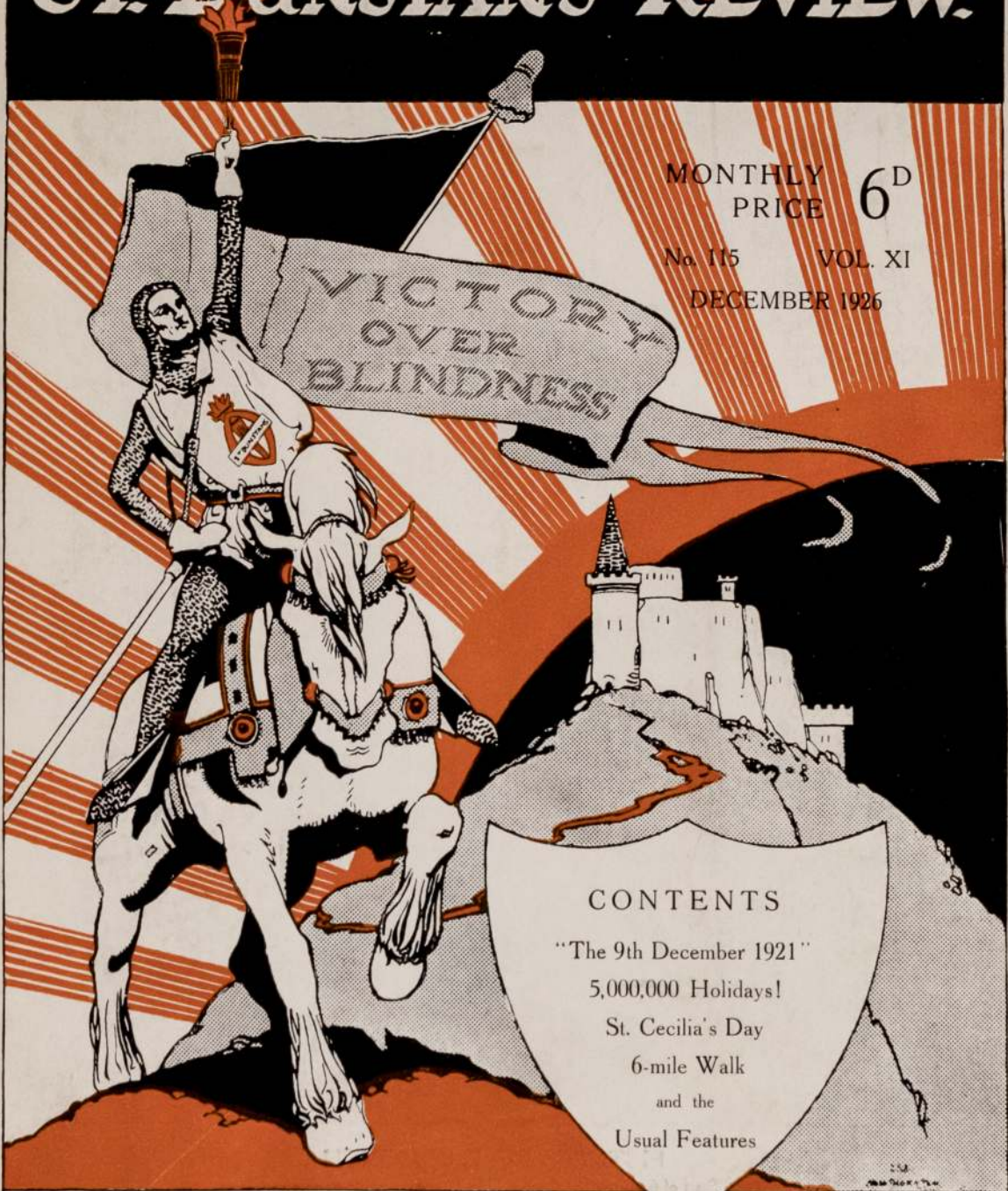


ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

MONTHLY
PRICE 6^D

No. 115 VOL. XI
DECEMBER 1926



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and the
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FOR THE AMUSEMENT & INTEREST OF MEN BLINDED IN THE WAR



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Bottom: A Group at the Gloucester Re-union.

St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY PERRY BARRINGER

No. 115.—VOLUME XI.

DECEMBER, 1926.

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

EDITORIAL NOTES

THOSE St. Dunstaners who have any natural ability or liking for public speaking find, we are sure, the greatest pleasure in the invitations which are frequently extended to them to give addresses on the work of St. Dunstan's. The subject is one which provides vastly interesting and colourful material for any orator, and surely much more so for those who have first-hand and grateful knowledge of the beneficent character of the work of the Organisation. In some future issue we hope to publish an article giving some helpful advice on the art of public speaking and lecturing, for the requests we receive from time to time from St. Dunstaners for up-to-date facts and figures with regard to St. Dunstan's gives evidence not only of the public desire to hear the story of our Organisation from one of its own members, but of the sustained interest in and sympathy with the aims and ideals for which it was founded.

Meanwhile, our readers can rest assured that we are always only too happy to give them any help in the preparation of addresses they may be asked to deliver.



The question of whether we should have a Brighton Walk again next year will shortly come up for consideration. The walk demands very considerable organisation, and Captain Fraser wants to be satisfied that it is really worth while before sanctioning the arrangements for 1927. On the one hand he does not want to disappoint the men who so gallantly stuck the long course for five years, but on the other hand, if the historic walk to Brighton were replaced by a shorter contest a larger number of men would be able to enter, and this might perhaps be a good thing. The Editor would be glad of the views of his readers upon the subject.

*The Editor wishes all his Readers at Home and Abroad
A Right Merry Christmas
and Health and Prosperity in the Coming Year*

"The 9th of December 1921"
In Memory of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.B.E.
The Founder of St. Dunstan's

THE fifth anniversary of the tragic death of our great Chief was observed at St. Dunstan's Headquarters as in past years. In the morning a delegation consisting of the following:— Captain Fraser, and Lance-Corporal David Edwards, Gunner William Moore, and 2nd Lieutenant Cecil Le Bas (representing the men in training), and Corporal A. E. Moore and Lance-Corporal John Kerr (representing After-Care Men), and accompanied by Mrs. Fraser and some of the senior officials of the staff, visited Sir Arthur's tomb in Hampstead Cemetery and placed thereon a magnificent floral emblem composed of white chrysanthemums and red gladioli in the form of St. Dunstan's Badge. After the wreath had been deposited, the Reverend J. E. Williams conducted a short service at the graveside. After the recital of the Lord's Prayer, the following short special prayer was offered:—

"O Lord our God, the Father of Light, accept we pray Thee, our grateful thanks for the services rendered by the Founder of St. Dunstan's, and for all that those services have meant to us. We ask that Thou wouldst keep him in Thine own dear keeping, and that light perpetual may shine upon him. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord."

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE

At Holy Trinity Church, St. Marylebone, in the evening, a Memorial Service was held. It was conducted by the Reverend Prebendary Sharpe, assisted by the Revs. Harold Gibb and J. E. Williams, and there was a large congregation representing practically every section of the blind community. Our President, Lady (Arthur) Pearson, was accompanied by Sir Neville Pearson, and among others attending were the Reverend Alfred and Mrs. Menzies, Mrs. Arnold, Miss Ethel Pearson, Captain and Mrs. Fraser, Sir Arnold Lawson, and Mr. A. W. Ormond. A considerable number of the officers and men of St. Dunstan's, together with most of the senior officials

and a large gathering of the administrative and executive staff, representatives from the National Institute for the Blind, members of the staffs of Messrs. Newnes and Pearson's and many blind delegates from other organisations, almost filled the three centre aisles of the beautiful church.

The Service opened with the singing of the hymn "Lead, kindly Light." There followed sentences from the Lesser Litany and the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. St. Dunstan's special prayers followed and then came the 23rd Psalm "The Lord is my Shepherd." The Lesson, read by the Rev. Prebendary Sharpe, was from Ecclesiastes 44, 1-15. The Rev. Harold Gibb, in a moving and inspiring address, paid tribute to the beneficent labours of our late Chief. He emphasised that the basis of all such noble work as had been accomplished by Sir Arthur was summed up in one word—Love; love of one's fellow creatures—love of doing good. He said that the inspiration and example of Sir Arthur had extended far beyond the realms of St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstan's men. It had set a new ideal, raised new hopes among the sightless throughout the world, and had carried a message the effects of which would never fade.

After the address the hymn "For all the Saints" was sung, followed by special prayers, and then Sir Arthur's favourite hymn "Abide with me" filled the church with its noble music. The fine choir of men, women and boys gave the Requiem with impressive effect, and the Blessing concluded a service which had brought to all our hearts and memories proud thoughts of the great leader who had passed from us it seemed so short a span since.

