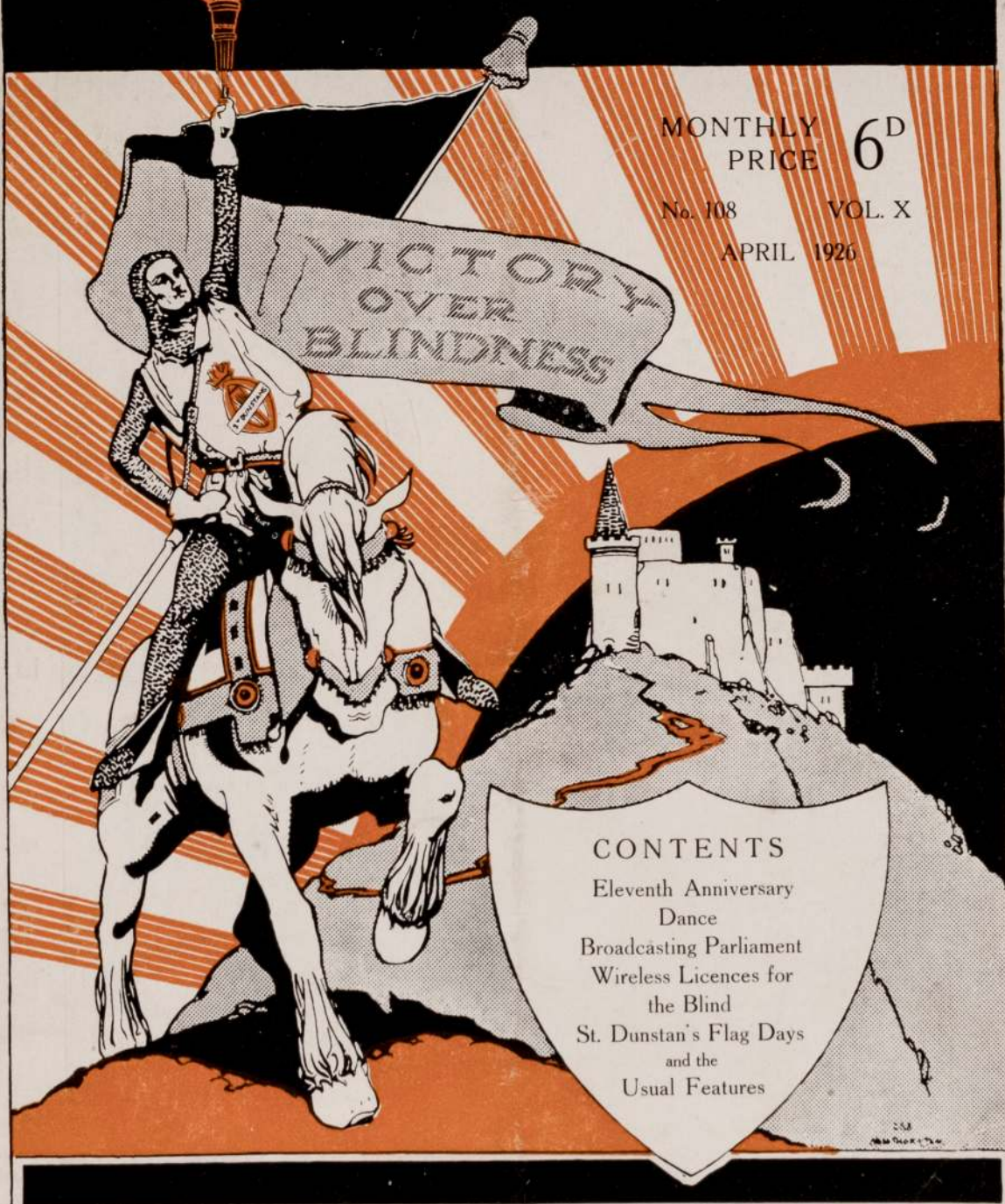


ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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APRIL 1926



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St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY PERRY BARRINGER

No. 108.—VOLUME X.

APRIL, 1926.

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

EDITORIAL

WE have many times in these pages urged the importance of our After-Care men keeping in as close touch as possible with the local residents to whom they look for orders for the goods they make or for the work they do. A particularly favourable opportunity of doing this is provided by the circular tour of a considerable number of the large towns, which is being made by the Wembley (On Tour) Exhibition. St. Dunstaners will be aware that our Organisation is effectively represented in this Exhibition and has its own stall in charge of Staff members, fully provided with literature and an attractive display of the goods our men make. Furthermore, arrangements have been in force at each town visited by the Exhibition, to have available for distribution a "Directory of St. Dunstaners" resident in or near the town. These little booklets, which include also some informative and interesting notes on the work done and the goods produced by our men, have been in great demand everywhere the Exhibition visits, and we cannot doubt have been productive, directly and indirectly, of a considerable increase in the orders our men have taken. As we have pointed out, however, in the opening of this note, St. Dunstaners can greatly increase the value of our efforts on their behalf by close liaison with the Exhibition when it is in their particular neighbourhood. As many personal visits as time and business allow should most certainly be paid to the Exhibition, and in this way, and with the aid of the Staff in charge of our exhibit, many potential customers may be met and orders booked.

We publish on page 11 of this issue, for the information of our readers, a list of the towns the Exhibition will be touring, but as there are, from time to time, necessarily alterations in the itinerary, we shall, in addition, print prominently in the REVIEW each month the next two or three centres to be visited, and the period during which the Exhibition will stay. There is a good old proverb which says: "Heaven helps those who help themselves," and St. Dunstaners have always so splendidly supported the consistent efforts made by Headquarters to further their interests that we are sure the opportunity we have outlined in the foregoing observations will not be neglected.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION (ON TOUR)

St. Dunstaners should note that Wembley (On Tour) will visit the following towns on the following dates: The Drill Hall, Chester, 21st April to 30th April; Colston Hall, Bristol, 4th May to 20th May; Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, 24th May to 12th June.

St. Dunstan's Eleventh Anniversary

Gay Scene at the Bungalow Dance

AS in former years, the eleventh anniversary of the founding of St. Dunstan's was celebrated by a fancy dress dance at which St. Dunstaners, past or present, and their lady friends were welcome guests. In view of the congestion which had prevailed on previous occasions—the Bungalow, although large, having limits as regards dancing accommodation—it was felt desirable this year to make admission by ticket only, these being obtainable, as announced in these columns, from Matron. The idea worked admirably, and there were certainly quite as many St. Dunstaners as in previous years, while the floor was not inconveniently crowded for dancing.

Matron and her ever-willing staff had worked like Trojans to ensure that the catering, decorations, and, in fact, everything that could minister to the success of the evening, was in perfect trim. Indeed, the hearty vote of thanks which, at the end of the proceedings, was passed to Matron and her staff, was but the seal on the adulatory comments we heard on all sides throughout the evening from visitors.

Although, perhaps, there were not quite so many fancy dresses as usual, yet St. Dunstaners and their escorts showed as great effectiveness and ingenuity as ever. A handsome list of prizes were to be competed for, and the judge this year, Mrs. Hilton Phillipson, M.P., who had most kindly consented to undertake this duty, confessed she had a hard task to decide the final order of merit—indeed, we may whisper that so pleased was she with some of the dresses for which no prizes were available, that she very generously added to the number herself.

Dancing was in full swing very soon after eight o'clock, and when, about nine o'clock, Captain Fraser, accompanied by Mrs. Phillipson, arrived, the company

were probably glad of the pause necessitated by the parade for judging and the taking of photographs. Before the prize-winners were announced by Matron, Captain Fraser, in a brief speech, heartily welcomed the guests, and said how disappointed Mrs. Fraser, who he was glad to say was rapidly recovering from her recent operation, was at not being with them. He expressed on behalf of the whole company their very great pleasure at having among them that evening so distinguished and charming a representative of her sex as Mrs. Hilton Phillipson, who, he added, many St. Dunstaners would know also as Miss Mabel Russell, to whom they had been indebted for delightful entertainments in the old days. (Cheers.) He could assure them also that since he had taken up work in Parliament Mrs. Phillipson had been one of his kindest and best friends.

After briefly reviewing the satisfactory position of St. Dunstan's to-day, both from a financial standpoint and from the splendid record of progress and achievement of its men everywhere, Captain Fraser paid hearty tribute to the loyal support he, and the whole of the Executive and Administrative Staff, had always had from the men of St. Dunstan's. "Without your help, your loyalty, your pride in St. Dunstan's, and your determination always to uphold its fine record, our organisation could not and would not stand in the proud and stable position it does to-day," he said. As proof of the industry and well-being of St. Dunstan's men, Captain Fraser mentioned that the output of finished articles by our men had increased during the past year by no less than 25 per cent. It would be obvious to them that such an increase—proof of ability and industry though it was—necessitated an increase in sales also. Here, again, he was glad to tell them that our men had kept their end

Broadcasting Parliamentary Debates

LISTENERS-IN everywhere have followed with keen interest the discussions which have been taking place as to the possibility of broadcasting the proceedings of Parliament. Our Chairman, Captain Fraser, is definitely in favour of this being done, and in a letter from him, which appeared in *The Times* of the 19th March, and which we print below, he gives his reasons for his advocacy of this innovation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—May I submit some reasons why certain specially selected portions of the proceedings of Parliament should be broadcast?

(1) It is to the advantage of the nation that interest in and knowledge of political matters should be as widespread as possible, and an occasional broadcast may awaken interest in the minds of many who at present pay little attention to these matters.

(2) During important debates there is always a large number of people who cannot get into the Public Galleries owing to lack of space. Listening to a broadcast is not a complete alternative, but it would be a source of partial satisfaction.

(3) Many cannot go into the Galleries because they live at a distance, or are sick or infirm.

(4) There is a real public interest attaching to the voices and manner of delivery of the leaders of our political parties.

(5) There is a tendency nowadays for certain newspapers to report Parliamentary proceedings so briefly that what is said by the leaders, even on important occasions, is not always adequately presented. In the majority of cases an individual will buy one paper only, and one aspect of the case is likely to be unduly stressed.

May I make it clear that it has not been seriously suggested by any of those who are interested in and have studied the problem, that the whole of a debate should be broadcast. It is desired only that certain specially selected portions, such as the speeches made by the Opposition leader and the Government Front Bench speaker in winding up an important debate, between, say, 10 and 11 p.m., should be transmitted, and this only at rare intervals, when the subject is important.

