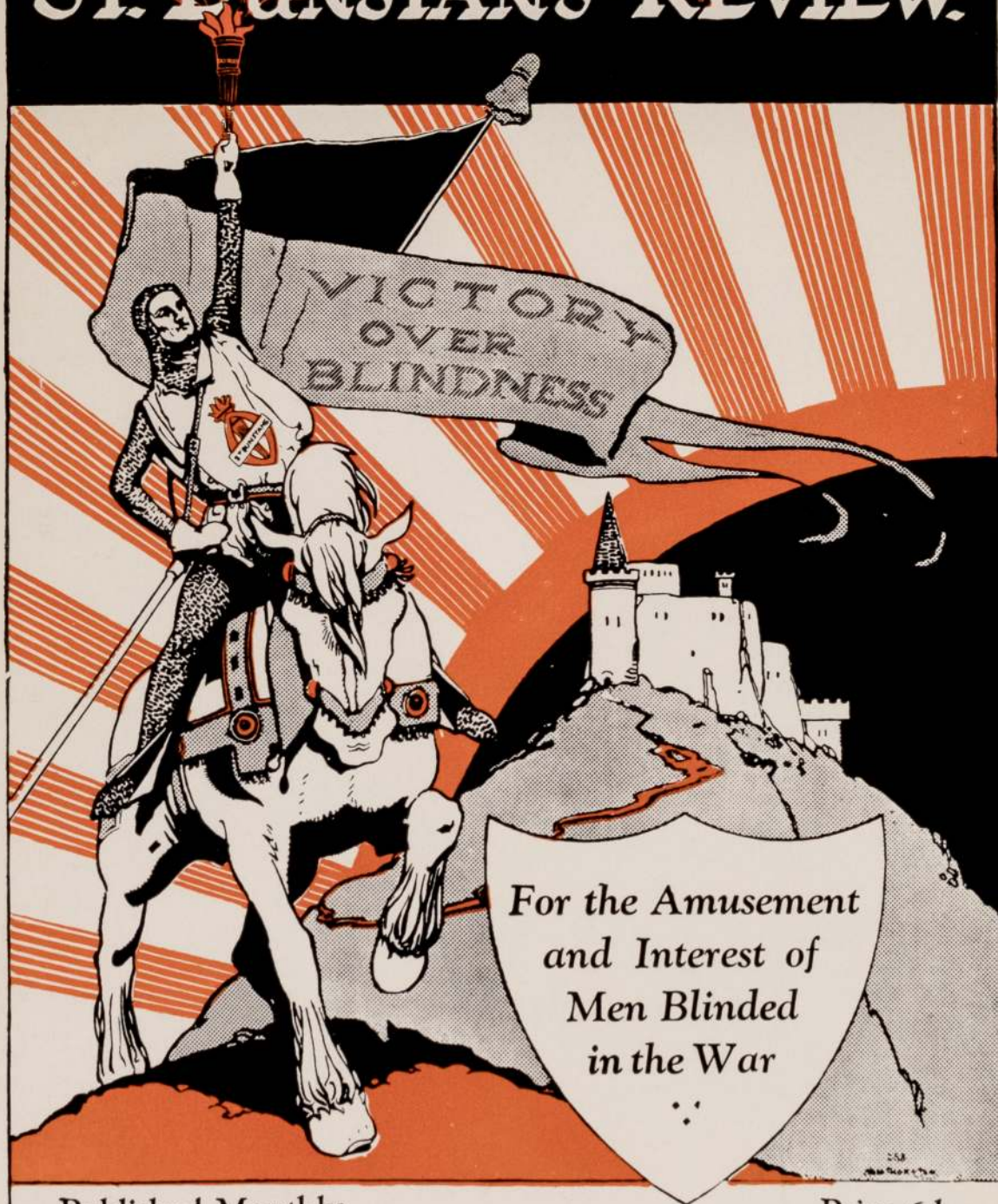


# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW



Published Monthly

Price 6d.

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



The Editor sends his sincere thanks to the large number of his readers who have sent cards of greeting for Christmas and the New Year.



### “Talkies” for St. Dunstaners

WHILE there is still considerable divergence of opinion as to the respective merits of “talkies” and the silent films, St. Dunstaners would, we are sure, vote wholeheartedly for the former. We happened not long since to be sitting next to a blind man (not a St. Dunstaner) in a West End cinema where a talking film was being shown, and it was very obvious that this member of the audience at least was able to follow very clearly and without assistance what, to us, was a rather involved story. In the course of a brief chat during the interval, we learned that our neighbour was a regular and enthusiastic visitor to cinemas where these talking films were shown, whereas he had found the silent films, with the spoken description of a friend, both difficult to follow and even irritating. We should like to have the opinions of some of our readers upon this latest avenue of entertainment which has been opened for them.

### Our Gardens

THE many references in our “News of St. Dunstaners” each month to our men's activities in their gardens show how big a part the growing of fruit, vegetables, and flowers plays in their home lives. This is in every way to the good. It is only a comparatively limited number of St. Dunstaners who have the opportunity or desire to engage in the various forms of athletic sport arranged for them in London and the provinces and yet all physically fit men need some regular and vigorous bodily exercise if health is to be maintained. Add to this the not unimportant fact that most of our gardening enthusiasts are able to get profit as well as pleasure out of their hobby, and we shall find small room for wonder that horticulture forms, with the possible exception of wireless, the most popular of our men's spare time recreations.



## NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS



CHRISTMAS usually brings an access of trade, but surely a record has been achieved by A. Yates, of Moulscombe, who early in December discovered that he had somewhere near a hundred orders for trays and tea-pot stands. Can any St. Dunstaner beat this?

New surroundings are giving pleasure to W. H. Agate, of White Hart Lane, Porchester, and he is busy making friends. His gifts are being discovered apparently, for he received pressing invitations to sing at a local British Legion rally recently—and scored a great success we hear.

