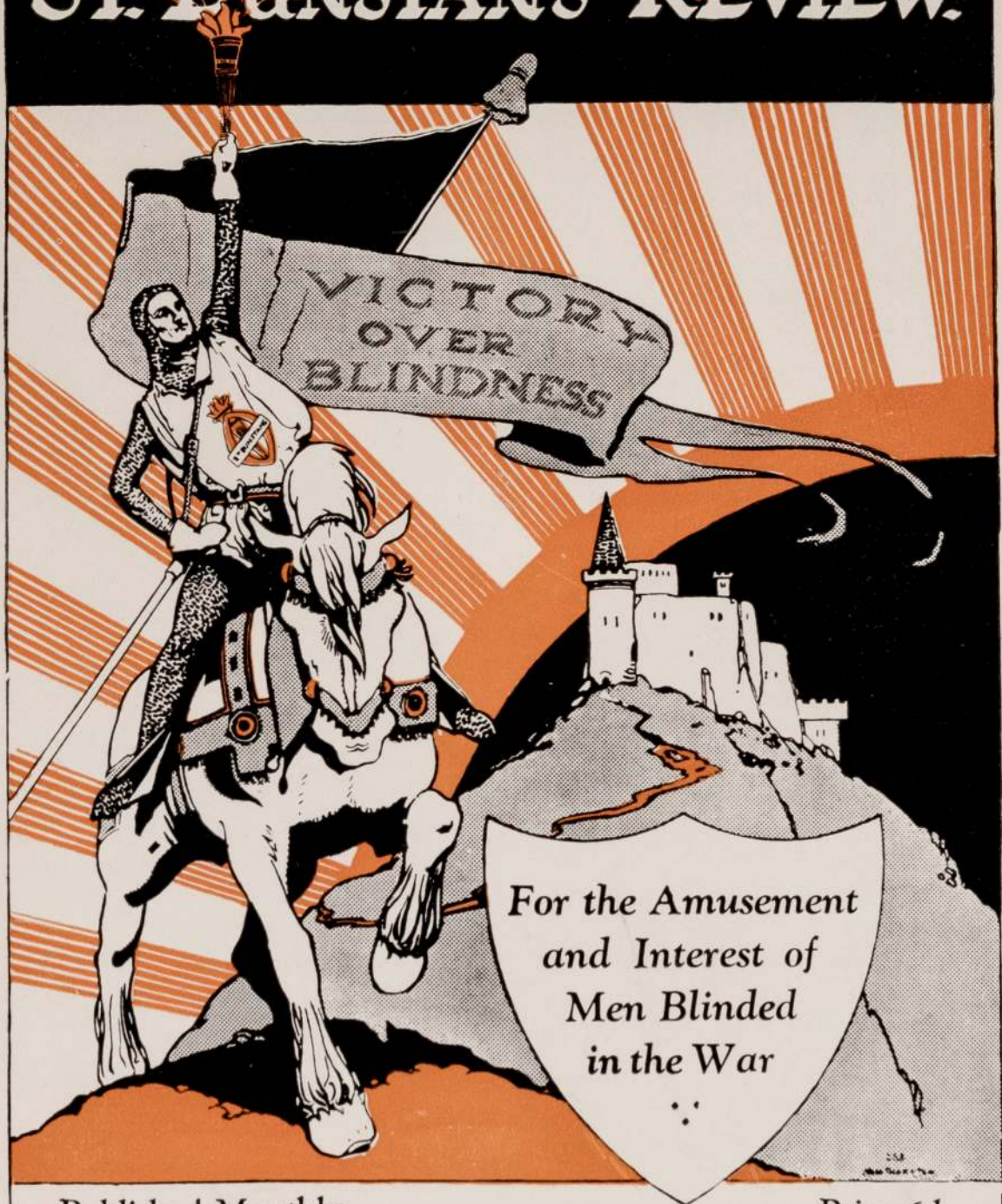


ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW



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

No. 142.—VOLUME XIV. [NEW SERIES]

MAY 1929.

PRICE 6d.

[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN.]

EDITORIAL NOTES

Homes from Home

WE would like to draw our readers' attention to the advertisements which we publish on another page of this issue, of seaside and other accommodation offered St. Dunstaners. We confine these announcements to St. Dunstaners themselves or those having some close association with our Organisation. It is not necessary to point out that there is much to be said in favour of putting up at places where the special requirements of blinded men would receive particular consideration.

The General Election

WE direct our readers' attention to the information given in the "Chairman's Notes" published in this month's issue, as to the recording of votes at the booths by non-sighted people. We think it will be generally admitted that the precautions enforced to safeguard the secrecy of the Ballot in these cases do not leave need for any further legislation. The inquiry on the subject is, however, typical of the thoroughness and concentrated interest with which Captain Fraser watches for every possible service he can render to his blinded comrades and the blind community in general. We think, perhaps, we may be permitted to print here the comment made by Mr. Robert Young, the Labour Member for Newton, in Parliament on the occasion of Captain Fraser's maiden speech:—

"St. Dunstan's, of which we all know, and which for ever will be associated with the name of the late Sir Arthur Pearson, has shown us what blind persons can learn to do. A year ago we were told of the remarkable efficiency of its training . . . at one time we had a Postmaster-General who was blind, and who was, if I may be allowed to say so, a gentleman who showed himself an administrator and statesman of no mean order. I would also remind the House that we have got in this House to-day an honourable Member who is blind . . . I will not say anything concerning him, other than that the constituents who elected him to represent them in this House, conferred upon themselves and upon their constituency a very high honour indeed."



NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS

At a sale in Turriff, D. Munro, of Aberdeen, secured no less than four first prizes, two seconds, and one third! Congratulations to him and so say all of us. He had over thirty shillings in prize money and, best of all, secured a great many orders as a result of the excellent work he displayed. Mrs. Munro must be feeling very proud of her husband's success.

Another prize winner at the same show was F. E. Parker, also of Aberdeen.

All is well with S. Jennings and family, of Potto, Yorks. Jennings is going in for pigs. He lost one of his first purchases, unfortunately, but the survivor looks most healthy and he is hoping to secure a good price for it.

Another St. Dunstaner with an interest in the same line is F. Peacock, of Stokesley, Yorks; he has no less than seven, and is now on the look-out for a piece of ground large enough for him to grow some of the food on. The outdoor life Peacock has been leading of late has done him a lot of good we are glad to say.

As usual, a number of young St. Dunstaners deserve to be mentioned, among them the two clever elder daughters of G. Hollins, of Middlesbrough. Before these lines appear in print they will both have performed at a charity concert in Middlesbrough—one dances and the other sings.