I believe there are some who think that advantage might be taken of such a broadcast by one or two individual members to secure notoriety by vocal interruptions. If the broadcast is fair and impartial, I think the fear of this is exaggerated, and even if it should occur there can, I suggest, be no harm in the electorate actually hearing it. Indeed, at present they frequently read exaggerated versions of these incidents.

up well, and although the Sales Organisation at Headquarters had dealt effectively with the larger in-put, St. Dunstaners also had shown themselves able to increase in excellent ratio the extent of their own local market. All this was an exceedingly healthy state of affairs, and he heartily congratulated them upon it.

Captain Fraser concluded by asking the company to show in St. Dunstan's own way their appreciation of Mrs. Phillipson's presence among them that night. She had, in a busy time, come a long way and had a long way to go home.

Responding to enthusiastic cheers, Mrs. Phillipson, in a charming little speech, expressed the extreme pleasure and delight it gave her to accept her friend, Captain Fraser's, invitation to come to St. Dunstan's again—a very wonderful place of which she had the happiest recollections. She congratulated them most heartily upon the splendid effectiveness of the fancy dresses, and thanked them for the kindly welcome they had given her. (Applause.)

Matron then announced the prize winners as follows:—

First prize: "Bedtime Stories," A. Gaffney.

Second prize: "Tyred Out," P. Cookson.

Third prize: "John Bull," Drummer Downes.

Fourth prize: "Apache," Taffy Edwards.

Other prizewinners included H. V. Thompson, H. R. Potter, C. Peach, E. B. Parke, F. Harrison, F. Craddock, R. Cook, S. Aitkin, B. Toole, and W. A. Bowring.

The prizes were given by the following: Lady (Arthur) Pearson, Captain and Mrs. Fraser, Colonel Ball, Miss Reade ("Auntie"), Mr. Kessell, Mrs. Phillipson, Mr. Jones, Mr. Titcombe, Mrs. Wier and Miss R. Davis.

After full justice had been done to the heavily loaded refreshment tables, dancing was resumed, and went on merrily until the time for departure came, the unanimous opinion being that the eleventh anniversary dance had eclipsed all previous gatherings in the pleasurable hours it had provided.

There is a technical safeguard here, for I am advised by the Chief Engineer of the British Broadcasting Company that it would be desirable for technical reasons, and to avoid moving an instrument in the middle of the Parliamentary proceedings, for two microphones to be installed on or near the Dispatch Box, one facing the Government and the other the Opposition. If a back-bench member of one side desired to interrupt the speech of the Leader of the other side, the live microphone would have its back to him, and would be infinitely less sensitive to his utterances than it would be to the speech it was transmitting.

The forthcoming Budget speech would, I suggest, provide an admirable opportunity for experimenting to see if this innovation is useful and appreciated. There is, perhaps, a special reason why the Budget speech should be broadcast, namely, that a very large number of people indeed wait with some anxiety to know what are its provisions, and there would appear to be no adequate reason for denying them the satisfaction of this desire a minute longer than is really necessary. I feel that a real contribution which science may make towards the interest, education, and satisfaction of our people should not be lightly regarded or left unexplored.

Yours faithfully,

IAN FRASER.

St. John's Lodge, Regent's Park, N.W.1.
18th March 1926.

On Monday, 22nd March, the Prime Minister, in answer to a question in the House, said: "I have consulted with the leaders of the other parties, and have obtained information through the usual channels. I have come to the conclusion that there is a greatly preponderating body of opinion against broadcasting the proceedings of this House." Captain Fraser thereupon asked a Supplementary Question as follows: "Does not the right hon. gentleman think there is a section of the community which would like to have this matter investigated; and will he consider the provision of some machinery whereby the question can be further examined?" In response to this further inquiry the Prime Minister stated: "It is quite obvious that if there is any body of opinion in this House whose views have not been brought before me I shall be pleased to consider those views; and it is possible there may be an opportunity before the end of this session to discuss the matter. I cannot say more at present."

St. Dunstan's on the Razzle

[Miss McCall, St. Dunstan's Musical Director, and Miss Munro, our pianist, not long since took the "St. Dunstan's Singers" to Swansea, to sing at a large Church social and to broadcast from the Swansea station. The desire being expressed to tell other St. Dunstaners through THE REVIEW of the interesting experience, a little competition was started for the best article on the subject, contributions being sent in without the judges knowing who had written them. As a result, the first prize was given to F. A. Rhodes (Number 39), and the second to A. Osmond. We have much pleasure in printing below Rhodes' brightly written sketch.—ED.]

The talent of St. Dunstan's singers, not being appreciated at Savoy Hill (the London Studio of the B.B.C.), it became necessary for them to travel to foreign climes to broadcast their ability as singers resultant on the untiring efforts of Miss Eva McCall and Miss Munro.

It was with light hearts that ten of the "Singers," with Miss McCall and Miss Munro as chaperones, entrained at Paddington for Swansea. The toast of St. Dunstan's is "For Good Food and Good Fellowship, thank God," and not even the most casual observer could fail to see, as we sped through the Royal County of Berkshire on to Swansea, how true in the fullest meaning the toast was, for the food car was like Rachael's well, ever abundant with good things, and good fellowship. Everyone knows that "Fellowship" is the foundation word of St. Dunstan's, right through from the smallest Boy Scout to the Chairman, Captain Fraser. Happiness was our watchword, even when one of our party had to send out an "S.O.S." owing to the luck of the cards being against him.

Cardiff was a prominent landmark, for at this point a very sweet friend took possession of the knee accommodation of each member—do not get alarmed—it was an innocent tea basket. Then there was silence in the camp, for we all got well into our nose-bags.

"Swansea in sight," cried the look-out. Then came the order "Stand by your kit, wash and brush up and disembark." Everything had been planned to the clock. A private bus drove us off to the Swansea depot of the B.B.C. At last we were to broadcast. Awe-inspired, our leader, with bated breath, waited for the results of the test. "All's well," was the verdict. After broadcasting for half an hour, we went to the "Patti Pavilion." Here we had a very good feed, yes, we had lots to eat, but singing makes one hungry. From 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. we inflicted ourselves on about 1,000 Taffy folk, who gave us a wonderful reception, whether it was sentimental or genuine I will leave others to decide. After the concert an impromptu dance was the next item of the programme. Most of us took a sweet Taffy

lass round the ball room, for, in addition to singing, we love to dance with the girls of the village.

Ultimately, after a very enjoyable outing, we each allowed ourselves to be led away, not unwillingly, to kind folk who voluntarily gave us hospitality. More feeding, and a little talk on St. Dunstan's, and then up the wooden hill to roost, but not for me—I just lay there and lived those twelve hours over again—they were too enjoyable to lose in slumberland. The ordeal was 7.15 a.m. the next morning, when we had to roll out for shave, breakfast and entrain en route for Paddington, homeward bound. Most of us have received invitations to revisit Swansea and the kind friends who gave us hospitality, and I have yet to find the man who replied in the negative.

What Wireless Means to the Blind

Many contributions have appeared from time to time in the REVIEW appreciative of the great boon which wireless has conferred on those without sight. From an article by Mr. J. Macrae, who is himself blind, which was published in the March number of the "Strand Magazine," we give the following extract, which we think our readers will find not only interesting in itself from its vivid word painting, but also an intuitive description of what wireless means to the Blind.—ED.

"SOMEONE suggested a wireless set. This did not greatly appeal to me at first, but it was not long before I found it one of my greatest pleasures. Then one night I listened in to a demonstration of broadcasting given by General Carty from Chicago. The whole country was for the first time linked together within the sound of one man's voice. This gave me the thrill of my life. We heard the 'Meditation' from 'Thaïs' played on a violin in Havana, and 'Home, Sweet Home' played on the chimes in San Francisco. We discovered it was warmer that night in Denver, Colorado, than in Jacksonville, Florida.

"Memory and imagination stirred as I followed the answering voices from sunny, tropical Cuba, through Florida, the Carolinas, and Virginia to Pittsburg—to busy Chicago, out across the snow-covered prairies to the City of the Latter-Day Saints; up the slopes of the Rockies to Denver—to Nevada, and down to the

balmy shores of the Pacific. I reached San Francisco breathless and excited, as if I had been running all the way.

"I had crossed the continent so often that I could visualise most of the places on the line. I could hear the roar of traffic on Market Street, San Francisco, and the never-ceasing wash of the surf on the Cuban beaches. To me, a prisoner, it was freedom again—the freedom to travel and meet men and women, and see cities and mountains, and ships at sea silhouetted against the sky as they pass across the horizon.

"There can be no doubt that wireless brings the shut-in person more in touch with the world of actuality and activity than anything else. Lectures make up for some of the reading one cannot do (and misses so much), and there is a great deal of good music to be heard in a city like New York. Everything from church services to jazz is there, and often there is a surprising selection from which to choose."



NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS

OUR last cold spell evidently gave a "boost" to the coal trade which otherwise might have been expected to have been dull, so A. Pink, of Somerset, is able to report himself as being quite busy.

"All well" is the satisfactory news from H. C. Ollington, of Earlsfield. He is busy with boots and mats, as usual, but has found time to make some alterations and improvements in his house. The little son is growing splendidly, we are glad to hear.

Carpentry is absorbing the energy of T. Eaton, of Liverpool, who, by the way, has been in much better health since his Brighton holiday. He is now at work on an interesting cupboard ordered by a local J.P.

What with his grocery store and the making of mats, H. Edge, of Worsthorne, Burnley, has few leisure moments. He is to be congratulated on the way he has built up his business.

J. Warren's recent removal in Macclesfield has been a most satisfactory venture from his point of view. He is looking decidedly better for the change, and likes the business he has taken over immensely. We are looking forward to hearing of great developments in the future.

As the racing season has now begun, other St. Dunstaners may like to take warning from T. H. Marshall's unpleasant experience. He lost not only a Treasury note, but his watch, at one meeting, having both stolen from him. Now that Marshall is fit again he has been busy with mats and boot repairs and has had

quite a number of orders. When these run slack he devotes his energy to the redecorating of his house, which looks exceedingly nice.

Teaching is proving as absorbing a profession as P. Sumner, of Worcester, expected it to be, while the school and its concerns have naturally given him a new world of interests. He is much to be congratulated on having found what is evidently his vocation. Good luck to him in his next examination.

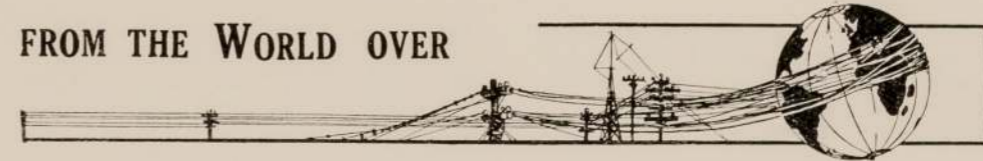
It is pleasant to hear that J. Nolan, of Hinstock, is doing as well with his pigs as with his poultry. He is as full of enthusiastic and original schemes as ever. No wonder he makes good progress.