Wireless is "going strong" in the homes of most St. Dunstaners, among them that of W. J. Whiteside, of Portsdown; it proved a blessing to him a short time ago when he was laid up with influenza—or perhaps "laid low" would be a better phrase.

Besides being a pleasure, "wireless" brings a certain amount of work in its train. S. Holmes, of Belfast, has just made a most decorative polished cabinet for a loud speaker, while quite a number of men have designed cabinets for themselves or their friends.

J. Baxter, of Paddington, has had a nasty accident in the family. A large piece of plaster came down from the ceiling and landed on Mrs. Baxter's neck. She suffered from shock and had to go into the doctor's hands as a result.

The new house into which W. F. McCarthy, of Attleboro', Nuneaton, has moved is a great success and he has built himself quite a wonderful workshop. McCarthy is such a capital craftsman that we are not surprised to hear that he contrives to get all the local work he can undertake.

Our recent weather has been against

J. Bennett, of Cheltenham, but despite this he is a little better, everyone will be glad to know.

Local orders for mats have been coming the way of S. Batten, of Bridgwater, Somerset, and in addition several letters praising him for the excellent work he puts into them. It is very pleasant when people appreciate the patient labour that goes to the making of such wares and we congratulate Batten on his success.

Boot-repairing and mat-making, with short story writing as a side line, keep W. E. Brookes, of Southampton, happy and busy. We hope that sooner or later he will score a real success in the last line for we hear he is very keen. He might find "The Writers' and Artists' Year Book" published by A. & C. Black, of Soho Square, London (3s. 6d.), of use to him since it gives valuable information as to length of stories and articles, the addresses of magazines, &c.

T. Gibbins, of Radway, Warwickshire, with the help of the boys has built himself a new wooden house and fitted it up very well indeed. It is a fine piece of work.

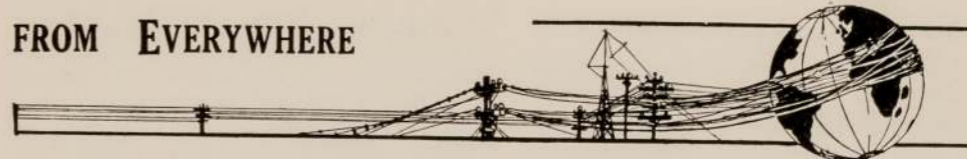
Another Warwickshire man—J. Griffiths, of Coventry—is also very busy, indeed so great is the rush in the testing department of his firm that he has been working overtime; he is looking well and happy.

W. Giles, at present of Wolverhampton, is lending a hand at re-decoration as he waits for a farm or house to suit him.

In the same locality is E. D. Martin (Wolverhampton), who at present is busy executing an order for tea-pot handles.

Quite a fair number of repairs come to A. Allen, of Alton, Stoke-on-Trent, and if a slack spell does arrive he turns it to good

## FROM EVERYWHERE



account in his garden, which is a constant source of both occupation and enjoyment to him.

Basketry keeps T. Gregory, of Thetford, fairly comfortably employed. His head of poultry now number 70; he seems to do well at selling.

Next month we hope to have something interesting to report concerning the family war record of F. L. Green, of Gosport, we hear that he thinks he can "go one better" than some of the men recently in the lime-light and are looking forward to receive his notes. Such things are interesting to many, so will other St. Dunstaners let us have details of the achievements of themselves, their fathers, brothers and sons?—also any gallant deeds their mothers, wives and daughters may have done!

F. E. Parker is settled in at Fareham, but it is too soon to speak of the prospects of local work. Friendly neighbours have called already so it should be possible to build up a clientele.

It is pleasant, when so many are grumbling at the weather, to hear that damp days such as we have been experiencing make W. Walker, of Gosport, feel more fit than usual! This has helped him to keep cheerful when his son broke his arm almost the very day that a "Green-stick-fracture" was reported as mended!

G. Perry, of Wolverhampton, is another who seems particularly well; he is mat-making with vigour.

So far St. Dunstaners have been fortunate in regard to floods and few reports of catastrophes on this account have reached us, though G. Powell, of Stretton, Staffs., has been in the flooded area and his children have been unable to go to school on this account—the attendance officer

seems doubtful whether this can be accepted as a valid excuse!

Juvenile St. Dunstaners are discovering that they cannot do better than follow "in father's footsteps." Charlie, son of C. E. Gill, of Teddington, who is now at the County School, has been put into the football team of which his parent was once a leading spirit. Oddly enough the headmaster of the school was once the teacher of Gill senior, while another teacher had Mrs. Gill as a pupil. Young Gill may well come home with new stories concerning his parents' activities in their young days.

Harlow (Essex) seems a good centre. F. Craddock reports that trade is good and is full of plans for the fixing of a show case in his window in which he means to display a number of things and so call yet further attention to the excellent work he does.

Good news comes from R. Watt, of Cambridge. He is very much better in health and finds that he can now take a more varied diet than he has done for years. He hopes to see old friends at Brighton early in the New Year.

Another who seems particularly well is T. Heatherington, of Percy Main, and this is no doubt due to the amount of time he spends out of doors; wireless is one of his greatest joys and he manages his set most professionally.

What with poultry, a fine garden and his promising children, H. Nelson, of Durham, needs must be full of plans for the future. He is keen on the young people doing well and as full of hopes for their successful upbringing as he is for the development of his garden. He reports an excellent crop of fruit last year and had a remarkably fine display of early chrysanthemums we hear.



**News of St. Dunstaners—continued.**

J. Ridley, of E. Finchley, is as contented and happy as ever. His shop keeps him well employed and the polish Mrs. Ridley puts on her husband's trouser presses wins much admiration.

"Plenty of work in at present," says M. O. Anker, of Ealing.

Hardly a day passes without someone bringing in a job of repairs for the attention of J. E. Parnell, of Kessingland, Nr. Lowestoft; this, with mats, keeps him a busy man, while the new home is a great success.

