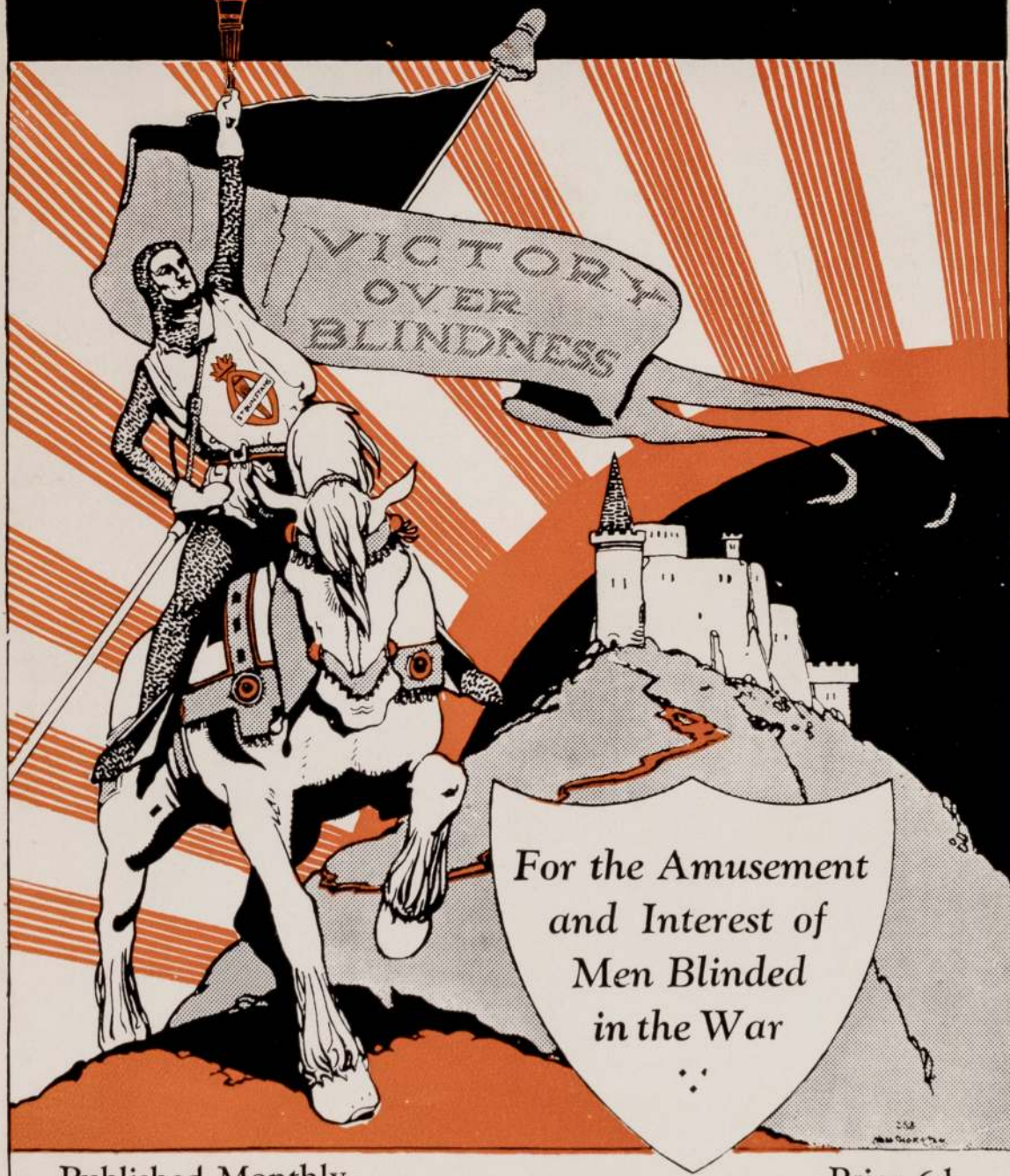


# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW



Published Monthly

Price 6d.

ST. DUNSTAN'S FOR BLINDED SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND AIRMEN (IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BRITISH LEGION)  
Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1

# St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY PERRY BARRINGER

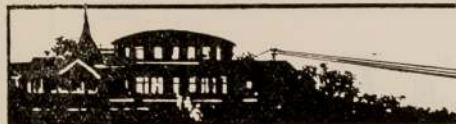
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## EDITORIAL NOTES

BY an interesting coincidence two St. Dunstaners have written to Captain Fraser since the last issue of the "Review" was published, drawing his attention to references to St. Dunstan's which have appeared in their local newspapers. These were two separate letters in which individuals concerned with the welfare of the civilian blind drew attention to the discrepancy between their funds and ours and urged that subscriptions to St. Dunstan's should cease. In both cases Headquarters were aware of the appearance of these references, and indeed had a course of action under consideration when the letters were received. This fact does not, however, detract in any way from the obviously thoughtful and helpful spirit in which these communications were sent to Headquarters. The whole Organisation of St. Dunstan's—officers, men and staff—are linked by a uniquely strong bond of brotherhood which is inspired by the desire to ensure that each and every one will do everything in their power to safeguard the welfare and interests of that brotherhood. The work which St. Dunstan's has done and is doing on behalf of its beneficiaries has set a new and a very high standard in philanthropic endeavour. We have no hesitation in admitting that the benefits accruing to war-blinded men through St. Dunstan's are much more generous than the aid given to the civilian blind. While we all of us regret that blind civilians are not able to receive more generous treatment, it has always been the view of St. Dunstan's that those who gave their sight in defence of King and Country cannot be regarded as ordinary members of the blind community, and indeed, that they should receive the most generous scale of benefits which the resources of our Organisation permit. We will go further, and say that ever since the first foundation of St. Dunstan's the people of the Empire have evidenced by their continued support of our cause that they are in the fullest accord with this view. It would be foolish, however, for us to refuse to recognise that as the years go on and the sacrifices made in the war fade in public memory, there is a growing tendency to class all sightless folk under one category—the general category that they are deprived of the blessing of sight. St. Dunstan's regards it as its duty to urge always the preferential claim of war-blinded men upon public sympathy and support. For this reason alone we welcome at all times information from St. Dunstaners which will help us to further this policy. It has never been the practice of St. Dunstan's to set its sons upon a pedestal, but it would be false modesty to blind ourselves to the fact that the men who were blinded in the war were, and to the vast majority of our fellow-citizens are to-day, gallant ex-service men, deserving of the best that can be done for them. The lapse of years, the claims of the civilian blind, and indeed no other consideration whatever, can make that lifetime sacrifice less deserving of admiration and the practical support in which it rightly finds expression.



## NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS

It is quite a good plan for prize-winners to frame their certificates and display them in their workshops; they always attract attention. It would be interesting to know which St. Dunstaner holds the record for "prizes won"; we think A. Mackie, of Banff, must be fairly near the top for he has carried off, all told, no less than six *first* prizes for the exhibits he has shown at the local show. No wonder Mrs. Mackie is proud of her son! So are we.

All is going well with W. Nash, of Lowestoft. He is in excellent health and spirits and says he has had a very good season, although, of course, things have slackened down now that winter is upon us. Lowestoft people are evidently not of those who leave things to the eleventh hour, but rather lay in their supplies of footgear, and get the necessary repairs carried out before the rainy season forces them to it.

An excellent season, too, has been experienced by F. Ashworth, of Gorleston. Just before Christmas he was in the shop almost without relief from early in the morning until late at night, so felt that he had well earned his brief holiday when he could close his door.

The open-air life at Cross Roads, Yoxford, is suiting H. Smy well, and he thinks he was wise in his decision to lay aside basket-making and devote himself to poultry; he feels much better already friends will be glad to know.

For some months past J. J. Knight, of Trimley St. Mary, has been kept busy in the joinery line, mostly repair work, but quite interesting in its way; long may the supply of jobs continue.

Lancaster seems an appreciative town. Since W. Capstick began to make mats he

has used 3 cwt. of yarn for mats sold locally. He has had a standing Christmas Club order for three mats a week that has kept him very busy of late; in addition he contrived to secure a local order for three wool rugs.

Another St. Dunstaner whose health has improved recently—an improvement put down to work—is H. Wood, of Rugby. He has a delightful shop and contrives to keep it very bright and airy.

One "Second Prize," a "Reserve," and a "V.H.C." is the result achieved by R. E. Hill, of Tideswell, who sent a Red Leghorn Cockerel to the Crystal Palace Show. Hearty congratulations.

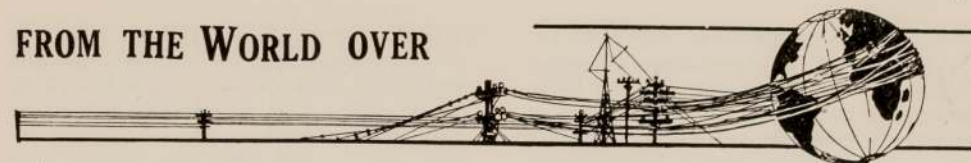
Toc H concerts have been giving S. W. Wain, of Derby, a good deal of pleasure of late. Everyone will be glad to know that he is very well and as full of enthusiasm and interest as ever.

Another who is well and cheery is A. Wilkes, of Oswestry. Odd jobs about the place keep him busy, but he finds time to do a few "kneelers" to keep his hand in.

"All fit" is the report from G. Hurst, of Great Longstone, Derbyshire, and this means a good deal when one remembers that the family is large. The new (and eleventh) child is a fine specimen of babyhood and the whole family is justly proud of her. Eleven seems Hurst's "lucky number," for as well as having eleven children he has eleven prizes won for flowers and vegetables, and an eleven (or is it twelve?) year old son has begun to follow in his father's footsteps in the prize-taking line by securing school rewards for woodwork and surveying.

A. Allen, of Alton, is keeping to his steady hours of work in his workshop and

## FROM THE WORLD OVER



is always busy and cheerful. When things go wrong he adds the smooth to the rough in true St. Dunstan's way, and refuses to grumble.

Among our Scottish group come W. Strachan, of Glasgow, who is happily fixed up in a very nice house and is in good health. The same can be said of J. Macfarlane, of Dundee, who, by the way, has a remarkably fine young family; R. Boyter, of Cupar, too, is happy and contented in his basket work; he is fortunate in having a wife who is clever with her needle and can line his work-baskets, so making them doubly attractive.

Another hardworking Scot is T. M. Fisher, of Longforgan, who is particularly fortunately situated, in that a Chivers jam factory is near enough to offer a market for his raspberries, so Fisher has wisely planted out three acres.

In another line J. Kennedy, of the same district, is busy and says "trade is none too bad." He and Mrs. Kennedy as well as the fine young troop of youthful Kennedys are all well.

Fishermens' needs continue to keep D. Munro, of Aberdeen, well occupied; he is the fortunate possessor of a remarkably fine workshop by the way.

In Montrose, K. J. Howes is finding business brisk. He lives in so comfortable a house and beautiful a town that it is no wonder he is well and jolly.

Mats keep E. Brockie and F. Parker, both of Aberdeen, steadily employed.

Across the water, D. Malcolmson, of Belfast, is in excellent form which is partly due, no doubt, to the fine amount of walking he contrives to do.

Others of our Belfast men are A. Gribben who is well, fit and busy, and T. McCann, whose workshop has now been passed by the Corporation and is ready for erection. He is eager to start work again and is getting out some fine poster cards to advertise his mats. These should certainly bring orders when they are posted in the city garages.

J. Fowler moved to Staplehurst in Kent some time in last November and records a noticeable improvement in health already. He can walk over three miles without being tired now, whereas in Ilkley he could not walk at all, owing to the hills. He is hoping great things from his poultry and intends to concentrate on table birds as he feels sure there will be a good demand for these in his new district. Fowler, by the way, has been one of the sufferers in recent gales which broke a lot of glass in his newly erected poultry houses.

What with pigs and geese to attend to, and a flourishing coal round, J. Nolan, of Market Drayton, has few idle hours. All his work interests him and he is keeping fit as well as busy.

In the same district lives D. Marshall, who is also cheerful and busy; he is a man blessed with many friends.

In Oldham work comes in sudden spurts. Twice in one week W. Gordon had to work overtime to keep level with the boot and clog repairs that came pouring in. Gordon is fortunate in being near a factory which doubtless brings trade his way.

D. Bee is running a mixed business in Bolton, where we trust he is going to make a real success.

Joinery keeps W. Tout, of Devon, as busy as ever; his pride in his excellent work never flags.