As for the boys, who would not be proud of a son who carried off a cup for boxing? The eldest son of C. F. Butler, of Folkestone, has just secured such a trophy; he is in the Air Force and bids fair to follow in his father's footsteps. Butler himself was at one time the Heavyweight Champion of India.

"All well and happy," says W. C.

Smith, of Melbourne, Derbyshire. A rival shop has opened up near by, but Smith's circle of customers has made it plain that he is not to be cold-shouldered.

The spring-cleaning microbe is about, H. Buchanan, of Carshalton, Surrey, aided by his fifteen year old son, has been manipulating the paint-pot and, as a result, his little place looks remarkably fresh.

In Hever, Kent, W. Newland is busy with chickens and has a fine lot of young ones. A. Charman, of the same district, is occupied in the same way.

The garden is keeping A. W. Cima, of Wraysbury (Bucks), as busy as usual. He has just erected a very nice asbestos-lined garage.

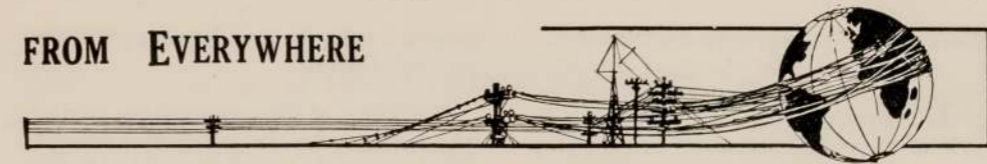
The young son of G. Hill, of Gloucester, has made a good start in the world. He secured a place in January and has now joined the Territorials.

A basket-maker who takes a very great interest in his work is M. Deegan, of Treorchy, Glam. Friends will be glad to know that he has come through the winter remarkably well.

Good news is reaching A. Morris, of Pontypridd (Glam.), from the daughter who went to join her husband in Australia last year. The young people are happily settled and send good reports of Melbourne. His boy, too, is making progress; having availed himself of training offered by Ministry of Labour, he has now secured work at Willesden and is looking forward to the future with confidence.

The mines near Taff's Well, Cardiff, are opening again, and trade is improving in the district, as a result. J. H. Ham is looking to the time when he will have a

FROM EVERYWHERE



flood of orders for boot repairs. May it come soon!

Friends will be glad to hear that W. R. Dunning, of Forest Hill, is very much better; he has shown wonderful pluck and spirit all through his trying time.

Some local orders have been secured by R. Cook of Hitchin. He counts himself lucky and feels that he is making himself known in the district; congratulations to him on his enterprise.

Another Hitchin man, H. D. Gamble, who has an attractive high-class confectioner's shop, has been turning his attention to a new line and building a greenhouse. It should be a great pleasure to him, when bad weather swoops down upon us. Gamble and his wife were among the many "flu" victims and were unfortunate in that they both contracted it at the same time.

The capable wife of F. James, of Hove, shares her husband's interest in the British Legion (he is on the committee of the Hove branch), and she has been instrumental in forming a Women's Branch, for which she is assistant secretary.

If any man finds his workshop dull, says E. P. Horan, of Sandymount, let him acquire a canary. He finds his a splendid companion. Perhaps it is in part due to the bright little songster that Horan faces life as he does, and pegs away so steadily.

A nice contract has been secured by A. Sterno, of Bath. He has the repairing and replacing of all the mats at the Roman Baths in his hands.

A very nasty accident befel A. Lawlor, of Liverpool, not long since. He fell down-stairs and broke three ribs. He is making an excellent recovery, we are glad to say,

and may add that in spite of injuries and pain, Lawlor acted like a true St. Dunstaner and kept cheerful all through, so winning golden opinions on all sides.

Another gallant fighter is W. Barnes, who, at Luke's Hospital, Bradford, has been making splendid headway and secured the title of "the life of the ward." We hope he will have secured his discharge long before these lines appear.

"Always plenty to do" is the news that comes from J. Benson, of Borough-bridge. His asthma attacks are less frequent, we are glad to know.

"All fit," says F. Crabtree, of Scarborough, who we feel sure must be confident that his infant daughter would carry off a prize at any show; she is a lovely child. Crabtree has been very busy with his poultry and is hoping to secure a larger piece of ground.

Let those who have done no boot-repairing for some time take heart from the experience of W. Mackay, of Castle-town, Caithness. He finds that he has hardly lost ground at all and can make an excellent job of home repairs.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Stock, of Newent, Glos., have been busy painting and papering, undeterred by the demands of their poultry, early chicks, and hatchings. In any odd moments there may be, Stock carries out local orders for mats.

His garden is a source of great interest to G. Davis, also of Newent, particularly now that his boys are big enough to be helpful. He is full of plans for development, hopes for some geese, later on, and perhaps a pig or so.

F. Bull has settled in comfortably in Draycott, near Somerset. He is an en-

News of St. Dunstaners—continued.
 enthusiastic member of the local "Bufs" Lodge and is also a regular attendant at all the chapel meetings, so is acquiring a circle of interesting friends.

A man who can do odd jobs about the house is always at a premium, and H. Harris, of Loose, is one of these; nothing seems to come amiss to him. His young son bids fair to be as enterprising as his father and has just secured a promising berth. One of his jobs is to ride round the town turning out the lights in the small hours!

If any "Mrs." St. Dunstaner is eager to try new dishes she should apply to F. T. Reynolds, of Moor Green, Cowes. He was an enthusiastic cook and is now most generous in supplying his friends with recipes of the dishes he used to make before he became a St. Dunstaner. He has a happy home and a circle of good friends within easy reach.

As for our Irishmen. All is well with B. Martin, of Bray; the children have recovered from the whooping cough, and Martin has got his garden into excellent order. Wireless is still going strong, and Martin can locate Continental stations without any difficulty.

S. Holmes, of Belfast, has a new house and a new workshop. He is looking forward to being happy and comfortable in the one, and thoroughly busy in the other.

In Dublin, L. Bride is in good form, and the same may be said of J. Lawlor. What with his netting.

To end up with a group of young St. Dunstaners, the three children of A. Kean, of Hayling, are all at the top of their classes, and the girl has high hopes of having secured a scholarship at Gosport.

Eleven-year-old Peggy, daughter of B. Hamilton, of Brookville, Brandon, Suffolk, is first in her class for the fourth time in succession, and secured 157 out of a possible 170 marks. Her school report is

excellent, and she also is hoping to carry off a scholarship.