F. Ashworth, of Gorleston, has been looking up records and announces that he has had a very good season with his shop. Other shopkeepers will join us in the congratulations we offer him—and may next year surpass the last.

The new workshop belonging to W. Read is particularly good, being large and airy. He has quite a lot of boot repairing and is busy with mats as well.

J. J. Knights, of Trimley, St. Martin, is one of our joiners. He is busy and happy in his work with a considerate firm.

Goats are proving a successful venture according to G. Latham, of Medstead, and there is a demand for the milk, he finds; his poultry too are doing well.

A nice rug order has come to T. Wall, of Portsmouth, and he is taking great interest in executing it. His child sings in the church choir, plays the piano, and now Wall is considering a further development of the junior's musical talent in the direction of a violin.

The damp weather has been trying for A. Knotwell, of Portsmouth, but he is a Brotherhood enthusiast and ignores rheumatism if it troubles him on the nights of the weekly meeting to which he goes most regularly with a friend. He was lucky enough to be there when the Prince came a week or so back.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Tatton are much better for the change to Gloucestershire and he is now hard at work at basket making, having arranged his working table and shelves for material, &c., in a most methodical manner. The new house is well built and very dry—a find indeed in these times when many people discover water coming in in most unexpected places.

There has been a good deal of sickness among children of late and all family men will sympathise with G. Heely, of Wakefield, since he has had both his little ones away with scarlet fever.

What with local parish work and British Legion Committees, F. W. Matthews, of Soberton, is a very busy man. He is keen on everying he takes in hand and is therefore much sought after. Mrs. Matthews is just as energetic as her husband, we hear; she does valuable work collecting for hospitals and is much interested in the Women's Institute. St. Dunstan's compliments to these valuable citizens.

Eight hundred head of poultry must take a lot of managing, and no wonder F. Boorman, of Ropley, is a busy man. Surely few St. Dunstaners can go higher than this? The birds look in fine condition too, we hear, and do all possible credit to Boorman.

As an "annual event" F. Cooper, of Fareham, gives a big mat as a first prize in the local whist drive. This year the gift is reported as being "a finer piece of work than ever." We hope Cooper realises how much this action of his is appreciated.

More formal announcements will follow later no doubt, but we would now like to comment on the fact that two St. Dunstaners are celebrating their silver weddings within a couple of weeks of one another. The first couple is Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Patter, of Kiaora, Melville Road, Gosport, and the anniversary was on 26th December. In celebration they organised a big party and held it in Elsom Parish Hall. The hero and heroine of the second event are Mr. and Mrs. Mulvany, of 48

Dowling Avenue, Whitley Bay, and the date 7th January.

**Brief Notes**

We hear that the new shop opened by G. Gunson, of Batley, is a tremendous improvement on the last and is most attractively arranged.

"All's well" with J. Saunders, of Tottenham, likewise with W. Henshaw, of Finchley.

G. Dennis, of Portsmouth, is very busy after having had a most enjoyable two weeks' holiday in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire not so very long ago.

J. Woodhouse, of Hulland, Derbyshire, is well and contented; H. Lea, of Hulland Ward, Derbyshire, looks better than he has done for ages; whenever "repairs" are slack, he carries on cheerfully with mats until his neighbours' boots and shoes require his kind attentions once more. G. W. Parker and his wife have both been down with 'flu but are now convalescent and glad to think that the attack is behind them; L. Straw, is as well and cheerful as ever—a gallant St. Dunstaner who resolutely looks on the bright side of life.

In Sudbury, J. Fleming is keeping well and continuing with his work; H. Gransby is doing fairly well in Willesden; M. Shinnars, of Islington, is in much better health since his last visit to Brighton; and everyone will be glad to know that E. E. Callow, of Brentwood, is much improved in health; C. Aplin, of the same town, is also fairly well.

If there is a Domino Contest anywhere near Finsbury Park Road we feel sure that W. Harding would make a good showing as an entrant; he has had a famous series of matches with his little daughter Joan of late.

The news from A. J. Cole, of Southampton, is satisfactory and he is getting on with mat-making, being happily settled. In West Wycombe, J. A. Morton is working

steadily with his joinery. In High Wycombe R. Stanners and his shop are flourishing.

We hope to have satisfactory news to report of yet another young St. Dunstaner shortly, for we hear that Margery, the daughter of T. Smith, of Boldon Colliery, Co. Durham, is taking her music seriously and proving herself a promising performer on the piano.

"Well, happy and very busy just now," says J. Davies, of Coventry.

A January move is contemplated by J. W. Clare, of Waters Green, Brockenhurst, the new home promises to be very comfortable.

W. Cromwell, of Gloucester, looks well and contented; he is always ready to turn a hand to help another St. Dunstaner, as too is A. Bundy of the same district.

Yet another to have made a recent move is C. W. Hudson, of Brighton, who is now well established in the new house and is fairly busy.

Mat-making is keeping J. Batchelor, of Tooting Grove, occupied for as many hours as he can put in at his frame; T. Hamilton, of Brookville, Brandon, is recovering after his recent illness and shows himself eager to pick up the strings of work again; G. Price, of Clacton, is fairly well, and the same may be said of W. J. Roberts, of Westcliff, who is pegging away at basket-making with good results.

E. Slaughter, of Harringay, has a number of engagements in sight.

News from other men is satisfactory in brief. W. Miller, poultry farmer, of Surbiton, is well and working steadily; A. Smith, of Hartlepool, another of our poultry men, is also flourishing; "All's well" with R. C. Botley, of Surbiton; and J. D. Lee, of Sacriston, Co. Durham, is also fit. R. Metcalf, of Spennymoor, Co. Durham, is another who is looking particularly well; he is taking immense interest in his poultry.

(Continued on page 7)



## The British Wireless for the Blind Fund

I THINK St. Dunstaners generally will be interested to have a few facts about the British Wireless for the Blind Fund. The object of the fund is to secure that so far as is practicable every blind person in the United Kingdom has a wireless set.