**News of St. Dunstaners—continued**

A number of St. Dunstaners arranged Christmas Shows and among them B. B. Bowering, of Weston-super-Mare, must have special mention. He turned his front room into a "Show Hall" for the occasion and with Mrs. Bowering's help had everything displayed in a most attractive manner. All who came admired and we trust that the plucky venture was as great a financial success as it deserved to be.

A family of five boys, three of them under three years old, must require some managing. Small wonder that H. Weeks, of Bristol, during the weeks immediately following the birth of the last and recent baby, found his time so occupied that he could not keep to mat-making. He is looking forward to making up for lost time in the New Year.

Both Mr. and Mrs. C. Durkin, of Putney, carried off prizes at a whist drive shortly before Christmas. May they be equally successful on many future occasions.

The new home in which A. E. Trigg has installed himself and his wife in Henlow is a great success. Netting and mat-making keep him busy and bezique is one of his relaxations.

Congratulations to the wife of J. Percival, of Seedley, Manchester (although it is rather late to offer them!), who went selling poppies on Armistice Day and succeeded in collecting a splendid amount and a great deal more than the previous year.

"Overtime" is often worked, but surely it is rare even for a St. Dunstaner to work all night long to grapple with his Christmas orders? This is the record of A. Coulson, of Witherwick, so deep was his determination not to disappoint a customer.

All the three daughters of F. W. Brooker, of Brighton, are now launched in life and are doing well in their respective trades. We congratulate them and their father for in these difficult times most people find real openings have to be sought for most diligently.

G. E. Crook, of Herne Bay, had stalls at two local Trades' Exhibitions at the end of the year which brought him in so many orders that he reports himself as "busy as can be."

A new Ford lorry has just been purchased by L. Johnson, of Harlow, who has sold his farm and is making a start as a wholesale dealer in eggs and potatoes. His friends will join us in good wishes for his success.

T. W. Chamberlain, of Hull, and E. Lake, of Scarborough (like Bowering who was mentioned in a preceding paragraph), are yet other St. Dunstaners who made noteworthy efforts at Christmas decoration; their shops looked remarkably festive. Chamberlain, by the way, has made some particularly good oak fire screens as well as one or two smokers' cabinets. We hope these found appreciative purchasers at Christmas.

A temporary change of residence was not allowed to interfere with work where J. Clemenson, of Wakefield, was concerned—he improvised a workshop and "carried on with business as usual!"

"Trade is fair," says W. Alexander, one of our Dalbeattie men. He has had all his three children in hospital with scarlet fever by the way.

J. Stibbles, of Pitlochry, takes long views. He is already "preparing for next summer's visitors." May there be a full and flowing stream of tourists to his district!

G. James, of Barrow-on-Soar, Leicestershire, has a splendid litter of young pigs and three fine cows all of which look excellently well cared for.

As a real countryman born, J. Joyce, who has moved from Sandymount to Swords, a little village some ten miles from Dublin, is delighted with his new surroundings and has got his workshop completed with a view to restarting work in record time.

Dog lovers will envy A. Jarvis, of Whitehill, who received a present of a Labrador dog a short time ago. Perhaps the dog is as fortunate as Jarvis for it is being kept in beautiful order. The poultry trade was almost more than Jarvis could cope with at Christmas time—he had a splendid number of orders.

An order for a shaped mat for a side-car has come to W. Howarth, of Frimley Green. We hope with him that it will be but the first of many.

A. Clover, of Long Melford, has been doing excellently with local orders and is almost driven to admit that he has about as much work as he can tackle; he is fortunate in that he has won the interest and respect of many people in the neighbourhood.

Another much occupied man, although in a different line, is G. D. Swanston, of Lockerbie. He has made a very well designed afternoon tea-trolley with twined legs, which is being much admired we hear.

Did the thief who burgled W. P. Nolan's tobacco shop and made off with some £8 know that he was robbing a blinded soldier? We hope not. The shop was entered by means of a duplicate key apparently, and Nolan has little hope of recovering his money.

St. Dunstaners attending the concert to be given at Cleckheaton in January will have the pleasure of hearing Wright, of Wilsden, give a 'cello performance. We are sure this will be one of the most popular items on the programme.

The new house into which W. Anderson has settled in Steeton is a very great improvement on the last in every way. As a result Anderson is in splendid health and spirits, as is also the little daughter.

There should be no lack of music in the home of Johnson, of Crewe, for while he is a pianist Mrs. Johnson is a lover of the organ, and if they cannot play their instru-

ments at one and the same time they can at least have a varied programme.

The young son of W. Chambers, of Manchester, has recently won the medal for "ALL Schools" for swimming—another recruit to the ranks of Junior St. Dunstaners' athletes!

At the request of the British Legion, R. Riddell, of Jedburgh, laid the Legion's wreath on the Jedburgh Memorial on Armistice Day. All will feel proud that a St. Dunstaner was selected for this service of honour.

All is well with J. B. Dixon and W. Hallam, both of Edgware, and the same may be said of H. Gransby, of Willesden, who is kept fairly busy with boots.

Good health, despite the uncertain weather, is being enjoyed by A. Blackwell, of Dagenham, who is working away at mats, and J. Moeller (basket-maker) who live not far distant from one another.

"Trade isn't too bad," says P. Yuile, of Glasgow, with Scottish caution. D. Ironside of the same city is well and contented.

"All's well," say M. Hutchinson, of Hornsey, and J. Hughes, of Streatham, and likewise J. Batchelor, of Tooting Grove.

W. Agate, who is in excellent health, has had a busy end to his year as he is removing to Portchester. At Tilbury, J. Billington is working away at his baskets, while G. Rose is following the same craft at Dartford. Poultry and mats keep W. Raine occupied at his home in Tudwick, nr. Tiptree, Essex, and A. E. Moore is pegging away at mats on Denmark Hill.

In West Wycombe, J. A. Morton is keeping up his reputation as an excellent joiner, while at High Wycombe R. Staners is doing well with his shop.

A. F. Kite is selling newspapers in Holborn and widening his circle of friends.

**News of St. Dunstaners—continued**

Basket-making is proving interesting to J. Yare, of Liverpool, who finds his health has improved since he set to work. Other basket makers who should be mentioned as busy and contented are W. Murray, of Hawick, A. Crook, of Brixton Hill, and A. T. Iddiolls, of Queens Park.

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"O.K.," says W. H. Conlon, of Glasgow, and much the same satisfactory if brief report comes from J. Irvine of the same city, who by the way is blessed with five sons. Yet another Glasgow man, J. Broadley, is making excellent progress his friends will be glad to hear.