News from A. Doyle is rare, so his friends will be the more pleased to learn that all is well with him, barring the after-effects of a "flu" cold. But, while he is doing well, he intends to do better, and is at present working hard with a view to becoming a lecturer. We wish him all possible success.

The many interests of J. C. Brown, of Wellington, keep him busy and contented. He gets around the country well on his tandem, and is as enthusiastic a fisherman as ever; his inn is a popular meeting-ground in the district. Brown's little daughter had a most unpleasant experience the other day, being run over by a motor. The accident was not as serious as it might have been, however, although she was badly cut. We are glad to be able to say that she has quite recovered from the effects of the adventure.

From Scarborough comes word of F. Crabtree who has been fortunate enough

FROM THE WORLD OVER



to secure an extra piece of land adjoining his garden and is hard at work upon it. He expects it will be very useful when he is able to develop his poultry farm as he hopes to do shortly. At present his egg supply is about 100 a week and he has a steady customer in a near-by hotel.

Another Scarborough man is J. H. Tindall, and he, too, is working away gallantly and makes nothing of his mile-long, uphill walk to his poultry ground. His weekly average is something like 300 eggs, and like Crabtree he could dispose of more.

As a mat worker J. Brockerton, of Coleraine, is doing splendidly. Among his recent orders were two large mats for the Town Hall, three for the Cottage Hospital, and several for motor-car owners in the neighbourhood. Can anyone beat this?

The news from J. Boyce, of Belfast, is almost as good. For some weeks past now he has been kept steadily at work every day in the week except Sunday.

Another of the Irish group who reports "plenty of work ahead" is S. Holmes, also of Belfast. We know that he is unsparing of his effort and takes a real interest in everything he does.

Some time ago A. Wilkins, of Portsmouth, was advised to lead an outdoor life, so he decided to take up a tea agency. His friends will be glad to know that he has succeeded in developing this on very steady lines and finds it quite enjoyable in the good weather.

Although Portsdown Hill is rather out of the way from a business point of view, it is so healthy that W. S. Horsley likes it. He and some friends have started a

concert party and we hope to hear more of its doings later. It should give interesting occupation and lead to the making of friends, all of which is to the good.

If Wembley-on-Tour has been of as much interest to the general public as it has to St. Dunstaners it should have done a lot of good. G. Davis, of Newent, was one of the visitors while it was at Cheltenham, and he not only enjoyed going round the exhibits himself, but gave a good deal of pleasure to some of the ex-officers in charge of the sections, we hear, owing to his real and personal knowledge of Eastern matters.

While speaking of Wembley-on-Tour mention should be made of A. E. Eden, who made a lettered fibre mat for the British Guiana section which gained the admiration of everyone. It was a splendid piece of work, we hear.

The measles-pneumonia-chicken-pox epidemic among young St. Dunstaners is on the wane, but several are still on the sick-list. Of all the bad luck that has been experienced perhaps the family of H. Taylor, of Chesterfield, has had the worst. Since Christmas three of the children have had measles with pneumonia and now the four of them have chicken-pox. Fortunately they are all on the mend at last, but Mrs. and Mr. Taylor must have had a very trying and anxious time. The only optimistic thing to be said is that the family must assuredly have a clean bill of health for a long time to come since they have got through these youthful afflictions in such a wholesale manner. Wireless is Taylor's latest hobby. The set no doubt proved a boon to the invalids.

Are many of our St. Dunstaners clubmen? W. H. Wright, of Barlborough, gets

a goodly amount of pleasure from the local club of which he is a member. It provides him with opponents for dominoes, crib, and even billiards, which he plays with the help of a pal.

The new house in Fareham to which F. Cooper moved just about Christmas is proving very comfortable. An extra joy is a good large piece of garden where Cooper intends to keep some poultry before long. He is busy at the moment on an excellent mat order for a near-by hospital—one of the kind of orders from which others often develop.

Another satisfactory home is that occupied by W. Lowings, of Eastleigh. It has a nice little garden, and the roses Mrs. Lowings has been cultivating are so promising that she hopes to show some. We are sure Lowings will be proud if she carries off a prize.

Many of our shopkeepers were prepared for a busy Easter, particularly those selling sweets. Among these was J. W. Birchall, of St. Helens. His own particular line is joinery, however, and he contrives to get a fair number of local orders.

Another St. Helens man is R. Smith, who finds his chief occupation in helping, with his brothers, in the running of a billiard hall. In addition he has a drapery business which he works with the valuable aid of his wife.

"Very well, indeed," is the satisfactory news from J. H. Debnam, of N. Wales. He has just become the proud possessor of a wireless set and his birds are laying regularly.

Here is the direct result of a well-placed calendar; let others profit by it! At Christmas, G. Matthews, of Haydeck, thoughtfully gave one of his calendars to the wife of a police-sergeant in his

district, since which several orders for children's clogs have come his way from police sources. It seems that the Force has a fund for providing poor children with boots and clogs, and that the sergeants in the various districts issue "orders" for these to the needy parents, when they are sent to local shopkeepers. Matthew's calendar has helped to keep him in mind.

Trade is beginning to come in, according to E. J. Blundell, of Cardiff, and we are not surprised, for the workshed he has built for himself would inspire anyone with confidence. The window and door were a present, but all the rest of the shed Blundell has made himself, unaided, and it is a thoroughly good piece of work. It should prove very comfortable, too, and is lined with matchboarding. Young Blundell, aged eight months, is evidently going to follow in his father's footsteps, he is a most energetic youngster and a boy to be proud of.

From Llanely comes news of T. Bowen, who says he is enjoying the netting upon which he is now at work. He is another of the many St. Dunstaners blessed with a promising family. His boy is doing well at the boot shop where he has found employment and the eldest girl has quite a number of music pupils, among them a younger sister who has just carried off honours at a musical examination, we believe.

Another Llanely man is D. Fenton, who works away steadily at his mats, taking the utmost pains over all he does.

Baskets keep D. O. Evans, of Llan-samlet, busy, and he has succeeded in working up quite a nice local trade. There was consternation in the happy home awhile ago, for the son and heir fell and cut his head rather badly, but luckily Mrs. Evans was at hand and rushed him off to the doctor's in hot haste, to be properly stitched up, so already there is little sign of damage.

In Swansea, W. D. John is experiencing a somewhat slack time, as is natural at this season, but is wisely using the lull to prepare for a coming spurt of trade; we hope it will be a good summer. The shop is most excellently set out and noticeably clean and tidy, we hear.

One of the busiest of men is J. E. Davies, of Llandyssel. The cowshed and barn are almost finished and the livestock are going on well, indeed, they have increased, for a new calf has just made its appearance. Davies talks of fixing up his mat frame in the loft, where he will have a good rainy-day workshop and is full of schemes concerning his poultry, and some fruit trees, on the planting of which he is meditating.

Poultry men will sympathise with a streak of bad luck recently encountered by W. Last, of Pencader. He lost his first two lots of spring hatchings, owing to the cold, and the third set through the overheating of the incubator, which ruined his eggs.

A number of new houses are being built in Woking which should lead to an increase of work for everyone in the district. Among those whose hopes are high is A. G. Peto. We send him our good wishes.

Another who looks upon new residents as his future friends and clients is P. Brown, of Robin Hood Road, who is working away hard at mats. The garden, too, is interesting him and his bulbs are coming on nicely.

A very nasty accident has befallen the wife of L. Ilsley and we are sure everyone will sympathise with her. She broke a needle in her hand and had to go to hospital to have it X-rayed and then taken out with a local anæsthetic. The operation took an hour and a half and the piece of needle was almost an inch long. The hand is naturally very painful even yet.

Another with local orders for his wares (mats) is C. F. Spiers, of Oxford. He is one of the fortunate ones who always seem to have plenty of work in view.

Poultry keep T. Condon, of Worting, Basingstoke, very busy these days and he is particularly fortunate in that a dealer lives near. This man collects Condon's eggs regularly, and so saves him the cost of boxes and carriage—a considerable item. Condon is now putting up a new and larger poultry house, for he has a fine number of chicks hatched already. If anyone wants a pony and trap, by the way, Condon has one for sale.

"A nice house and good neighbours" is the pleasant news that comes to hand from R. J. Williams, of Andover. He has succeeded in securing a few local orders and we share his confidence that these will lead to others, since Williams is one who believes in stirring about and looking for work. He has been to see the manager of a large garage to point out that he is a maker of motor mats, and is also hoping to interest the powers-that-be at some big electricity works.

A particularly fortunate man is F. Marshall, of Hull, inasmuch as he is the first shopkeeper on a most attractive estate. He is wisely stocking up excellent goods, sweets and tobacco, and is also venturing to open a small library. Mrs. Marshall is another of our group of splendid wives and with her aid we feel confident that Marshall will shortly build up a thriving business.

Brief Notes

A mat order for seven good-sized mats for the local Gospel Hall has just come the way of R. A. Newton, of Stuckton, Fordingbridge. May they lead to more!

"Poultry doing well" is the report from A. Anderson, of Letham. Indeed, his birds are keeping him so busy that he has no time for mats.

Both boots and mats have "brightened up," so far as C. Matthews, of Maidenhead,

is concerned, and he is hard at it, at the moment, which is all the more pleasant since he ran into a dull spell not so very long ago.

"All well" is the satisfactory if brief comment of J. Ingram, another St. Dunstan who has made his home in the same district.

Both A. Campbell and Mrs. Campbell have been devoting their energies to the redecoration of their home and have made a brilliant success of it. Everything is in perfect order, so they are well ahead with "spring-cleaning."

The new home in which S. P. Peacey is settling in, in Acton, promises well, we are glad to know.

Another Acton man to make a move shortly is F. Dawes, of Chatsworth Gardens. We hope it, too, will be a success.

What with sweets and tobacco the shop of P. G. Alvey, of Old Byfleet, draws a goodly number of customers. Business seems steadily to improve and we congratulate Alvey on the results of his efforts.

The brighter days have been doing good to H. Bowen, of Trevine, Pembrokeshire. As an old soldier who has spent much time in the tropics he naturally finds the winter trying. When weather permits he spends many happy hours in his garden, and he is a great reader, getting through a remarkable number of Braille volumes in the course of the year.

The usual amount of steady trade is coming the way of E. D. Evan, of Carmarthen, and the arrangements for a workshop at the back of the house are proving most satisfactory.

"Kneelers" are proving one of the best lines so far as J. Smith, of St. Helens, is concerned. We hear his wares are achieving quite a reputation in the district.

Competitions are proving absorbing to T. H. Dennison, of Stoke-on-Trent. We wish him good luck with all his ventures.

