kent Road,

MORRIS.—On the 21st of January, to the wife of D. H. Morris, of Brecon, a daughter (Eileen Myfanwy).

MOSS.—On the 24th January, to the wife of E. Moss, of Pelsall, a daughter (Olive).

MURPHY.—On the 9th of January, to the wife of W. Murphy, of Liverpool, a daughter (Elizabeth).

MYFORD.—On the 27th of December, 1925, a son (Dennis Banham), to the wife of H. Myford, of Burnham-on-Crouch.

OLLINGTON.—On the 18th of January, to the wife of H. C. Ollington, of Earlsfield, a son.

POOLE.—On the 25th of January, a son to the wife of I. H. Poole, of East Cowes, Isle of Wight.

POWELL.—On the 28th of January, to the wife of G. Powell, of Stretton, a son.

SPACKMAN.—On the 19th of January, to the wife of F. W. Spackman, of Watford, a daughter.

STAMP.—On the 25th of September, 1925, a daughter, to the wife of W. Stamp, of Keelby.

TOOTELL.—On the 4th of February, to the wife of T. Tootell, of Upton Park, a daughter (Margaret Alice).

RANDALL.—On the 30th of January, a daughter, to the wife of H. Randall, of Brighton.

WICKEN.—On the 6th of February, to the wife of V. Wicken, of Birmingham, a daughter.

A much appreciated gift of a crystal wireless set with two head-phones has been made to the sick-ward at Headquarters. The generous donor is Mrs. Hutchinson, of 72 Kensington Park Road, W.11. Matron humourously tells us that she hopes the gift will not have the drawback of making the sick-ward too popular.

High Power De Luxe

FACTS ABOUT DAVENTRY STATION

Twinkle. Twinkle. Twinkle! What is that? people ask. High up in the sky, two little lights go in and out in a fascinating manner. They are beacons on the top of the two gigantic steel towers of the new High-Power station of the British Broadcasting Co. at Daventry, a warning to low-flying aircraft.

Can you imagine seven cricket pitches, end to end, in a line? More, can you imagine them standing up in the air? If you can, you will have an idea of the height of the two three-cornered aerial masts. Stretched across the six hundred feet between them is the aerial. Like a ghost of an enormous breakfast sausage it seems, for it consists of ten wires kept apart by hoops which are two or three times as big as those which children play with. And this monster aerial sags in the middle for a distance equal to the height of an ordinary house.

SWAYING TOWERS

When the wind blows, the tops of these five hundred feet towers can sway for two or three feet. That is because they rest on curved supports—flattened pudding-basins made of steel. You can put your hand between the bottom of the masts and the rounded supports. Near each mast is a large winch for raising and lowering the aerial.

Walking in a circle, about two hundred feet across, under the aerial, you will pass over a number of zinc plates, each six feet long, which are buried in the ground. These correspond to the water-tap connection which you may have on your receiving set. They are part of the earthing system.

In the little red brick buildings, situated between the two masts, are the power room, the transmitter room, offices, a temporary studio and store rooms.

Current is supplied by the Northampton Electric Light and Power Company, and the energy used, including valve lighting, is about a hundred horse-power.

A NAME TO CONJURE WITH

Amateur wireless enthusiasts are careful enough about their valves, but what of the 108 valves used at this station? If they were broken, they would cost £3,690 to replace! Eighteen of them are cooled by twenty gallons of rain water which pass over them every minute. Each of the working valves is capable of dealing with the electrical equivalent of seven horse-power, which is about the same as that of a small two-seater car.

Perhaps you think of condensers only as small plates of metal at the back of your set which interleave when you manipulate your turning knobs. But at this High-Power station you can see two condensers almost twice as high as a man!

There is something awe-inspiring about the place.

Daventry! A name to conjure with, a milestone in the triumphant march of British radio engineering.

K. P. H.

Thirteen Scotsmen were travelling in a railway carriage, and they were rather superstitious and wanted one to go to another compartment, so they decided to toss. One of them took a sixpence from his pocket, tossing it in the air, it fell out of the window, and the whole thirteen got run over.

