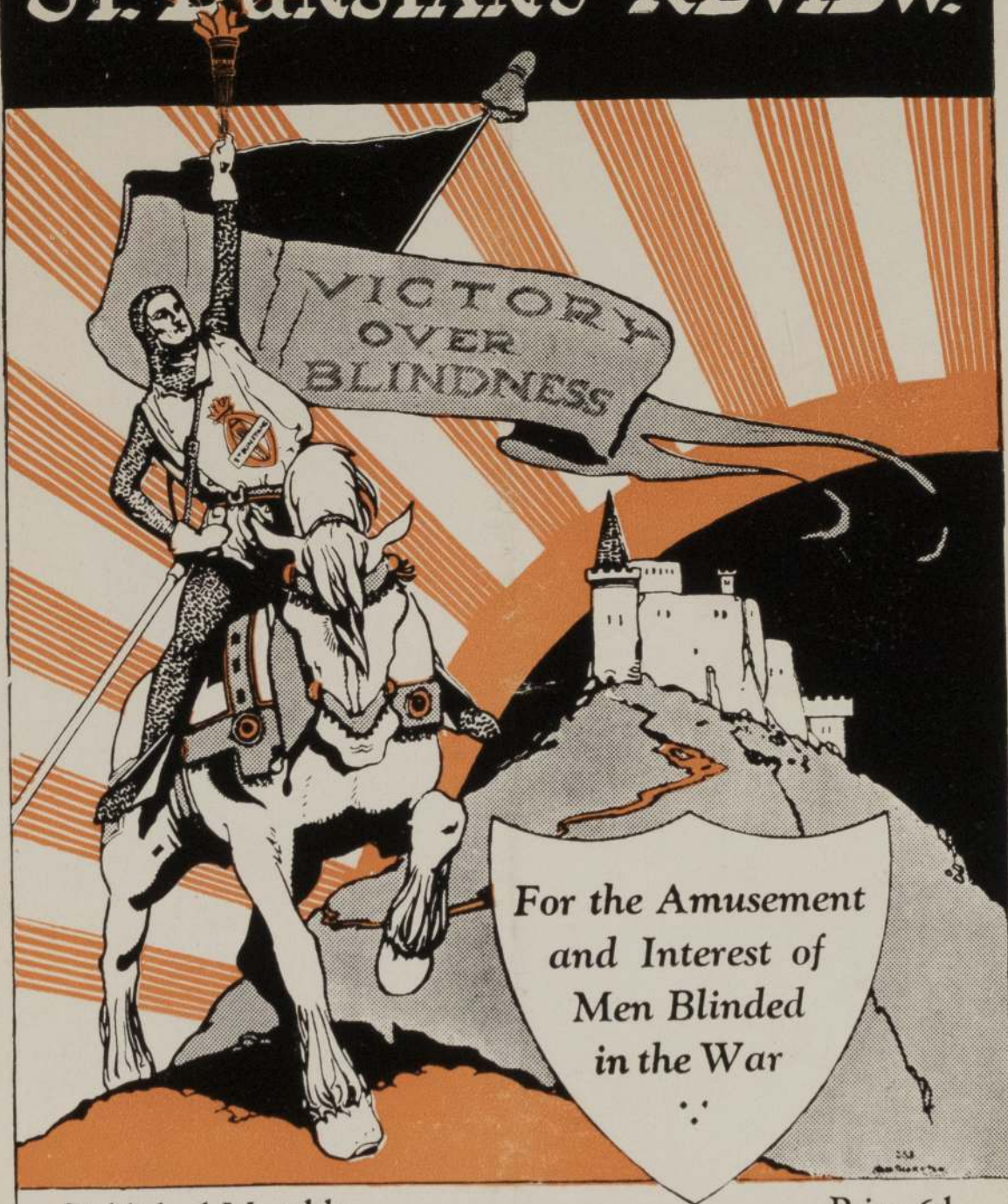


ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW



Published Monthly

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ST. DUNSTAN'S FOR BLINDED SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND AIRMEN (IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BRITISH LEGION)
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St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY PERRY BARRINGER

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EDITORIAL NOTES

IT is with deep regret that we learn, just as we go to press, of the death of Sir Alfred Washington Guest Ranger, M.A., D.C.L., which took place in the early morning of the 14th of February, at the advanced age of eighty-one. Thus passes an eminent and finely human personality in the world of the blind, whose services to all of those deprived, like himself, of the blessing of sight, will ever be remembered with gratitude and admiration. It will be known to all St. Dunstaners that Sir Washington Ranger and our own great Chief, Sir Arthur Pearson, worked very closely together both in the interests of the civilian blind generally and from the earliest foundations of St. Dunstan's. We hope in the next issue of the REVIEW to publish a special article dealing with the business and charitable activities of one of the finest types of philanthropists it has been our privilege to meet.

THE exceedingly severe weather of late and the widespread prevalence of the ubiquitous 'flu has taken a heavy toll of the Executive and Administrative Staff of St. Dunstan's, as well as of the officers and men and their families. This is always a busy time of year for all departments, and it is typical of the enthusiasm and energy which all members of the staff devote to their work that those who are fit are cheerfully shouldering the work of those who are ill.

WE congratulate the fortunate winners and commiserate with the unsuccessful entrants in the Ballot for the two fine wardrobes, a full report of which appears in this issue. There is one point to which we should like attention to be drawn in connection with this competition. Quite a number of entries and even requests for information regarding the ballot reached us nearly a week after the closing date. Obviously it was not fair to those who had read and observed the conditions very clearly set forth to include these late comers. As it was, a generous extension was given in cases where possible postal delay might have been blamed but the line had to be drawn somewhere. The moral to be born in mind, it can be said with all due diffidence, is that if our little house magazine is worth reading at all, it is worth reading when the news and information given in its pages is fresh.



NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS

INFLUENZA, rheumatism, pneumonia, asthma, bronchitis, and every other ill that flesh is heir to seem to have attacked St. Dunstaners during the last few weeks, but we still "carry on," declining to be downhearted. All the same, it must tax the courage of the bravest to be smitten with as many blows as R. A. Newton, of Portsmouth, for example. His wife is still weak after influenza, one child is on the "danger list" with double pneumonia, the baby is in an isolation hospital with scarlet fever, and a boy is exhibiting symptoms of whooping cough! By the time these lines appear in print may the whole household have a clean bill of health will be the sincere wish of all Newton's friends.

For a change of thought let us turn to J. Boyce, of Weymouth, who has been devoting his ingenious mind to the invention of a new work table. We hope it will find many admirers—and buyers. Another piece of work to Boyce's credit is an excellent wardrobe with a capacious drawer that should be a great comfort to Mrs. Boyce.

A busy man is S. Clarke, of Reading. He was so flooded with Christmas orders that he had to persuade some of his customers to wait till the middle of January for deliveries.