W. Girling, of Kempton, is yet another who hopes to be the father of a scholarship holder. He would be quite sure, but knows that the daughter who should have secured the prize was handicapped by being obliged to miss a good deal of her schooling since November.

Nor are the boys behind the girls. John, the young son of E. J. Summers, of Hastings, has passed for T.S. "Warspite," and is hardly more happy and pleased about it than is his father, and no wonder!

The son of A. W. Hall, of Selsey, Sussex, is yet another who is well on the way to success in life. He had missed a good deal of schooling yet succeeded in winning a scholarship and is now at the Chichester (Secondary) County School. His headmaster's reports are excellent.

Brief Notes

Friends will be glad to know that R. W. Baker, of Cambridge, is in good health and pegging away steadily with his nets.

Good news comes to us from J. R. Smith, of Bockhampton, Lambourne, who has had a particularly good year with his chickens. G. Rhees, of S. Belgravia, is going on well with his baskets. R. Wright, of Palmers Green, is "in the pink," and H. Colville, of the same district, is well and cheery. As for C. Marshall, of Southend, his health is much improved and he is doing fairly well with his mats.

In Dagenham and Soham respectively, J. Moeller and J. Marriott are working steadily at baskets. Another Essex man, H. E. Sorrell, is in excellent health and building up trade in his shop. G. Fallowfield, of Leytonstone, H. A. Gardiner, of the same district, and W. Sheridan are going on steadily with their respective trades—baskets, mats and netting—and pondering as they work how their circle of customers can be extended.

The Chairman's Notes

A NUMBER of St. Dunstaners have from time to time asked me to make representations about altering the method whereby blind persons vote at elections. I have gone into this matter very carefully on more than one occasion, and as it has just arisen again I have secured from Sir William Joynson Hicks a statement as to the law and procedure upon the subject. This is printed below for the interest and information of my St. Dunstan's friends. I might mention that some time before the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, to which the Minister makes reference, took up the matter I had inquired into it, and had reached the same conclusion as they did.

My first thought upon this subject, before I inquired into it, was "Why should not a blind man go with his wife or a friend to vote? He would then have no suspicion whatever about the matter and would feel much more satisfied. I should feel this personally, myself." The officials at the Home Office pointed out, however, one real difficulty which I appreciated, and which has made me take a different view on thinking the matter over. What they say is that if you were to introduce a rule which enabled a blind man to go with his wife or a friend, then you might get cases in which persons who pretended to be the friends of the blind men might take them to the poll and, while pretending to make crosses against the candidates chosen by the blind men, in fact put the crosses against the other candidates. There would be no check upon this, and, accordingly, it would be a procedure open to abuse. I may say that personally I have always found presiding officers and their officials courteous and helpful, and have never doubted but that they carry out their duties with a proper sense of responsibility and secrecy.

At this stage when the REVIEW is appearing just before the Election, I will only add that I hope every St. Dunstaner will go and record his vote for the candidate whom he fancies—no matter

what party he belongs to; it is a duty which none of us should neglect.

Statement from the Home Secretary on Voting by the Blind

Rule 26 in Part I of the First Schedule to the Ballot Act, 1872, makes provision for recording the votes of blind electors at the polling stations. The Presiding Officer, on the application of any voter who is incapacitated by blindness or other physical disability from marking his ballot paper, must in the presence of the agents of the candidates cause the ballot paper to be marked in manner directed by the voter. Having so marked the paper, the Presiding Officer puts it in the ballot box forthwith.

It is essential that the Presiding Officer should make such arrangements for marking the ballot paper as will prevent the vote being divulged. If the secrecy of the vote can otherwise be secured, he is under no obligation to interrupt the poll by clearing the polling station.

Every Presiding Officer, Agent, &c., is by Section 4 of the Ballot Act bound to maintain the secrecy of the voting, and if he communicates to any person information as to how any person has voted, is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months with or without hard labour.

A few years ago the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind had under consideration the above procedure, and came to the conclusion on the advice of their blind colleagues, who had experienced no difficulty whatever, that it was quite satisfactory and required no amendment. (See paragraph 54 of their Sixth Report, 1924-26.)

Ian Fraser

The meetings of the Brotherhood give great pleasure to A. Knotwell, of Portsmouth. He has made many good friends in his district.

Ex-Servicemen Telephonists

WE are pleased to publish a letter from five St. Dunstaners employed as telephone operators in Government Departments, testifying to the assistance that has been afforded them by Miss Howes, of the Union of Postal Workers, and Mr. E. Ewart Llewellyn, O.B.E., the Chairman of the Staff Side of the Civil Service National Whitley Council, in securing an improvement in their wages.

For some time correspondence had been taking place upon this subject between Captain Fraser and the Government Departments concerned, when we learned that the matter was being pressed forward through the usual Civil Service channels largely through the instrumentality of Miss Howes and Mr. Llewellyn. Captain Fraser immediately opened up conversations with Mr. C. G. Ammon, M.P., the Labour Member who represents the Union of Post Office Workers in the House of Commons, and jointly they have taken steps to press the matter, officially and unofficially, in every possible way.

We publish also the text of a question which Captain Fraser addressed to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, in February, and his reply. It is highly satisfactory to know that the St. Dunstaners employed in the Civil Service have such good friends as those to whom our correspondents refer, and we join in tendering to them our most sincere thanks.

The Editor,
St. Dunstan's Magazine.

Dear Sir,

We wish, through the Magazine, to express our appreciation of the services of Miss Howes, of the Union of Postal Workers, and Mr. E. Ewart Llewellyn, O.B.E., the Chairman of the staff side of the Civil Service National Whitley Council, in connection with the wage claim put forward by St. Dunstaners employed as telephonists in Government offices. The claim for an increase has been agreed to by the Treasury and will date from the 1st April 1929. Further claims for revision of the present arrangements of annual leave and sick leave will, in due course, be presented for consideration.

Miss Howes and Mr. Llewellyn have spared no effort on our behalf and to them we wish to tender our sincere thanks.

Yours truly,
P. MARTIN,
H. GOVER,
J. G. FLEMING,
G. L. DOUGLAS,
W. B. RILEY.

Extract from Official Report of Proceedings
in the House of Commons, Tuesday,
19th February 1929.

Questions.

BLINDED EX-SERVICE MEN

48. Captain FRASER asked the FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY, whether he can see his way to authorise an increase in the scale of salaries of blinded soldiers engaged as telephonists in Government Departments?

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. Arthur Michael Samuel): The remuneration of blinded ex-Service men employed as telephone operators in Government Departments is at present under review by a Committee of the National Whitley Council. I shall be happy to inform my hon. and gallant friend of the result in due course.