Braille Correspondence Classes

We are asked to state that a number of replies have been received on this subject, and that the whole question is being given careful consideration by the National Institute for the Blind's Education Committee.

"In Memory"

PRIVATE SYDNEY WILDING
(13th Cheshire Regiment)

WE much regret to announce the death of this St. Dunstaner. Wilding enlisted within a month of the outbreak of war and was wounded at Thiepval in September 1916. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's the same year, training first in poultry farming and afterwards in boot repairing. On leaving in 1919 he carried on with this latter trade and set up a nice little business. Until 1920 he flourished, but during that year misfortune laid no light hand upon the little household, and although Wilding met his reverses pluckily, the loss of his mother was a great blow to him. Personal suffering from old war wounds and anxiety caused through his father's death after an illness of fifteen months, undermined Wilding's health. He spent several weeks at our Brighton Annexe, resulting in a temporary improvement in health, but towards the end of this year he contracted pneumonia and died on the 10th November.

The funeral took place on 13th November, and among the beautiful wreaths received was a floral tribute from Captain Fraser and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's, in the form of our badge.

PRIVATE JOHN MCGUIRE
(2nd Royal Irish Regiment)

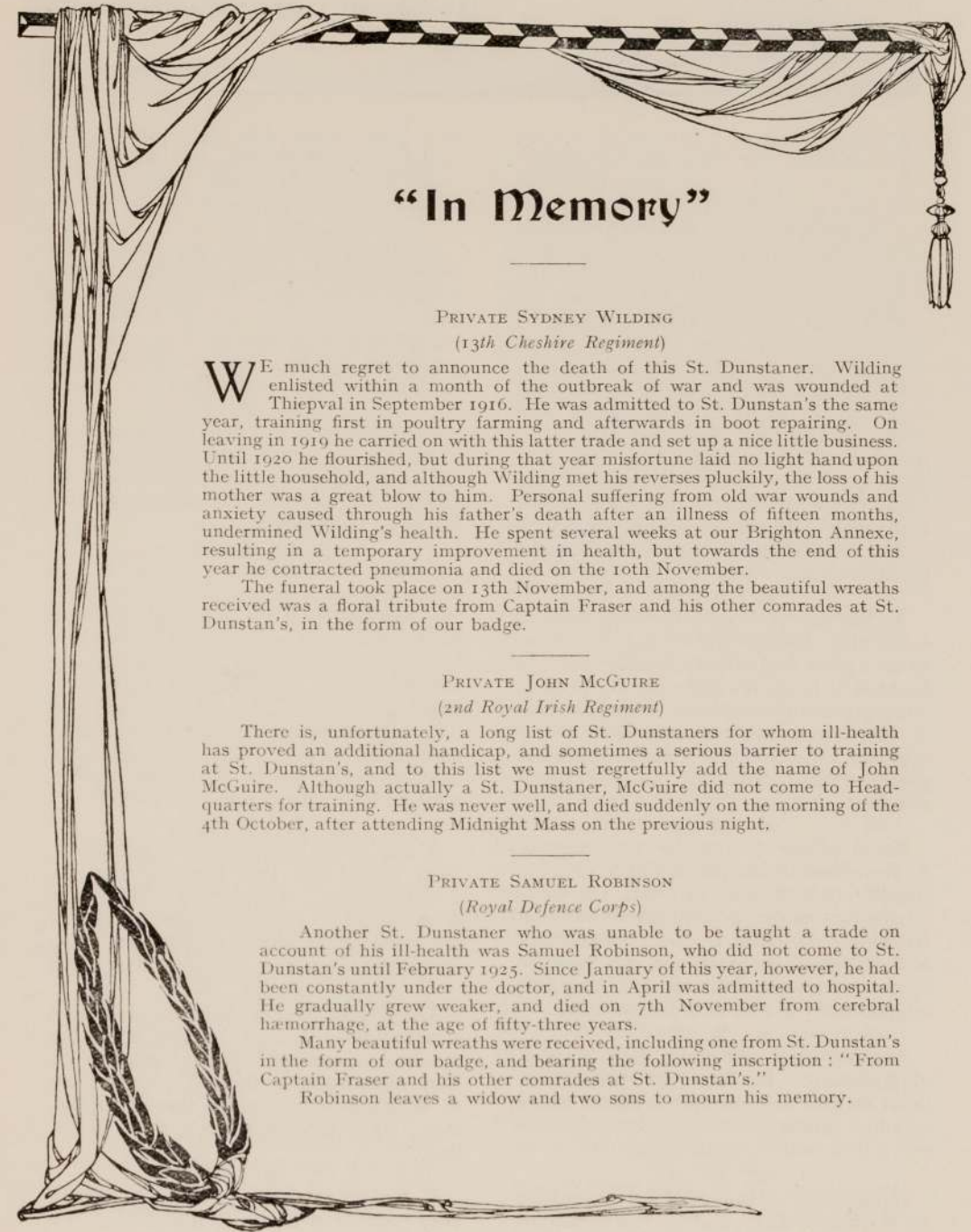
There is, unfortunately, a long list of St. Dunstaners for whom ill-health has proved an additional handicap, and sometimes a serious barrier to training at St. Dunstan's, and to this list we must regretfully add the name of John McGuire. Although actually a St. Dunstaner, McGuire did not come to Headquarters for training. He was never well, and died suddenly on the morning of the 4th October, after attending Midnight Mass on the previous night.

PRIVATE SAMUEL ROBINSON
(Royal Defence Corps)

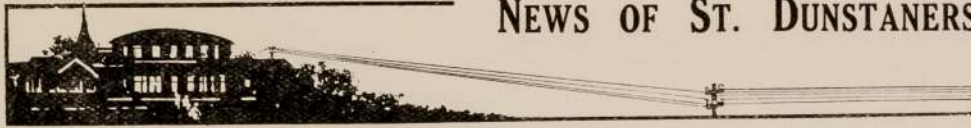
Another St. Dunstaner who was unable to be taught a trade on account of his ill-health was Samuel Robinson, who did not come to St. Dunstan's until February 1925. Since January of this year, however, he had been constantly under the doctor, and in April was admitted to hospital. He gradually grew weaker, and died on 7th November from cerebral haemorrhage, at the age of fifty-three years.

Many beautiful wreaths were received, including one from St. Dunstan's in the form of our badge, and bearing the following inscription: "From Captain Fraser and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's."

Robinson leaves a widow and two sons to mourn his memory.



NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS



THE building of a very large concrete storehouse for the storage of poultry foods is a job any man might hesitate to undertake, but W. Burgin, of Thurgoland, has just completed one which is a credit to him. It is a fine piece of work we hear. Burgin must be particularly skilled in the management of poultry, for he says he contrives to keep his regular customers supplied with eggs even when eggs are as short as they are now; his birds look in splendid condition. Burgin, by the way, is one of the many St. Dunstaners who wrote to the local press and also to his member of Parliament urging the importance of free wireless licences for the blind. Some of these found their effort met with immediate reward inasmuch as the letter aroused interest and brought attention if not orders.

A. Stevens, of Widdersley, is as busy as ever with basket work and contrives to do a good deal of trade locally, perhaps because he is always willing to try making anything a customer may require. One of his recent achievements is a really splendid little chair for a child which has given great satisfaction to the lucky recipient.

Local orders also come the way of A. Wernham, of Bracknell, and he is going steadily on with mats and nets, the trade for the two varying according to the season. His eldest daughter is doing remarkably well at school we learn and has brought home a most excellent report. Congratulations to her as well as to her parents.

Another busy mat-maker is J. Murray, of Kilkenny. He has just received an order for two large ones for an infant school and has promise of further orders, so he sees a busy winter ahead of him.

A fine crop of potatoes is reported by B. Martin, of Bray, and he has been hard

at it lifting them. His pig is thriving and he (Martin, not the pig) has just had an order for several dozen baskets for a bazaar, so he is a busy and a happy man.

The damage done by the flood to the little home of F. T. Hill, of Redfield, is now a thing of the past; the whole place has had to be cleared up and the house looks exceedingly well with its new paint and paper. Mr. and Mrs. Hill must be beginning to think it was all worth while!

In Sidmouth A. E. Eden is working away at mats in the intervals of attending to his chickens and house-hunting, but it is as difficult to find suitable accommodation in Devon as elsewhere.