F. R. Reason, of Bridport, is keeping well, despite epidemics, and has been making a lettered mat for a church at Axminster.

How many St. Dunstaners belong to "The Old Contemptibles"? A. W. Ballard, of Sherwood, Notts, finds their meetings most interesting. He is comfortably settled and has found it possible to make many friends in the neighbourhood, which adds greatly to his happiness.

What with a new chair of exactly the model he wanted, and his wireless, R. Viner,

of Newport, is getting on well. Without such amenities the days seemed long when weather made it impossible to get out into the garden, but the British Broadcasting Corporation is an indefatigable entertainer, and Viner takes the deepest interest in the programmes.

The number of S. Bakewell's (Stoke-on-Trent) grandchildren steadily increases, but Bakewell has a heart big enough to embrace all, and gives each new arrival a warm welcome, we hear. He is as cheerful as W. Morris, of Burslem, who would doubtless back his dog for intelligence against the latest of Bakewell's brood.

A "new" grandfather is S. J. Jordan, of Luston Leominster, thanks to his daughter who had her first baby—a boy—a few weeks ago. Jordan is working away busily at mats.

The memory of cheerful days at Brighton has been helping many a man through the winter, and no one is more enthusiastic than J. Fay, of Cheltenham, Glos., who, as those who were at the Annexe with him know, enjoyed every moment of his stay.

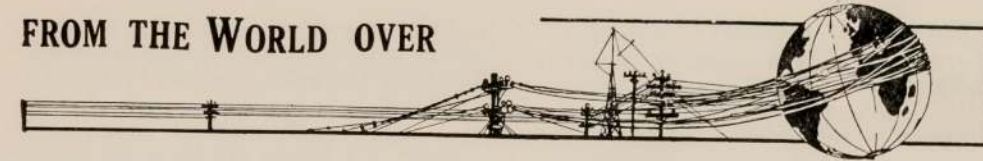
"Everything is going on well," says T. Meredith, of the same town. He is rarely absent from his little shop.

New Southgate is proving appreciative of the baskets made by J. Bentley, who is gradually getting well known in the neighbourhood. He did a fine trade at Christmas.

In Belfast T. McCann has got started to work again in a capital new workshop, with this, and wireless, he finds life a full thing.

W. Street, of Evesham, is another who is fit and contented. One of his joys is his concertina, which he plays well by ear, as those who know him well will remember.

FROM THE WORLD OVER



All mothers and fathers will sympathise with the anxious time experienced recently by Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Roden, of Wembley. Quite suddenly their little daughter had to be carried off to a local hospital, where it was found necessary to operate upon her immediately for mastoid. She has rallied well and is now, we are glad to say, off the "danger list."

St. Dunstaners have been doing well in public of late. A letter from S. Wright, of Wilsden (Yorks), mentions that he is giving a 'cello performance at Cleckheaton along with C. Thomas, of Todmorden, one of our tenors, while in *The Walthamstow Guardian* (18th January), in a paragraph concerning a golden wedding, there is mention that "Mr. Burran, a soloist from St. Dunstan's, sang finely." We hope that all received the applause we feel sure they deserved.

The new house into which J. S. Bailey has moved at Ramsgate is most comfortable, and the only trouble is that there is a ban on workshops in this, the residential section, of the town, so there are difficulties in the way of an erection in the garden.

A most interesting mat order has been received by G. Millen, of Birchington; the customer requires a dog's head upon it! It must have required some courage to accept such an order, but that is a trait which no St. Dunstaner lacks, and we feel sure that Millen will make a success of the order.

Does anyone want to buy some most attractive short-haired blue kittens? If so, an order should go quickly to G. C. Jackson, of Alfred House, Kingsnorth, Ashford, for the supply is not likely to last long.

Two more young St. Dunstaners are reported as doing well in their respective lines. Margaret, the little daughter of

F. Nash, of Roehampton, is at the top of her school, and has also been awarded the prize for "popularity," so it is evident that she carries her honours well.

The second is C. R. Newell's young son, who is making most excellent progress at the aeroplane works near Cheltenham, where he has been apprenticed. He must be a steady worker, like his father, who keeps busy with mats and poultry and has hardly had a spare moment this last summer and autumn because he has been altering and rearranging his poultry houses to most excellent effect; we hope he will reap the benefit of his efforts this coming year.

Those who play whist well seem to find the ever popular "drives" quite remunerative; the wife of T. Paterson, of Thirsk, has won both a first and a second prize recently, and both were well worth winning. One was a large leather suit case and the other a really beautiful marble clock.

Owing to the season few St. Dunstaners have mentioned their gardens of late, but G. Powell, of Stretton, near Brewood, Staffs, has been totting up accounts and finds that his was quite profitable last year, even though he lost a splendid tree-load of pears owing to the onslaught of wasps. His poultry do well, and "between times" Powell turns his hand to mat-making.

Some nice local orders have been coming to E. Tatton, of Sedgley; these are always doubly welcome because they almost invariably lead to further orders, since one satisfied resident is almost sure to speak to another of any purchase that has pleased her—or him.

Dog-breeding is the latest hobby of T. Kinder, of St. Helens, and he finds his whippet and greyhound puppies most lucrative besides being interesting, but

News of St. Dunstaners—continued
they need careful handling, as Kinder is the first to admit.

There is something tempting about competitions which entice one to guess at numbers, be they as to the numbers of grains of rice in a bottle, enthusiasts at a football match, or the numbers of people who travel over a given railway line in a stated time. Such a competition was advertised by the Great Southern not so long ago, and among the entrants was a St. Dunstaner—W. F. Cork, of Rhodes Minnis—and he carried off the prize, so becoming the owner of a fine motor car! It would be extremely interesting to hear on what he based his estimate? Did he enter into abstruse calculations, or was the splendid win just sheer good luck? Whichever it was we offer him our heartiest congratulations.

A remarkably nice house opposite a large church has been secured by A. Peto, in Heavitree, Exeter, and we hope to hear shortly that he has begun to "dig himself in." We feel sure that when once he obtains a clientele it will grow steadily.

Friends of J. Ballantyne, of Isleworth, will be interested to know that he turned his recent accident to good account inasmuch as he spent the compensation money on his wife, so enabling her to learn hair-dressing. She has now obtained her certificate, and Ballantyne has partitioned off his shop so that while she dresses hair in one part he works at his mat-making in the other.

A trade in motor mats seems developing in Clara, where M. O'Hara is at work on the craft; in addition he is doing well with milk and has now bought a second cow.

Brief Notes

"All's well" with G. H. Phillips, of Enfield, who is as busy and in as good spirits as usual; J. Pearson, of Pendleton, has been busy at a difficult piece of joinery—the taking out of some old shop windows and replacing them with new.

The three-months-old baby daughter with which R. Edwards has been blessed, is a remarkably fine child, we hear, and a delight to both parents.