"All well," says W. T. Jones, of Hill Park, Fareham—except that one of his girls broke her collar-bone a short time ago. However, she is making most excellent progress.

Another busy man is C. Singleton, of Forest Gate. He has managed to create

quite a local demand for his baskets, we are glad to note.

Mats are keeping M. Hutchison, of East Ham, fairly busy, and the same may be said of F. Stratton, of Shirebrook.

J. Simpson, of East Denton, is making good progress with his poultry farm. J. Aitken, of Newcastle, has started coal dealing on a small scale while waiting for quarters. P. White is netting noticeably well and is also showing inventive talent in connection with wool-work, we hear. A. Brown, of Sidmouth, is working happily at his baskets and looking forward to the summer trade.

In Gloucester W. Cromwell is following his gallant plan of refusing to let anything worry him, while from Cheltenham comes the satisfactory news that the poultry and goats belonging to A. V. Law have stood their journey well. Law himself is settling into his new place as comfortably as are his livestock.

The inhabitants of Padiham have proved very appreciative of the excellent wool rugs that C. Ross has been making, we are glad to know. They seem to have set a fashion.

In Bridlington W. J. Hopper has started a three-line business and is selling fruit, vegetables and coal, so he is a very busy man. Congratulations to him on his initiative.

H. F. Porter sends word that he is finding plenty to do and is very happy at Southampton.

Clogs, boots and mats employ the steady working hours of G. Lomas, of Burnley, and boots and clogging give occupation to F. P. Fishwick, of St. Helens. All his family are in good health, his friends will be glad to know. F. Openshaw, of Burnley, is making excellent progress and is now enjoying long walks with his wife when health and weather permit. In the less bright intervals wireless proves itself a joy.

With a shop stocked up for Easter F. C. Fleetwood, of Dulwich, expected a burst of trade in the holidays, and was determined to be ready for all that came.

D. Makin, of Wallsend, is turning to good account some slack hours in his coal trade and is getting on well with his nursery garden.

Poultry Notes

St. Dunstan's Winter Egg Laying Test

RECOGNISED BY THE NATIONAL POULTRY COUNCIL

THE Test Committee met at King's Langley Farm on Thursday, 25th March, to square up this season's test, when the undernoted prizes and awards were decided on, and have now been distributed to the successful winners, and to whom we offer our heartiest congratulations.

A preliminary discussion also took place regarding the proposal to hold a two-years' test.

The Committee strongly supported the proposal, but was of the opinion that no alteration should be made which would interfere with the working of our Annual Winter Egg-Laying Test. It was, therefore, decided that a scheme for a two-years' test, to be run in addition to the present test, should be drawn up and submitted to the Committee at an early date.

So far we have had very few letters from our poultry farmers giving their views, and we would appreciate suggestions at once from all those who are interested, in order that they may be carefully considered before the scheme is dropped.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Section 1—RHODE ISLAND RED (4 Birds)

Gold Medal	..	Mr. L. A. Bisset	260
Silver Medal	..	Condon, C. T.	233
Bronze Medal	..	Tindall, J. H.	220
Award of Merit	..	Coman, A. E.	219
"	"	Lea, J. H.	202

Section 2—ANY OTHER HEAVY BREED (4 Birds)

Gold Medal	..	Bulley, F. E. C.	203
Silver Medal	..	Maclean, D.	184
Award of Merit	..	Ashwell, R.	181

Section 3—WHITE LEGHORNS (4 Birds)

Gold Medal	..	Bulman, Mr. C. R.	220
Silver Medal	..	Lowrie, R. K.	207
Bronze Medal	..	Roach, D.	195
Award of Merit	..	Tindall, J. H.	194
"	"	Knopp, H. A.	182

Section 4—HEAVY BREED (Single Bird)

W.W. Gold Medal	..	Urry, A.	75
R.I.R. Silver Medal	..	Bisset, Mr. L. A.	69
R.I.R. Bronze Medal	..	Burgin, W.	57
L.S. Bronze Medal	..	Webb, W.	57
W.W. Award of Merit	..	Chaffin, A.	54
R.I.R. "	"	Coman, A. E.	52
R.I.R. "	"	Knopp, H. A.	45

Section 5—LIGHT BREED (Single Bird)

W.L. Gold Medal	..	Holmes, P.	56
W.L. Silver Medal	..	Nolan, J.	47

Special prize awarded in each section for pen or bird with highest number of first grade eggs. A small poultry house presented by staff at King's Langley Farm.

Section 1	Bisset, Mr. L. A.	..	231
" 2	Maclean, D.	..	161
" 3	Bulman, Mr. C. R.	..	187
" 4	Bisset, Mr. L. A.	..	69
" 5	Holmes, P.	..	56

J. T. B.

List of Towns to be Visited by Wembley (On Tour) referred to in Editorial Notes

- The Drill Hall, Chester—21st April-30th April.
 Colston Hall, Bristol—4th May-20th May.
 Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool—24th May-12th June.
 City Hall, Glasgow—17th June-26th June.
 City Hall, Manchester—2nd July-17th July.
 The Guildhall, Hull—22nd July-28th July.
 St. George's Drill Hall, Newcastle—2nd August-14th August.
 The Rink, Sunderland—19th August-26th August.
 City Art Gallery, York—30th August-11th September.
 Victoria Hall, Leeds—15th September-25th September.
 The Drill Hall, Coventry—29th September-9th October.
 The Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham—13th October-23rd October.
 Junior Training Hall, Leicester—1st November-13th November.
 Windsor Hall, Bradford—17th November-4th December.

Free Wireless Licences for the Blind

FOR the past eighteen months Captain Fraser has actively interested himself in an endeavour to secure free wireless licences for blind people. About a year ago he had an interview with the Chairman and Managing Director of the British Broadcasting Company, and they agreed that if the matter could be arranged with the Post Office authorities, they (the B.B.C.) would be willing to forego their share of the licence fee.

Great difficulties, however, arose with the Post Office, who were at first averse to making any such change on the grounds that it meant relieving a section of the community of a tax universally imposed upon all using wireless, and might establish a precedent in other directions. The matter was, however, pressed, and it was pointed out that there was no other section of the community to whom wireless means so much as to the blind. It was finally agreed to give Parliament an opportunity of considering the insertion of a clause in the Wireless Telegraphy Amendment Bill, which was then under consideration, which would give effect to this concession. This Bill, however, never became an Act of Parliament, for so many difficulties and problems arose that the Government set up a Committee to inquire into the future administration and finance of broadcasting. As most of our readers will be aware, Captain Fraser was appointed a member of this Committee, which has now issued its report. Among its recommendations is one that blind people throughout the country should be permitted to have free wireless licences.

It might be mentioned that the question has been in the minds of managers of other institutions for the blind, and of the Radio Association, which formally brought the subject before the Broadcasting Committee. It is, however, very largely due to Captain Fraser having originally raised the matter and to his presence on the Committee, that the recommendation went through. If the Government adopt it, as we sincerely hope they will, many

thousands of blind people will benefit. The financial saving to each individual blind person may not be very great, although in these days ten shillings a year is a matter worth consideration, but the value of the gift from the State and the British Broadcasting Company to the blind community as a whole is a very substantial one, and as, if it is granted, it will be established in perpetuity, it represents a very practical help from the nation to blind men and women.

Whatever the eventual outcome may be, we are quite sure that not only St. Dunstaners, but everyone without sight, will be appreciative of the sustained efforts in this connection which Captain Fraser has put forward.

Holiday Sports Camps

Miss Avis Hodgson writes from Clopton, Stratford-on-Avon, to announce that a camp will be held again this year at Little Gaddesden House, Berkhamstead, Herts., probably some time in June, but the date will be announced in our next issue. It is hoped to carry out the same programme as last year, namely, sports, regatta, ten-mile walk, dances and concerts, &c. The camp is open to any St. Dunstaner; the fee for the week being £1 7s. 6d.

There will also be a camp again at Clopton, Stratford-on-Avon, probably in July.

In the course of an interview in the *Melbourne Herald* with Miss Renee Kelly, the well-known actress, whom many St. Dunstaners will remember with pleasure, Miss Kelly refers to her first appearance at St. Dunstan's. No full length play had ever been staged to the blinded soldiers at St. Dunstan's, but when "Daddy Long Legs" was at the height of its popularity, she took the complete company to the hostel, but minus all stage effects and costumes. She recalls that the blinded men roared at the humour of the play, and that they seemed to catch the points and appreciate the acting even better than the ordinary audience.

"In Memory"

GUNNER FREDERICK GEORGE HAVENS
(Royal Field Artillery).

AN early St. Dunstaner, and one whose death will come as a shock to his many friends, not only among St. Dunstaners, but in the wide circle of others who knew him, was F. G. Havens. Enlisting in the early part of November 1914, Havens was, in the following year, wounded at Suvla Bay in the Gallipoli fighting, a bullet entering his head and rendering him totally blind. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in March 1916, where he received training as a masseur. On leaving in December 1917, he became a member of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseurs, the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs, and he also took his certificate as a Medical Electrician.

About seven years ago he went to Bournemouth, and was able to work up an excellent connection. He also took a great interest in the local hospitals. Havens was a man of keen intellect and ability and, notwithstanding his blindness, possessed an optimistic spirit and a breadth of view which made him many friends, and he soon became well-known in his professional capacity. He was also very successful in organising local concerts in aid of St. Dunstan's funds. He was a member of the Bournemouth Rotary Club, and was also a popular Freemason.

Although at times Havens suffered acutely as the result of his wounds, he never complained. About two years ago he underwent an operation, and in December of last year it was found necessary to perform another one. He was admitted to St. Thomas's Hospital again on 28th February, and was operated on on the following day. Complications set in and he died on 6th March, aged thirty-two years.