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"Well and busy" is our news concerning F. G. Braithwaite, of Guildford, A. Taylor, of Lye, and J. Boyce, of Belfast, who has added to his list of clients of late.

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W. McLean, of Dumfries, too is "getting along all right," and so is S. W. Brydsom, of the same district.

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O. Windridge is making a success of his shop on Wigston Magna. J. H. Whitten, of Handsworth, Birmingham, looks well and happy as those who saw him at "the walk" will know. S. Brazier is happily settled in at Airedale, and G. Fletcher, of Marple, Cheshire, announces himself as "in the pink."

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In Thetford, T. Gregory is kept busy with basket-making and poultry; he contrived to secure quite a number of Christmas orders.

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C. H. Smith (Bury St. Edmunds) and family are well and he goes steadily on with boots and mats, while F. G. Trendall of the same district finds himself much better than he used to be in health; B. Wood, of Brackley, is as cheery as ever; and "all's well" with W. Cox, of Balham, and T. Ashe, of Sunbury-on-Thames!

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E. J. Summers, of Hastings, has been developing his mat trade locally during the past year and is to be congratulated on the result. Several customers for motor mats

have recommended him to other clients at some little distance.

**Greetings**

The Editor desires to express his sincere appreciation of the many cards and messages received from his readers everywhere conveying good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. He would have liked to have written personally to all these kindly well-wishers, but is sure that they will accept this expression of his pleasure on hearing from so many good friends.

Captain Fraser has received a letter of good wishes for the New Year from a very staunch friend of blinded soliders—Colonel Barnett Nethercote Anley, who will be remembered for his every-friendly help by many St. Dunstaners, notably those who were at Cheltenham. We know that all our readers will wish us on their behalf to thank Colonel Anley very sincerely for his kindly thought, and to send him our heartiest greetings.

Matron at Headquarters was very touched and gratified by the many good wishes she received from her old boys at Christmas. Sweet indeed is Remembrance!

**AN R.A.O.B. HONOUR**

We learn with interest that J. R. Smith, of Lambourn, has recently been installed to the Third Degree or Knight of Merit of this Order. The ceremony of installation was, we understand, a very impressive one, one hundred and ten brothers being present. Our congratulations to Smith on the honour done him.

**FREEMASON ST. DUNSTANERS**

We know that among the brotherhood of St. Dunstaners there are some Freemasons at least, and it has been suggested by one of them that it would be interesting for a list to be compiled, possibly with a view to a gathering of St. Dunstaner Freemasons being arranged at some time in the future if the number warrants this. We shall be happy to compile such a register at this office if Freemasons will send us a card with their name, address, and the Lodge of which they are members.

## Death of Mr. T. H. Martin

### A Loyal St. Dunstaners' Worker

*(It is with the greatest regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Thomas H. Martin. He was one of the first to be associated with Sir Arthur Pearson, when in 1915 he started St. Dunstan's great work.)*

*Below will be found an appreciation written by Mr. T. E. Swain, who worked for so many years with Mr. Martin, and who represented Captain Fraser and St. Dunstan's at the funeral. —ED.)*

IT is with very great regret that I have to record the death of Thomas Henry Martin on 21st December, a regret which I know will be shared by every St. Dunstaner (and there are many) who knew the loyal friendship and the selfless spirit of devoted service which was characteristic of our friend. His death occurred after only a few days' indisposition, and unfortunately it was quite impossible on the eve of Christmas to notify the men in his area of the funeral arrangements.

Captain and Mrs. Fraser sent a beautiful chaplet of dark red carnations, and St. Dunstan's Badge, made of bronze and yellow chrysanthemums, bore the inscription "In Affectionate Remembrance from the Men and Staff." Among many lovely wreaths and crosses there was one simple wreath of holly with no inscription. Chosen by Mr. Martin himself to be placed on Mrs. Martin's grave on Christmas Day, it lay instead upon his own grave—a most touching testimony to two loving hearts divided now no longer.

We have all known of late years that Mr. Martin's health was far from satisfactory; yet his invincible cheerfulness and courage when successively his hearing weakened, Mrs. Martin was taken from him, and finally his own sight failed, only those he visited and valued his friendship can appreciate.

At 69, blind himself, he carried the flag "Victory over Blindness," with typical St. Dunstan's courage, and he lived for St. Dunstan's and talked St. Dunstan's as keenly as ever. "I'm going to do what my men do," he would retort to offers of assistance on his travels. And thus on

"active service" to the end, on a journey of service and help, he caught the cold which led to his death.

Had Thomas Henry Martin acquired a Coat of Arms, one motto would he have chosen—"Service"—and throughout his 13 years of service under St. Dunstan's flag, he steadily upheld the ideals of helpfulness which had inspired Sir Arthur Pearson's great work.

The funeral of Mr. Martin took place on 24th December at Winchester. A number of friends gathered at St. Paul's Church, where the Rector (the Rev. Percy Luker) and the Rev. F. W. Peirson (chairman of the local committee of the Association of the Blind) conducted the service. It was a touching tribute to Mr. Martin that the choir boys present all voluntarily went on to the cemetery after the church service. The Rector, addressing the congregation, said that he felt that he could not let the moment pass without paying tribute to one of the noblest lives it had been one's privilege to know, and they thanked God for all the cheer and encouragement Mr. Martin had given to them. They would be inspired and comforted by his brave courage under great difficulties, and by that gentleness, sweetness and kindness of nature which made him the friend of all. They thought of him as but "passed on" in the service of those blinded ex-service men he loved so well and served so faithfully.

T. E. S.

Friends will be glad to know that H. A. Knopp, of Worksop, is decidedly better if not yet quite back to his old form.

## Some Generous Gifts to St. Dunstan's

*The Problem of their Disposal—and its Solution*

**M**OST of our readers will have knowledge of the fact that at the beginning of each year there is held at the National Sporting Club, London, a boxing tournament at which the competitors are stable lads from the leading racing stables of Great Britain. The tournament is organised to aid the funds of St. Dunstan's, and every effort is, of course, made to obtain as great a financial success as possible. A valuable contributory feature to this end is an auction of gifts presented by leading firms of London and elsewhere, which is held in the ring during an interval. At this year's tournament, held on 7th January, several of the purchasers of the various lots auctioned expressed the wish that the articles which they had bought should be sent to St. Dunstan's. These articles include two mahogany "Valet" gentlemen's wardrobes, completely fitted; two cabinet gramophones; one case of twelve bottles of champagne; twelve bottles of port; six bottles of champagne; and two boxes of cigars.