Some new houses are being put up in Ferndown, Wimborne, and A. J. Jones is hoping to be one of the lucky applicants. His boy is doing well at the gas works, by the way.

The Fuller family, of Bedford, have been among the sufferers in the prevailing 'flu epidemic, but are well on the way to recovery. W. V. Sargent, of the same district, shared in the usual Christmas spurt of trade. S. Goodman, of Luton, is keeping well except for an attack of lumbago; W. Jones, of Chepstowe, has been much concerned about his wife who had a nasty accident, scalding her foot very badly soon after Christmas; W. Reid, of Belfast, has at length got rid of his attack of quinsy; J. Brockerton, of Coleraine, has had a fine lot of "special orders" for mats which has kept him closely employed; one was a well mat 3 ins. thick! Coalisland is coming up to H. J. Glendennan's expectations, and he likes the place very much.

E. Slaughter, of Harringay, well known to many on account of his singing, is well and happy. H. Pugh, of Finchley, is busy and in good spirits; T. Stratfull, of Barnet, was one of the sufferers in the last gale, having some damage done to his house.

Friends of A. G. Blyde, of Old Kent Road, will be glad to know that he is now on the mend from his attack of pleurisy.

"Work going all right," says M. O. Anker, of Ealing. H. White, one of our Croydon basket-makers, says he ended up the year well, with good trade in December. At Rochford, G. C. Shields is doing fairly well with his joinery and is in capital health. "All's well" is the news from S. Varley, of Tottenham. W. Price, of Shrewsbury, is as contented as usual, being blessed with a cheery disposition.

F. Polley, "well and jolly," is working

away at mats in Brixton, and G. Williams, of Ladbroke Grove, goes on with his baskets. In Walthamstow, A. J. Burtenshaw is plying his dual trades—boots and mats, while another joint trade keeps C. E. Beck occupied in Bishops Stortford.

Births—Deaths—Marriages

Births

BARLOW.—To the wife of S. Barlow, of Grimston, a son on the 6th of January.
CALVERT.—On the 16th of January, to the wife of L. W. Calvert, of Rufford, a son (Harold).
EMERSON.—On the 21st December, to the wife of A. S. Emerson, of Great Bromley, near Colchester, a daughter.
POPPLE.—To the wife of R. Popple, of Llandebie, a daughter on the 7th of January.
SAYERS.—On the 12th of January, to the wife of E. Sayers, of Upper Harbledown, near Canterbury, a daughter.
TAYLOR.—On the 6th January, a daughter, to the wife of S. W. Taylor, of Shephed.

Deaths

This month we have to offer sympathy to the following:—
ANDERSON.—A. Anderson, of Letham, who lost his father on the 24th of November as the result of a stroke.
BARRETT.—Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Barrett, of Old Kent Road, in that their child was still-born.
BEDFORD.—W. H. Bedford, of Sheffield, whose mother passed away on the 27th of November after a fairly long illness.
BROOKS.—G. Brooks, of Lancing, who has lost his step-father. The funeral took place on the 14th of December.
CHAMPNISS.—F. Champniss, of Willesden, whose eldest son died on Christmas Day of rheumatic fever. He was only 27.
KNELLER.—Mr. and Mrs. F. Kneller, of Southampton, who lost their eight year old son from bronchial pneumonia on the 10th of January.

MUNCASTER.—Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Muncaster, of Preston, who lost their only child (Richard), aged five days, on the 18th of January.

OLLINGTON.—H. Ollington, of Earlsfield, whose mother died in hospital just before Christmas. He was just in time to see her before she passed away.

SPACKMAN.—Mr. and Mrs. Spackman, of Over, in that they have lost Robert Ernest, the second of their twin sons, on the 29th of December. He was only six months old.

TOOMEY.—A. T. Toomey, of St. John's Wood, who lost his father on the 25th of November.

WILLIAMS.—A. Williams, of Chepstow, Mon., who has lost his father, aged 93, very suddenly.

YARWOOD.—J. W. Yarwood, of Manchester, who has lost his father very tragically; he dropped dead suddenly on the 19th of January.

YOUNG.—R. Young, of Glasgow, whose mother died on the 16th of October following on a shock. The loss is doubly pathetic inasmuch as Young had just moved into new rooms and had taken particular pleasure in arranging things for his mother's comfort.

Marriages

BURGIN-MARSDEN.—On 27th December, at Holy Trinity Church, W. Burgin, of Thurgoland, to Miss Grace Marsden, of Alexandra Park, London.

We are pleased to be able to add that the marriage was a very pretty affair and that although only a few friends were expected quite a large number appeared to wish happiness to the bride and bridegroom. Everyone was in excellent spirits, and the ceremony went off particularly well.

In addition to personal good wishes, many were conveyed by telegram, and Burgin and his bride seemed quite showered under. We are glad to know that the future of the happy couple seems particularly bright and full of promise. May many friends throng around their tea table to drink them luck from St. Dunstan's silver tea-pot!

CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS SCHEME

IN January 1926 Captain Fraser advised St. Dunstan's men to apply for admission to the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions scheme, and detailed information as to the contributions, benefits, &c., was given in our issues of January and March 1926.

It is gratifying to know that 920 men have been enrolled as members and are weekly paying one-half of the contribution, the other half being paid by St. Dunstan's. That we were right in advising our men to enrol is borne out by the fact that 5,785 weeks of sickness benefit have already been paid, although the bulk of the men did not become entitled to sickness benefit until late in 1926. In addition, over 200 claims for maternity benefit have been made and payments issued, in a few cases pensions have been obtained for the widows of our men, and a few applications are still pending.

The cost to St. Dunstan's of rendering this very important service will amount to some £1,800 a year for many years to come, and then a gradually diminishing sum until the men attain the age of 65 years, at which date they will be eligible for an old age pension. It was, of course, not necessary that St. Dunstan's should undertake this liability as they are not employers, but St. Dunstan's felt that, as such a very real advantage would accrue to all men who entered this insurance scheme, they should assist their men in a practical way by meeting half the cost from their funds.

It will be appreciated that the work in connection with this scheme is very great, as a card has to be stamped every week for each contributor, and in the case of sickness, medical certificates have to be obtained at the commencement of sickness, week by week during sickness, and various formalities complied with before benefits are actually remitted to the sick man. Again, detailed accounts have to be rendered to the Ministry of Pensions in order that contributions stopped from a man's pension during sickness are refunded

to St. Dunstan's in order that they can refund these to the men. It will be very helpful to the department of St. Dunstan's which has to deal with this somewhat complicated machinery if men who have received sickness or maternity benefits will sign the receipts for such benefits and send them back by return. Unfortunately, some men do not do this, and thus cause a considerable amount of correspondence on the subject which could be avoided.