St. Dunstan's was amongst the first to take up wireless for the blind, and some years ago facilities were made available for every blinded soldier to have a wireless set. Therefore the British Wireless for the Blind Fund is mainly concerned with the thousands of civilian blind people who as yet have no wireless sets.

It will be remembered that in 1926 I got an Act of Parliament passed which gave a free wireless licence to every blind person. As a result of this, some 15,000 blind people up to date have taken out free wireless licences. Then there are a few thousand who do not need wireless sets because they live in institutions, schools, &c., but when these numbers are deducted there remain certainly 15,000 and perhaps twice as many blind people who have no wireless sets, and cannot afford to buy them. It is primarily for these that the fund has been started.

I was asked to co-operate because it was hoped that the whole of the blind world would do their best to help the fund along, and also, because, as readers of the *Review* will know, I have for a long time taken a great interest in wireless in general, and particularly in wireless for the blind. Indeed, the fact that I was responsible for getting the Wireless Telegraphy (Blind Persons Facilities) Act through Parliament made it inevitable that I should be associated with the consequent national effort to see that those who could not afford it were given wireless sets. Mr. Churchill, in his appeal on Christmas Day, let slip the remark that I was devoting my entire time to this work. This was, of course, a mistake, for which we will forgive Mr. Churchill, in view of the splendid appeal which he made. I am, as a matter of fact, vice-chairman of the fund, and have been giving them such advice and help as I can, but the work for the fund

remains a mere passing incident of great interest to me, but occupying an odd hour or two now and then at Committees.

As St. Dunstaners generally have had wireless sets for some years, we will not benefit primarily from the fund, for the first principle of the fund is to provide sets for those who have not got them. This is a course with which I know all St. Dunstaners who have enjoyed their wireless for so many years will cordially agree. We shall, however, have a call upon the fund for new sets for the very small number of new St. Dunstaners who join our ranks, and St. Dunstan's will have a very strong claim for recognition in the matter of the replacement of sets when they become obsolete or worn out. In addition, should the regional scheme render it necessary to replace the crystal sets our men are at present using, by more selective sets, capable of separating the two alternative programmes, we shall have the right to accept our reasonable share of assistance from the fund in this respect. To this extent St. Dunstan's will benefit by the fund and this is an additional justification, if one were needed, for our participation.

The standard which the fund is setting itself is the same as that which St. Dunstan's undertook years ago, namely, to provide each blind person with a wireless set upon which he can receive on head phones his own local station. Therefore the great majority will be provided with crystal sets, but there will have to be some valve sets for those who live so far away in the country that they could not hear with a crystal. To meet this need the wireless trade have generously given a thousand sets. This will not be enough, but will be a good beginning.

I am sure all St. Dunstaners will wish the fund well, and will be happy to think that, to a small extent at any rate, through our efforts, and through St. Dunstan's example, we are on the way towards securing that every blind person in the land will enjoy the pleasures of wireless.

Ian Frazer

## "A Fifteen Penny Paradise"

IT must be a very hard-hearted person who could read the Annual Report of the wonderful work done by Pearson's Fresh Air Fund without wanting to help that work forward in some way. "Holiday-making" is a rose-tinted word to all of us, but what must it mean to the slum-housed children whose only playgrounds are the foetid alleys and passages of our great industrial centres? Vast as are the numbers of children that this beneficent charity, which, as all our readers know, was founded by Sir Arthur Pearson thirty-eight years ago, brings joy to each year, yet there are many, many thousands who long unavailingly through each summer for their turn to come. Good news travels apace, and there are probably few of these slum children who have not heard from other luckier boys and girls of their acquaintance of the magic and marvels which the Fresh Air Fund brings. It seems incredible in these times that untold thousands of children have never even seen the sea, and that their only idea of the beauties of the countryside is the sun-parched patch of grass in some walled-in city square. For thirty days every year all these children are released from the thralldom of school hours, but what can they do in those long summer days? Not for them the health-giving ozone of the sea, the lush pastures of the fields, and the cool sunlit aisles of woods and forests. There are just the steaming, dusty pavements, the foul and stuffy rooms of slum tenements, day after day, until to many of them it is a pleasure to go back again to the routine of school. Is it not the birthright of every child in our great country that it should be able, in its childhood days, to treasure at least some memories of the freedom and beauty of holidays in the country and at the seaside? The imagination of the child mind knows no limits. What to us is a commonplace of every day is to these little pleasure-starved children a glimpse of paradise itself. In this, the Thirty-Eight Annual Report of the Fresh Air Fund, we learn that no fewer than 5,487,578 days' outings in the country have been given to our little slum dwellers,

while 95,403 have had the never-to-be-forgotten joys of a fortnight's holiday in the country or at the seaside. The pictures which illustrate this year's Report alone form a poignant appeal for help. The hundreds of joyous little faces laughing into the camera lens, the pathetically thin little bodies frolicking in sea and at lakeside, makes the reader long for the power to ensure that every child in this country shall benefit from the best of all doctors, fresh air and sunshine.

The lists of collections published in the Report show that all classes and sections of the community contribute to this fine work, while the promoters of the Fund, Messrs. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., and the Shaftesbury Society, bear the whole of the management expenses, so that all the money which is subscribed is spent on the children. During the past year, Lady Pearson (Miss Gladys Cooper) was able to broadcast an appeal from 2LO for the Fund, and this brought a handsome response from all over the country. The King's annual generous subscription arrived the first week in April, and a few weeks later His Majesty forwarded a special donation to be spent on provincial children. The money was allocated to Cardiff this year, and a right royal time was arranged for 600 little ones from that city.

We feel we need not appeal to our readers to send a contribution to this most deserving cause. They have always done so most generously in past years and they will, we know, do so again. It costs only fifteen pence to give one child a day's outing, and but £1 for a fortnight's holiday. Contributions should be sent to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Fund since its foundation, Mr. Ernest Kessell, C.B.E., at the offices, 18, Henrietta Street, London, W.C.2.