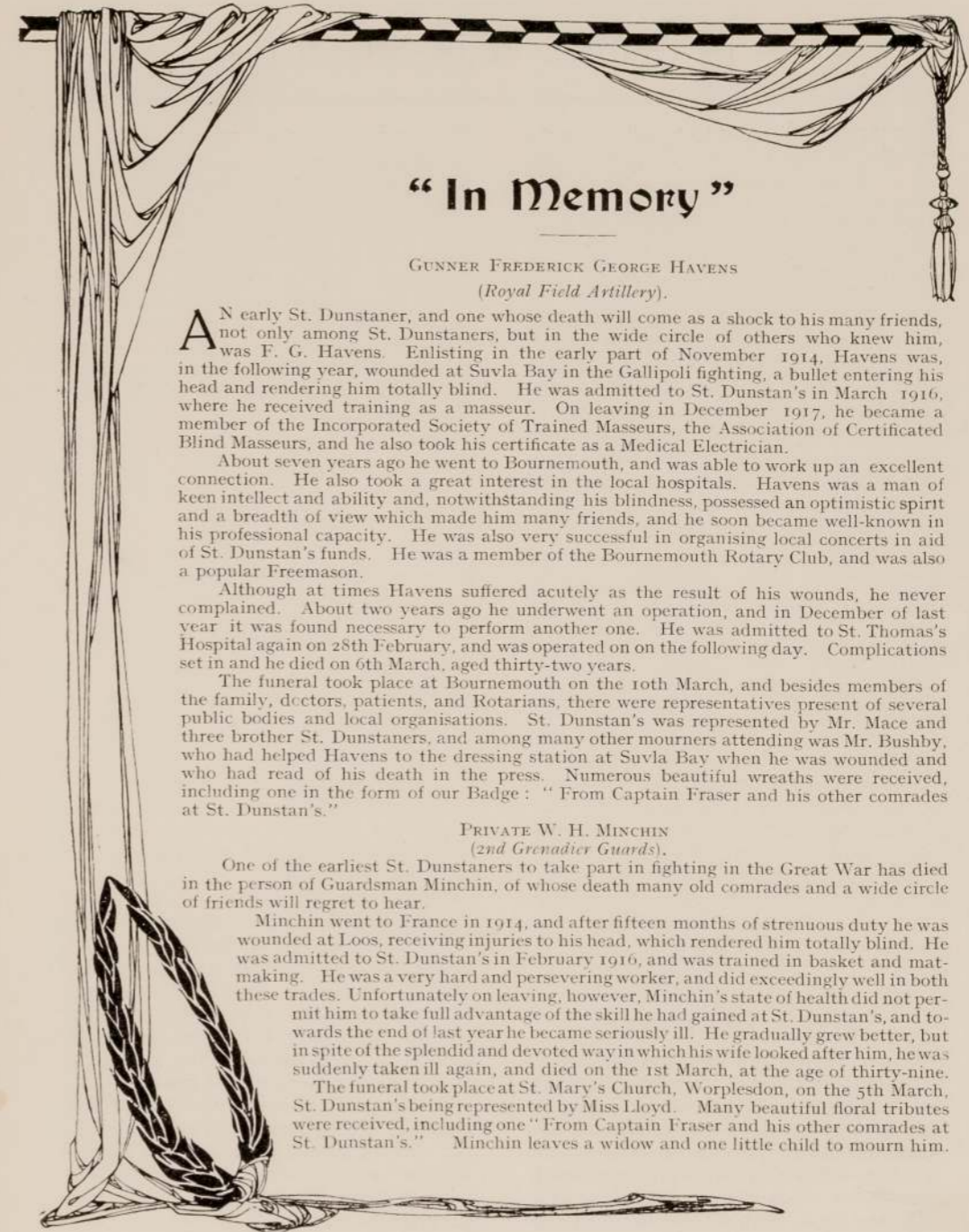
The funeral took place at Bournemouth on the 10th March, and besides members of the family, doctors, patients, and Rotarians, there were representatives present of several public bodies and local organisations. St. Dunstan's was represented by Mr. Mace and three brother St. Dunstaners, and among many other mourners attending was Mr. Bushby, who had helped Havens to the dressing station at Suvla Bay when he was wounded and who had read of his death in the press. Numerous beautiful wreaths were received, including one in the form of our Badge: "From Captain Fraser and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's."

PRIVATE W. H. MINCHIN
(2nd Grenadier Guards).

One of the earliest St. Dunstaners to take part in fighting in the Great War has died in the person of Guardsman Minchin, of whose death many old comrades and a wide circle of friends will regret to hear.

Minchin went to France in 1914, and after fifteen months of strenuous duty he was wounded at Loos, receiving injuries to his head, which rendered him totally blind. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in February 1916, and was trained in basket and mat-making. He was a very hard and persevering worker, and did exceedingly well in both these trades. Unfortunately on leaving, however, Minchin's state of health did not permit him to take full advantage of the skill he had gained at St. Dunstan's, and towards the end of last year he became seriously ill. He gradually grew better, but in spite of the splendid and devoted way in which his wife looked after him, he was suddenly taken ill again, and died on the 1st March, at the age of thirty-nine.

The funeral took place at St. Mary's Church, Worplesdon, on the 5th March, St. Dunstan's being represented by Miss Lloyd. Many beautiful floral tributes were received, including one "From Captain Fraser and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's." Minchin leaves a widow and one little child to mourn him.





SPORTS CLUB NOTES

I THINK it can safely be said that the Present Boys have had both an interesting and successful term. The Competition has been keen throughout, and although the leaders were well away at the finish, yet they had to struggle very hard to retain their places. In the T.B. section Peach has once more topped the list with a majority of 100 points from Tetley, who in turn leads Haugh by just over 100 points, whilst in the S.S. section Williams beat Rickaby by 95 points, with Parrick a good third, only 20 points behind. I trust that those men and indeed all the competitors will accept our hearty congratulations on the good shows they have put up.

PRESENT-CARE SPORTS

T.B.		S.S.	
Peach	765	Williams	635
Tetley	665	Rickaby	540
Haugh	560	Parrick	520
Day	430	Namen	490
Cook	390	Eden	440
Bull	350	Parke	410
Gregory	330	Crook	340
Gamble	205	Craddock	325
Savory	180	Buchanan	300
Leeman	170	Squires	275
Wayne	110	Massey	265
		Muncaster	250
		Cole	245
		Baxter	205
		Smith	135
		Moore	100
		Bedford	100
		Stock	85
		Short	60
		Bentley	45
		Comley	35
		Jones	30
		Bowering	15
		Miles	5

AFTER-CARE SPORTS

Tiny Fleming has lost his place at the head of the list and at the moment Nichols reigns supreme. A perusal of the points which are correct up to 23rd March will show that nine men have secured over 1,000 points each, which is remarkably good. As there are no Sports on the 6th April, the 13th will be the last day

of our Winter session. We will commence our Field sports on Tuesday, 20th April (weather permitting). This will be as in former years—a preliminary event. I hope that all those who intend joining us will make up their minds and start at the beginning, and it will help matters if all do their best to ensure a proper start at 6.45 p.m. It is the only way to get through a good evening's sport. Next month I will be able to give the completed list of the After-Care points. To date they are:

Nichols	1,295	Webster	1,090
Cookson		Kerr	965
Fleming	1,260	Burran	830
Brown	1,195	Ashton	765
Henry		Prior	655
McFarlane	1,190	Chambers	495
Gover	1,170	Bartlett	
Thompson	1,125	Downs	135

FOOTBALL

We have had a very successful series of matches this term and after all the Rackabites head the League with a splendid score of 23 points, being 6 from the runners-up—the Peachers. We heartily congratulate them on a most successful season and I feel that each team deserves praise for the way they have played. The League table will provide some interesting information.

Apparently the match of the season was one in which the winners and runners-up tackled the rest of the League. This match, with a score like that of a cricket match, resulted in a win for "the Rest" of 19 goals to 13. I really feel sorry for the one who had to calculate the goals scored, to say nothing of the goalkeeper who evidently had a hectic time.

In the T.B. Goal-scoring Competition, Gaffney, Aitken and Fletcher headed the list with 11 goals each, and in the kick-off Fletcher won after an arduous campaign with Aitken. Dixon heads the S.S. with the splendid score of 23.

FOOTBALL COMPETITION

Term ending 19th March 1926

Team.	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Rackabites	11	2	1	74	40	23
Peachers	7	4	3	48	55	17
Spurs	6	6	2	72	64	14
Didos	6	6	2	58	59	14
Wireless	5	6	3	67	60	13
United	5	8	1	47	66	11
Bowerings	4	8	2	52	55	10
Allrights	3	9	2	37	66	8

GOAL SCORERS

T.B.		S.S.	
Gaffney	11	Dixon	23
Fletcher	11	Stuart	20
Aitken	11	T. Williams	20
Milligan	10	Bowering	15
Gamble	9	Bedford	15
Peach	8	Moore	15
Smith	8	Comley	15
Haugh	8	Parke	14
White	7	Muncaster	13
Bull	7	Crook	12
Tetley	7	Short	12
Fleming	6	Craddock	12
Phillips	6	Massey	12
Radley	5	Parrick	11
Day	4	Namen	11
Edwards	4	Eden	11
Boyer	2	Buchanan	10
Gregory	2	Rickaby	10
Savory	1	Baxter	10
Clover	1	Shepherd	9
Aldridge	1	Cole	9
		Jones	8
		Boyce	6
		Bayer	6
		S. Williams	4
		Foster	4
		Miles	4
		Smith	3
		Hayter	3
		Bentley	2
		Dunks	2
		Squires	1
		Stocks	1
		Davis	1
		Newman	1
		Thompson	1

FOOTBALL MATCH

Winners and Runners-up	v.	The Rest	
Fletcher		Bowering	1
Aitken		Day	1
Bayer	1	Milligan	2
Crook	2	Eden	2
Rickaby	2	Williams	2
Dixon	2	Moore	3
Peach	2	Stuart	3
Boyce		Massey	2
Namen	1	Craddock	3
Shepherd	2	Gamble	
Gaffney	1		
	13		19

ROWING

We hope to arrange our Regatta, roughly, about the same time as last year, i.e. about the first fortnight in July. More information will be given next month, but in the meantime it is incumbent upon our rowing men to be up and doing.

WALKING

It has not been possible yet to arrange a definite date for the Brighton Walk, but it seems as if Saturday, 29th May, would be the best day. This date would free us from the Whit-holiday traffic which would certainly make the road very difficult. However, I hope to give more definite information next month.

12-MILES OUTER CIRCLE WALK

Our 12-Miles Walk was in every way interesting as well as successful. We had a splendid muster of candidates and an adequate supply of guides, and whilst the day was not exactly delightful, yet it was not too bad for walking. The walking, generally, as I hear from the judges, is improving tremendously, and although some very fast times have been accomplished, I think that even these will be beaten.

As usual Ingram walked magnificently and again came in first in the great time of 1.48.15, followed by Birch less than 4 minutes later, who in turn was succeeded by Johns, nearly 3 minutes later. The Handicap, of course, made all the difference, and placed Lowings first in the net time of 1.41.45. Lowings is deserving of very great praise for his splendid walking and we heartily congratulate him on obtaining first place.

In the S.S. section Brown arrived first in the record time of 1.42.7. I think it can safely be said that this is one of the fastest times done by any of our walkers and it shows remarkable improvement after only about a year's walking. Trott, who sportingly came all the way from Birmingham, arrived next in the good time of 1.46.50, followed by Comley one and a half minutes later. Of course, the Handicap interfered in the final positions, placing Roberts, Giles and Ashton in the first three positions

after splendid walking. Mr. Donoghue was most enthusiastic about the style of our boys and he has great hopes that even yet finer performances will be seen.