There are a few men who through no fault of their own were unable to qualify for entry as voluntary contributors under this scheme, and St. Dunstan's have been asked whether in such cases they would be prepared to pay one-half of the insurance premium on an endowment policy taken out by such men through any of the large insurance companies. St. Dunstan's will be pleased to do this, provided that such men were desirous of entering the scheme but were barred from doing so, and that the insurance taken out shall be an endowment insurance payable at the age of 65, the annual premium on which is not less than £3 18s. per annum, St. Dunstan's contribution being one-half (i.e. £1 19s., which is the amount contributed in respect of those men insured under the Contributory Pensions Scheme), the other half being payable by the men. Any man who desires to avail himself of this should write to Mr. Fobbs on the matter.

OUR HANDYMEN

We learn that quite recently one of our boot repairers in London had a customer come in with a pair of scissors to be ground. He is a man who is always ready to undertake any kind of job, in a similar way to another boot repairer, who undertook to put eyelet-holes in a lady's dress. This man was anxious, however, to know why the scissors were brought to him, and inquired. The reply was to the effect that he advertised to do the work, as on his shop were the words "Leather and Grindery Merchant"!

The Chairman's Notes

NOT unnaturally St. Dunstan's men take a great interest in the organisation of St. Dunstan's and in the attitude of the public towards our organisation. It is well that they should, for nothing is more helpful than constructive criticism about our methods of management, and the influence of St. Dunstan's men upon public opinion for or against St. Dunstan's is of extreme importance to our funds. For these reasons, amongst others, I have always welcomed suggestions and criticism from St. Dunstaners, and have taken many opportunities of talking either at After-Care Reunions or at Brighton or elsewhere, to meetings of the men, about our policy and methods. Two meetings have taken place in London recently which I think worthy of note because of the matters which were raised at them, and an additional reason for mentioning them is that a certain number of men who have heard that they had been held have written to me, asking me why all were not invited. My correspondents had heard that proposals, which if they were adopted would change the whole character of St. Dunstan's administration, were under discussion, and they very naturally expressed anxiety lest anything of this sort should happen without their knowledge. It may therefore be as well for me to start my notes upon this subject by emphasising the character of these meetings which were held in the Lounge at Headquarters.

When I returned from South Africa I was asked by the men who come to Headquarters on a Tuesday night for their weekly sports meeting, if I would meet them alone, without any of the staff of St. Dunstan's being present, to discuss some matter which was not disclosed to me. I accepted the invitation, as I am always willing to meet St. Dunstan's men in any numbers and upon any occasion, and, for that matter, upon any subject. I did not convene the meeting, and am not therefore responsible for sending out invitations, but those who were not present may rest

assured that no such sectional meetings of the men at any time will lead to vast or revolutionary changes in St. Dunstan's administration without all being made aware of them in the fullest possible way. Indeed, such meetings must be regarded as simply in the nature of friendly talks about matters to do with St. Dunstan's policy or benefits, and not in any sense as official or formal conferences where policy is shaped or decisions taken. The men who came to these meetings were primarily masseurs, telephone operators, and professional men, and I think practically all live in London.

They raised with me two questions which I will deal with separately:—

1. Would it be possible to make regular weekly allowances from St. Dunstan's Funds to all blinded soldiers?

The idea underlying the request was that St. Dunstan's had a very great deal of money and that it would be possible to make substantial allowances of this kind. One speaker mentioned the sum of £1 a week all round.

At the first meeting I replied briefly on general principles, and at the second supported these principles by a definite statement as to our financial position. What I said may be briefly summarised as follows:—

St. Dunstan's is spending each year the whole of its income from investments and collections, except for a small proportion which we are setting aside to strengthen our financial position for the future. In the last few years we have set aside a certain amount of money in this way, although last year we actually made a loss which had to be made up out of capital. The reason for setting aside a certain amount of our income each year is that we believe that in ten or fifteen years time a great many of our older subscribers, who themselves lived through the war and have a particular sympathy with disabled soldiers, will have passed away. The trouble, distress, and disabilities of the

war will gradually become a matter of history rather than of memory. People will begin to forget, and then St. Dunstan's will find it difficult to get money. Therefore, if we are to guarantee to our blinded soldiers that St. Dunstan's will go on for the rest of their lives and that they will have the benefits they have been promised, we must save a little money while we can still get it. This is a clear policy, and is one which I think will be endorsed by an overwhelming majority of our men. Security for the future and absolute reliance upon St. Dunstan's is in my judgment of more value to St. Dunstan's men as a whole than anything else.

Now, as St. Dunstan's is practically spending all the money which it receives, there is none left over for the payment of weekly allowances. The question then naturally arises, and, indeed, one of the men at the meeting actually asked it, "Could you not collect even more?" My answer was that, in my judgment, St. Dunstan's could not collect more than it does. Everybody knows that St. Dunstan's is liberally supported, and the last two or three years certain sections in the country have been saying that St. Dunstan's was getting too much. We have, with great care and deliberation, refuted this idea, and proved our needs. But to go to the other extreme and increase our demands upon the public would be to ask for criticism and, so to speak, kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. On the whole, St. Dunstan's has been supported, and is now being supported, better than any other organisation for disabled soldiers, and it would not do to upset public opinion by asking for too much. Public opinion is very sensitive, and public opinion is the master of the situation. We have in spite of many difficulties managed to maintain St. Dunstan's high standard all through the last difficult years of trade depression, and this is simply because we have kept the name of St. Dunstan's sweet with the public, and have had a sensible moderate policy which could be well justified in argument. We must remember that there are thousands of badly disabled soldiers who are not cared for in the same way as St. Dunstan's

men, and that if St. Dunstan's was to push matters too far there would be a reaction in public opinion in favour of these men and against us.

"Well, then," came the next question, "could we not have this weekly allowance instead of some of the other benefits which St. Dunstan's gives?" I pointed out that there were only two ways in which this could be done: one was by cutting down or stopping the help or assistance which we give to our men in connection with their trades and handicrafts—that is to say, if we stopped supplying our men with raw materials at cost price, or stopped selling mats and baskets, &c., or stopped paying the carriage on these goods, or stopped the technical visitors, there would be money available which might be divided out. But there are two difficulties about this. One is that the men who engage in these handicrafts earn considerably more money by them than we could possibly give them through these weekly allowances. The second is that I am fully convinced that the great majority of St. Dunstan's men would very soon be extremely unhappy if they had nothing to do from morning to night, day in and day out. I am quite certain that the great majority of our men carry on with their work not only because of the money which it brings in, but also because they prefer to have something to do, and to think about, to being idle.