Captain FRASER: In the event of an agreed report which is satisfactory to these men being received by the Treasury, will my right hon. friend deal sympathetically with it?

Mr. SAMUEL: Yes, sir, certainly; if an agreement is reached on the National Whitley Council, it certainly will be accepted by us.

We regret to learn that the little son of J. Plunkett, of St. Leonards-on-Sea, was knocked down by a motor car not long since, and was taken to hospital suffering from concussion, a fractured leg, and numerous cuts and bruises. Our last information was that the little lad was seriously ill, but we hope that by the time these lines appear in print he will be well on the road to recovery.

S. Duncan, of Sutton, sends the following amusing story:—

"Here is rather a funny thing I overheard yesterday. I had deposited an old *Braille Radio Times* in the dustbin just before the dustmen arrived. He lifted the lid, and it (the *Braille Radio Times*) being on the top inside, he picked it up. Handing it to his mate, he said, 'ere you are 'arry, my eyes are better than yourn.'"

"In Memory"

PRIVATE GEORGE ADAMS
(1st Cheshire Regiment)

WITH deep regret we have to record the passing of this St. Dunstaner. Adams enlisted in May 1914, and was wounded at Ypres within a year. Coming to St. Dunstan's in 1915, he was trained as a mat maker and worked well at this occupation, gaining a first-class certificate. Ill health, however, was always a great hindrance to him, and at the beginning of 1928 he found it impossible to carry on with his work. Later on his health seemed to improve, and it was arranged for him to learn light basket work at his own home. Unfortunately, he was never able to commence this, as he was taken very ill and admitted to the Royal Sussex County Hospital for an operation, where he died on the 24th April.

The funeral took place on the 29th April at Preston Cemetery, Brighton, and was attended by Mrs. Adams (widow), several relatives, and Matron and members of the staff of the Brighton Annexe. There were numerous beautiful wreaths, including one from Captain Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Adams and the two little daughters who are left to mourn his memory.

PRIVATE EDWARD J. HARLOW
(Royal Army Service Corps)

This St. Dunstaner enlisted in April 1916. He received his discharge in December 1920 and was admitted to St. Dunstan's a few months later. He was trained as a joiner and worked splendidly at this trade, but he gave it up temporarily after leaving Headquarters, in order to join his uncle in a well-established netting business. Two years later, however, Harlow decided to resume his joinery, and was resettled in a nice little business at Eton.

Harlow was taken suddenly ill last month, and died on the 13th April from pneumonia after only a few days' illness. He was buried at Eton Cemetery on the 26th April, the service being conducted by Canon L. Evans, of Eton. Many relatives and friends, including Miss Lloyd, St. Dunstan's After-Care visitor, attended the funeral, and a wreath was sent in the form of St. Dunstan's Badge "From Captain Fraser and his other Comrades."

In Eton Harlow was well known and much respected. At a recent annual meeting of the Eton Branch of the Wycombe Division Conservative and Unionist Association he was re-elected to the Committee.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Mrs. Harlow, who is left with a little child of eighteen months.



SPORTS CLUB NOTES



Sports Meeting

THE sports meeting for the Summer Session was held on Tuesday, 16th April, when quite a good number of our sportsmen attended. In the absence of Captain Fraser, who was unavoidably detained in the early part of the evening, Captain Williams took the chair. The various branches of sport were reviewed, and certain helpful suggestions were made.

Weekly Sports.—It was decided to resume outdoor summer sports on Tuesday, 23rd April, and it was hoped that a good number of men would regularly turn up. There would be a change in the handicap which it was hoped would encourage some of the keen and industrious members who have been unlucky as far as prizes went. Mr. Winter, of the Poly Club to whom we are so much indebted for help in our walks and runs, most generously offered six medals for the best performance in six events during the term. The usual programme will be attempted, starting punctually at seven.

Regatta.—It was stated that we hoped to hold our Regatta at Putney on Wednesday, 17th July, when once more the usual and well tried programme would be taken, with the Shield events of pairs and doubles as separate events. We would suggest that our rowing men get busy and put in as much practice as possible. Miss Woolrych will do her best to arrange coxes if the men let her know their times as early as possible.

Sports Day.—We hope the weather will smile on us on Saturday, 29th June, when we hope to hold our annual sports. The programme will be similar to the last, and the Shield teams must contain at least two T.B. Our sports will be glad to receive the entries by 14th June.

Running.—The Shield races will be held at Manchester on 25th May, when the S.S. will contest the quarter and half mile, whilst the T.B. do three-quarters and one mile. We have asked for entries to repre-

sent the London team, and eliminating races are taking place.

Walking.—The Shield walk in Birmingham is to take place next April instead of August, so there will be more particulars given later on.

Swimming.—Mr. Jones has arranged classes for Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8 a.m., and Friday evenings at 6 p.m. We hope that as many men as possible will support these classes. It is hoped to arrange a gala later on in the year.

Sports Concert.—It was unanimously decided to hold another sports concert, which will be on Tuesday, 11th June, at 8 p.m.

A cheery vote of thanks to the chairman, and great appreciation of the enthusiastic sports staff concluded a helpful meeting.
J. E. W.

Draughts

It has been suggested that a series of games or tournaments could be arranged for St. Dunstaners. Will all boys who are interested please forward suggestions to Sports Office at Headquarters?

GENERAL SPORTS' DAY June 29th

The General Sports' Day in Regent's Park is being held on Saturday, 29th June, starting very punctually at 2.15 p.m.

Please may I have all entries not a day later than 14th June, and when sending entries will you kindly give names and ages of your children, and also the number of tea tickets required.

L. Woolrych.

Programme

1. Children's Race. Girls and Boys under 5 yrs. Distance 35 yds. Handicap 5 yds. for each year.
2. Girls and Boys' Handicap Race between 5 and 7 years. Distance 40 yds. Handicap 5 yds. for each year.
3. Girls' Handicap Race, between 7 and 14 yrs. Distance 60 yds. Handicap 2 yds. for each year.
4. Boys' Handicap Race, between 7 and 14 yrs. Distance 60 yds. Handicap 2 yds. for each year.

5. Wives' Race.
6. Relay Race. One lady and one gentleman.
7. Open Sprint of 75 yds.
8. Shield Events.
9. Open Events:
 - (a) Single Jump
 - (b) Treble Jump
 - (c) Throwing Cricket Ball
 - (d) Putting the Weight.

The Sports Office reserve the right to alter any of the above programme should it be found necessary.