Headquarters have given much thought to the best means of utilising these gifts for the benefit of all concerned, and the following course of procedure has been decided upon:—

(1) **Mahogany "Valet" Gentleman's Wardrobe.** It has been decided to raffle this wardrobe, and entries are invited from St. Dunstaners only. The entrance fee is 1s., and the winner will be decided by a draw, which will take place at Headquarters on the 10th February next. All entries, accompanied by remittance, must be received on or before 6th February.

(2) **Mahogany "Valet" Gentleman's Wardrobe.** The same procedure will be adopted with regard to this article, except that the entrance fee in this case will be 2s. 6d. Entries will be accepted from the officers and men of St. Dunstan's, their relations, or anyone officially or otherwise connected with our Organisation. The time of closing and method of determining the winner will be as above.

(3) **Two Cabinet Gramophones.** It has been decided that these shall be awarded as prizes in connection with St. Dunstan's Sporting Events.

(4) **Twelve Bottles of Port, and two Boxes of Cigars.** This wine and these cigars have been distributed between the Matrons at Brighton and Headquarters, and will be utilised by them in connection with the men's entertainment.

(5) **One Case of Twelve Bottles of Champagne; also six separate Bottles of Champagne.** As we do not drink champagne at our gatherings, and as the amount available would be insufficient for any representative gathering of St. Dunstaners, it has been decided to sell this wine to the best advantage for the benefit of St. Dunstan's general funds.

We feel that on behalf of everyone connected with St. Dunstan's we should express our gratitude for the thoughtfulness and generosity of the donors of the above gifts.

Send in your entries for the raffles as early as possible, and good luck to the winner!

All entries should be addressed to The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review," St. Dunstan's Headquarters, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

**Remember—last date for receiving entries 6th February.**

### Give 'em Socks

We particularly wish to direct the attention of our readers to the splendidly knitted socks made by Miss Blodwyn Simon, of Ruthin, North Wales. Miss Simon, as many of our readers will know, is one of the very few lady St. Dunstaners (there are only three others). The socks she produces are perfectly made and wear wonderfully, while they cost only 2s. 6d. a pair. We are sure that this information will keep Miss Simon busy for the whole of this year at least.

## NEWS FROM BRIGHTON

**T**HE Christmas festivities were started in good style with the trainee's Christmas dinner party, which proved a very cheerful affair. Each man received a present of a cigarette case from Matron, and from our old friend, Mr. "H." came cigarettes and handkerchiefs. After the dinner Matron made one of her witty speeches, in which she reviewed the year's work, complimenting not only the men on the manner in which they had stuck to their various jobs, but the instructors and teachers for the success which had attended their efforts. C. Brignall, on behalf of the men, thanked Matron for all that she had done for them and he also paid a tribute to the high standard of "camaraderie" existing between the men.

On Christmas Day over a hundred guests sat down to a festive dinner, in the course of which "Daddy" Anderson, on behalf of the men, presented Matron with a handsome leather card case. In due course, speeches followed, given by Matron, Tim Healey and Paddy Giffin, after which the company adjourned to the Lounge where there was music and dancing for the remainder of the afternoon. In the evening Mr. Lion presented his usual Christmas gifts to the boys.

Not the least enjoyable of the festivities was the Fancy Dress Dance held on Boxing Night, much amusement being caused by the quaint costumes worn. The task of judging the fancy dresses for the prizes was gracefully performed by Mrs. Mossman, whose choice fell as follows:—"Deafy" Wheeler (a country yokel), winning the 1st prize, 2nd prize, "Daddy" Anderson (Father Neptune), 3rd prize, Paddy Giffin (Chinaman), and the consolation prize going to Comley (Indian Chief). When the ladies' prizes were allotted they went to: 1st and 2nd (divided), Sister Davies (Salvation lassie, and a fascinating one, too!) and Mrs. Shaw (Salvation Army Captain), 3rd prize, Margaret (a "Gamin"). The "Spot" dance was won by Miss Huffam and W. Nolan. Dancing continued until 11 o'clock, when "Auld Lang Syne,"

"God Save the King," and cheers for the Matron ended a very successful dance.

It was a lively crowd that danced the old year out and the new year in, and as Big Ben boomed his last strokes of the departing year all joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne," after which the exchange of good wishes for the New Year filled the Lounge.

Dinner on New Year's Day was a very jovial affair, and, after we had toasted the King and Captain and Mrs. Fraser, T. Bliss, on behalf of the men, thanked the staff, from the Matron down, for the way they had worked to ensure that Christmas 1928 should not be behind any of its predecessors in point of happiness. A visit to the "Royal" to witness a performance of the "Desert Song" completed a very enjoyable holiday.

### A BRIGHT NIGHT AT BRIGHTON

On Monday evening, 17th December, an audience of approximately 140, composed of St. Dunstaners, visitors, Sisters and staff, not forgetting Matron and Mrs. Bates, witnessed at the Brighton Annexe a performance of a one-act comedy sketch entitled "Mrs. Trotter's Libel Action." This number was probably a record and so great was the crush that after the dining room, which was cleared to make a larger seating capacity, had been packed to suffocation, crowds stood around the doorway and even commandeered the stairs to see and hear this riot of fun, wit and humour. The sketch was the result of a request that the men in training at Brighton should before leaving for their Xmas holidays present an entertainment.

Accordingly, A. C. Brignall, one of their number, immediately got busy on the production of the sketch. He was in the happy position of having a number of capable amateur actors from whom to choose, and everyone agreed that his choice of cast was excellent. The scene represented a Court of Justice and with the help of the Head Orderly a stage was fitted up, and with Judge's dais, witness box, counsel's bench, &c., a touch of realism was achieved.