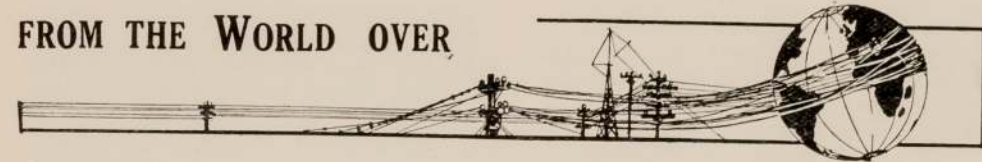
Several St. Dunstaners have settled to study French this winter, among them W. Newland and W. J. Hallam, both of Hever, Kent. Are they contemplating a holiday in France next year? Both men are busy with poultry and Hallam is finding his little daughter a splendid "right-hand man," especially when things go a trifle wrong. She doctored some chickens with the gapes a few months back and has many cures to her credit.

A fine order for mats for a local technical school has just been secured by J. Brockerton, of Coleraine. His luck is evidently in, for an order for a couple of motor mats came almost at the same time—congratulations are certainly due here!

The Cardiff meeting seems to have been a pronounced success judging from the number of men who have remarked on that pleasurable gathering, among them A. Williams, of Llanishen, near Chepstow, Mon., whose first experience it was in this line.

C. Knight seems to have made himself very popular in North Evington and as a

FROM THE WORLD OVER



result is never without a friend willing to lend him temporary aid with his poultry if an extra hand is required. Knight is a hard worker and finds real interest in his birds. He has just had his poultry house moved and put on a proper brick foundation so is expecting great developments in the coming season.

In many cases men are daring to hope that trade must soon show definite signs of revival since the coal strike has ended. Among them is F. D. Tomlinson, who is gallantly holding his pitch in the market, despite present bad times, knowing that if he gives it up it will be impossible to get back again when things improve. His health is a bit better, friends will be glad to know, and he is making baskets.

A man who believes in a variety of occupations is E. Clarke, of Edwinstowe. He runs a shop, which does remarkably well considering the times we are living in; collects, buys and resells rabbit skins; saws and chops wood better than many a man with sight, and is always willing to turn his hand to any odd job that needs doing about the house.

Friends of L. Hutchinson, of Skelton, will be glad to hear that he is much better in every way since his visit to Brighton. He is very proud of his wife's success with her pedigree Blue Bedlington puppies which are fast winning a name for themselves; she has sent two as far afield as St. Albans. Hutchinson, by the way, is yet another of our wireless recruits and is finding it a fascinating hobby.

What with a garden and a field to dig W. Howes, of Tormarton, Badminton, is a very busy man. He had a really splendid crop of potatoes this year and also grew some of the finest marrows in the place. Not very long since he bought a pony and

trap and they are giving him a good deal of pleasure.

"Business quiet on account of the coal strike" is a very familiar little sentence and one that we hope we shall not have to repeat much longer. However, at present those in the mining districts are still feeling the effects, but Mr. and Mrs. Birchall, of St. Helens, are using the slack time to rearrange things. Their sweetstuff shop has a most attractive appearance, and we feel confident that a liberal share of Christmas trade will come to them.

A shop in a near-by town gave G. F. Smith, of Stoughton, a fine order for trays and tea stands not so very long since and has now sent a "repeat." He is immensely eager to get to work on it but has been delayed by a whitlow on the palm of his hand. We hope for complete recovery from this trouble shortly.

A considerable amount of boot work has come the way of E. Hughes, of Neath, of late, particularly considering the strike, and in addition he is helping things along with mat-making, having secured at least one good local order. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes were two more among the many who found enjoyment in the Cardiff meeting, and we have to congratulate Mrs. Hughes on having carried off a prize in a competition.

The "Whizz Bangs" concert party organised by P. J. Sparkes, of Grimsby, has secured quite a number of engagements, all will be glad to know, and with the Christmas season coming on there should be even more scope for its activities. We congratulate Sparkes upon his enterprise in this direction.

The Belfast shop of H. McAteer is making a brave show of Christmas goods.

News of St. Dunstaners—continued.

He has toys of all kinds, and when the Christmas spirit of buying seizes on people there is small doubt but that the stock will be quickly cleared off.

Not many men go in for adorning their workshops with such luxuries as curtains, but G. Lawlor, of Walsall, has tried it with good effect. With cretonne curtains at the window, and the walls distempered blue, the little place looks wonderfully well.

Another man whose workshop looks exceedingly well is H. Lea, of Bradley Corner, Derbyshire; he has just had it papered. Boot repairs have slackened off, of late, in Lea's district, but he believes this to be only a temporary lull and is filling in spare time with mat making.

Not far from Lea is the little farm of J. Woodhouse where everything seems flourishing as usual. There are now seven cows to milk and in addition five young cows and a week old calf to be looked after, so Woodhouse has little leisure despite the valuable help given by his father. The strike has made him busier than ever, by the way, for to get over the fuel shortage he has been buying trees for burning—there has been a deal of sawing to be done!

Congratulations to T. J. Walden, of Stanmore, or rather to his eldest boy, in that he has just carried off a prize for drawing.

It is rather late to speak of holidays but we have only just received from A. Bennett, of Dover, an interesting account of his visit to one of our Belgian St. Dunstaners, Alphonse van den Bosch, now resident in Ghent. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Bennett can speak a word of Flemish but they arrived safely and were met at the station by their host, who gave them a most splendid time and proved himself an ideal interpreter. Bosch sends his remembrances to all at St. Dunstan's.

A number of repair jobs in joinery have been coming in to F. Ralph, of Purley.

J. Thornton, of Camden Town, is doing fairly well with baskets. C. R. Gray is moving into his own house in West Croydon, and is looking forward to busy hours with wool work and netting. G. Anderson, of Alton, is very satisfied with his little cottage. W. H. Foxon, of Acton Vale, has been reckoning up results and says that his allotment has done very well this summer, and F. E. Parker, of Kintore, is of the same opinion in regard to his garden.

There is a fair local demand for mats in Torphine, according to E. Brockie, who is keeping up the supply, while P. Sheridan and J. J. Steel are doing the same for Rosyth and W. R. French is attending to the needs of the district around Heybridge.

T. Campbell, of Brighton, continues his work on mat-making and is to be congratulated on a very marked improvement in the quality of his work throughout.

"All well" is the news from H. V. Clampett, of Eastleigh, his friends will like to hear that he is in better health and is now able to do work.

Trade in the tobacco world is good "considering," is the opinion of H. J. Crane, whose kiosk in Croydon is giving him plenty of experience.

An exhibition is in prospect, so H. White, of Croydon, is busy getting up a stock of baskets. We hope they will prove both prize-takers and good sellers.

Lack of coal has been hindering the work of many, among them J. Goodison, of Sandymount, who, however, despite the shortage, hopes to complete the number of mats he has set himself to do by an early date. Another Sandymount man in splendid health is E. P. Horan.

The eldest son of F. Kneller, of Southampton, has just returned from South Africa. We shall hope to hear of his adventures and his opinions of that country through his father.

Like Clampett, H. Northgreaves says, "All is well." He is working away at mats and seems to be of the opinion that his baby grows almost visibly. He is certainly a fine big fellow now.

Ireland seems to have been particularly hardly hit by the coal strike, for almost all our St. Dunstaners in that part of the world mention the difficulty they have in keeping warm. J. Joyce, of Sandymount, has installed a paraffin stove to fill the gap. R. Bell, of the same district, was envied by all when his family found some small coal on the bank, and celebrated the find with a fine blaze.

The tea and sugar business run by D. McLoughlin, of Dublin, is progressing, but his side line of selling firewood has had to lapse as it is impossible to get supplies.

At Gateshead everything is quiet, according to M. Mulvaney, but he is working away steadily at mats, waiting for the good times he feels sure must come. W. S. Peary, of Newcastle, and J. Aitken, of the same district, are well and happy. T. Murphy, of Bedlington, says that his few head of poultry are doing well, and R. Baker, of Chopwell, has some local orders in hand for mats and says trade is very fair indeed in his little shop, considering what others are experiencing.

A. Hermon, of Watlington, is keeping well except for the average number of colds from which we most of us suffer, and finds that he gets just about as much work as he feels able to tackle.

The health of D. Melling, of Coggeshall, near Colchester, is much better and he is now at work on his poultry farm. A. H. Osmond, of Walthamstow, is doing fairly well with boots and mats. W. A. Foolkes, of Bow Brickhill, has got in an order for a few baskets to employ him in any leisure his chickens may allow him, and P. Holmes, of Woburn, alternates between farm work and mat making. He is as well and cheery as ever.