The other source from which allowances might be made would be the benefits which St. Dunstan's gives by way of grants and allowances, &c. At present we spend a very large sum of money—half again as much as the interest upon our investments—upon grants for business difficulty or development, allowances, medical benefits, dental benefits, railway fares to Headquarters on business or to Brighton for holidays, holiday allowances, gifts of braille books, &c., grants for funerals and help to widows, maternity benefits, &c. It would be possible to stop all these or the greater part of them and pay out money in regular weekly sums instead. But what would this mean? It would mean that every St. Dunstaner would get a small weekly allowance, but that

when trouble arose through illness or death or bad business, or when a re-settlement was required, there would be no money left for grants to help meet such difficulties. The way I put it was this: "You can either have a policy of using St. Dunstan's money for the men's needs, or you can have a policy of equal division. You cannot have both." Now, a great many men who have not had any trouble of any kind for a bit might at first say to themselves, "I would prefer the weekly allowance." But when they think it over and realise how St. Dunstan's is at the back of them, to come to their aid in any trouble, I am quite convinced they will take a different view. One pound a week all round would cost about £85,000 or £90,000 a year for perhaps ten years, after which the sum might begin to fall off through deaths. This would absorb all and much more than the money which is now paid out under the headings I have given above; consequently, a weekly allowance which would be practicable would have to be much less than £1 a week, probably it could not be more than 7/6 to 10/-, and as I have said, if this was paid out there would be no money left whatever for any of the difficulties which arise from time to time, and which are now met by St. Dunstan's. For instance, a man who broke down in health at his job, and who had a really good case for re-settlement, could not be re-settled; he would have to stay where he was. A man who had exceptional doctors' or dentists' bills, or a great deal of illness, could not be helped. A man who was offered a holiday at Brighton could not have his railway fare paid. There would be no maternity grants, and so on. While the idea of dividing up is attractive at first, I am absolutely convinced that after a very few months the majority of the men would find it less advantageous than the present policy. I feel that St. Dunstan's must go on with its policy of dealing with cases that need help. The men who do not need help never know when their time of trouble may come, and, generally speaking, over a long term of years an examination of St. Dunstan's men's affairs as a whole will show that St. Dunstan's funds

are fairly evenly divided. Perhaps one man will have a number of small grants at fairly regular intervals; another will have nothing for several years, and then suddenly he will be plunged in terrible trouble and St. Dunstan's will have to come to his aid to a fairly considerable extent. Thus, taking it up one side and down the other, there is a strong element of equality about the way in which we deal with our cases, but instead of being purely mathematical it is discretionary, and meets the need when the need comes. Of course, at any one moment if you examined the affairs of St. Dunstan's men you would find a number who have not had much help from St. Dunstan's. This is not a cause for complaint, but rather for congratulation, and these are the St. Dunstan's men of whom we ought all to be most proud. They themselves, I am quite sure, are proud of their independence and of the fact that they have carried on without asking for help, but they know that St. Dunstan's is there, in a strong and sound position, to come to their aid with a really generous measure of assistance when trouble or difficulties arise.

Then somebody said, "What about getting rid of the after-care visitors and saving money that way?" I replied that I could quite understand certain London men do not desire the after-care visitors to go regularly to their houses—though I find on inquiry that they frequently make use of them in emergencies. The London man can always come up to Headquarters quite easily if he wants to represent his case, and, of course, a good many of the London men, such as those who are engaged in professional occupations, do not need the regular visits from members of this staff. "But," I said, "I am sure that the great majority of the men throughout the country find their services of the utmost value, and it would not be fair to adopt a policy which suited the London men and did not suit the men in distant parts, who are really in the majority. Nor would it be fair to treat St. Dunstaners in a different way merely because they happen to live in distant parts of the country." At present we try to be fair to all, as, for example, when we offer a holiday

at Brighton in cases of illness, we pay the railway fare, whether it is a matter of a few shillings or whether it is a very expensive fare from a long distance. Then again, we pay carriage on the men's goods, no matter whether they come from just round the corner, or from the other end of Britain. The place where a man lives ought not to make any difference.

Then another question: "Why was it impossible to pay these allowances out of St. Dunstan's capital?" I pointed out that the interest upon the capital was already being used in our year to year expenditure, and, as I have said before, that last year we had to pay out some capital because our expenditure exceeded our income. Moreover, considerably more than half our capital is tied up in the children's fund, in properties in which some of our men live, in the Brighton Annexe, in raw materials and finished goods in stock, debts from our men, our pensions fund, &c., &c. St. Dunstan's may have considerable assets on paper, but this does not mean that all the money is readily available to be used from day to day; indeed, the greater part of it is tied up in these direct or indirect services to the men and could not be realised even if St. Dunstan's was in desperate need.

The second general subject upon which questions were asked was: "Would I set up some sort of committee of the men, which could look into St. Dunstan's affairs, and in particular examine this problem of the weekly allowances in great detail?" After giving this matter very careful consideration I gave my reply, which was that I did not think such a committee of the men would be in the best interests of the men as a whole. It must be remembered that St. Dunstan's men are spread all over the country, that they do not all know each other, and that, therefore, it would be very difficult for them to elect representatives upon any sound democratic basis. Then again, the average St. Dunstaner is busy at his work, and certainly could not come up to Headquarters to attend a meeting if he was elected unless all his expenses and time-off money was paid. This would mean that the meetings or conferences of delegates

would take the men away from their work, and cost a great deal. If on the other hand the men only came up once in six months or once a year it would not be very much use.

Then I was asked if, instead of arranging some kind of democratic committee, I would select a committee, that is to say, choose myself a certain number of men who could come to meetings and who would be suitable. I refused this proposal on two grounds—one, no matter whom I selected, there would sure to be criticism from those whom I did not select, and, secondly, the men who were available and might be anxious to come, would not necessarily be representative St. Dunstaners.

I came to the conclusion that the scheme was not practicable, and that St. Dunstan's men as a whole would rather leave the affairs of St. Dunstan's in the present hands. And then again, I am sure that one of the things which our blinded soldiers as a whole particularly like about St. Dunstan's is that we deal with their cases quietly, and without telling everybody about them. I do not believe that the men of St. Dunstan's would want their individual affairs known to and looked into by some of their number whom they did not personally know.

I do not want it to be thought that I am in any way against democratic ideas or democratic development. On the contrary, if St. Dunstan's was one big factory with all the men under one roof there might be a strong case for a kind of Whitley Council on which the management on one side and the men on the other side could meet and talk over all their affairs. But St. Dunstan's is not like this, and the scheme, however desirable in theory, is not really sufficiently practical or useful to be worth putting into force.

Ian Fraser

General Bruce, C.B., is coming to give a lecture in the Lounge at Headquarters at 8 o'clock on the evening of 12th March, on the Mount Everest Expedition, and a description of the different Himalayan Ranges.

Result of Ballot

Winners of the Two Gentlemen's Wardrobes

THE draw for the competition announced in our last issue to decide the destination of the two "Valet" Wardrobes took place on the afternoon of Monday, the 11th February.