The story, which told of the efforts of Mrs. Trotter, the proprietress of a sausage and mash shop, to obtain damages for libel on the composition of her sausages made by Mr. Kipper, the proprietor of a fried fish shop situated opposite to hers, gave ample scope to the members of the cast to keep their audience laughing for an hour. As the Judge, A. Kimber was perfect, and the amusing passages between him and the Registrar, admirably played by J. Jackson, got many a laugh. A. J. Cole as the comic policeman created much mirth, and T. Gidney as Robert Chalks, a pavement artist, played his part as to the manner born. W. Armstrong, as Mrs. Trotter, with bonnet, wig, black satin coat and champagne coloured stockings complete, made a wonderful dame comedian, while E. Marsden, as Tommy Nipper, the boy, delighted the audience with his quaint Lancashire dialect. A. King as Miss Trotter looked so beautiful in bobbed golden wig, stylish hat, up-to-date coat with fur collar, silk stockings and patent shoes that had it not been for his voice he might easily have been mistaken for a Brighton flapper. G. Taylor gave a clever impersonation of an Irish doctor. H. Read as a dude displayed great histrionic abilities and earned much applause, while R. Cousins as Mr. Kipper, the defendant, was just one long scream. The part of Sir Henry Vericute, K.C., was played by A. C. Brignal with much vim and energy, and he was ably assisted by A. Kitson as Mr. Shifty, junior counsel. T. Dickinson, known as Mr. Wrangler, K.C., in the sketch was clear and concise as defending counsel, as was also W. Shaw, who played the part of Mr. Get'em Off, K.C.

Twelve jurymen with false noses, moustaches, &c., added much humour by their comic antics.

The sketch ended with a spontaneous burst of applause which testified to the appreciation of the audience on whose behalf Matron expressed thanks to the boys for their splendid entertainment. A. C. Brignal responded for the players, at the same time thanking Sisters Boyd, Rochefort, Mason and Morris for their kind assistance. Everyone voted the show a big success and as Matron facetiously

remarked, "if the members of the cast should happen to fail any time at their trade there would always be a profession open to them, namely, the stage."

### A Brighton Poet

G. J. Wheeler, of Brighton, who is very severely incapacitated apart from his blindness, is yet full of courage and interest in life. He has considerable gifts for writing, and our readers will be interested in the following verses from his pen:—

#### KING CLOCK

By all sorts of people this world has been ruled,  
By a good many wise men, a good many fools;  
Princes and presidents, emperors and kings,  
Tyrants and despots have all had their flings,  
Sending armies to battle and heads to the block;  
Yet, what was their power to that of King Clock?

King Clock is a monarch no wise man defies;  
He grants no man favours, he utters no lies;  
He uses no sword, he threatens no stick;  
He rules all the earth with his regular tick:  
Nations and peoples, of all climes and lands,  
Are moved to obey at the bid of his hands.

The hands of King Clock sway us all and our doing;  
Bring some to prosperity, others to ruin:  
Fond lovers await the clear chime of his voice—  
He sees them embrace, in their pleasures rejoice.  
He scorns all poor mortals indifferent to passion;  
The passing of kings or the changing of fashion.

The law of King Clock applies equally plain  
To the boil of the kettle, the start of the train.  
Though the earth shakes in terror, his hands do not falter;  
In tempest or battle his tones never alter:  
Alone in his majesty, supreme in his power,  
Pointing the minute and voicing the hour.

G. J. WHEELER.

In a letter to Headquarters, W. F. Cork, of Elham, tells us of a piece of good fortune which recently came his way. Cork says:—

"I am just writing to tell you of our good luck in the Folkestone Tombola. We won the first prize—a six cylinder Minerva Car valued at £520. We had to estimate the number of passengers travelling on the Southern Railway for the month of September, we were 57 under the actual number, we always have a ticket or two every year, but this is the first time we have won anything so we think our luck has changed. We are pleased to say we are all very well."

## After-Care Reunions

### NOTTINGHAM

On the 8th November at the Elite Café, Nottingham, 108 St. Dunstaners and their wives or escorts celebrated their Annual Reunion.

The meeting was a great success in every way; amongst those who came along to help were members of the Red Cross Society and there were also eight V.A.D.'s present.

A splendid concert was arranged by Mrs. Clarke and Miss Smith, and they also brought along a friend of theirs who undertook to keep the children amused. No doubt she was kept fully occupied!

H. Knopp replied in a very able manner to Mr. Swain's speech and Captain Fraser's message, and mentioned that every St. Dunstaner present irrespective of his own politics wished our Chairman luck in the coming election, and appreciated all he had done since becoming a member of Parliament. H. Bridgman seconded and passed a very hearty vote of thanks to Captain Fraser, Mr. Swain and the After-Care Visitors, and added that he would like to make special mention of the technical instructors who took such great pains to keep the men up to scratch.

Tea finished, we settled ourselves down to listen to the concert, and also, before the meeting came to a close, all those who wished to had a personal interview with Mr. Swain. The afternoon would not have been complete, of course, without a little dancing and also there were the competitions. The winners of the latter were as follows:—

*Bread Guessing*: First, Mrs. Windridge; second, Miss Garrett. *Men's Weight Guessing Competition*: First, G. M. King; second, E. Clarke.

The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought the meeting to an end with many regrets that the afternoon had gone so quickly. A. H.

### GLOUCESTER

The Gloucester meeting held on 21st November seemed to be the cheeriest we have ever had there. Though it rained

heavily all day nearly every St. Dunstaner managed to arrive and it was quite evident that the weather damped no one's spirits.

We were very sorry that a severe attack of rheumatism prevented Mrs. Hedger Wallace coming in and contributing a musical programme, her visits to the Cardiff meeting have always given so much pleasure. But, thanks to songs from Miss Pile, A. Bundy, G. Hill and some friends Miss Phillips brought over from Cheltenham, with piano solos from Mrs. Worgan and Mrs. Fennell, we had quite a varied and enjoyable concert.

Everyone was glad Miss Lloyd managed to get down to the meeting; with Miss Wilson and Miss Phillips there from Cheltenham and Orderly Hawketts from Brighton, it seemed a real meeting of old friends. There were many regrets that Miss Greenwood could not come and her telegram was much appreciated.

After tea all present listened with much pleasure to Captain Fraser's message and Mr. Swain's speech, G. Hill and A. Bundy, responding for the St. Dunstaners' present.

There was a delightful little ceremony during tea when F. C. Harris, on behalf of the men attending the Gloucester meeting, presented Miss Ayre with a very handsome carriage clock, complete in case. He said "Mr. Chairman, ladies and fellow St. Dunstaners, it gives me great pleasure to present this little memento to Miss Ayre for her untiring efforts as After-Care visitor. 'We do appreciate this work that you are doing for us, Miss Ayre, and if you had heard all the nice things the men said of you, you would have bubbled over from head to foot. We hope and trust this little clock will be a good timekeeper and enable you to catch your connections during your globe-trotting!' I will now ask Miss Ayre to accept this little present."