At the conclusion and after tea had been served, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Guides, Officials and the ladies who had so kindly arranged the tea, and indeed everybody who had

helped us. We are particularly grateful to Mr. Donoghue for all the help he has given us, not only in the handicapping but in judging, and to Mr. Joe Binks for coming up to help us.

The prizes were most kindly presented by Mrs. Smith, the wife of one of our blinded officers. We are now actively engaged in making arrangements for the 21-Miles Qualifying Walk.

RESULTS

12-MILE OUTER CIRCLE WALK—20TH MARCH 1926

HANDICAP EVENT

T.B. SECTION

No.	Name	Escort	1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round	Total	H'cap Allowance	Net Time	Order of Finish
1	W. J. Lowings	Mr. Chapman	m. s.	m. s.	m. s.	m. s.	m. s.	h. m. s.	4
2	W. Birch	Travell	28 2	56 45	86 5	115 30	13 45	1 41 45	2
3	J. Ingram	Horton	27 25	54 35	82 45	112 8	4 45	1 47 23	1
4	W. Shakespeare	Bush	27 0	54 22	81 32	108 15	Scr.	1 48 15	9
5	P. Johns	Rathbone	34 0	68 10	103 7	138 22	30 0	1 48 22	3
6	A. Taylor	Booker	30 0	59 12	87 30	114 55	6 0	1 48 55	5
7	T. North	Monger	28 0	56 30	85 0	115 52	6 30	1 49 22	8
8	F. Lenderyou	Shore	31 50	64 50	99 25	135 42	24 0	1 51 42	7
9	H. Boorman	Frankieiss	29 30	59 20	90 26	125 9	12 0	1 53 9	6
10	S. Gamble	Lockett	28 10	56 45	87 45	120 46	7 30	1 53 16	..
—	J. Moellar	Lloyd	29 0	59 0	93 30	..	..	..	..
—	J. Moellar	Lloyd	30 25	61 50	..	..	..	..	..

S.S. SECTION

1	W. J. Roberts	Mr. Austin	25 55	55 20	86 25	119 20	22 0	1 37 20	8
2	H. Giles	Jordan	26 28	54 51	83 52	115 0	14 0	1 41 0	5
3	P. Ashton	Kempton	27 15	55 19	83 43	115 35	14 0	1 41 35	4
4	G. Fallowfield	Martin	26 30	54 0	81 15	109 0	7 0	1 42 0	1
5	A. Brown	Winter	25 0	50 20	76 5	102 7	Scr.	1 42 7	10
6	W. Bedford	Nesbitt	26 28	57 5	89 56	124 56	22 0	1 42 56	2
7	W. Trott	Unstead	25 48	52 25	79 12	106 50	1 30	1 45 20	3
8	R. Comley	Reynolds	25 35	51 0	78 10	108 29	2 15	1 46 14	7
9	H. Gover	Rippon	28 20	57 0	86 55	118 25	11 0	1 47 25	9
10	G. Taylor	Stone	30 28	61 30	92 30	123 50	9 0	1 54 50	..
—	T. Cashmore	Kelly	28 30	57 20	91 30	..	..	..	..

J. E. W.

A SPLENDID RECORD

From a letter recently received from W. H. Farr, of Windsor, we learn that he has just sent a large tea-tray to Holyrood Palace. Farr now holds the proud record of having supplied trays to all the Royal Palaces, and also one to White Lodge. We congratulate him heartily on such a unique appreciation of his excellent work.

HARD TO BEAR

Panel Doctor (after hard day's work):
 "What's the matter with you, my man?"
 Patient (holding right leg): "Got a pain, doctor."
 Doctor: "Where's the pain?"
 Patient: "Right 'ere, doctor."
 Doctor (irritably): "Then why on earth are you holding your leg?"

St. Dunstan's Flag Days

THERE can be no denial of the fact that a few years since the method of raising money for charitable purposes by means of Flag Days had reached proportions which rendered some action not only necessary, but desirable. Hardly a day passed but the public were importuned to purchase some emblem which was being sold on behalf of one or another purpose. No object was too small to inspire a collection in this form—the raising of funds for a needy local cricket or football club; the provision of money for a day's outing for the members of some local organisation.

The British public are ever generous-hearted, but it became clear that even their patience was being exhausted with these constant appeals, with the inevitable consequence that really deserving local and national institutions, who were doing work of vital import, were failing, because of the frequency of these Flag Day appeals, to gain sympathy and support for their funds.

So it was that the authorities responsible decided that in the national interest formal permission should be sought from them before this form of street collection should be allowed. The effect has undoubtedly been all to the good, but occasionally cases of hardship occur. St. Dunstan's, we must admit, have little cause for complaint, for city and local authorities throughout the country readily recognise the national importance of the work St. Dunstan's does, and the general desire of the public to contribute to the carrying on of that work. It is probable also that St. Dunstan's own moderation in using this form of appeal is partly responsible for the generous help we have always had from the authorities. Where any slight difficulty has been experienced in obtaining official sanction for a street collection for St. Dunstan's funds, it has invariably proved to be the outcome of an insufficient knowledge of the financial position of our organisation. The fact that St. Dunstan's possesses substantial assets, and that for the past year or two we have been able

to show a balance on the right side as between income and expenditure, sometimes leads to rather hasty conclusions that we are independent of sustained public support. Nothing, of course, as all St. Dunstaners know, could be farther from the facts of the matter. The great proportion of St. Dunstan's assets are in no sense liquid. For example, the large amount which appears on the capital side of our accounts with regard to the "Children's Fund" is in no way available for our general work of training and after-care. It is a specific trust which cannot be devoted to any other purpose than that for which it was raised, namely, the provision of allowances to the children of St. Dunstan's men. Again, St. Dunstan's considerable capital holding in properties is not money which would be available for our general work. It represents capital which had to be expended to secure proper housing accommodation for St. Dunstan's men—accommodation which there was no other possible means of obtaining.

The outstanding fact which must be emphasised in considering St. Dunstan's financial position is that no less than four-fifths of the annual income we need to carry on our work for the Empire's war-blinded men has to be raised each year by public appeal. Furthermore, St. Dunstan's receives no State aid or Government grant whatever.

We set forth these observations in view of information as to discussions on the subject of granting a Flag Day to St. Dunstan's, which took place recently at meetings of the Milton Regis and Sittingbourne Councils. The brief facts, which are practically similar in the case of both these East Kent authorities, are that St. Dunstan's was not included in the small number of Flag Days agreed to by the Committee to these Councils dealing with such applications. As the outcome, vigorous protests were made to both Councils by the British Legion, the splendid organisation which has always so staunchly upheld every activity

of St. Dunstan's. These protests had the strong support of members of both Councils. At Sittingbourne, for example, Councillor Cowper referred to the duties of the Joint Flag Day Committee, and said the Committee met six or eight weeks ago, and allocated seven days for this year. He was unfortunately unable to be present owing to indisposition, but he wrote and expressed the hope that St. Dunstan's would have a day allocated to them as they did not have one last year. He was disappointed the day was not given, and he registered a protest at the next meeting of this Council. The writing of the letter by the British Legion was not suggested by him, although he was thoroughly in agreement with every word in it. He moved that this Council having had the letter from the local branch of the British Legion read decided that they would grant eight flag days this year instead of seven, and that the eighth should be allocated to St. Dunstan's. Continuing, Councillor Cowper said that one member of the Milton Council the previous week referred to the fact that every blinded man had a pension, but that there was no provision for his wife and family; everyone was treated as a single man. That in itself was not exactly correct. Every blinded man whose blindness had been proved to be the result of war service had a pension for himself, and for his children either born or expected at the time of his disablement. Any children after that period were not provided for, and that was where St. Dunstan's came in. Another Councillor said it was rather a slur on the Government that these men should be dependent on charity. That matter was very carefully gone into some time ago by the Kent County Council of the British Legion by the South-Eastern Area and the Annual General Conference at Headquarters, and it was decided in all cases by a very large majority that it would be better altogether that there should be no Government interference with St. Dunstan's. Councillor Cowper then went into the information about St. Dunstan's funds and work mentioned in the British Legion's letter, and expressed the hope

that the Council would agree to his motion.

Councillor Thorne said that when the question of St. Dunstan's first came up it went from that Council that they had plenty of money, and the Council did not support the application in the way they might have done if they had known all the facts. He was prepared to second Councillor Cowper's motion.

Councillor Cowper added that St. Dunstan's taught the men to be independent members of society. The training was extremely good. If it were the wish of the Council he would alter his resolution to read that the matter be referred back for the reconsideration of the Joint Flag Day Committee, and that the Committee be asked to see if they could not allocate a day to St. Dunstan's.

Councillor Thorne seconded, and the motion was then unanimously approved.

Councillor Thorne suggested that they ought to have a balance sheet in connection with every Flag Day. They should instruct the Joint Committee that unless a balance sheet was produced they should not grant permission to hold a Flag Day. He moved that that be done.

Councillor Goodhew seconded, and the motion was agreed to unanimously.

In the case of the Milton Regis Council, St. Dunstan's application was supported by Councillor Budden and was seconded by Councillor Knowles. Councillor Budden moved that the Clerk write to the Joint Flag Day Committee asking them to reconsider the list of Flag Days so that an extra day, making eight in all, could be given to St. Dunstan's. After explaining very clearly and impartially the position of St. Dunstan's, Councillor Budden's motion was seconded by Councillor Knowles, and it was unanimously approved.

As we write these notes we have no information as to the Flag Day Committee's decisions, but we have every confidence that now the full facts of the matter have been so effectively put forward, the people of Sittingbourne and Milton Regis will be given the opportunity they clearly desire to contribute their quota to the carrying on of St. Dunstan's work.

Departmental Notes

Netting Notes

IN connection with our garden netting and woollen rugs we have been receiving from our customers so many letters of appreciation as to the quality and durability of our goods that we think our readers will be interested in the following few extracts. We feel sure that our After-Care netters will appreciate, as we do, such encouraging recognition of their work.

In April 1922 we executed an extensive order for fruit nets which were sent to the head gardener of a gentleman's estate in Larne, Ireland. In March this year we received a repeat order, the gardener stating that despite three full summers of particularly wet seasons the nets were still good. This was pleasant hearing, and we at once despatched the new nets. We were greatly pleased to receive in acknowledgment a second letter expressing satisfaction.