STOCK-TAKING.

All men are earnestly requested to order any raw materials they require **AT ONCE**, so that deliveries can be made to them in the week ending **March 27th**. Stock has to be taken at the end of March, and the Works will be closed for that purpose on **Wednesday, March 31st**, and **Thursday, April 1st**. Payments for Finished Goods cannot be made on those days.

W. H. O.

The Silver Lining

(From the *Georgetown Chronicle*.)

One advantage of being at the bottom is that you can get no further down. And the room for an upward movement is as great as it can possibly be.

From the bottom of a well or a mine you can see stars not visible by day at the surface of the earth. From the depths of affliction or humiliation you learn truths not before.

"I climb when I lie down," wrote Henry Vaughn, the English mystic. When fate knocks us flat, it does no good to lie there moaning, and petting our bruises. We must get to our feet and go on playing the game.

They said of one captain of industry that if he went down on a sinking ship, he would bob to the surface again with his pockets full of fish. As an old song cheerily reminds us: "You can't keep a good man down, no matter how hard you try."

From stories of failure and inspiring retrieval afterward, we learn more than we do from these biographies that glitter with invariable success. We find a great musician like Schubert selling his best songs for twenty cents apiece but never losing heart and filling the world with strains of immemorial beauty. Sir Arthur Pearson, at the crest of his success with a chain of magazines, was stricken blind—and straightway bent all his energies to help other men deprived like himself of the light of day.

A famous architect, made stone deaf by an accident, knows Kipling's "If" by heart. He is fond of reciting the lines:

"And lose, and start again at your beginnings,
And never breathe a word about your loss."

"The ability to do that," he says, "makes the difference between a big man and a little one."

Get "that Comradeship feeling" and you make life jollier, warmer, more interesting, both for yourself and for other people.—*Hamilton Fyfe*.

Relics of Regent's Park

By the kindness of Mr. Taylor, the foreman in charge of a work of considerable magnitude which is just now being undertaken—the laying of a cable through the Outer Circle of Regent's Park—some interesting souvenirs have come into our possession. These take the form of six sections of the ancient wooden water-pipes which many years since were used in the place of the large iron mains which we all know so well. The sections, which vary from ten to fifteen inches in diameter, and which have been sawn to a thickness of about two inches each, form quaint and interesting relics of Regent's Park in the past.

It is the opinion of the authorities that these pipes were laid down about the year 1701, and must have been in use for about 100 years, as the first record we have of a cast-iron pipe being laid in London was about the year 1806.

The sections would, when smoothed and polished, be possible of use as a mounting for a clock, a stand for a jardiniere, and, indeed, many other purposes. It is felt that many St. Dunstaners who have such close associations with Regent's Park would be eager to possess such a souvenir as these sections provide, and we have decided to present them to the first six applicants whose letters are opened on the morning of 10th April next.

We offer Mr. Taylor, on St. Dunstan's behalf, sincere thanks for his kindly thought of us in this matter. Incidentally, it may be of interest to mention that his gift was the outcome of a purely chance meeting just recently with the Editor, who, when concerned in the early days of the war with raising a unit, had enlisted Mr. Taylor (who later rose to Warrant Officer rank) as one of the first recruits.

Hostess (to violinist at reception):
"What are you doing?"

Musician: "Tuning up, madam."

Hostess: "What! Tuning up *now*?
Why, I engaged you three months ago!



ST. DUNSTANERS OVERSEAS.

PRIZE WINNERS IN THE BABIES' COMPETITION.

Reading from left to right, the photographs show:—

Top.—John Hills, of Ryde, New South Wales, Australia; Gilbert Hough, of Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia, South Africa; and Phillip Flatt, of Mitcham, Victoria, Australia. *Centre*.—John Glew, of Victoria, Australia; Lorne Sugden, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; and Beatrice Mason, of Natal, South Africa. *Bottom*.—Arthur Cooper, of Toronto, Canada; Edwin Nava, of Johannesburg, South Africa; and Doris Thom, of Melbourne, Australia.

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