It seemed such a well-filled afternoon that there was scarcely time for the competitions, but we completed the following: Cake, P. W. Powell; length of piece of string, Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Marshall,

equal (the prize, a cake very kindly given by Mrs. Greening, was divided). Basket of fruit, Mrs. Stew. Guessing the combined weight of Mr. Marcus and Mr. Allen, Mrs. Worgan. T. E. S.

## BRISTOL

Everything seemed to conspire to make the Bristol meeting on 1st December a success; the weather was perfect, we had the orchestra from J. S. Fry & Sons to play to us all the afternoon, and so many old friends came down from Headquarters that it felt indeed a St. Dunstan's meeting.

It was a real pleasure to all to have Miss Hamar Greenwood, Mr. Kessell, Miss Warren, Miss Lloyd and Miss Berry with us; as Miss Skrine came over from Bath and we had our usual willing helpers for tea it was a most cheery gathering.

There were very few absentees this year and the hum of conversation would have drowned any less powerful orchestra! But sixteen of Messrs. Fry's staff had given up their Saturday afternoon to come to play to us, even the most ardent conversationalist paused at times to listen to the really excellent concert which Mr. Read so ably conducted. The vote of thanks which Mr. Swain proposed was passed with such enthusiasm that we think the players must have realised how grateful we were. Miss Madge Thomas managed to come in between several other engagements and give us two delightfully rendered songs.

Now and again a competition would claim a few moments' attention but exchanging the news of the year was evidently the real business of the day. A Press photographer liked us so much that he spent the afternoon with us and quite provided an extra entertainment watching him pose his victims.

After tea Captain Fraser's message was received with much applause and Mr. Swain's speech listened to with great attention and pleasure. A. B. Hill made a very able reply for the St. Dunstaners present. Miss Greenwood also spoke, saying how much pleasure it gave her to be present at the Meeting and renew so many old friendships of the Braille Room, though, she hastened to add, she would not insist on any of her old pupils having a Braille lesson that afternoon! The

winner of the competitions were: Cake, B. B. Bowering; String, S. Batten; Basket of fruit, Mrs. Burgess; Quoits, Mrs. Sterno (after a tie with Mrs. Bangham); Children's Quoits, H. Sterno.

During the afternoon a most interesting little ceremony took place when A. F. Mussell, on behalf of the men attending the Bristol Reunion, made a presentation to Miss Ayre. This took the form of a very handsome brush and comb set in a case, together with a small ebony clock to match the former, and E. J. Burgess's little son handed Miss Ayre a beautiful bouquet of pink crysanthemums. Mussell, in making the presentation to Miss Ayre, stated that it was a small token of their great appreciation for the way she looked after them all and they hoped she would be spared for many years to continue doing so. Miss Ayre suitably replied.

T. E. S.

## EXETER

The Exeter meeting on 14th December was a little smaller than usual. There were a few absentees through illness, and several from the Plymouth district, who usually come to Exeter, had attended the Truro meeting in June instead.

Still we were a large enough party to be a very jolly one and with competitions and talk in full swing the time passed very quickly. Everyone was very sorry that pressure of St. Dunstan's business kept Captain Fraser from coming, from the enthusiastic way his message, read by Mr. Swain, was received it is very certain that Captain and Mrs. Fraser will get a true west country welcome when they do come to an Exeter meeting. Mr. Swain's speech, with news of changes and happenings at Headquarters, was listened to with great interest. J. Mahony and T. J. Floyd replied very ably for the St. Dunstaners present.

After tea Miss Brandt and her sister, Mrs. Bogle, brought some friends, who gave us an excellent little concert, the lady who sang chorus songs, which lead to almost community singing, being much appreciated.

There was just time to decide all the competitions, the winners being—cake, J. Rendell; basket of fruit, Mrs. Head; string, L. Johns; ladies' string, Mrs. Johns. D. I. M. A.



## "In Memory"

GUARDSMAN WILLIAM BROOKS KIRKUP  
(First Grenadier Guards)

WE much regret to have to announce the passing of this St. Dunstaner. Kirkup enlisted in June 1916, and was discharged in February 1919. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1922, and after leaving us he commenced business on his own account as a grocer. He was very successful with this, and was also an active member of the British Legion. Kirkup was taken suddenly ill last month, and died on the 6th December, at the age of 43 years.

The funeral took place on the 9th December at St. Margaret's, Durham, the Rector, the Reverend C. J. Thurlow, officiating. The lesson was read by Captain Eric G. Jones, the chairman of the Durham Branch of the British Legion. A great number of relatives and friends were present at these last sad rites, and members of the British Legion, wearing Flanders poppies, headed the cortege. Many beautiful floral tributes were received, and after the service British Legion members filed past the open grave, each depositing a Flanders Poppy on the coffin.

We offer our deep and sincere sympathy to Mrs. Kirkup and the children in their great bereavement.

PRIVATE ROLAND W. R. THOMPSON  
(Royal Air Force)

With deep regret we record the death of this St. Dunstaner. Thompson came to St. Dunstan's in October 1925 and was trained in joinery. He was a very quick and intelligent worker and proved very successful at this occupation, for which he gained a first-class certificate. On leaving in November 1926 Thompson set up a little joinery business in Folkestone, but unfortunately did not enjoy good health. He suffered greatly with his nerves and had been far from well since the beginning of last year. In September he was admitted to hospital, where he grew weaker day by day and died on the 18th November.

The funeral took place on the 23rd November at Folkestone Cemetery, many relatives and friends being present. Numerous beautiful wreaths were received, including one in the form of St. Dunstan's Badge "From Captain Fraser and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's."

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Thompson in her bereavement.



## Births—Marriages—Deaths

### BIRTHS

- BONNER.**—On Armistice Day, 11th November, to the wife of W. A. Bonner, of Englefield Green, a son.
- BROADLEY.**—On 9th November, to the wife of J. A. Broadley, of Maryhill, Glasgow, a daughter (Freda).
- DAKIN.**—To the wife of H. A. Dakin, of Loughborough Junction, a daughter, on 1st November.
- DAVIS.**—To the wife of G. Davis, of Malswick, Newent, a son on the 19th of November.
- LEEMAN.**—On 3rd of November, to the wife of J. F. Leeman, of Skegness, a daughter.
- LOMAS.**—On the 11th of December to the wife of J. Lomas, of Walthamstow, a bonny baby daughter (weight 11 lbs.).
- ROYLANCE.**—To the wife of J. W. Roylance, on the 14th of November, a son (Jack).
- SMITH.**—On the 30th of October, to the wife of A. Smith, of Nottingham, a son.
- THOMPSON.**—On the 15th December, to the wife of A. Thompson, of Upton Beacon, a daughter.
- WEEKS.**—To the wife of H. Weeks, of Bristol, on the 30th of October, a son.
- WILLIAMS.**—To the wife of E. Williams, of Shipley, a daughter (Marian), born on the 10th of November.
- YARE.**—On the 30th of October, to the wife of J. Yare, of Liverpool, a daughter.