The competitions, it will be remembered, were arranged with the view of disposing to the best advantage and in the fairest way possible of the two handsome wardrobes which had been generously presented for the benefit of St. Dunstan's funds. We must admit to some surprise that more entries were not received, for a chance of winning a wardrobe for 1s., or even 2s. 6d., does not seem dear at the price. However those lazy, indifferent or timorous folk who did not compete have only themselves to blame, and that's that!

Readers of the REVIEW with such keenly retentive memories as most of our St. Dunstaners possess, will recall that it was stated in these columns that the draw would take place on the 10th February. Several reasons, however, contributed to the alteration of date. The first was that the Editor had not realised that the 10th fell on a Sunday; the second was that Sunday, being a "dies non" for any, and particularly a gambling transaction, he felt that a special journey from his home town to headquarters was neither a necessary nor desirable proceeding; and the third was that, in any event, he had had to scratch a perfectly good game of golf because he was in bed with 'flu!

As stated, therefore, an eager—we will not say, grasping—gathering assembled in the Lounge on the afternoon of the 11th February. Matron, Mrs. Bates, and Mr. Kessell were among the senior officers present to ensure that the Editor had nothing up his sleeve (having taken, as duly entitled, a ticket for himself). The Editor arrived, carrying a wardrobe in each hand—in other words, two waste-paper baskets (made by St. Dunstaners, and, therefore, fool and burglar proof), and A. Waite and H. Thompson acted as official draughts-

men (we cannot think of a better word for the moment).

No. 1 Competition, confined solely to St. Dunstaners, was drawn first, the method of procedure being as follows. All counterfoils of tickets issued for this competition, contained in one basket, were thoroughly shaken up by Thompson. The basket was then handed to Waite, who, breaking the paper covering, produced—

Ticket A. 164.

which was handed to Mrs. Bates, who read therefrom:—

**T. H. Dennison,
Bank House,
Longsdon,
Stoke-on-Trent.**

Thus another good thing went north!

The same procedure was followed in the case of Competition No. 2, except that Waite did the shaking and Thompson the drawing. Readers will observe that every possible precaution was taken to avoid conspiracy between these two gentlemen, or anybody else! In spite of all warnings to the contrary, Thompson, probably suffering from the "waite" of responsibility and the excitement of the occasion, must needs take out *two* tickets. Undismayed by this trifling *contretemps*, the Editor bade the faulty draughtsman return the precocious twins to their brethren and to produce one and one only. This one was handed to Mr. Kessell, who read out:—

Ticket B. 55.

**W. Alan Smith,
The Tower,
Freiston Shore,
Boston, Lincs.**

N.B.—Smith is such an uncommon name that it is surprising it should have figured in the prize list!

All competitors as well as Messrs. Dennison and Smith, may be interested to know that the number of entries received for Competition No. 1 (St. Dunstaners only) was 282, and for Competition

No. 2 185, the total amount of the contributions thus going to St. Dunstan's funds being the handsome sum of £37 4s. 6d.

The competition has aroused a great amount of the humour latent in every St. Dunstaner, but the limits of our space permit our quoting only one of the many amusing letters received. A. Knight, of Polegate, Sussex, writes:—

"Enclosed find one bob for a ticket in the raffle for the Mahogany Valet Gentleman's Wardrobe. This dash into the arena of vicious gambling is inspired by a hunch that I might win. If I did I feel that this piece of furniture would be an inspiration to my children. They would be able to see it and know what daddy would keep his clothes in, supposing he had any."

"In passing up the wine and champagne, I would draw your attention to the fact that while I am willing to be drawn occasionally from the paths of rectitude that are my highway, I absolutely refuse to be drawn into a whirl of bibularity. Besides, I don't like port or champagne."

"The gramophones I don't require. There are seven kids here. *Verb sap.*" (Anent Knight's last paragraph, it seems fortunate that a loud speaker was not one of the competition prizes, for we are quite sure that Knight would have won this. Coals to Newcastle!!!)—ED.

Freemason St. Dunstaners

Our paragraph in a recent issue suggesting that it might be of interest to compile a list of Freemason St. Dunstaners with a possible view to their meeting for a reunion has apparently aroused much interest. The suggestion has resulted so far in the following list of names:—William Strachan, Richard H. Cook, G. H. Luckman, Arthur Herriot, J. Davidson, W. A. Westell, George Price, F. G. Braithwaite, Richard Eggleton.

The Anniversary Dance

St. Dunstan's Anniversary Dance will take place at the St. Marylebone Baths on Tuesday, 9th April, from 8 till 11 p.m. Further details regarding this will be published in the March issue of the REVIEW.

Netting Notes

What a cold month February seems to be this year; so many men write, "Please send me more rugs to do; they help to keep me indoors and are so nice to make this cold weather." We wish as many people would write "Please send me a nice woolly mat to keep my feet warm this cold weather," because they do keep one's feet warm and, of course, we always want as many orders as possible.

One man sent in a beautiful rug he had made for himself for us to see, about 4' x 2', blue turkey with an oblong fawn centre. He had worked it so evenly it looked very well indeed.

Congratulations are due to:—

T. Hill, H. R. Palmer, R. McCluskey, C. Williams, and J. Murray for passing their bag test.

C. Williams, H. R. Palmer, R. McCluskey and J. Murray are now doing turkey rugs.

W. J. Markwich, B. Quigley, A. King, I. Illingworth and H. Wignell are on cable rugs and they are also getting on well in various stages of netting.

We are hoping to have a good display at the British Industries Fair on 18th February. K. H. W.

With reference to our recent comment as to the help which the sons of our St. Dunstaners are often able to provide in securing orders for their father's work, we learn that the eldest son of T. Allen must be added to the list of these unofficial "Commercial Travellers." Young Allen, who works in the pits at Doncaster, has been instrumental in obtaining several orders for the very excellent mats made by his father.

We heartily congratulate J. Sheehy, of Dover, upon his reappointment by the Ministry of Pensions as a representative of disabled men on the Isle of Thanet and Dover War Pensions Committee for a further three years. In notifying Sheehy of this appointment, Major Tryon, the Minister of Pensions, records his appreciation of the valuable services Sheehy has rendered for the benefit of this ex-service community.

"In Memory"

PRIVATE HAROLD FLETT

(7th Manchester Regiment)

THE death of this St. Dunstaner took place very tragically on Monday, 14th January 1929. He was on his way to Cornwall House, where he had been employed as a stenographer for about seven years, when he was taken ill in Waterloo tube station. He was taken to his office, which is not far away, but had another seizure. He was taken to St. Thomas' Hospital but died exactly three minutes after admission.

Flett will be remembered by many St. Dunstaners, as for a couple of years or so he taught typing.