"I beg to say that I made a mistake in telling you that we had three wet seasons' use with the others. It was four seasons—1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925—and very wet summers they were. These nets that I have just received and those which were got in 1922 are the best nets I ever used, and I have been using nets in England and Ireland for over forty years."

A gentleman writing in February from Devon to acknowledge his fruit nets says:

"I am greatly pleased with the netting which cannot be compared to old fish netting, generally rotted."

The above are two typical examples of very many unsolicited testimonials to the good value of our nets, and now for the rugs.

A lady, writing from Chelmsford, says:

"I am very pleased with the rugs. They are exactly what I wanted, and I think they are beautifully made."

A customer, writing from Liverpool, says:

"The rugs duly came to hand, and I am delighted with them. I am showing them to all my friends and hope they will support St. Dunstan's. I shall require shortly one or two more rugs."

Another lady writing from Lancashire said she was delighted with her rugs and that they were splendid value.

We hope our netters and rug workers will take these letters as a compliment to the excellent quality of their own work, and we shall look forward soon to printing extracts from letters expressing satisfaction with our string bags and sponge nets.

G. H. W.

Braille Notes

Hearty congratulations to T. Baxter, W. H. Bedford, A. Gaffney, and John Stubbs on passing their Reading Test, and to A. A. Hillier, J. Donnelly, and E. T. Squires on passing their Writing Test.

Typewriting Notes

Very many congratulations to F. W. Bull, G. W. Savory, John Stubbs, W. Moor, B. J. Day, H. T. Fleming, E. B. Parke, and E. J. Squires on passing their Typewriting Test.

Telephony Notes

Our best wishes and warmest congratulations to Leslie White, who has obtained a post at Paris Modes, Berkeley Street. We wish him every success.

SILENCE IS GOLDEN.

"I'm going to get a divorce!" exclaimed Waters fiercely.

"What's the matter?" demanded Rivers.

"Well, my wife hasn't spoken to me for a month."

"Better be careful," cautioned Rivers, "because you won't get another wife like that."

After-Care Re-Unions

READING

THE Reading Re-union was held on the 25th March at the same restaurant as last year, namely, the Central Café. We were pleased to welcome many newcomers, and our party in all numbered seventy-three.

After a splendid meat tea Mr. Swain addressed all present, and gave Captain Fraser's message, wishing St. Dunstaners every happiness and hoping the meeting would be a success. A. A. H. Brown returned a vote of thanks.

Afterwards Miss Bragg kindly arranged an entertainment, and whilst this was in progress Mr. Swain interviewed each man personally. We also enjoyed some dancing, and the competitions kept us thinking. The ladies had to guess the number of beans in a bag, and Mrs. A. A. H. Brown, being the winner, was presented with a purse. The men, who were much more successful in guessing than the ladies, had to give the weight of a cake. Five were clever enough to get within half an ounce of the correct weight, and so it was decided that little Miss Megson should draw for the winner, the prize—being the cake itself—eventually going to D. McLean.

It was very nice to once again welcome Sister Gray from Headquarters, who, being such an old friend, had rather a busy time to keep pace with us all.

Unfortunately, we had to break up our party at 6 o'clock, and the meeting was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem. E. A. S.

HASTINGS

We were all very pleased to have a fine day for our Hastings After-Care meeting, which was held at the Grand Restaurant on Thursday, 4th March.

In spite of the fact that a few of the men and their wives were unable to attend owing to illness, about fifty sat down to an excellent tea. Immediately afterwards, Mr. Swain made a short speech, and conveyed to all present Captain Fraser's

message that he hoped the meeting would be a success, and regretted his inability to be there. J. H. Plunkett ably responded and was seconded by R. Newman.

A most enjoyable concert followed, to which H. J. Harris, G. Brooks, R. Newman and J. H. Plunkett contributed songs, and J. Jones recited, gaining much applause.

A very warm welcome was accorded to Miss Brown, who again, as in previous years, made all the arrangements for the entertainment.

There were two competitions: the guessing of the weight of a pork pie for the men—C. E. Griffen being the winner—and the wives were asked to guess the name of a chicken which was in an attractive basket surrounded by Easter eggs. Four of the ladies gave the chicken the correct name, and on it being agreed to draw for the prize, Mrs. Jones became the winner.

During the concert Mr. Swain interviewed each St. Dunstaner, and at six o'clock we had to disperse, the time having gone all too quickly. A. K. R.

BEDFORD

True to promise that we should have another After-Care meeting in twelve months' time, we held our Re-union this year at Dujon's Café, Bedford, on the 18th March, exactly a year having elapsed since our last one.

The meeting was a very great success, there being over fifty present. It did not take us long to get into full swing, and many "old times" were well talked over.

Mr. Swain, towards the end of tea, read a message from Captain Fraser, and then went on to say how proud he was to have the privilege of helping to look after St. Dunstaners. A vote of thanks was proposed by A. Chaffin.

Much fun was caused by the competition, both the men and their wives having to guess the number of beans in a bag, which, by the way, is not too easy a

task. However, Miss Cook won the ladies' prize which took the form of a purse, and W. H. Collins being the best guesser amongst the men was awarded a box of cigarettes.

Mrs. Sheppard very kindly arranged for her orchestra to give us musical items again this year, and we were lucky enough to have two entertainers.

We were pleased to welcome two old College friends, Miss Hipwell and Miss Cameron, who greatly added to the enjoyment of the afternoon.

Just before it was time to say good-bye we had one or two dances, and everyone expressed the hope that we should one and all meet at the same spot early in 1927. E. A. S.

CANTERBURY

A most successful Re-union was held at Gaywood's Café on Friday, 12th March, and it was a very great pleasure to see so many old friends, but we were sorry to miss a few who were prevented from coming through illness.

During the first part of the afternoon we talked hard as there are always so many things to discuss and talk over when St. Dunstaners meet.

The next item on the programme was an excellent tea, which we all thoroughly enjoyed, and afterwards Mr. Swain gave us a message from Captain Fraser saying he wished to be remembered to all St. Dunstaners who were present at the meeting, and sent his kindest regards to them and their wives and families.

Mr. Swain's speech was much appreciated, and after expressing his pleasure at being present, he said:—

"The more I meet you, and the more intimately I come to know you, the more do I look forward to these meetings, which give me the opportunity of seeing you again."

The competitions caused a great deal of amusement, especially a new one in which the competitors were asked to guess Mr. Swain's weight. Mr. Swain provided a prize of cigarettes for the successful competitor among the men, and Mrs. Broughton, who, we were all so pleased to welcome, gave a bag for the ladies' prize.

G. F. Millen carried off the men's prize, and Mrs. Goodwin was clever enough to get within an ounce of the correct weight, so won triumphantly the ladies' prize.

The cake weight guessing competition was won by Mrs. Southen for the second year, and the pork pie competition resulted in a tie between E. Sayers and R. Stone, the former winning after tossing for it.

Mr. Gaywood arranged a delightful concert, and we all thoroughly enjoyed A. Bennett's mandoline solo.

During the afternoon each man was able to have a business talk with Mr. Swain and then the time came when we had to look up trains and start once more for our various homes. A. K. R.

In addressing the members of the Scottish Club at Toronto, Canada, recently on the work of the Canadian Institute for the Blind, Captain E. A. Baker, M.C., Croix de Guerre, the General Secretary, said that, basing their work on the maxim of Sir Arthur Pearson—that few things were impossible in work for the blind—they had trained men in poultry farming, carpet-making, switchboard work, carpentry, mat-making and basket-making, as well as helping returned men to complete professional courses. Including the one hundred and seventy returned Canadian soldiers who had been trained at St. Dunstan's, he said that there were now five thousand blind men and women registered with the Institute.

Captain Baker will be remembered by many St. Dunstaners. Formerly an officer in the Canadian Engineers, he was the first Canadian officer to be blinded in the war. After receiving his training at St. Dunstan's he returned to Canada, and has to a great extent been responsible for the splendid work done by for the blind in that country.

NO NAME

Friend of the Family: "Well, Betty, and what's your little brother's name?"

Betty (whose baby brother is not yet christened): "Mother and father haven't decided yet, so he's remaining anonymous for the present."

Letters to the Editor

We have received the following letter and gladly give it publication in ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW. The late Mr. Henry Stainsby was a real friend to the whole blind community, and it is surely fitting that permanent tribute should be paid to his loyal and untiring work.

Dear Sir (or Madam),

HENRY STAINSBY MEMORIAL FUND FOR THE BLIND

We, the undersigned, are conscious of a widespread desire that some permanent memorial should be raised to perpetuate the lifelong and devoted service to the blind of the late Mr. Henry Stainsby.

A preliminary meeting was recently held at the National Institute for the Blind for the purpose of discussing this project; and, as a result, it was proposed to inaugurate a fund to be known as the "Henry Stainsby Memorial Gift Fund for the Blind."

It is suggested that the object of the fund shall be to present gifts, so far as the fund will permit, to pupils of recognised institutions and colleges for the blind on completion of their training; that the gifts should take the form of special apparatus, Braille writers, watches, or other useful appliances; that all gifts should be of such a nature as not to relieve any Institution, Society or Agency of its obligations; and that each gift should bear an inscription "Henry Stainsby Memorial Gift."

We are confident that the many friends, particularly those who are sightless, who knew Mr. Stainsby personally and appreciated the importance of his work, will wish to be associated with and to subscribe to this Memorial Fund.

Mr. Stainsby was an indefatigable worker in the cause of the blind for a period of nearly forty-six years: first at the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind from 1880 to 1908, and then at the National Institute for the Blind from 1909 to 1925.

Mr. Stainsby ever evinced anxiety to place at the disposal of blind persons every facility for reducing their handicap; he was always most anxious that young people should be properly equipped for the battle of life, and he was especially interested in the provision of apparatus for their use. We therefore consider the suggested form of memorial eminently appropriate, and we earnestly appeal for your generous support so as to enable us to give effect to a project which we know would have had Mr. Stainsby's very cordial approval.

A mural tablet is being placed at the National Institute, the cost of which is being defrayed by the Institute's staff.

We have pleasure in stating that the Council of the National Institute has kindly consented to open the fund with a subscription of £500, and will act as trustee. A representative

Committee will ultimately be formed for distribution purposes.

A Statement of Account, together with particulars of investment and administration, will be published in due course.

Cheques, postal orders, &c., should be made payable to "The Henry Stainsby Memorial Fund," and forwarded to the Honorary Treasurer, G. F. Mowatt, Esq., at the above address.

Your co-operation in making the appeal as widely known as possible will be much appreciated.

E. B. B. TOWSE,
Chairman, National Institute for the Blind.

ALICE S. ARMITAGE,
Member of Council, National Institute for the Blind.