News of St. Dunstaners—continued from p. 5

G. Ray, of Southend, and H. Nelson, of Kennington Road, S.E., tell us they are "in the pink."

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As for G. Wiltshire, of Muswell Hill, all his friends will be glad to know that he is much better.



## Dr. Bridges' Wedding Present

### From Matron

MY DEAR BOYS,

A very Happy New Year to you all! and many thanks for all your beautiful cards and the good wishes which touched and pleased me more than I can say.

Now you will want to hear about your gift to Dr. Bridges. It took the form of a very handsome Silver Salver on which was inscribed: "To Doctor E. Chittenden Bridges, a token of gratitude and affection from the men of St. Dunstan's." I feel sure, could you have seen it, you would have been well satisfied and Doctor Bridges' letter, which appears below, will show you what he thinks of you all and how much he appreciates your gift.

Wishing you the best of luck in 1930.

Yours ever sincerely,  
M. POWER,  
Matron.

St. Dunstan's Headquarters.

### From Dr. Bridges

DEAR BOYS,

No words of mine can sufficiently thank you for the delightful present which you gave me on my recent marriage. I deeply appreciate your kind thought, and will always regard it as one of my most treasured possessions.

When I remember how long it is since I was first appointed your Med. Officer by your late Chief, Sir Arthur Pearson, now some 14 years ago, my heart fills with pride that I have been allowed to continue in that office for so long, and that you should continue to place your trust in me. There have been many occasions when I could do but little to help you, but still you stuck it, as you all did in the trenches in the Great War. One thing I will always regret, and that is I have never been able to take an active part in the sports, but don't blame me, boys, but rather the branch of the profession to which I belong, namely the "General Practitioner," whose time is never his own.

I can never thank you enough for the loyalty and patience which you have always shown to me all the years which I have looked after you.

Again thanking you all for the lovely present which you have given me, and wishing you all the Happiest of New Years, and the best of luck, from

Your sincere and affectionate friend,  
E. CHITTENDEN BRIDGES.

Our old friend, J. Sheehy, of Dover, referring to the mention of St. Dunstan's activities on Armistice Day, tells us that for the past seven years on this anniversary, A. Bennett, F. Wenborn and himself have sold poppies in the streets. This year Sheehy had the honour of placing the British Legion wreath on the local War Memorial and, as Chairman of the local branch, he was, with his escort, Captain W. Cole, late R.N., entertained by the Mayor and Corporation in the council chamber. They were also introduced to General Sir Hereward Wake, commanding the Dover garrison. "After," says Sheehy, "having refreshed ourselves with a whisky and soda at the expense of his Worship the Mayor, my escort placed me in my position at the stall of the Mayoress where I sold poppies for the rest of the day, and I certainly felt as proud of my post as the days when I did sentry go at St. James' Palace."

In a letter to Headquarters, A. Sterno, of Bath, says he is very busy with his boot repairs. Sterno has a large circle of customers and shows considerable business enterprise, making, in addition to his boot-repairing business, designed and figured mats, and selling all kinds of sundries at the shop. By the way, Sterno, who before the War was head chef on some of the leading steamship lines, has probably some claims to be regarded as St. Dunstan's most versatile linguist. He speaks seven languages, and used to act as interpreter on board the large liners in his spare time.

## "In Memory"

PRIVATE H. J. CHAVE  
(Royal Marine Light Infantry)

IT is with deep regret that we announce the death of this St. Dunstaner, which came as a great shock to all who knew him. In the afternoon of the 29th November he was shopping with his wife in the town and on returning home about 4.30 he was suddenly taken ill and died about an hour later.

Chave joined up with the Royal Marine Light Infantry in 1914, and in 1917 was aboard "H.M.S. Cornwallis" which was sunk. He was one of the few survivors and was rescued after being nine hours in the water. After his rescue it was discovered that he had been blinded through shell-shock.

Shortly afterwards he came to St. Dunstan's for training in mat-making and made a great success of this. He was well known and highly respected in his neighbourhood, and was always cheery and made friends wherever he went.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, 3rd December, at St. Neots Parish Church, and a special service was arranged by the British Legion, of which Chave was a member. The Rev. W. Knights officiated. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack on which rested a naval cap and Chave's medals. In addition to the large number of relatives who attended the funeral were forty members of the British Legion, and also a fellow St. Dunstaner, E. W. Wakelin, and his wife.

There were numerous wreaths, including one in the form of our badge from Captain Fraser and his many comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife and two children.

PRIVATE J. C. STEPHENS  
(76th Labour Corps)

This month we have to record with deep regret the death of J. C. Stephens, which occurred suddenly on Monday, 2nd December. Stephens had recently been to Brighton for a change, as he was feeling run-down, and returned home on the Saturday. On the following Monday he commenced work, apparently quite fit and in good spirits, and at 10.30 a.m. he passed away in his workshop.

Stephens joined the 76th Labour Corps in 1915, and was wounded at Ypres in 1919, where he lost his sight. Shortly afterwards he came to St. Dunstan's and learnt boot repairing and mat-making.

The funeral took place on Friday, 6th December, at St. John's Church, Ryde, the Rev. Gillson Gill conducting the service. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack.

Several relatives attended the funeral. Mr. Marcus and Mr. Allen, Technical Instructors, and a fellow St. Dunstaner, F. Cooper, and his wife, were also present. Among the numerous beautiful wreaths was one in the form of our badge from Captain Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Stephens leaves a wife to mourn him.

PRIVATE D. MALCOLMSON  
(1st Canadians, 3rd Ambulance Battalion)

We deeply regret to announce the death of Private Malcolmson, which took place in hospital at Belfast on the 30th November, after a short illness.