His life has been one eternal struggle against very heavy odds. His wounds left him deaf on his right side, and with a pressure of bone on the brain which some of our greatest surgeons failed to remove. In spite of these handicaps, Flett kept on and struggled along. His work as a stenographer was all that could be desired, and many a time was held up as an example to sighted typists. His memory and quick grasp of facts were almost super-human. He could repeat football or cricket scores correctly two months after having had them read to him. He had at one time been a great athlete and had acted as an amateur goalkeeper for Manchester City, his native team. He had also been a fair cricketer and to the day of his death took an active interest in all kinds of sport, and he was largely helped in this by his enthusiasm for wireless.

His funeral took place at Hendon Park Cemetery on Monday, 21st January 1929 at 3.30 p.m. About twenty people attended, and amongst them were the following: Mr. F. Dollimer, Supervisor of Male Typing Staff of Cornwall House; Mr. C. W. Muller, the gentleman who, as a translator of foreign languages, had dictated to Flett, Messrs. F. Rhodes and C. Durkin, representing the St. Dunstan's Typists at Cornwall House; and Mr. and Mrs. Kilsby, who had been on intimate terms of friendship with the deceased man. The floral tributes were many and made a wonderful show of colour. They included one from Captain Fraser and his other comrades of St. Dunstan's, one from the staff of the Clearing Office, one from the Male Typing Section, one from the staff of the Luncheon Club, and one of Flanders Poppies from his St. Dunstan's pals at the Clearing Office.

The life of Harold Flett contains many lessons and examples both spiritually and morally, and it has been marked by patience, fortitude, courage, and a wonderful sense of cheerfulness in spite of great odds. It can be summed up in the few words of inscription written by Mr. Bennett, who had been a personal friend, viz.: "The end of a perfect innings on a bad wicket."

STOKER PETTY OFFICER THOMAS FLAVIN

(H.M.S. "Vivid")

A gallant St. Dunstaner with an excellent naval record has passed away in the person of Stoker Petty Officer Flavin, who joined the Navy in 1904. He served on a number of His Majesty's ships, including H.M.S. "Carnarvon," "Fox," and the "Monmouth." When war broke out he was on the destroyer "Avon," transferring later for "P.22," of the famous Dover Patrol. He possessed a splendid case of medals, containing, amongst others, the African G. S. Somaliland 1908-10, Persian Gulf, Naval G. S. 1914 Star, and the Mine Sweeping Badge.

Flavin became a St. Dunstaner in January 1928, but owing to his bad state of health he was unable to come to Headquarters for training. He was always exceedingly grateful for the comforts St. Dunstan's was able to afford him. Unfortunately, at the end of last year he was taken suddenly ill, and died on the 3rd of December.

Owing to the remote position of Rostellan (Ireland), where Flavin lived, it was not possible to have a wreath sent in time for the funeral, but all St. Dunstaners will join in extending to Flavin's sisters and brother very deep sympathy with them in their sad loss.

Notices "In Memory" of Private John Eric Pearson, Private Samuel Oakes, and Private Reginald P. George will appear in the March issue of the "Review."



Nine Mile Walk

OUR last walk, started from head quarters, was held on 26th January. The original entry was somewhat depleted owing to colds and influenza. Captain Fraser, although suffering from a minor attack of the latter, gave kindly words of encouragement, and a good start to twenty-one competitors.

The weather was ideal, although rather cold towards the finish.

Archie Brown took the lead, followed the earthly twins, Gover and Ashton, and Jones for the S.S. Thompson, Benning, Boorman, Bates, Kerr, Williams, Holmes, Ingram, Moellar, Rhodes, McFarlane, were in this order at three miles. Billy Riley had retired before this point; I am afraid he had not fully recovered from his attack of flu. It was nice to see two more or less beginners doing so well in Williams and Gidney from Brighton.

The S.S. order was maintained except that Ashton had gone up just in front of Gover. At six miles Thompson still led from Benning, with Boorman, Bates and Kerr close together. Jock Ingram and Percy Holmes seemed to be enjoying themselves hereabouts. Lenderyou, who had been going very well, now seemed to be feeling the effects of a curious walking lunch. McFarlane improved his position from Moellar and Rhodes. Brown was first in the S.S. in 81 mins. 50 secs., not having been fully extended, with Ashton and Gover close together, followed by Jones, Fallowfield, Gidney, Roberts and Varley.

The first three in the T.B. Section were Thompson, Benning, and Boorman. The last two had a good tussle right through, but Thompson's extra training told its tale. Bates and Kerr came next, having been neck and neck throughout. The unanimous opinion of the judges for this race was that the standard and style were a great improvement on several others in the past. Good luck, boys; long may it continue!

Mr. W. Warwick presented a Dinky Loud Speaker for the best style prize in the T.B. Section, which was won by H. V. Thompson. Mr. Sidney Parsons also generously gave a Condiment Set for style in the S.S., which was won by G. Fallowfield.

Mr. Joe Binks, on behalf of the *News of the World*, presented a special medal, which was awarded to L. Williams.

Miss Hamar Greenwood presented the prizes, and thanked Mr. Donoghue, the judges, time-keepers, escorts, Miss Davis, and her helpers at the tea buffet—in fact, everybody who assisted at this event. Miss Greenwood having been thanked for her unfailing interest in all our sporting events, was accorded three rousing cheers by everybody present.

There were many inquiries around the park for several of the regular competitors who were not out to-day, especially the Birmingham contingent.

T.B. PRIZES S.S.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. H. Thompson | 1. A. Jones |
| 2. H. Kerr | 2. G. Fallowfield |
| 3. L. Williams | 3. T. Gidney |
| H. Thompson. | G. Fallowfield. |

MEDALS FOR FASTEST TIME

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| T.B. | S.S. |
| 1. A. Benning | 1. A. Brown |
| 2. H. Boorman | 2. P. Ashton |
| 3. E. Bates | 3. H. Gover |

News of the World Medal

L. Williams

(Full results on next page)

POINTS

5TH FEBRUARY 1929

Crooke ..	131	Roden ..	25
Nichols ..	126	Winter ..	23
Birchall ..	123	Scott ..	21
McFarlane ..	53	Rhodes ..	18
Webster ..	52	Ruddock ..	16
Prior ..	50	Chapple ..	14
Martin ..	42	Lambert ..	14
Fleetwood ..	39	Anderson ..	12
Kerr ..	34		

MAIDENHEAD WALK

The date arranged for the 25-mile Maidenhead Walk is 13th April. Will all entries kindly reach the sports office not later than 25th March.