An unpleasant little accident befel J. Keegan, of Drogheda, recently. He was sitting by a fire well made up with blocks of wood on which a kettle had been put to boil, when it fell over, scalding his foot. All will be glad to know that it is healing well. Keegan is looking forward to the installation of wireless; at the time of writing his set is in the hands of the customs officials!

One of the many hoping for a move is H. F. Goodley, of Pulham St. Mary. He finds insufficient outlet for his energies in the amount of ground attached to his cottage, and this, too, is too small since there are now five in the family. We hope soon to be able to report a lucky find in the way of a larger house with all the land Goodley desires.

Another in much the same state of desire is P. Kennedy, of Thurles, but he has had the definite promise of one of the new houses that are being erected opposite his present residence, so is in high spirits. With him, too, wireless is a great joy.

J. Noble, of St. Albans, is busy on the netting and wool work he took up a short time ago. W. G. Cox, of Woodstock, is well employed on mats. His daughter, by the way, is doing exceedingly well at school, and particularly in music, as the result of her examinations shows. Her gift is doubtless a pleasure to Cox. "All's well" with W. Farmery, of Waltham Chase, and likewise with D. Pettit, of Northampton, whose baby daughter is said to be "a little beauty" and possessed of a happy temperament.

The Welland family of Bramley, near Guildford, has recovered from its severe attack of mumps, although Welland himself and one of the boys are not quite clear of the after effects. Work is coming in satisfactorily.

Genius does what it must, and talent does what it can.—*Lord Lytton.*

No day is more wasted than one in which we have not laughed.—*Chamfort.*

From Our Overseas Letter-Bag

FROM Johannesburg comes a welcome letter from E. Nava:—"We are going along as well as ever. Our poultry is gradually increasing every year and we are filling up the ground with fruit trees, so are getting on nicely. We are hoping 'some day' to come to England and see again the place where I spent so many happy days."

A Port Elizabethan, T. Sattary, writes that he is keeping fit and has been especially busy of late as there was a show in prospect which meant that he had to get together a stock of mats for exhibition purposes. Sattary's home is a very nice one, by the way, with a fine sea view, and his workshop is so large that he occasionally turns it into a ball-room and gives dances there!

"Flourishing" is the news from F. S. Owen, who has settled near Johannesburg and is doing well with poultry and basket work. Like many of his English comrades Owen is a keen wireless enthusiast.

Many will remember W. E. A. Muller, now of Mafeking, from whom one or two letters have been received of late. His baby boy is now nearly three years old and as happy natured as his father. Some time back he carried off a prize at a baby show, so is evidently a handsome and sturdy youngster. Perhaps our next news will be that Muller has moved to the coast. He is contemplating a change, since he will then be able to go in for poultry farming on a larger scale.

One who thoroughly appreciates South African sunshine is C. H. van Niekerk, of Cape Province. He says they simply live out of doors and look on their verandah as an ideal living room, even having meals there in comfort and privacy behind a verandah blind which was bought as a "St. Dunstan's birthday present."

And now for the contents of the Canadian postbag. Mention should be made first of W. Farnell, who in East York Township, on the borders of the large city of Toronto, is taking an active part in municipal affairs, and "talking instead of working." According to him, however, as his "talk" prevented the wasteful expenditure of some twenty or thirty pounds of the public money, it was certainly useful.

A letter from G. H. Simpson, of Virden, Manitoba, is also among those we appreciate, particularly as it promises a more active correspondence in the future. For Simpson's sake we will refrain from mentioning the date of his last epistle!

The Canadian winter puts a stop to many things, so men like G. A. Sugden, of Calgary, miss the garden work they enjoy in the spring and summer and have to turn to other hobbies. Sugden, for instance, began to take singing lessons with the approach of bad weather and also devotes time to reed work, but he confesses that he watches the passage of time with eagerness and counts the day when gardening again becomes possible as *the day in the year*.

Another letter of distant date is from A. P. Archibald, of golf fame. As he is a British Columbian, the usual Canadian winter does not trouble him and for the most part he finds the weather "ideal," no frost or snow and an average rainfall interspersed with "lots of sunshine." The only trouble is that with such ideal weather golf courses are liable to be crowded, which naturally makes play more difficult for Archibald.

We join in the wish expressed by M. Smith, of the Province of Quebec, that he, with many others now dwelling far apart in the world, could have been present on "St. Dunstan's roth Birthday."

"Health splendid and time fully occupied" is the welcome, if brief, news we can report from W. Austin, of Ontario.

As usual, a very interesting letter comes from C. Purkis, of Preston, also Ontario. This year he has had so many eggs from his poultry that he has been crating them and sending to the cities where the highest prices have been obtained. The Canadian Government has introduced a grading system which has made the cold storage egg of a much higher quality than it used to be. This makes keener competition, according to Purkis, but he believes it will have the effect of inducing people to eat more eggs, so it will be good for trade in the long run when customers learn that they can rely upon getting good value for their money. Purkis has about 300 birds and hatched out two hundred this year, which he considers a very low number. This was owing to his wife's serious illness, which naturally handicapped and worried him. We are glad to know that Mrs. Purkis is now well again.

Another particularly interesting epistle is that from J. R. Macpherson, and he also lays stress on the British Columbian climate. Last winter they had so little frost that flowers went on blooming gaily and Mrs. Macpherson picked a big bunch of chrysanthemums on Christmas Day—we hope the same will be possible this year. Macpherson says that his crops of tomatoes and canteloupe melons both ripened in the open, and when rose cuttings were put in as late as December they all lived and flourished. We shall look forward with interest to hearing the result of the tobacco he intended to plant when last he wrote. Dog lovers might like to cap Macpherson's dog stories. He has a bulldog it appears with two odd passions—one is for cups of tea and another for baby's "soothers" which it steals at every opportunity!

With the letter from G. Scott, of Otago, New Zealand, comes a charming little photograph of George Scott, junior, a bonny boy indeed, and, judging from the portrait, a jolly one to o—congratulations

to his parents. Scott's poultry have been doing well and he has been putting in a number of hours' work in the garden, keeping the digging of his trenches level by laying a board at the back and guiding his spade by this; others may like to take the tip. Scott is one of the large and gallant band of St. Dunstaners who never forget our motto of "Victory over Blindness." He wishes to be remembered to all his friends on this side of the water.

From Australia comes a letter from C. E. Hills, who says that he sets aside wet days for correspondence, so rarely gets a chance to write since rain is so infrequent in New South Wales! He has for a neighbour another blinded soldier, but one who was sent to a Hampstead hospital, and never heard of St. Dunstan's when he was in England! He passed it a score of times but was never told that it was anything more than an ordinary civilian institution, so missed the chance of joining our brotherhood.

Another New South Wales man from whom we are glad to hear again after a long silence is F. Morris, of Mosman. His home is near the sea, which is fortunate, for one of Morris's favourite amusements is fishing. It seems incredible that his eldest boy is now seven years old. We wish that he could bring his family over to pay headquarters a visit.

An Interesting Report

We have received a copy of the annual report of the South African Library for the Blind—an interesting record of excellent work. Reference is made to the fact that W. Meaker, of Grahamstown, was chosen by his comrades to represent blinded South African soldiers at the unveiling of the Delville Wood Memorial. It states also that Meaker has presented a set of poultry books (pocket edition) to the library, and often Brailles' playing cards for readers.

—

Irony and pity are both of good counsel.
—*Anatole France*.

I call useful all that gives happiness.—
Rodin.

Five Million Holidays!

IT is always with great pleasure and interest that we receive the annual report of that wonderful organisation, Pearson's Fresh Air Fund. In the pages of this modest little volume is recorded an overflowing measure of happiness brought into the lives of those who are least able to win it unaided—the little children from the drab slums of our great industrial centres. The thirty-fifth annual report which lies before us is this year of special interest, the wonderful total having been reached of over five million holidays given to Britain's poorest children.

"If it were possible," the report points out, "to take these children all on one day, no fewer than 8,400 trains, each containing 600 children, would be required, and a further 140 trains would be necessary to transport the children away from their usual unpleasant surroundings for their happy fortnights, of which 84,101 have been given."

"It is difficult when looking at the foregoing cold figures to understand the immensity of the task which has been performed, but they convey a better idea of the great work accomplished when it is realised that the number of children for whom a happy holiday has been provided is nearly four times the total population of New Zealand, and within 500,000 of the total population of the whole of Australia."

The title given this year's report is "The Breathless Moment," and the introductory pages draw a vivid comparison between the "children's hour" on the wireless, when birthday greetings and news as to the location of birthday gifts are being awaited with eager interest, and the breathless moment in the schools of slumdom when names for the Fresh Air Fund holidays and outings are being read out.