Malcolmson served during the South African War, and joined the Canadian A.M.C. at the commencement of the Great War, going to the Front with the first Canadian Contingent "The big quiet Canadian," as he was known among his Belfast comrades, was held in high esteem by them, as was evidenced by the fact that every St. Dunstaner in the area was present at his funeral to pay their last respects to him.

He was laid to rest in Castlereagh Cemetery, in the hills of Co. Down, on Monday, 1st December. Among the floral tributes was a wreath, in the form of St. Dunstan's badge, from Captain Fraser and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's.

We extend our deep sympathy to his sister and brothers.



### Brighton News

CHRISTMAS festivities at the Annexe were opened by the annual dinner at which the trainees were entertained before leaving for the vacation. It was indeed a merry party which sat down to a regular old-time yuletide meal, during the course of which Matron reviewed the year's work, complimenting both instructors and men upon the work accomplished by both. Mrs. Bates, whom we were fortunate enough to have with us on this occasion, thanked the Matron on behalf of the boys, T. Dickenson seconding this.

The decorations were as good as ever, Father Christmas having the place of honour in the Big Lounge, and congratulations were given to Orderly Hawlings on his clever reproduction of the front page of the REVIEW.

On Christmas Eve we had a dance and on Christmas Day a large party sat down to partake of a typical Xmas dinner. Matron treated us to one of her characteristic little speeches, to which W. Jones and J. Hughes responded, after which G. Taylor gave us a very humorous speech.

G. Richardson, on behalf of the boys, presented Matron with a handsome silver travelling clock, in a green morocco case. After dinner there was music and dancing in the lounge, and the evening's feature was the bran tub from which everyone drew a prize, these being gifts from our old friend, Mr. J. Lion. Parties on Boxing night went to the Pantomime and the Hippodrome.

On Friday, 26th December, we had a most successful fancy dress dance, the different costumes calling forth roars of laughter; the task of Miss Hebb, who acted as judge, was not an easy one, as the fancy dresses were both clever and pretty, but eventually the prizes were awarded as follows:—Coleman, "Going to the Dogs," B. Collins, "John Bull," and W. Wheeler, "Long John," from "Treasure Island." Prizes for the ladies went to:—Miss Moore, "V.A.D. with head and body reversed," Margaret, "Colleen," and Georgina and Hilda as the "Bisto Kids."

A very delectable supper was then provided, after which came the "Spot March" competition, which was won by G. Taylor and his partner. Dancing continued until after 11 p.m. when cheers were given for the Matron and the singing of "God Save the King" brought to an end a most enjoyable evening. On Sunday evening the boys gave us a really good concert.

On New Year's Eve there was again a large and merry gathering to dance the Old Year out and usher in the New Year. Just before midnight the wireless was switched on, and as Big Ben boomed out the birth of the New Year all joined hands round the Lounge, singing with great gusto "Auld Lang Syne," after which everyone was busy exchanging greetings for 1930.

At dinner on New Year's Day, telegrams of good wishes were read from Captain Fraser, Lady (Arthur) Pearson and Mrs. Bates respectively, which were received with cheers.

Matron and the whole staff again call forth our feelings of gratitude for their untiring efforts in making Christmas 1929 such a great success. OBSERVER.

Most St. Dunstaners will have heard with much interest of the birth of a daughter early in December to Sir Neville and Lady Pearson (Miss Gladys Cooper). The men will be interested in and pleased with the following message from Lady Pearson when acknowledging flowers which were sent, with hearty congratulations, by Captain Fraser on behalf of the men of St. Dunstan's:—

"I was so very pleased to get the lovely lilac and roses from you and the men of St. Dunstan's. Will you please convey to them many warm thanks and give them all my very good wishes for Christmas and the New Year."

We are glad to be able to state that the new daughter is a fine large baby and thriving.

A. Chilton, of Linslade, is to be congratulated on the remarkably steady business in boot repairing which he has got together. He has a good circle of customers, and evidently gets very hard put to it to cope with the work which comes his way.

### After-Care Re-unions

#### BRISTOL

THE Bristol Meeting on Saturday, 7th December, was as happy a gathering as ever; after ten years of meeting (we were the very first after-care meeting) we are very much a re-union of old friends. The band from Fry & Sons came again and gave us a delightful programme of music; we do so appreciate the members of the band giving up their Saturday afternoon to come and play to us. We were glad to have Miss Lloyd and Miss Berry with us once more, and to welcome Miss Abbot, of the Bristol St. Dunstan's Sports Club.

Captain and Mrs. Fraser arrived in time for tea, and after tea Captain Fraser gave a much-appreciated speech, touching on so many points of St. Dunstan's policy and future plans that interested all present. Captain Fraser said how pleased he was to welcome to the meeting Miss Daubeny, of the Bristol British Legion, and Colonel Home, of the Cheltenham British Legion, particularly in view of the arrangement by which St. Dunstan's now draws a percentage of the Poppy Day money instead of holding separate Flag Days.

A. B. Hill and A. E. Tucker replied, both expressing very happily the hearty welcome all present wished to give to Captain and Mrs. Fraser; the musical honours which followed were given with an enthusiasm which left no doubt as to the feelings of the meeting.

Mr. Swain seemed even busier than usual with interviews, and competitions were going on whenever anyone could snatch a moment to compete. The prizes went as follows:—Cake, H. Weeks; Rice Bag, F. Mussell; Ladies' Rice Bag, Mrs. Cocker; Parcel, Mrs. Bond; Doll (given and dressed by Miss Loxton), Mrs. Burgess. D. I. M. A.

#### EXETER

The warmth of the welcome that greeted Captain and Mrs. Fraser when they arrived at the Exeter Meeting on the 19th of December must, we think, have told them how very glad we all were to have them

with us. The West Country St. Dunstaners hope that their first visit will not be their last.

Altogether it was a very cheery gathering. "Auntie" was an early and very welcome arrival, and with her friend, Miss Fysche, very soon got the competitions going apace. Who could help making a brilliant guess at the probable time at which the hidden clock stopped, with Auntie's persuasive encouragement?