R. G. COWLEY,
Chairman, College and Association of Teachers of the Blind.

ARTHUR L. LOWE,
Late Chairman, Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind.

W. H. THURMAN,
Late General Superintendent and Secretary, Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind.

HENRY J. WILSON,
Late Secretary, Gardner's Trust for the Blind.

Hon. Secretary to the Fund:—

Miss K. NIGHTINGALE,
224-8 Great Portland Street,
London, W.1.

A Musical St. Dunstaner

A recent issue of the *Nottingham Evening News* contains the following appreciation of the musical abilities of A. E. Taylor, of Grantham:—

"Belonging (with his wife) to the United Methodist Church in Chapel Street, he is a valued bass singer in the choir. He has an exceptional capacity for memorising, and after listening once or twice to the words and tune of, say, an anthem, he is able to take his part in its interpretation, faultlessly. He also sings as a soloist.

"From an early age he has played the mandoline, and since his affliction he has several times appeared with it on the concert platform in aid of charity. He manipulates the instrument with skill, although without musical notes.

"After becoming blind he learned to play the violin, and in this again he is accomplished."



NEWS FROM THE WORKSHOPS AND STORES

BASKET SHOP

THE close of the Easter Term means, as usual, that we lose some familiar faces from the workshops, and we should like to offer our special congratulations to J. B. Dixon and J. Donnelly on the completion of their course in Centre Cane Baskets. They have both done extremely good work on a large number of baskets, and we are looking forward confidently to hear of their success in the craft.

T. Gregory, a new man, is very interested, and is most anxious to advance. When he has gained knowledge of the strokes and methods of working, this will stand him in good stead. D. T. Edwards has returned for a further course on Willow Baskets, and the way in which he has tackled strange work is a credit to him. W. Haugh has been doing Barrels, Waste Papers and Pail Shopping Baskets. He is picking up his strokes better and making improvement. B. J. Day is, as we anticipated, showing promise of making a good workman. After doing some Soiled Linens and Dog Beds, he has been tackling Square-Arm Baskets, with which he is coming on very well. G. E. Bateman has also been making good progress, keeping his stakes straighter, and improving considerably with regard to shape. F. J. Melligan had a good run on Three-cornered Linens, and, in addition, has done Hampers, which, however, proved a little too heavy for him. W. Rickaby has been doing Barrels, Waste-papers, and some Oval work. This latter proved rather too difficult, and, on returning to some smaller articles, he made a decided improvement all round, and we are hoping for something still better. W. Stuart has continued to make the advance which was recorded last term, and has got through a great deal of very useful work; all of it has shown care, and a large proportion was decidedly good.

BOOT SHOP

T. Eden has been having the usual experience with children's boots, his chief improvement being in squareness and finishing of edges. Since our last reference, W. A. Bowering has shown a marked improvement in Marking and Riveting, and has also advanced generally in the shape of his heels. He has also made a good start in the Mat Shop. E. S. Hayter has been giving more time to Boots this term, and has made very good progress with the trade generally. The pains he is taking with his work should result in a very adequate standard. G. Hadfield works competently and with confidence; he can do a good job on any repair that comes along. In the Mat Shop he has, also, made above the usual progress, succeeding quite well with some five-diamond mats.

MAT SHOP

A. Tetley is making steady advance and is placing his thrums very well indeed. J. Foster is also doing this part of the work well, and his cutting is good. F. J. Shepherd has made some excellent mats; a No. 4, with a diamond centre, was made very carefully in all respects, and another, No. 3, with an insertion border, was also very good. His work in the Boot Shop has been good all round throughout the term.

W. H. O.

At an old folk's treat in a village the senior guest, a widow aged 93, placidly smoking a long clay pipe of the variety known as "churchwarden," was asked about her family, and she replied, "Aw've two lads, an they're booath here. Why, ther's t'owdest on 'em theer, sithi. He 'a turned o' 70, is that. As for t'other, he's nooan getten so far on i' his sixties yet, an aw'm sadly 'feawed awst nivver be able ta rear him."

News from the Brighton Annexe

THE ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. DUNSTAN'S.

Impressions of a T.B. Man.

THE Eleventh Anniversary has come and gone, and the fellows who were at the Brighton Annexe on this eventful day will recall with pleasant memories the celebrations that took place on this occasion. The 26th March 1926 was a typical spring day, and the whole hostel from the Matron to Harold, our miniature boy scout, set themselves out to celebrate the great occasion to the fullest extent.

The portrait of our beloved chief, Sir Arthur, which hangs in a most conspicuous place in the big lounge, was surmounted by a laurel wreath, indicating our respect, esteem and affection for the great man who founded St. Dunstan's and whose one aim and ambition in life was to make us fellows normal men with normal ways and interesting life like the average citizen of our great Empire. If he could have looked down upon the crowded assembly in the lounge, on this memorable occasion, he would have seen that his great work and his great example was being followed by all of us, justifying in every way, that our disability is but a handicap.

At 12.30 p.m., the President, Lady Arthur Pearson, and Lady Seton-Kerr entered the lounge and were introduced by Matron to a crowded house. Matron called on "her boys" to give three of their very loudest cheers for Lady Pearson. Gee-whiz! Some cheers! And when the noise had subsided, Lady Pearson, in a charming little speech, said how happy she was to be present with us on this occasion and complimented the men on how wonderfully fit and well we all looked. Then, turning suddenly, in the middle of the speech, called on the boys to give three cheers for Matron. (Again, Gee-whiz! Cheers loud and prolonged!) Lady Pearson then referred to the great work that was being carried on by our Chairman, Captain Ian Fraser, and again the cheers rang throughout the building.

At this point, the oldest permanent resident, Rogers, or, as he is affectionately called by everyone, "Tommy," came forward, and in a brief, well-worded little speech, asked Lady Pearson to accept a bouquet of flowers as a token of the respect in which the "Pearson family" is held by all St. Dunstaners. Lady Pearson was much impressed by this tribute and thanked us all again and again. She and Lady Seton-Kerr chatted with many of the men and afterwards made a tour of the whole building.

When we had all partaken of a good dinner, a glass of port wine was placed in front of each man. George Adams, the oldest St. Dunstaner in the hostel, asked the fellows to be upstanding and to toast St. Dunstan's. This was done with acclamation. Matron then, in one of her own speeches, complimented us on the spirit of comradeship which prevailed throughout the hostel and said that the "game of cricket" was the password which made us all men. The collective, spontaneous reply was the singing of "She's a Jolly Good Fellow" rendered with perfect harmony, but with every man singing his very loudest. Captain and Mrs. Ian Fraser were toasted; also other heads of St. Dunstan's, with much applause, which showed our appreciation of those who are doing everything humanly possible for our welfare.

To describe the dance, which lasted from 8 to 11.15 p.m., would fill the magazine. Nearly all the fellows were in fancy dress and the enjoyment was just fine. Lady Barrett-Lennard arrived at 9 p.m. to judge the dresses, an extremely difficult duty to perform, for all the costumes, without a single exception, were worthy of the big occasion. The parade was marshalled, and the McFadden Band playing the "British Grenadiers," we all stepped off and marched round many times before any decision could be made. The prize-winners were as follows: Vernon, who represented St. Dunstan's, 1st prize; Bell, Yeoman of the Guard, 2nd prize; Perkis, Coster King, 3rd prize; Barnes, Dutchman; Hillier, French Art Student; Bagstaff, Indian; and McCue, Chef, consolation prizes. All the winners

were complimented. Lady Barrett-Lennard, in a charming little speech, said how much pleasure it gave to present the prizes and complimented all the fellows on the splendid turn-out.

Many of the ladies were in fancy dress, and again, after much marching and counter-marching, the prizes were awarded: Miss A. Laing, Early Victorian, 1st prize; Miss E. Kempshall, Spanish Girl, 2nd prize; Miss G. Jenkins, Oxo Doll, 3rd prize.

At 11 p.m. Bob Perkis, who was in full "war paint" as a coster, proposed a vote of thanks to the Matron for organising the day's events and thus passed the Eleventh Anniversary of St. Dunstan's at the Brighton Annexe.

"CHANGE ARMS."

Births

CHESHIRE.—On the 24th February, to the wife of T. Cheshire, of Studham, a daughter.

COCKBURN.—On the 29th December, to the wife of T. Cockburn, of Walker, a son.

DIXON.—On the 1st March, to the wife of J. Dixon, of Watford, a daughter.

GRIFFITHS.—On the 24th January, to the wife of J. Griffiths, of Petersfield, a daughter.

HILL.—On the 6th March, to the wife of H. E. Hill, of Salisbury, a son.

JARVILL.—On the 4th March, to the wife of B. Jarvill, of Thorne, a son.

MARSHALL.—On the 1st March, to the wife of C. Marshall, of Leigh-on-Sea, a daughter.

MCQUIRK.—On the 28th February, to the wife of W. McQuirk, of Fulham, a son.

POLLEY.—On the 9th March, to the wife of G. Polley, of Ashford, a son.

PURVIES.—On the 8th March, to the wife of D. Purvies, of Middlesbro', a son.

SWANSTON.—On the 6th February, to the wife of G. Swanston, of Lockerbie, a daughter.

TOMKINSON.—On the 1st March, to the wife of H. Tomkinson, of Holloway, a girl. Mother and child are both doing well.

Marriages

ARNOLD-MINDE.—On 25th March 1926, L. Arnold to Miss Ethel L. Minde.

PEARCE-LAIT.—On 3rd April 1926, at Holy Trinity Church, Kentish Town, W. J. Pearce to Miss Louis Lait. (Mrs. Pearce and her husband also are members of Mr. Judd's Carol Party, who have for many years greatly helped in Hampstead in collecting funds for St. Dunstan's work.)

Death

We offer sincere sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. D. Purvies who, on the 12th March, lost their son, aged two years.

We take the following from the *Sunday Companion* :—

"A novel device is in use in Brussels for the benefit of those who have lost their sight and are usually obliged to find their way about unaccompanied. This is a small flag which the blind man holds in his hand. When he wishes to cross the road, or is in need of help of any kind, he stands and waves his flag until a policeman comes to his assistance.

"The little flag is of distinctive appearance, being coloured red and green, which are the colours of the Belgian capital. All the blind people of the city who require it have now been supplied with one of these signals, which are of very great use to them.

Belgium has set an example in this respect which will, in all likelihood, be followed by other cities and towns in other countries. Of course, anyone is always only too pleased to render any assistance to a blind man, and nobody would deliberately refuse their aid to such a person, but one so handicapped is not always noticed when in need of a helping hand, and it must be a comfort to solitary blind people to know that by this means they can obtain almost immediate assistance.

Friendships last when each friend thinks that he has a slight superiority over the other one.—*Balzac*.

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