REGATTA

We propose holding our Regatta on Wednesday, 17th July, at Putney, starting at 1.30 sharp.

We will adhere to last year's rules, that men may enter for two events only excluding, of course, the Shield Events, and there must be sufficient entries for each event to warrant a race.

Will all entries kindly reach me not later than 30th June, as none can be received after that date.

L. W.

1. Single Sculls Present Care (T.B.)
2. " " " (S.S.)
3. " " Old Boys " (T.B.)
4. " " " (S.S.)
5. " " Veterans, over 45.
6. Double Sculls Open (at least one T.B. in a boat).
7. Pair Oars (at least one T.B. in a boat).
8. " " One Armed
9. Open Fours (at least 2 T.B.'s in a boat).
10. Shield Event, Pair Oar
11. " " Double Sculls.

The Youngest St. Dunstaner

The letter which we published in our last issue from a correspondent signing himself "Aged 29" has already aroused a wide amount of interest and has brought us many letters on the subject. The following are extracts from this correspondence, which still remains open for further claims, if any.

From W. T. Scott, of Streatham:—

"I did not join up under age—an Army Proclamation was issued in September 1917 inviting those born in the year 1899 to attest and as I was born on the 11th December 1899 I was just three weeks inside the Proclamation, and I received the King's shilling at Putney when I was seventeen years of age, but was not actually called to the colours until I attained the age of 18 years. At present I am 29 and shall not be 30 until the 11th December next."

From H. V. Frampton, of Upper Clapton:

"I enlisted in the Army in June 1915 at the age of 17 years (but gave my age to the Military Authorities as 20 years). On 15th February 1917 I was wounded in Mesopotamia, and eventually entered St. Dunstan's in August 1917, at the age of 19 years."

From L. M. White, of Bromley:—

"I joined up on 8th January 1918; landed in France 4th June; was wounded on 19th September. I attained the age of 19 on 21st November 1918, and was discharged from hospital on 23rd January 1919. My present age is 29 years and 6 months."

From B. E. Ingrey, of Letchworth:—

"On reaching the age of 19 in September 1917 I was sent to France, and I am now thirty years of age."

From A. King (in training at Brighton):—

"I was born on 27th February 1900 and joined the Army at the age of 15 on 3rd April 1915. I was wounded in September 1916 on the Somme. I returned to France in May 1917, and was awarded the Military Medal on the 16th August, and was also slightly wounded on that day. I was wounded again early in 1918, and returned to England shortly afterwards—under age."

Freemason St. Dunstaners

The following names must be added to our register of St. Dunstaner Freemasons: W. H. J. Oxenham, of Hove, a Member of Lodge Craven Park No. 4400; J. Irvine of Maryhill, Glasgow of Lodge 178 Scotia; and H. Vickers, of Bolton—St. George's Lodge Bolton 1723.

AN APPRECIATION

The presentation of a morocco-bound Primitive Methodist hymnal tune book was made to J. A. Garbutt, of Stockton, at the beginning of April "in slight recognition" of the successful mission services he conducted at Coxhoe a short time since. We congratulate him on the work he is doing.

"No worries," says W. McCombie, of Hornsey, cheerily in a recent letter.

Netting Notes

May has arrived without the sun we expect and which always brings orders for fruit netting, but we hope to have a good position for our stall at the Chelsea Show this month and look forward to many good sales.

We were very pleased last month to have an order through the British Legion for two rugs for His Majesty the King. The men who made them felt very proud indeed as they were to be used by the King personally.

We have had good orders for golf and boundary nets and many people seem to appreciate our new tennis ball bags which sell at 6d. each.

The Netting Room at Brighton is still as busy as ever.

We congratulate W. J. Markwick, A. King, T. Hill and C. Williams for having finished their various courses.

B. Quigley is nearly finished, while J. Illingworth, H. Wignell, F. Martin, L. Williams, H. Palmer, J. Murray, R. McCluskey and R. Young are getting on well with netting. G. Orrow only had time to have a short course of netting.

F. A. Cole is making a cable rug and H. Wilkins is finishing bags and beginning his rug course.

We are selling off some defective fruit netting at a very cheap price, so that now is the time to buy if people want it for their gardens. K. H. W.

News from the Workshops

BOOTS

S. McLeod is making satisfactory progress; he has got going on the work quite well, but needs to give a little more care to the preparation and riveting. He is rather more anxious about getting the work done than securing accuracy. T. Dickinson has been making steady improvement; he needs to give more attention, however, to the way in which he handles his tools. A pair of scout's boots done at the end of April, with studs and quarter-tips, was quite a strong, useful job. W. Armstrong is putting in quite a lot of good work, on the right lines. It is necessary for him to give more attention to detail and to try to improve his style.

BASKETS

R. McCluskey has made a very satisfactory start on baskets, commencing with the usual barrel; he is already progressing with regard to the working of his rods. F. A. Cole's first barrel basket was a fairly good shape; he has since done waste papers, and has improved all round. H. Wignell was another good starter, and in spite of an illness in February, has done useful work on barrels, waste papers, seagrass stools and square-arm baskets, and has now taken quite a fancy to dog-beds, one 14 ins. at the end of April being very nicely done, especially the border. L. Williams has been doing similar work; one stool received special commendation. He has also had practise with dog-beds, and started on three-cornered liners.

W. H. O.

Braille Notes

Very many congratulations to J. Murray, R. McCluskey, and F. A. Cole on passing the Typewriting Test.

Also to J. Dockery, who has passed the Reading Test. M. H. R.

Silver Weddings

To the announcement we were able to make in last month's issue of the gift the Executive Council had arranged to make to all St. Dunstaners celebrating the silver anniversary of their wedding, we have to add the following names, and our sincere congratulations:—J. R. Smith, of Lambourne, J. Lawlor, of Dublin, S. N. Kempe, of Redruth, R. Wooldridge, of Dalton, W. H. Watson, of Shirebrook, S. R. Jordan, of Leominster, G. Phillips, of Bolton, W. Dainter, of Birmingham, and T. Bliss, of Plumstead.

To all these St. Dunstaners the gift promised has already been sent. In many of the notifications we received our correspondents waxed either sentimental or humorous as the mood has seized them. We should like to quote all these comments but must content ourselves with the following from Jordan, of Leominster:—“It appears to me that the spinsters are bad starters, otherwise the bachelors would have been well away by now!”

After-Care Reunions

NORWICH

ON Wednesday, 24th April, the Norfolk and Suffolk St. Dunstaners and their wives and friends again met for their annual re-union at the School of Music, Norwich. As usual there was a big attendance, only a very few being absent.