We would like to point out that there really was a band there. *Sometimes*, we just heard them above the cheerful hum of conversation! Teatime soon came and Captain Fraser took the opportunity of everyone being at table to go round and shake hands with all the St. Dunstaners present.

Captain Fraser's speech with its explanations and news came with special interest to this meeting; those who live so far from Headquarters are specially glad when an opportunity comes to "hear all about things." Indeed, so deep was the interest that many questions were asked and all appreciated Captain Fraser's full and satisfying answers.

W. J. Gilbert (the oldest St. Dunstaner present) made an excellent little speech in reply, and was most ably supported by W. Carnell (one of the earliest St. Dunstaners).

Thanks to Auntie's untiring efforts we *did* finish off the competitions. The prizes went to:—Cake, J. Rendell, Clock, W. Carnell, Clock, Mrs. Lane; Mrs. Day and Mrs. Chorley were equal in guessing the weight of the parcel, and Mrs. Chorley won the draw for it. D. I. M. A.

#### GLOUCESTER

The Gloucester After-Care Meeting was held on Wednesday, 28th November. For some time we have had a feeling that the Gloucester Meeting is outgrowing the room in which it is held, and this year we were certain of the fact. The presence of Captain and Mrs. Fraser and a fine day meant a very full muster, and there were



moments when we wondered if we should all get in. Press photographers were early on the scene and secured an excellent photograph of Captain Fraser being greeted on arrival by a little group of St. Dunstaners, and all were interested in the coincidence that Captain Fraser and A. Bundy, with whom he was shaking hands, were wounded on the same day in July 1916.

After tea, Captain Fraser's speech gave much pleasure and interest to all present. A. Bundy and F. Harris ably replied and voiced the feelings of all present when they said how delighted everyone was to have Captain Fraser with them again. Many friends came in to help during the afternoon, among them being Miss James, Miss Phillips, and Miss Wilson, and we were very glad to welcome a new friend, Colonel Home, of the Cheltenham British Legion. The competitions were got through just in time for Mrs. Fraser to present the prizes. The cake was won by J. Bennett (we are glad to hear he is now recovering from his illness and that the said illness was *not* caused by the cake!); Rice Bag, A. Bundy; Ladies Rice Bag, Mrs. Newell; Parcel, Mrs. Baughan; Cake (made and given by Mrs. Greening), Mrs. Bundy.

Captain and Mrs. Fraser left with full musical honours, and so ended a very happy and successful Gloucester meeting.  
D. I. M. A.

### St. Dunstaners Overseas

The Chairman has received a letter from Elmer Glew, of Melbourne, Victoria, stating that representatives of blinded soldiers in each State of Australia met together at a Reunion at Perth, Western Australia. These Reunions in Australia are held periodically, each State taking its turn to act as host on the occasion. An interesting and enjoyable social programme was arranged for the Members present by the Perth Committee, and the question was discussed of forming some kind of organisation to deal with the welfare of blinded soldiers throughout the Commonwealth of Australia. Our English readers will realise that there are relatively very few blinded soldiers spread over this vast continent,

and that accordingly though very good work has been done in many States and many districts of a purely local kind, there has not hitherto been any attempt to create a general organisation covering the whole continent. We welcome this move, for there is nothing we should like better than that our Australian comrades should have the benefits and opportunities of general social intercourse and the many other advantages which such an organisation would bring them, in their own country, which St. Dunstan's is able to afford in England.

### A St. Dunstaner Cattle-Breeder

MANY SUCCESSES IN SHOW RING AND STUD

Recent news from J. T. Scrymgeour, of Warwick, Queensland, shows that he is continuing to add to his long list of successes in the breeding of prize cattle and horses, and that he is adding to his high reputation as one of the best judges in the country. His blood stallion, "Ladamon," secured the highest award at the Warwick Annual Show.

Mrs. Scrymgeour, whom he married after his return to Australia from St. Dunstan's, is herself an expert horsewoman and gives the greatest assistance to her husband in running his extensive stud farm.

Mr. Scrymgeour has a remarkable memory, as have so many sightless people. He will handle perhaps a dozen beasts in one class, storing in his memory the name of each, its pedigree, virtues, defects, and a year after, should the animal again pass under his remembering hands, he knows it and can recite off its history. In his mind he holds an image of the perfect animal, and as his fingers slide over the exterior of one under review, touch alone tells him how near to or far from the ideal this one is.

Altogether, the subject of our notes is a man whom St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners have been proud to know.

### A Poultry Winner

We hear that the pen of five White Wyandotte pullets which G. C. Jackson, of Ashford, entered in the Wye College Test, finished third, and he has gained the Pen Certificate. Five birds laid 1,071 eggs in 48 weeks, a very excellent record indeed.

### Two Fine St. Dunstaners

The following appreciation of Mr. Merrill C. Robinson, Superintendent of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Western Division, from the *Vancouver Sun*, 2nd October 1929, will, we think, be read with interest by all St. Dunstaners, and particularly by those who knew him when he was at St. Dunstan's.

From Fort William High School, to battle-scarred Vimy Ridge—from healthy lad, bubbling over with the happy, irresponsible exuberance of youth—to sergeant-major, at eighteen; manhood overnight, in the wear and tear of war; then—the ruthless shell, that totally destroyed his outer sight for evermore.

Such is the Merrill C. Robinson who to-day, as Superintendent, and Chief Executive for the Western Division of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, is dedicating his life to that army of men and women in Western Canada, whose sightless eyes turned inward are seeking the instruction, guidance and aid that may transform them from helpless and hopeless dependents into self-supporting, contributing members of a community whose fellowship on equal terms they crave.

Truly, out of the crucible of suffering, in the person of Mr. Robinson, has emerged a forgetfulness of self—a desire to serve—to serve, not in the guise of pauperising charity but to devise the most practical means of restoring to normal usefulness those whose disability he is peculiarly fitted to comprehend.