Rarely are the "listeners-in" to the "children's hour" disappointed—they are mostly the children of parents able to guard against such a happening; but

what of the many thousands for whom there is not enough money forthcoming to pay for the Fresh Air Fund outing or holiday?

"There is a world of difference in the lives of these children! The slum child craves, longs, and hopes for just one day in the country, and the knowledge that that one day is to be his or hers transforms life for the time being. It is talked of for weeks beforehand, and for months—sometimes years afterwards."

"The Fresh Air Fund takes no note of sect or creed, just the necessity for the holiday is the 'open sesame' according to the ability of the Fresh Air Fund to provide it through the generosity of subscribers, collectors, organisers, &c."

As charities go, the Fresh Air Fund is unique, for there are no management expenses, and there have been none since its inauguration by the late Sir Arthur Pearson. These are borne by the promoters (Messrs. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., and the Shaftesbury Society), so that every penny of the amount sent helps to dispel sorrow from the eyes of an expectant child.

As most St. Dunstaners know, our Treasurer, Mr. Ernest Kessell, has been the Honorary Secretary of the Fresh Air Fund ever since its inception thirty-five years ago, and those who wish to contribute to this splendid work can send their donations to him either at St. Dunstan's Headquarters or at the offices of the Fund, 18 Henrietta Street, London, W.C.2.

It remains to add that the report, with its cover from an actual photograph of two slum kiddies discovering a small frog in a country pond, is excellently produced.

Manchester Sports Club

The next meetings will be on 22nd December 1926, 26th January 1927, 23rd February 1927 and 16th March 1927, at the Y.M.C.A., Peter Street, at 4 o'clock.

After-Care Re-unions

Staffordshire and Shropshire

THIS meeting took place on 18th November at Reynolds Café, Wolverhampton, instead of at Hanley, and was somewhat of an experiment.

The weather was abominable and the men who came from afar are to be congratulated on their pluck in turning out. However, they found a welcome awaiting them, not the least appreciated part of which were two blazing fires. In these times of strife we were indeed lucky. The tables were beautifully decorated and after a good tea Mr. Swain made a jolly speech which was greeted with much laughter and appreciation.

In proposing a vote of thanks to Captain Fraser and St. Dunstan's, S. A. Chambers expressed his unabated admiration for St. Dunstan's, and all they did for their men, and the men's pride in Captain Fraser as "one of us."

T. H. Dennison seconded and said that he was sure that he was speaking for all his comrades when he said that they all intended to live up to the ideals taught at St. Dunstan's.

The concert, which called forth much enthusiasm, was organised by Mr. McBean and Mr. Smith, the manager of the Wolverhampton Hippodrome. He brought a number of the artistes who were engaged at his theatre that week. Our grateful thanks are due to them all for the splendid entertainment they provided.

The competitions, which were run by Miss Hodgson, Miss Nelson, and Miss E. Gough, were a great success.

The prize winners were as follows:
Basket Ball.—1st, H. Kidger; 2nd, G. H. Hawkins.

Card Throwing.—1st, S. A. Chambers; 2nd, J. T. Johnson and E. Moss, who tossed, Moss winning.

Number Guessing.—Mrs. H. New.

Altogether the experiment was successful, and it is hoped to hold the meeting again next year and, if possible, get more men. N. G.

Worcester

This meeting was again held at the Central Café, Worcester, where the manager gave the men a hearty welcome and a splendid tea. Mr. Swain's speech was listened to with great appreciation. After delivering a message from Captain Fraser he spoke of his immense admiration of the men and their work, and how proud he was to be on St. Dunstan's staff. He also asked them to remember that any help he or his department could give them was never a trouble but always a pleasure.

A vote of thanks to Captain Fraser, Mr. Swain, and all helpers was proposed by P. Sumner and seconded by A. Hinton.

We had selections on the wireless during tea, and afterwards a splendid concert given by ladies and gentlemen of the district. We are very grateful to all of them. Also to Captain Guinness, Worcester Barracks, who went to a lot of trouble to get us some vocalists.

We were very pleased to see Miss Berkeley, who again came to help, and presented the men with a cake. Also we must thank Miss Smith-Ryland, who did some transport work for us.

Result of competitions:—

Guessing Weight of Cake.—R. H. Thomas and W. Street tied and halved the cake.

Card Throwing.—P. Sumner.

Bean Bag.—Mrs. Thomas.

It was unfortunate that, owing to illness and travel difficulties, the meeting was so small. There are not a lot of men in this district, and next year Mr. Swain and the social visitor hope to be able to make arrangements for them to attend larger meetings at either Leamington, Wolverhampton, or Gloucester. N. G.

Gloucester

The Gloucester After-Care Meeting was held at Botherway's Café on Wednesday, 24th November. The attendance was a record one for this meeting, and as it was the seventh one to be held in Gloucester

nearly all the guests were old friends at the meeting, if not at St. Dunstan's, so there was soon that cheerful hum of conversation which rises so readily when St. Dunstaners get together.

Our old friend, the bag competition, with the attendant egg boiler as timer, was soon in full swing, and, though one of the competitors appeared to spend most of his time getting caught in the mouse trap, the standard of skill was very high. The ladies' competition was won by Mrs. Newell, and the men's by F. C. Harris.

Much to everyone's pleasure, J. Pile, of Rodborough, won the cake, it being such a happy coincidence that he should win on his birthday. Mrs. Dembenki won the pie, guessing the exact weight.

Seventy at tea is a large number even for the nice room at Botherway's, but everyone found a seat, and the excellent tea was much enjoyed. After tea Mr. Swain read a message from Captain Fraser, and followed it with a cheery speech, both being listened to with great pleasure. A. Bundy, of Gloucester, replied for the St. Dunstaners present in a very happily phrased little speech, in which he included a special message of thanks to Captain Fraser and the Council of St. Dunstan's for the much appreciated gift of wireless sets.

After tea there was time for even more conversation, the finishing of the competitions and some music. Thanks to the kindness of Mrs. Fennell, of Gloucester, and Mr. Woodrow, of Cheltenham, we were able to have a splendid programme of music, and Miss Pile and A. Bundy gave some delightfully rendered songs.

It was a great pleasure having so many old friends among us—Miss Wilson, Miss Schriever, and Miss Rice, known to so many at the Cheltenham Annexe, and Mr. Gardiner, of the Cheltenham "Toc H." Time passed all too quickly, and after Mr. Swain had been sent off with full musical honours it was soon time for others to catch trains. As Gloucester had chosen that day to have the worst fog experienced for years, we fear many had a lengthened journey home, but so far no one has been reported as missing, so we hope everyone reached home safely.

D. I. M. A.

The Braille-Room Tea

Except for the fact that every one of the Braille teas seems to be the jolliest we have ever had, I would say that the one this year beat the record.

Roughly speaking, about eighty people were present, and in the excellence of the tea itself Messrs. Lyons rose to the occasion "nippily" in cakes and sausage rolls. When the tea was over the band played as many war songs as it knew (which weren't very many), and those it did not know the "boys" sang for themselves. And when they weren't singing they seemed to be proposing marriage to the waitresses. But I don't think that anything will come of it, because several had waited on the boys last year and were used to it—not being "nippies" for nothing. It was all like the good old days, and this was made more especially so by a number of the former staff who were there, though between you and me and "the diver" I am sure they don't even know the first letter of the Braille alphabet! Miss Cunynghame, for instance, and Miss Davies, Miss Bamberger and myself. Anything for a good tea, I suppose. And it *was* a good tea—Miss Reynolds, Miss Stacey, and the Braille Room had seen to that. "Dots" were forgotten. Certainly there were no contractions. In fact, there were only expansions—with more than one waistcoat button flying off like a "Big Bertha." And if to laugh is to really grow fat most of us had lost our figures by the evening. It was a great afternoon! Too quickly over, alas! And next year seems such a long time hence, doesn't it? Anyway, I am sure that you will all echo my thought when I declare that, among the very many happy memories of St. Dunstan's, this annual Braille Tea is among the happiest. And so say all the dot-chasers and the dot-chased; in fact, all of us!

"Mr. H."

FOR SALE.

Irish Terrier dog, seven months old; would make good farm or yard dog, or would soon be taught to the lead; will make good ratter.—Apply to A. W. Ballard, 25 Gunthorpe Drive, Sherwood Estate, Nottingham. Purchaser required to defray transport expenses.