### MARRIAGES

- MCATEER-REEVES.**—Hugh McAteer, of Belfast, to Miss Rose Ellen Reeves, of Brighton, on 6th November. The ceremony took place at the Brighton Presbyterian Church, Matron Thelluson and several sisters being present. There was also a large number of "boys" from the Annexe who gave the happy couple a cheery send off.
- READ-BAX.**—H. B. Read, of 30 Blackman Street, Brighton, to Miss Bax, of Brighton, on 7th July.
- TAPLIN-BAWN.**—W. Charles Taplin, C.S.M.M.G., A.C.B.M., M.E., of Camber-

ley, Surrey, to Miss Kathleen M. S. Bawn, eldest daughter of Mr. J. F. and Mrs. Bawn, of L. Cotham Lawn Road, Bristol, on 8th December, at Highbury Chapel, Bristol, by the Reverend Frank Ballard.

### DEATHS

This month we have to offer sympathy to the following:—

- BATES.**—H. Bates, of Oakengates, who lost his father (aged 89) on the 18th of November.
- BOOTHMAN.**—Mrs. Boothman, of Salford, who lost her father on the 11th of November as the result of a stroke, he was seventy-three years of age. The funeral took place on the 15th at the Weaste Cemetery.
- BOWEN.**—Mrs. Bowen, of Llanelly, who lost her mother on 11th November after a long and painful illness.
- HAMILTON.**—B. Hamilton, of Brandon, Suffolk, who lost his father, suddenly, on the 18th of November.
- MATTHEWS.**—Mr. and Mrs. Matthews, of Haydock, St. Helens, who lost their little son as the result of a motor accident. The loss is the more tragic because it happened with such appalling suddenness. Mr. and Mrs. Matthews had only just returned, with the child, from a motor ride when the child ran suddenly out of the shop door at the instant that a car was backing. The tragedy happened so quickly that no one actually saw how it occurred. Roy Matthews was three and a half years old.
- NEWTON.**—Mr. and Mrs. R. Newton, of Ringwood, who lost their seven year old son Jack on the 27th of October owing to an attack of diphtheria.
- ROBINSON.**—H. E. Robinson, of Portslade, who lost his mother (after a long and painful illness) on 6th October.
- SAVORY.**—Mrs. Savory, of Sheffield, who has just lost her mother.
- STEEL.**—Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Steel, of Rosyth Garden City, who lost their little son Willie on 23rd November.

## SPORTS NOTES

There is but little to record this month as we are only just starting after the Christmas holidays, but we should like to wish you all a very happy New Year, and hope that all the sportsmen will have every success throughout the year.

With the New Year we should like to welcome new members at our Tuesday evening sports, as many of our old contingent have taken up walking more seriously and must give up all their spare time to training, in order to keep up with the very high standard that our walkers are attaining. We are sure, however, that there are many who would prefer more gentle exercise, and we hope as many as possible will come along. L. W.

### NOTICE

#### 15 MILE OUTER CIRCLE WALK

*23rd February*

Will all entries for this walk kindly reach the Sports Office not later than 11th February.

*26th January*

Starting from Headquarters at 2.30 p.m. there will be a Nine Mile Outer Circle Walk.

### POINTS

<i>8th January 1929</i>			
Crooke .. ..	92	Rhodes .. ..	15
Nichols .. ..	89	Roden .. ..	15
Birchall .. ..	83	Ruddock .. ..	14
McFarlane .. ..	53	Chapple .. ..	13
Webster .. ..	42	Lambert .. ..	11
Martin .. ..	40	Wiltshire .. ..	9
Kerr .. ..	34	Burran .. ..	8
Prior .. ..	34	Anderson .. ..	7
Fleetwood .. ..	31	Taylor .. ..	7
Scott .. ..	21	McSteel .. ..	6
Winter .. ..	20	Baxter .. ..	5
		Gover .. ..	3

### B'HAM ST. DUNSTAN'S SPORTS CLUB

The annual meeting was held on 14th November at Queens College. There was a good attendance of Vice-Presidents and members. Mr. Birkenshaw, of Toc. H., took the chair.

### NEXT MEETING BIRMINGHAM CLUB

Queens College, Wednesday, 30th January, 6.30 p.m.

### EX-SERVICE MEN'S DINNER

BOOTS CAFE, COLMORE ROW, BIRMINGHAM  
*20th December 1928*

The dinner is arranged each year by the Alexandra Musical Society. It is a very popular event with the club members. This year 27 accepted and 20 turned up.

### THE TELEPHONISTS' REUNION DINNER

One of the most "appetising" days of the three hundred and sixty-six which comprised last year was that of the 7th December. About seventy shorthand typists and telephonists who had that day fasted wended their way hungrily to Headquarters to partake of the Annual Reunion Dinner.

Full justice being done to the repast, cigarettes and coffee were handed round and then speeches began. Captain Fraser made an excellent speech, commenting very favourably on the work performed by the men of St. Dunstan's employed in and around London in business offices.

H. Gover rose to the occasion and responded in sportsmanlike manner to Capt. Fraser's observations, remarking that the dinners should be more than annual: if this can be so, so let it be. The speeches were seconded by J. Hughes who had great difficulty in remembering what had previously been said (!) but was able notwithstanding to make some very fitting and appropriate rejoinders. Food and speeches alike were consumed with the heartiness which is distinctive of all St. Dunstaners.

After dinner all adjourned to the Lounge where a concert had been arranged, two entertainers having been engaged to fill up the rest of the evening's programme. "He, She and a Piano," as they are professionally named, sang light duets and encouraged community singing, one and all joining heartily therein. "He" cracked several chestnuts, which brought a laugh from the older of the members present. Fortunately we younger men were not old enough to remember their origin; albeit, all went well, and a jolly evening in every way came to an end.

J. H.



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