Nine Mile Sealed Handicap Outer Circle Walk

26TH JANUARY 1929

T.B. SECTION

Name	Escort	Scr. Race	First Round	Second Round	Total Time	H'cap Allow'ce	H'cap Time	Pos't'n in Hand
H. Thompson ..	Mr. Hall, Webster Smith.	1	29.54	28.1	89.20	1.30	87.50	1
A. Benning ..	.. Bellis ..	2	30.12	28.28	90.1	1.0	89.1	4
H. Boorman ..	.. Hill ..	3	30.41	28.29	90.17	1.0	89.17	6
E. Bates ..	.. Booker & Martin.	4	31.17	28.52	91.39	2.30	89.9	5
H. Kerr ..	.. Lucas & Donkin	5	31.24	29.51	91.42	3.30	88.12	2
L. Williams ..	.. Palmer ..	6	31.30	29.42	93.9	4.30	88.39	3
P. Holmes ..	.. Shore ..	7	31.36	29.30	93.46	2.0	91.46	7
J. Ingram ..	.. Chalk ..	8	31.4	30.4	94.52	2.30	92.22	8
F. Lenderyou ..	.. Linley ..	9	31.2	30.5	97.35	5.0	92.35	11
J. McFarlane ..	.. Matthews ..	10	33.29	31.6	99.40	7.30	92.10	9
J. Moellar ..	.. Hall ..	11	33.14	32.11	102.46	10.30	92.16	10
F. Rhodes ..	.. Belchamber ..	12	33.26	32.20	103.44	11.0	92.44	12
W. Riley ..	.. Leary							

S.S. SECTION

A. Brown ..	Mr. Winter ..	1	27.50	25.50	81.50	Scr.	81.50	7
P. Ashton ..	.. Graygross ..	2	27.58	26.5	82.32	1.30	81.2	4
H. Gover ..	.. Harris ..	3	27.54	26.8	82.56	1.45	81.11	5
A. Jones ..	.. B. Martin ..	4	28.22	27.13	85.53	6.45	79.8	1
G. Fallowfield ..	.. Pope ..	5	29.20	28.2	87.56	7.30	80.26	2
T. Gidney ..	.. Fear ..	6	29.40	28.5	88.45	8.15	80.30	3
W. Roberts ..	.. Austin ..	7	29.58	29.25	97.24	12.15	85.9	8
E. Varley ..	.. C. H. Hill ..	8	32.0	30.25	97.28	14.45	82.43	6

From Overseas

"Christmas comes but once a year—likewise a letter from Bill Dies" is the opening of this cheery correspondent's communication. We do not know that we want more than one Christmas each year, but we would certainly welcome more than one letter from Bill. He sends the heartiest greetings to all St. Dunstaners—past, present and future—and pays sincere tribute to the memory of our late Chief. Bill deplores that he was neglectful enough last June to pass by the opportunity of "telling the world" through the REVIEW that there was a second son born to him. We are glad to hear that "all four," as Dies says, "are in the best of health and spirits."

Striking testimony to the excellence of his work has been given S. Curtis, of East Perth, Western Australia. A new company—The Ocean Products Co.—has recently been floated to catch sharks off the North West Coast. Instead of sending to Canada as usual for any deep sea nets, Curtis was

entrusted with the making of them. Each net was two hundred yards long by fourteen feet deep, with a six inch mesh. Curtis made them far more quickly than was thought possible. Of course, he had to "hang" them, and the local press were very interested and sent photographers to take pictures of them. This St. Dunstaner tells us he is now very busy with hammocks and swings, and also tennis nets. He believes that net-making is to be no small an industry in Western Australia in the near future, as all nets, even to hammocks, had to be imported from the Eastern States until he came to Perth. Curtis continues: "The different firms' buyer's opinion was that thanks to St. Dunstan's I can compete easily with any nets ever imported to the West." Our heartiest congratulations to Curtis upon the signal success which is attending his enthusiasm and energy.

ADVERTISEMENT

BRIGHTON.—Comfortable and well-recommended apartments. Terms moderate. Book now for Easter.—Address, A. A. Hillier, Laurel House, 25 Sutherland Road, Kemp Town, Brighton.

Poultry Notes

St. Dunstaner poultry farmers continue to secure show successes. Here are some of the latest of which we have intimation:—

W. E. Carlton, of Golden Point, Monkton, Nr. Ramsgate, sent in five exhibits at the Margate Show, and secured five awards. In the Exhibition Class, he secured 3rd for a Rhode Island Red cockerel, and in the Utility Class, he obtained 1st and 2nd prize for a pullet and a cockerel, 2nd prize for eggs, and was "commended" for a rabbit.

At the Worksop Show, H. A. Knopp carried off 15 awards with 19 entries. These included three 1st prizes, three 2nds, three 3rds, two "very highly commended," and four "highly commended." He also secured for the third time the Silver Cup for the best pullet in the Show.

C. M'Intosh, of Terregles, Dumfries, is justly proud of the fact that in the Scottish National Laying Test his pen of White Leghorns occupied the premier position at the end of the first period, with 104 firsts, 92 seconds and 4 thirds, his eggs reaching a score value of 196 out of 200. This test includes pens entered by such well known breeders as Richard Rodwell and Tom Barron.

We extend our sincere congratulations to all our poultry farmer prize winners, and our hopes that the future will bring even greater attainments.

Braille Notes

Very many congratulations to H. Wignell, on passing the Braille Reading Test, and to T. Gidney, T. Scotland, W. Smith on passing the Braille Writing Test.

Typewriting Notes

We heartily congratulate H. Wignell, T. Coussins, L. Williams, J. Ball, I. Illingworth, W. Steadman, on passing the Typewriting Test.

M. H. R.

A Correction

A paragraph appeared in a recent issue of the REVIEW regarding the broadcasting from the Dublin Station by D. J. McLoughlin of the song "A Message" by Miss L. de Cadiz. We are now informed that although the authoress of the song, Miss L. de Cadiz, served in the war from 1914 to 1919, at home and in France, it was not herself, but her sister, Miss Rosalind M. de Cadiz, who was totally disabled in the Great War. We may add that "A Message" is on sale at Messrs. Keith, Prowse & Co., Poland Street, London, at Messrs. Piggott's, Grafton Street, Dublin, or can be obtained from Miss Cadiz, at The Lodge, Cullenswood House, Oakley Road, Ranelagh, Dublin.

Preston Reunion

One—and the only one—cloud over our Preston Reunion this year, which was held at the Bull and Royal Hotel, on Friday, 18th January. We missed, immeasurably, the organizer of that otherwise successful gathering—Mr. P. Fairclough. It was unanimously agreed that a message should be wired to him forthwith from all present, conveying our very sincere concern at his indisposition, and wishing him a speedy recovery.

I think there could be no complaint this year on the ground of a poor entertainment, for we were unusually fortunate in the quantity—and quality—of voluntary performers, both vocal and otherwise, and having in addition the generous thought and help throughout the day of Mr. and Mrs. Pettit and their splendid staff, I cannot imagine anything other than a happy and enjoyable meeting.

Winners in the guessing competition were Mrs. Lupton, Mrs. Rawdon, T. Till, and A. Campbell.

This year again, then, let us hope that Mr. Swain returned to "town" with his own opinions as to what can be done—and is done—in Lancashire! E. E. R.

The Editor regrets that pressure on space this month has made it necessary to hold over a number of items.

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