St. Cecilia's Day—St. Dunstaners at 2LO

THE programme broadcast from 2LO on the evening of the day of Saint Cecilia (the patron saint of the blind) was, as last year, entrusted for compilation and announcing to our chairman, Captain Fraser. The result was a success upon which he and all the artists who contributed to the excellent programme are to be heartily congratulated. We know that Captain Fraser has had from listeners all over the country a large number of letters expressing high admiration for the quality of the programme and the pleasure it gave. Many St. Dunstaners have also written saying how clearly and splendidly the whole of the programme came through and voicing the pleasure it gave them to hear their old comrades. We regret we have only space to quote but a few of the many appreciations:—

W. C. Smith, of Melbourne, Derbyshire, writes: "I should like to congratulate you and all blind persons taking part in the concert, especially my colleagues from St. Dunstan's. It was very nice to be able to hear old voices again. Both Mrs. Smith and myself remarked that the reproduction of your voice was wonderful, and just as natural as when we heard you talk to us last at St. Dunstan's. I also thought Mr. Costigan's singing very good, and could tell his voice again although I have not heard it since I left the College, where both he and I were housed. Last, but by no means least, I thought the St. Dunstan's Dance Band fine. This was my first opportunity of hearing them play, as they were not formed when I was at St. Dunstan's. I congratulate them on the wonderful way in which they broadcast, and can assure you that everyone I have spoken to marvels at the manner in which they played."

"I listened for your talk a few weeks ago, when you spoke on behalf of the Wireless League. I am always interested in these talks, as I have been a member of the Wireless League since its formation, as I joined when I only had to pay 1s. as a Founder's Subscription."

From Mrs. M. Cooke Smith, of Valais, Switzerland, comes the following appreciation:—

"It may interest you to know that my husband and I listened to the St. Cecilia Day's concert with the greatest pleasure here—3,500 feet up, in Switzerland.

"The performance was admirable, and every word of Captain Fraser's advice and counsel was distinctly heard, as if he had been in the same room with us. If criticism is allowed, the pianoforte accompaniment to Mr. Turner and to Mr. Costigan's songs sounded a little too loud and brilliant—rather drowning the voice—but that may have been the fault of our wireless set, but I must congratulate the artistes on their performance. My husband used three valves out of his four-valve set, and was very much pleased with the successful result."

We note that Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant W. J. Noble, who is the son-in-law of F. Thompson, of Tavistock, has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Quartermaster.

When the party of St. Dunstaners in charge of Captain Fraser paid a visit last month to the British Broadcasting Studios, they were greatly amused by one of the stories told by Captain Eckersley, the genial chief engineer.

It was of a bishop who concluded a broadcast sermon with the words "I'm sure, my dear friends, that if we observe these precepts we shall, one and all, go to heaven." Then, turning to the announcer, he said: "I don't think I spoke too long."

The announcer, however, was a little late in switching off at the end of the sermon, and what listeners heard was: "We shall one and all go to heaven . . . I don't think."



SPORTS CLUB NOTES

AFTER CARE SPORTS

THE new rule concerning points, where we score 3, 2, and 1, instead of 10, 15 and 20, makes our points list look less formidable, and saves the sports sister from an attack of brain fever. It is splendid to see so many T.B.'s at the head of the table, and it shows how remarkably well they can hold their own.

AFTER-CARE SPORTS POINTS

1. Fleming .. 59	10. Kerr .. 31
2. McFarlane .. 55	11. Cookson .. 28
3. Webster .. 52	12. Gover .. 26
4. Thompson .. 45	13. Martin .. 17
5. Henry .. 42	14. Ashton .. 7
6. Windle .. 40	15. Nichols .. 6
7. Roden .. 35	16. Taylor .. 2
8. { Prior .. 34	
{ Burran .. 34	

PRESENT CARE SPORTS

A perusal of the score table will show how far ahead McDonald and Crook are of their respective sections. This is the result of consistent work, and their position seems almost, at this last stage, unassailable.

PRESENT-CARE SPORTS POINTS

T.B.		S.S.	
1. McDonald .. 777½	1. Crook, A. .. 815		
2. Chamberlain 640	2. Barnes .. 640		
3. Cook, R. .. 625	3. Massey .. 560		
4. Gaffney .. 465	4. Buchanan .. 525		
5. Barnes, W. .. 412½	5. Wilkie .. 385		
6. Robinson .. 235	6. Parks .. 290		
7. Edwards, D. 205	7. Isaac .. 275		
8. Clover, A. .. 80	8. Edwards, H. J. 165		
9. Pimm .. 15	9. Moore .. 160		
	10. Thomas .. 90		

SWIMMING GALA

A very interesting and successful Swimming Gala was held at Marylebone Baths on Friday, 3rd December. We were

disappointed at the small attendance; but those who took part quite enjoyed it. It was most kind of Mr. Arthur Jones of the A. S. A. to come along and judge the various events for us. It just makes all the difference when we have such an expert with us. The swimming was amazingly good, and the handicapping (a most difficult job) worked out exceedingly well. We heartily congratulate Walden on winning the one length, it is no small performance to beat Bawden, even with a favourable handicap. Bawden got his own back in the plunge, where he reached 44 ft. 9 in.!

May we say how very grateful we are to Mr. W. Jones for all the care and interest he has taken in us, and to the Superintendent of the Baths, and his assistants, for all their courtesy.

ROWING

There is but little to report, except that despite cheerless mornings the men are carrying on. We hope that we will have good numbers on the water next term with the advent of some brighter weather.

SPORTS MEETING

May I remind our sportsmen that we hope to hold our meeting on 11th January in the Bungalow at 7 p.m.

WALKING

An account of the Six Mile Walk is given elsewhere, but I would mention that we are compelled to alter the date of our 12 Mile Walk, owing to the fact that a big meeting has lately been arranged by one of the London Clubs. The 12 Mile Handicap will therefore take place on 12th February and entries close on 20th January. Please send your entry in good time so that we can get on with the arrangements. We hope to have the 15 Mile Event on 19th March.

J. E. W.

SWIMMING GALA—RESULTS

HANDICAP EVENT PLUNGING COMPETITION

Name	Feet allowed	Plunge	Total	Result
Bawden	Scratch	ft. ins.		
McFarlane	14	44 9	44 9	1
Birch	12	29 8	43 8	2
Cookson	12	31 1	43 1	3
Thompson, T.	12	29 4	41 4	4
Walden	12	26 5	38 5	5
Rhodes	12	25 2	37 2	6
Alexander	14	20 6	34 6	7
	6	27 11	33 11	8

LENGTH HANDICAP RESULT

Heat	Name	Start	Go at	First for Final
		Secs.		
1	{ Alexander	2	8	Walden by ½ yard Thompson by 2ft.
	{ Walden	3	7	
	{ Thompson	3	7	
2	{ Cookson	3	7	
	{ McFarlane	7	3	
3	{ Birch	3	7	Bawden—Touch
	{ Rhodes	8	2	
	{ Bawden	Scratch	10	

FINAL

1. Walden .. ½ yard. 2. Thompson .. Touch. 3. Bawden.

JUDGE—Mr. A. Jones, S.C.A.S.A.

SIX MILE OUTER CIRCLE WALK

The 6 Mile Outer Circle Handicap Walk was favoured with glorious weather—the kind of day when the walker is to be envied, and the timekeeper pitted! Capt. and Mrs. Fraser came at 2.30. p.m. to wish everyone luck, and Mr. Kessell kindly started the two races. There was an excellent entry, and a great improvement all round. The words of Mr. Ricketts, President of the Belgrave Harriers—"I feel I must write and congratulate the boys on their walking last Saturday, it was splendid," were well deserved; in fact it is hard to mention everyone, but Gunner Bates, A. Clover, and H. Kerr, were three excellent novices, whom everyone will watch with interest in the future. In the T.B. race H. Boorman led from W. Birch and P. Holmes for 700 yards, then Holmes took 2nd place, and walking very strongly passed Boorman 300 yards from home, to win by 14 yards, a great

performance. In the S.S. race A. Brown took and retained the lead throughout, breaking course record by 2 mins. 13 secs., he is indeed a wonderful walker of whom St. Dunstan's is justly proud. The Novices Prize in the T.B. section was won by H. Kerr, and by D. Read (Birmingham) in the S.S. race. As Brown took the medal for the fastest time amongst the S.S. walkers, J. Windle took the 3rd place in the handicap. At the close Miss Greenwood kindly presented the prizes and thanked Mr. Donoghue (handicapper, timekeeper, and judge), the judges, and guides, the ladies who served the tea, and in fact all helpers for making the race such a success. We are now hoping that our next race may be just such a happy one as this.

[Full table of Results and Times appears on next page.—ED.]