Before commencing a very excellent tea, photos were taken of all present.

Tea being over, Mr. Swain spoke to us all, and read a message from Captain Fraser, wishing everyone a very happy afternoon, and regretting he could not be with us owing to pressure of business, due, in the main part, to his work for the Election.

Reference was made to the recent article by the Chairman in the REVIEW, and Hamilton, in proposing a vote of thanks, said he was in entire agreement with the policy of St. Dunstan's, and was sure he voiced the opinion of all present, when he said that none of them wanted it changed. He also hoped they would have the pleasure of welcoming Captain Fraser to Norwich before long.

Wise ably seconded Hamilton's speech, which was received with applause. He thoroughly agreed with all that Hamilton had said, and concluding, wished the very best of luck to the three St. Dunstaners standing for the coming Election.

While a splendid band provided entertainment, Mr. Swain interviewed all those who wished to see him.

Amongst those we were also glad to see was Miss Warren, from the netting department.

A stop watch competition provided considerable amusement. Those who won prizes were:—*Ladies*, Mrs. Barlow and Mrs. Goodley; *Men*, Adams (first prize), the second prize was shared by Holman and Savory.

PORTSMOUTH

April 17th was a most unexpectedly glorious day, and my wife, little daughter and myself quite looked forward to the hour or so of train journey to the Esplanade Rooms, Southsea.

Inside the rendezvous a very gratifying number of St. Dunstan's "boys" with their wives or friends, and in some instances children, were already in animated conversation. The air was filled with the unmistakable noise of chatter, between those who have met once more after some lapse of time. I said to my wife: "That is Mrs. George's laugh," and sure enough I was right, and soon it was my turn to chat with her and laugh with her again at some of her well-remembered jokes. Miss Bamberger also made herself known, and we were glad to see her there.

A cheery greeting from Mr. Swain and Miss Rayson, and we moved to the tables for tea. When we had all done justice to this, Mr. Swain rose to address the meeting.

He spoke briefly of the pleasure of meeting the boys and their wives at the various re-unions, refuting the assertion of some people that his task must be a sad one, with so many blinded soldiers to care for. He here made reference to the sense of humour he found everywhere amongst them, and went on to caution us against losing this sense. It was encouraging too, he said, to note that, during the past year more and better goods had been turned out by the men. He assured us all that we could at all times rely on the After-care Department to give every attention and consideration to any difficulty we might meet with, and asking any who wanted advice, or had a grievance at any time, to come up to Headquarters and see him.

Mr. Swain also read a letter of greeting from Captain Fraser, regretting that pressure of work alone kept him from coming to join his St. Dunstan's friends. Mr. Swain made due and touching reference to our old friend, Mr. Martin, whose spirit, he felt sure, was with the gathering that day. His request for a reverent two minutes' silence in memory of one of the best men and most faithful workers in the interest of the "boys" of St. Dunstan's was readily obeyed.

W. Lowings then rose to propose a vote of thanks and confidence in the chairman. He spoke to the "chaps" just as he felt regarding the After-care Department, represented by that gathering together.

"Where should we be," he said, "if we had nowhere to market our goods, and left on our own, should we succeed in having enough to do?" It was up to each one of us to remember the satisfaction always obtained from Mr. Swain and his department—the helping hand when one was needed.

J. H. Mason then rose to second. He was emphatic in his endorsement of Lowings' views. He did not see what there was to complain about in the officials, he had always gone to those in charge when in need of advice or help, and had always met with every satisfaction.

While an excellent selection of music, provided by Mr. Lowings and his band, was being played, Mr. Swain interviewed those who wished to see him.

A stop-watch competition caused much amusement. Mrs. Wilshaw and Mrs. Agate, for the ladies, and Reynolds and Horsely, for the men, were prize-winners. In a cake weight guessing competition, G. Brooks and Chiverton tied, giving the correct weight, so they decided to cut the cake in half.

J. H. M.

BOURNEMOUTH

The annual Bournemouth re-union was held on 18th April at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bournemouth.

The weather was extremely kind, and over eighty St. Dunstaners and their wives sat down to do justice to the excellent tea provided. We were sorry to miss a few who were unable to come owing to illness.

After tea, Mr. Swain addressed the meeting, and read a message from Captain Fraser, conveying his best wishes to his St. Dunstan's comrades. Mr. Swain also referred to their old friend, Mr. Martin, asking them to give him a thought, and to stand for a moment in silence to honour the memory of one of the best friends St. Dunstan's ever had.

A. T. Brooks proposed a vote of thanks, which was seconded by F. R. Reason.

A very good concert followed, during which Mr. Stone—humourist—delighted everyone with funny stories and songs. Mr. R. Attridge also sang and led some community singing. During the concert Mr. Swain gave interviews to everyone who wished to see him.

In a stop-watch competition the prize-winners were Jerome and Bowering, and for the ladies, Mrs. McAndrew and Mrs. Kneller.

A. K. R.

The Song of St. Dunstan's

So far our poets and melody makers have not risen to any great heights of composition in either respect. However, we realise that the suggestion anent this matter to which we referred in last month's REVIEW is not one which lends itself to such simple treatment as an impromptu "limerick." Two or three poems of varying merit have already been received, and we hope in future issues to give more detailed information and possibly examples of the poetic and musical heights which our correspondents have reached.

An outcome of W. Leonard's letter is a suggestion received from J. Sheehy of Dover, which is to the following effect:—

"I think it would be very appropriate at times to have a tie composed of St. Dunstan's colours. The ties could be worn not only by the men but by the whole of the staff, male and female; also supporters of St. Dunstan's. The ties could be obtained through St. Dunstan's at a reasonable price; at the same time there should be a margin of profit which would go to the funds of St. Dunstan's. I quote as an example the British Legion, whose colours are old gold and Oxford blue, the price of their ties are from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. Perhaps it would be interesting enough to insert this in the REVIEW for the general opinion of the other St. Dunstaners. What would be nicer than a flag of St. Dunstan's colours, flying over the Brighton Annexe—Matron and Staff wearing ties of the same colours; also Mrs. Bates and her staff at Headquarters?"

We are taking up this idea in the proper quarters, and may have something to say about it later.