SIX MILE OUTER CIRCLE WALK—RESULTS

HANDICAP EVENT

Order	Name	1st Round	2nd Round	Total	Handicap Allowed	Net Time	Order of Finish
1	Bates, E.	27 53	27 58	55 51	9 0	46 51	4
2	Clover, A.	29 14	28 21	57 35	9 0	48 35	6
3	Shakespeare, W.	31 27	32 40	64 7	15 0	49 7	14
4	Kerr, H.	27 55	28 28	56 23	6 45	49 38	5
5	North, T.	30 35	32 30	63 5	11 30	51 35	13
6	McFarlane, J.	29 59	30 51	60 50	9 0	51 50	9
7	Boorman, H.	26 57	27 8	54 5	1 45	52 20	2
8	Boyter, R.	30 38	31 36	62 14	9 0	53 14	11
9	Holmes, P.	27 24	26 38	54 2	0 30	53 32	1
10	Moellar, J.	30 11	31 29	61 40	7 45	53 55	10
11	Lenderyou, S.	28 54	29 6	58 0	3 45	54 15	7
12	Rhodes, F.	31 10	31 37	62 47	8 30	54 17	12
13	Birch, W.	27 9	27 45	54 54	Scr.	54 54	3
14	Pimm, A.	32 16	33 20	65 36	9 0	56 36	15
15	Taylor, A.	28 55	29 51	58 46	0 45	58 1	8

S.S. SECTION

1	Ashton, P.	26 16	27 16	53 32	7 30	46 2	2
2	Cook, G.H.	28 50	29 10	58 0	11 30	46 30	6
3	Brown, A.	23 26	24 11	47 35	Scr.	47 35	1
4	Windle, J.	28 4	28 40	56 44	7 30	49 14	5
5	Read, D.	27 57	28 9	56 6	6 0	50 6	4
6	Gover, H.	26 55	29 2	55 57	5 30	50 27	3
7	Lilley, G.	29 39	31 26	61 5	7 30	53 35	7

NOVICES PRIZE

T.B. Kerr, H.
S.S. Read, D.

FASTEST TIME

T.B. Holmes, P.
S.S. Brown, A.

Death of Mrs. Martin

We greatly regret to announce the death on 7th December of Mrs. T. H. Martin, whom so many St. Dunstaners will have known as a voluntary worker in the Netting Room for more than six years. Mrs. Martin, who had been suffering from heart trouble for a considerable time, was taken ill at the Isle of Wight, and died in a day or two.

The funeral took place at Winchester, and the service was held at St. Paul's Church. Among the many beautiful wreaths received were two from St. Dunstan's, one being from the members of the staff. Very many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Martin were present, and St. Dunstan's was represented by Miss Warren.

Mr. Martin, who will have the sympathy of all in his great loss, asks us to express sincere thanks for the many sympathetic messages he has received.

Mr. C. J. Jones, who many St. Dunstaners know, quotes the following notice, which was written on a card at one of the hospitals, and which was stated to have done more good to the patients than gallons of medicine:—

"Remember the steam kettle; though it's up to its neck in hot water, it keeps on singing."

Braille Literature

Mrs. Bates asks us to notify that she will be very glad to hear from men who have not replied to the previous notice in the REVIEW with regard to the Braille literature they require sent to them in future. Mrs. Bates is particularly anxious to know if all men formerly on our mailing list for the Inter-Allied Magazine desire to continue to have this, as many former recipients have not notified her on this matter.

An Interesting Re-Union

SHORTHAND-TYPISTS AND TELEPHONISTS
FOREGATHER AT HEADQUARTERS

The annual re-union of the telephonists and shorthand-writers living in or near the Metropolitan area took place on Friday, 19th November, and was an exceedingly happy and successful gathering. Under the chairmanship of Captain Fraser just on eighty sat down to the excellent dinner provided by Miss Burbridge and her willing helpers.

After full justice had been done to the repast, and the loyal toast had been honoured, Captain Fraser, in a short address, expressed his keen pleasure at welcoming such a representative gathering of St. Dunstaners in professional life, if he might so term it. The record of the shorthand-typists and telephonists of St. Dunstan's was one of which they and the Organisation could justly be proud. Out of 115 men engaged in these vocations, only seven were at the moment out of a position (in some cases from illness or other unavoidable causes), while fifty-six had been at their present jobs for five years, and four for over ten years. Considering that St. Dunstan's had only been established for just over eleven years, he thought all would agree that these figures redounded immensely to the credit of all concerned. He knew they would wish that he should pay tribute on their behalf to the untiring and efficient work of Mrs. Moore in connection with the teaching of telephone operating, and to the voluntary and other helpers who had been responsible for the teaching of shorthand, typewriting and Braille. (Applause.)

F. A. Rhodes, in a well-phrased little speech, proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding that evening, and for the unflinching interest he always took in the work of St. Dunstan's and the welfare of every St. Dunstaner. He called for three cheers for Captain Fraser, and these were given with a will, complete with musical honours.

The company then adjourned to the big Lounge, where Mr. Swain had provided a most excellent and varied programme, to which the great bulk of contributors were St. Dunstaners, the professional artists being Miss Ida Williams and Mr. Eric Ross.

From the Newspapers

The Daily Mirror states that Lamps of Maintenance were lighted at the Lewisham War Memorial recently. About a thousand ex-service men, accompanied by wreath-bearers and bands, marched to the Memorial in Lewisham Park, where the mayor and corporation and a large number of people awaited them.

During a service the Lamps of Maintenance were lit for the first time by a blind Lewisham soldier. We should like to have known which St. Dunstaner was so honoured. Will he not let us have a short account of the ceremony as it appeared to him?

The Sunday Pictorial reports that "a blind ex-service man won a second prize at a Bexley whist drive." Of course the winner was a St. Dunstaner, and we should like to have a note from him on the subject.

The writer of "Stray Shots" in the *Croydon Times* says: "A blind Croydon elector has caused a letter to be sent to me in which he says that on going to vote he had to rely on one of the clerks placing the cross opposite to the name he favoured."

"He continues: 'It is far from my wish to cast any sort of reflection upon the man who marked my cross, but it would have afforded me more satisfaction if a voting paper with the names printed in Braille had been given me so that I could have marked it myself. And there are many blind voters in Croydon who would appreciate such an opportunity.'"

There has been a discussion in the columns of the *Daily Sketch* as to the best sport. A St. Dunstaner from Welwyn contributes the following:—

"Swimming is a very fine sport. The best sport of all, however, is walking; you can't beat it."

Poultry Notes

St. Dunstan's Winter Egg Laying Test—Fourth Test Officially Recognised by the National Poultry Council

REPORT FOR FIRST PERIOD 1ST NOVEMBER TO 28TH NOVEMBER 1926

Below we give the first part of the report which includes a summary of the leading pens for the first period of our Winter Test. A full report will have been sent to each competitor before these notes appear. Copies of the report are being sent to all poultry and other interested papers.

DURING the first period of the test 2,973 eggs were laid by the 303 competing birds. The average production of 9.81 eggs per bird is very satisfactory for the month of November. 72.59 per cent. were first grade, 24.18 per cent. second grade, and 2.86 per cent. third grade. The table of production given below shows the number of first, second, and third grade eggs laid by each section, and from this it will be seen that Section 1 has been the chief offender in the matter of small eggs.

The highest daily output was 146 eggs on 25th November, and the lowest 74 eggs on 3rd November, whilst the daily percentage production was 35.04 eggs.

Only two or three birds have been observed in a neck moult, and it is hoped the number will be kept down to a minimum, in spite of the fact that such a large proportion of the birds were in full lay on arrival at the test.

There will be a few copies of the report available for distribution should any reader care to have one. Application should be made to the Superintendent, St. Dunstan's Poultry Farm, King's Langley.

G. G.

Although the weather has been exceptionally wet and the birds have been confined to their houses a good deal, the general health and condition of the flocks has been excellent. There is one death to report. This occurred during the first few days of the period and was due to visceral gout. The bird was Mr. Capper's Rhode Island Red, in Section 5A. The winners of the monthly sittings of eggs are as follows:—

Sec. 1	W. A. Foulkes	Sec. 5	A. W. Sutton
" 2	E. Tebble	" 5	C. H. Brown
" 2	W. J. Woodcock	" 5A	S. Catlow
" 3	P. Holmes	" 6	A. Chaffin
		Sec. 6.	A. H. Capper.

The above should apply to the Superintendent, stating the breed desired and the date on which the eggs should be despatched. Sittings will not be ready before the New Year, and will be available any time thereafter to suit the convenience of the winners.