A Footstool for the King

The Queen's Appreciation

There was recently made in the workshops at Brighton a footstool which was designed for the use of His Majesty the King during his period of convalescence. It was duly dispatched to Craigweil House, Bognor, with an accompanying letter to the Queen from the Commandant Matron, Miss Thellusson. We are sure that every reader of ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW will be deeply interested to read the following correspondence, and will share very sincerely the gratification of all at Brighton in Her Majesty's gracious acceptance of this little gift. Miss Thellusson's letter was as follows:—

To Her Majesty the Queen—

Dear Madam,

Will you please accept this tiny gift of a footstool, made by one of the blind ex-soldiers at St. Dunstan's, Brighton, for His Majesty to rest his feet upon in the garden, and also as a very humble expression of their deep joy at His Majesty's recovery?

I beg to remain, Madam,

Your devoted and obedient Servant,

ADELINE THELLUSSON.

Commandant Matron.

The following reply was received on behalf of the Queen:—



Craigweil House,

Bognor.

4th May 1929.

Lady Cynthia Colville presents her compliments to Miss Thellusson and is commanded by the Queen to write and ask her to convey to the ex-soldiers in St. Dunstan's Workshops Her Majesty's sincere thanks for the most attractive and beautifully made footstool which the Queen is delighted to accept on behalf of the King.

Her Majesty would like to convey to the maker of it her congratulations upon the skill and trouble which have combined to produce such an excellent and useful result.

The knowledge that many who have shared in the Queen's past anxiety now join in Her Majesty's happiness at the King's continued progress towards recovery is a source of very real pleasure to the Queen.

Births

CASTLE.—To the wife of W. Castle, of Birmingham, a daughter on the 16th of March.

CURNOW.—On the 26th of March, to the wife of J. Curnow, of Troon, Cornwall, a daughter.

HOTSON.—To the wife of H. Hotson, of Hull, a son on the 24th of April.

KELLY.—On the 18th of April, a son to the wife of A. Kelly, of Liverpool.

MANNING.—On 13th April, to the wife of M. Manning, a daughter.

RICKABY.—A son on the 16th of April to the wife of W. Rickaby, of the Becontree Estate, Chadwell Heath.

STEW.—On the 5th of March, a daughter to the wife of F. Stew, of Twynning, near Tewkesbury.

Deaths

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

ADAMS.—A. Adams, of Doncaster (who used to be at the College), who lost his wife (Annie Beatrice) on the 3rd of April.

ASHE.—T. Ashe, of Sunbury, whose father passed away on the 13th of March.

BAUGHAN.—W. T. Baughan, of Cirencester, who lost his father on Sunday, April the 14th.

CAREY.—Mr. and Mrs. M. Carey, of West Green, Tottenham, whose little son, Michael John, died on the 1st of April.

COULSON.—A. Coulson, of Withernwick, who on 30th March lost his father at the age of seventy-nine after a long illness.

KELLY.—A. Kelly, of Liverpool, who has suffered the tragic dual loss of wife and father.

LOVALL.—Mrs. and Mr. J. Lovall, of Brynmawr, S. Wales, who on the 27th of March lost their six-year-old son as the result of septic poisoning.

MATTHEWS.—G. Matthews, of Petersfield, who lost his wife on April the 23rd.

REDHEAD.—W. L. Redhead, of Newcastle, who lost his brother on the 11th of April, this being the second bereavement this year, his mother having died in February last.

SHEPPARD.—C. Sheppard, of Warminster, who lost his mother on the 15th of March.

From St. Dunstaner Contributors

WE are a little alarmed at the way in which so many of our St. Dunstaners are just now being seized with the desire to gain fame—or infamy—in print. Did they but know, as we have known in many years of ink-splashing, how often the written word comes home to roost at the most inconvenient times, they would, we feel, be a little more guarded in their efforts to shine as philosophers or humorists as the case may be—is there any difference between the two?

The Editor has received the following. He is aware of the identity of his ingeniously alliterative correspondent, but having no authority from him to reveal that identity, publishes it over the initials appended.

An Animated Alliteration

"TRAVELLING TOWARDS TROUBLE"
(A domestic tragedy in one act)

Scene: Any drawing room. Matilda Twimp, the erring wife, has just time to conceal her scoundrelly lover, Timothy Twert, behind the curtains before her husband, Thomas, enters. She has also hastily pushed a portmanteau beneath the sofa.

Wife (very agitated): "The time's ten-to-two. Tom's time's ten; trouble to tell Tilly?"

Husband (hiding suspicions): "Tired. Town terribly tedious to-day. Throgmorton tense, telephone tintinabulating, tape tragic. Textiles torpid, Timbuctoo Tramways tottered to two and a tenth, Tanganyika Treacle Trust tapered to ten, Trinidad Triplets three."

Wife (soothingly): "Tea, Tweetums?"

H.: "Thanks. Tired too, Tilly?"

W.: "Too true. Tennis terrific to-day. Took trying trip to Tooting to treat twins. Tormenting toothache, too."

H. (pointedly): "Timothy Twert taking tea to-morrow?"

W.: "Tut-tut, Tom, that's twaddle . . . toast?"

H.: "Ta . . . Tush! Toast's tarnished, tea's tasteless. Tarnation!"

But seriously, we are always delighted when space permits to print contributions from St. Dunstaners—indeed, our ideal of a "St. Dunstan's Review" is one in which *all* the reading matter is provided by our boys themselves—the only function of the editor being to interpolate superior criticisms of the matter he has received from his contributors and has therefore not had to write himself!

W. (sweetly): "Tom's tolerant temper's tempting Tilly to tenderness."

H.: "The trait, tenderness, too tame to tempt Tilly's tart temperament."

(There is a sneeze from behind the curtains and the outraged husband dashes across the room and exposes the guilty lover.)

H. (indignantly): "Timothy Twert . . . the toad!"

Lover: "Twimp! T'is too terrible. Tolerance, Tom, tolerance. Tilly's taken to Timothy, Timothy's true to Tilly. Take tender tack, Tom. Tim's tremendously tearful. Tarry to tyrannise; the time to take Timothy's throat's to-morrow."

W. (weeping and terrified): "Tear Tilly to tatters, Tom; try to talk terms to Timothy."

L.: "Timothy took tickets to take Tilly to Tonypandy to-morrow."

H. (briskly): "Tophole. Take this tenner. Tom tight to-night. Ta-ta!"

Curtain. D. W.

Protection!

Elections being now very much in the air (and on the earth), the Editor claims the protection of his readers for publishing the following effusion received from a contributor who, for his own sake and protection, shall be nameless. The Editor would add that one reason he has for printing these verses is a sentence in his correspondent's letter, who writes:—

"You can have it for nothing if you can use it!"