Table of Production

Sec.	Breed	No. of Birds	EGGS LAID			Total	Average per Bird
			1	2	3		
1	White Leghorns	88	458	265	50	773	8.78
2	Rhode Island Reds	108	913	194	12	1,119	10.36
3	White Wyandottes	24	138	53	3	194	8.08
4	Any other Breed	24	182	35	1	218	9.08
5	Single Heavy Breed	18	135	47	9	191	10.61
5A	Single R.I. Reds	19	126	44	4	174	9.16
6	Single Light Breed	22	122	48	4	174	7.90
	Totals	303	2,074	686	83	2,843	
	Unrecorded		85	43	2	130	
			2,159	729	85	2,973	9.81

Summary of Leading Pens at End of First Period

SECTION 1.—WHITE LEGHORNS (FOUR PULLETS)

Pen No.	Owner	Breed	Total Eggs	Test Value	Temporary Position
14	Foulkes, W. A.		72	72	1
22	Cockerill, J.		66	66	2
16	Brown, G. H.		62	62	3
10	Fisher, T. M.		60	55	4

SECTION 2.—RHODE ISLAND REDS (FOUR PULLETS)

27	Tebble, E.		73	72	1
30	Woodcock, W. J.		72	72	1
44	Lea, J. H.		71	71	2
34	Smith, J. R.		69	69	3

SECTION 3.—WHITE WYANDOTTES (FOUR PULLETS)

51½	Holmes, P.		63	63	1
53	Jackson, G. C.		39	39	2
50	Ashwell, R.		29	29	3

SECTION 4.—ANY OTHER BREED (FOUR PULLETS)

57	Sutton, A. W.	Buff Rocks	69	69	1
60	Hill, R. E.	Red Leghorn	49	49	2
59	Jackson, G. C.	Ancona	37	37	3

SECTION 5.—SINGLE BIRD (ANY HEAVY BREED)

	Brown, C. H.	W. Wyandotte	21	21	1
	Sutton, A. W.	Buff Rocks	20	20	2
	Melling, D.	W. Wyandotte	21	17	3
	Chaffin, A.	W. Wyandotte	17	17	3

SECTION 5A.—SINGLE BIRD (RHODE ISLAND RED)

	Catlow, S.		18	18	1
	Lea, J. H.		17	14	2
	Hamilton, B.		14	14	2
	Maclean, D.		14	14	2

SECTION 6.—SINGLE BIRD (ANY LIGHT BREED)

	Chaffin, A.	White Leghorn	21	21	1
	Capper, A. H.	White Bresse	21	21	1
	Brown, C. H.	White Leghorn	17	16	2
	Livingstone, D.	White Leghorn	13	13	3

News from the Workshops

BASKET SHOP.

SQUARE-ARM baskets have been occupying the attention of J. Wilkie during a large part of this term. His first round soiled linen was much better than we expected to see, and he has done well with a first attempt at a plaited border on a waste paper basket. During November G. W. Savory has been doing some workbaskets, putting in very neat work. A waste paper he made was also a considerable improvement upon what he has done before. H. E. Robinson has been doing basket-work during this term, making pail baskets, barrels and waste papers. He has trouble in shaping his work, but has shown improvement recently.

We are pleased to report a remarkable advance in the standard of the work done by H. J. Fleming during the last two months; this has been shown in all that he has done—half-barrels, waste papers, barrels, and dog beds. S. Clarke continues to do well with his centre cane work and is gaining speed. He has been repeating articles he has made previously, also making trays with beaded handles, and finishing up with quite a rush on teapot stands. A. J. Mason did further good work on centre cane at the beginning of the term, and is now getting well away with some willow baskets. Having already tackled barrel baskets, waste papers, and dog baskets, he has started on soiled linens.

MAT SHOP

T. W. Saunders has made a good start in the Mat Shop. His third mat, a No. 3, was extremely creditable. He continues to do useful work in the Boot Shop. A. L. Isaac has been placing his thrums well and cutting satisfactorily. During November he quickened his pace, and completed mats of a satisfactory standard.

BOOT SHOP

R. E. Muncaster has been doing steady and painstaking work, but has been set back owing to ill health. He is now

improving with his marking and riveting, and is getting better edges. The work of T. Eden has shown an all-round improvement; he is getting general experience in repairs and gradually gaining confidence in the more difficult parts of the work. A No. 4 mat that he made in November was good throughout. D. J. Thomas continues to make rapid advance, fitting quarter-rubbers well, getting a good finish, and showing great keenness to tackle difficult jobs, and master the various details of the craft. W. H. O.

The following poem, composed by Mr. Edward John Sillett, a blind permanent invalid, was sent to Captain Fraser by Mr. Wrigglesworth, the Secretary of the Newcastle Branch of the National Institute for the Blind:—

A word in praise of Wireless, Sir,
I think you will agree
The sounds we hear bring added cheer
To those who cannot see.

I weave this verse in gratitude
To thank the B.B.C.,
Whose magic powers gild darkened hours
With mirth and melody.

I trust that all deprived of sight
May soon be licensed free,
That each may get a Wireless Set
And share this joy with me.

A. C. Evans was present as one of those representing the Newport Branch of the British Legion in connection with "Mayor's Sunday" at Newport recently. The Mayor noticed Evans in the ranks and stopped the procession for a few seconds in order to chat with him.

Incidentally we note that this St. Dunstaner is exceedingly keen on attending football matches, and with the help of friends is able to follow all details of the play and to discuss the merits of the game afterwards.

Orderly C. P. Kearney, who was married on 17th November, asks us to convey his sincere thanks to his many friends and well-wishers amongst the men and staff of St. Dunstan's and their friends, for the good wishes, kind thoughts, and many gifts he received on this most notable event of his life.

Births

BREWER.—On the 21st October, to the wife of G. Brewer, of Cornwall, a daughter.

COOK.—To the wife of W. E. Cook, of Hoddesdon, a daughter on 30th October.

DIMOND.—On the 13th November, to the wife of W. Dimond, of East Grinstead, a son.

SAUNDERS.—To the wife of H. Saunders, of Tottenham, a son on the 5th of November.

A Christening

At St. Martin's Church, Fulham, in November, the baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Lynch, of Langthorne Road, Fulham. (The child was christened Angela Sophia Mildred.)

Deaths

We send our sympathy to F. Polley, of Brixton, who lost his wife on the 21st October. She died at Lambeth Hospital as the result of a stroke. Also to G. Davis, of Newent, whose mother died on 3rd December at Walthamstow.

Mr. Fairclough's Loss

St. Dunstaners everywhere will also send their sympathy to Mr. P. Fairclough, our Representative in Lancashire and district, on the loss of his wife. In the fullest sense Mrs. Fairclough shared her husband's interests in St. Dunstan's. She worked for many years for the welfare of civilian blind in the Midlands, and had a wonderful unselfishness and understanding and a gentle personality.

The funeral took place on Monday, 22nd November, at Rivington Parish Church, and among the many floral tributes were wreaths from Captain and Mrs. Fraser, and Mr. T. E. Swain and Staff.

A Tandem for Sale

A tandem in splendid order is for sale, price £8, carriage extra, or £10 carriage paid.—Apply, G. Cole, 9 Gladdon Street, Aston, Birmingham.

Braille Notes

We heartily congratulate the following on passing the Braille Reading Test:—Miss Peters, C. H. Cook, T. Bentley, and T. Miles; also E. B. Parke, W. Barnes, E. Walden and H. Bayer, who have passed the Braille Writing Test.

Typewriting Notes

Many congratulations to R. Wooldridge, W. Pimm, H. Gale, and I. Doyle on passing their Typewriting Tests.

M. H. R.

J. McAvoy, of Macchline, is doing so well with his poultry that he has found little time for mats of late. Of the same district is D. Livingstone, who reports shortness of eggs at present, but considers that he has done fairly well this season. G. Woodburn, a Kilmarnock man, finding the boot line quiet, is spending regular time at his mat frame.

A USEFUL GIFT

We hear from Miss Thellusson, the Matron of our Brighton Annexe, that W. F. Gannaway, of Kingston-by-Sea, Sussex, has made and presented a very fine mat for use in our Chapel at Brighton—a generous gift which is very much appreciated.

Sergeant Alan Nichols sends us the following story:—

A school teacher in an East-end school one morning asked his class of boys for a definition of the word "friend."

After several attempts had been made by a number of the scholars to successfully define the meaning, a youngster in the rear of the class put up rather a grimy hand and said: "If you please, sir, a friend is someone who knows all about yer, but likes yer just the same."

We hear that D. J. McLoughlin, assisted by his young daughter, gave a splendid entertainment at the Leopardstown Shell Shock Hospital recently. McLoughlin's programme consisted of music, singing, recitations, stories and tricks, and it received well-deserved and repeated applause.