The letter—and verses—are as follows:—

DEAR SIR,

With apologies to all concerned.—Free traders, tariff reformers, prohibitionists, local optionists, Carlisle experimenters, and those who having met a mad Scotchman would like to get the drink before he recovers his reason. Might I point out to them that while they are wasting their time conjuring up visions of various kinds of heavens they are losing touch with the things that really matter, because—

The question that's rocking the country

Is, why is the bacon so tough?

Just throw an eye to what's sold in the shops,

And you'll see there is reason enough.

Now to all who have knowledge and insight,

The reason our bacon's a pain

Is because we're neglecting home products

And eating the stuff of the Dane.

If we carry on acting like asses,

And fill our nosebags from abroad,

'Tis plain that the Englishman's breakfast

Will become but a snare and a fraud.

While our farmers with musket and halberd

Are keeping the wolf from the door,

We're importing our eats from over the seas

And shrieking out wildly for more.

Unemployed outside Labour Exchanges

Keep their feet warm by dancing wild jigs.

While we, senseless wights, use our good

[appetites

To masticate foreign bred pigs.

Now the mothers of England, united,

These conditions can send to the dogs,

If they wrap English eggs round slices of

Cut only from British fed hogs. [bacon

Now come, wifies, the recipe written,

If you'd alter those husbands so gruff

And have 'em like mashers, just fill 'em with

[rashers

Of English home-cured, that's the stuff.

With some misgivings for our personal safety and the future life of "St. Dunstan's Review," we publish below the first instalment of the following unashed-for contribution. They may—or may not!—be "continued in our next."—ED.

The collected Correspondence of

Private PERCIVAL HODSOX, V.C. [St. Dunstaner, A.D. 1978]

[Edited by W. V. CLAMPETT]

Some House,

Some Place,

St. Dunstan's.

March 1978.

DEAR OLD UNCLE,

Thank heaven this beastly interplanetary war of the air between ourselves and the inhabitants of Mars is at an end! As you have no doubt heard, the fighting has been something terrific—and the casualties on both sides ran into millions. Of course, as I told you in a previous letter, I have had to pay the penalty of indulging in aerial combat by the forfeiture of my sight; nevertheless, the experience has been one which I do not altogether regret, and the memory of it all will remain vivid until my life's end.

But let all that pass for the time being; you asked me in your letter to give you some idea of the life I am leading in that famous institution, St. Dunstan's, in which, by the strange irony of circumstances, I find myself. So this is the place that sheltered you in the early days of your blindness, Uncle, nearly fifty years

ago! Isn't it a funny world? I certainly never dreamt, when I used to guide you about, that I should one day come to be an inmate of the very same place.

Anyhow, here I am, and I don't mind admitting that I am just beginning to sit up and take an intelligent interest in life again; the more so as the first terrible depression consequent upon the loss of sight is beginning to wear off. And somehow the knowledge that you and your comrades had to pass through just the same experience helped to make it easier. Strange, isn't it Uncle, how one can draw consolation from the misfortunes of one's friends?

But really, I have no desire to dwell upon my misfortune at all; on the contrary, I am beginning to find life not only interesting but diverting as well, and at times almost too hectic for words!

Just where to begin or leave off I don't know; there's so much to tell you that I'm afraid you'll find this letter a bit disjointed, as I shall probably skip from one thing to another as things occur to me.

You said in your letter that I was not to worry about my future prospects as you felt sure, from your own experience, that I would make good, and you mentioned parenthetically that you had amassed £5,000 as a direct result of your training in basketry and netting!

Gee whiz, Uncle, how on earth did you do it? I know, of course, that determined people can alter circumstances—but say, whose blessed circumstance did you alter to collar all that swag? You didn't earn all that by the sweat of your noble brow! You must have been doing some company promoting on the strict Q.T.

Still, joking apart, Uncle, the present men of St. Dunstan's take great pride in the traditions set up by you and your comrades in the early days of the organisation, and you can bet your bottom dollar we intend to keep them up and surpass them if possible.

You're verging on the eighties now, but I don't suppose you've lost the ability to laugh and enjoy a joke! As in your time, so in ours, life is just one damn good chuckle after another. We do get some fun here, and no error! And the people we meet are as interesting as can be!

For instance, we've just had an acquisition to the staff in the form of a new V.A.D.—she comes from a hospital for heart cases.

She rejoices in the beatific title of Sister Caroline Catherine Clementina Kissalott—and she's a peach! She walks like a fairy, talks like an angel, and sings like a nightingale in spring. All the boys, including your humble, have fallen for her, and she's turning us all into regular lounge lizards! For the first few days there was a terrible run on the library for books—any kind of books—we didn't care what it was, so long as we could get Sister C. to read to us. But she was cute and soon tumbled to the game. She collected the lot of us up last night and told us she was going to give us a treat. Would we mind settling ourselves in the Quiet Lounge while she made the necessary preparation?

Would we? Did we? You bet we did! And when we were nicely settled and all was calm and bright so to speak, Sister Caroline announced that she had the most interesting book in the world to read to us.

Naturally we sat up like a lot of March hares with our ears cocked at an angle of forty-five degrees—but we were stung! She'd got hold of Einstein's "Theory of Relativity in Time and Space," and she waded steadily through it for nearly an hour! But that wasn't all. Oh, no! At the end of it she calmly announced that she would give a guinea to any chap who could write the best critical essay on the subject! Cheek, wasn't it? Only one man volunteered to take it on, and that was Corporal Knutt—one of the cheeriest men here.

I will tell you in my next letter what he submitted. It would be a pity to squeeze it in at the end of a page and all the best writers, as you known, aim to keep their readers on tenterhooks of expectation—"She looked up and saw a white, haunted face looking in at her"—that sort of thing, you know? Your affectionate nephew,
PERCIVAL.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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CLACTON-ON-SEA.—Mr. and Mrs. G. Price, of "St. Dunstan's," Harold Road, Clacton-on-Sea, offer guests comfort and satisfaction. The house is excellently situated, and very highly recommended.

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LOWESTOFT.—Kensington Private Hotel; on sea front. Best catering and first-class management. Safe and convenient for blinded ex-service men. Special terms from £2 2s. Illustrated tariff on application to Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Cockerill, Kensington Private Hotel, South Lowestoft.

WEST MOORS, DORSET.—Why not spend your holidays on a poultry farm on the brink of the New Forest and close to Bournemouth? Beautiful scenery and bracing air. Frequent service of omnibuses pass the gate for Bournemouth, Ringwood, &c. Terms moderate; full board if desired, or bed and breakfast. Address: P. Parke, Moored Poultry Farm, Pinehurst Road, West Moors.

Printed by
GEE & CO. (Publishers) Ltd.,
6 Kirby Street, London, E.C.1.