#### TRAINED AT ST. DUNSTAN'S

His training at St. Dunstan's School for the Blind—that London school founded by Sir Arthur Pearson—where his strength and hope and courage were so abundantly revived, and where in the broad, practical, vocational training received, he was able to reduce to a minimum the disability occasioned by his sightlessness, uniquely fits Mr. Robinson for the post he occupies here in Vancouver.

Except to one similarly afflicted, it is almost impossible to gauge the terror, the desolate waste, the stark despair of one stricken suddenly blind. Deprived of accustomed outward contacts, they are thrust back upon themselves, dependent upon inner resources, which must be nurtured and developed and taught and trained anew, as to an infant, so clinging and helpless are they become.

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind was organised to fill that want. Through vocational training; through their Home Teaching Department, bringing the vocational teaching, the reading and writing lessons, to the very hearth and fireside, by teachers themselves blind, and thus doubly able to teach the blind; by helping employment suitable to their dis-

ability, where they can maintain an efficiency fully comparable to their fellows less handicapped; by a large circulating library system, making accessible to these hungry minds the literature of all nations, modern and classic, in Braille—through these, and many other inspiring and inspiring activities, the hand of fellowship, of encouragement, of cheer, of hope, of help, is extended to these people, who must otherwise, alone and unaided, dwell in the perpetual night of despair.

One would think that a man who is so severely disabled as is E. Found, of Bideford, Devon, would have laid aside all thought of being able to help others. Not so this St. Dunstaner, of whom we are very proud, and not long since a whisper of some of his doings reached the public ear, modest as is Found. The story of what he has done, and is doing, may well encourage others to go and do likewise—and so various newspapers have found space for a "story." Herewith is that from *John Bull*:—

#### A BLIND FATHER CHRISTMAS

"In the little Devonshire town of Bideford there is a house where there lies a blind and completely disabled soldier. But the poor who live in the darkest slums and alleys of Hoxton know his name and speak it with respect.

"For every year he sends quite a large sum of money to provide a Christmas dinner for some of the poorest in Hoxton, and also warm garments are sent by him from Bideford to clothe some of the little children of that congested area.

"This man's name is E. Found. He is quite blind, and lies day and night upon his back, absolutely helpless and rigid.

"Found was first injured in the leg in France in 1914, and was invalided home. Later he was sent out to the East, where he contracted fever. He suffers some pain nearly all the time, but after one of his feverish attacks it is much worse.

"And yet this man, who could be excused irritability and bad temper, is uniformly cheerful; and his thoughts are occupied with the good he can do.

"He lies there, smiling, listening for hours to the splendid wireless set with which St. Dunstan's has provided him.

"He has a number of visitors, and, blind and helpless as he is, he has organised many of them into a corps of helpers, who bring him various articles for his annual sale of work to provide a Christmas dinner for the poor of Hoxton.

"Each Easter, Found holds an "egg service" for the civilian blind of North Devon; and, each September, a harvest festival."



## Births and Deaths

### Births

GRAHAM.—To the wife of R. Graham, of Tottenham, a son, on Saturday, the 14th of December.

HERITAGE.—On the 28th of November last, to the wife of W. Heritage, of Banbury, a son.

STEEL.—On December the 11th, to the wife of J. Steel, of Rosyth, a son (Hugh Alexander).

### Deaths

This month there is a long list of St. Dunstaners to whom sympathy must be offered on account of bereavements.

ACTON.—To the wife of H. Acton, of Brighton, in that she has lost her brother. He was knocked down and killed by a motor omnibus while she was staying in Manchester recently.

ATKINSON.—To R. H. Atkinson, of Aldershot, who lost his elder brother on the 14th December.

BLACKSHAW.—To R. Blackshaw, of Stoke-on-Trent, who lost his brother on 1st December.

BREWER.—To the wife of E. Brewer, of Bristol, whose father died on 11th December.

PLUNKETT.—To J. E. Plunkett, of St. Leonards-on-Sea, who lost his brother Frank, aged 37 years, recently.

PORTER.—To C. E. Porter, of Leyland, Preston, who lost his sister a short time ago. She was 25 years of age. The loss is all the more tragic since Mr. Porter's mother lies seriously ill at the time we go to press.

ROBERTS.—To Mrs. W. J. Roberts, of Westcliff, whose father died on the 4th December.

THOMAS.—To D. J. Thomas, of Cardiff, whose father died in the beginning of December.

THOMPSON.—To F. W. Thompson, of Tavistock, Devon, who has suffered the loss of his wife with tragic suddenness. She was taken ill on the 10th of December and died in Thompson's arms on the morning of the 14th. Friends will know

what a devoted couple Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have been through all their 42 years of married life.

### Debates

Are women a success in business? Well, are they?

Mr. H. Kerr thinks not, but I am not convinced that he is right, and I am not sure that he is serious. There is no need for me to speak in favour of the ladies, they are well able to defend themselves, and did so nobly when acclaiming their share of success in business. I was rather sorry for Mr. Kerr, he put up a brave fight, though the odds were greatly against him from the first.

He very cautiously opened by saying "Fools rush in where Angels fear to tread," a most useful quotation when discussing the fair sex in their presence. It is impossible to go into detail on the various points raised as space is limited, but the debate was not without interest and one learns a good deal by listening attentively.

It is a little difficult to select subjects for discussion that will appeal to the majority. A suggestion has been welcomed, quite a bright idea, "A debate on debates," and for what it is worth it has been chosen for discussion on the 4th of February.

It will be openly discussed, of course, and no more need be said. Mr. P. Organ will take the chair, and open the meeting at approximately 8 p.m. J. H.

With reference to our recent comment on the export trade in joinery and other things done by some of our St. Dunstaners, we hear that W. Ward, of St. Leonard's-on-Sea has made and packed trays for despatch to America, Africa, Malay States and Switzerland, and he is hoping to get further orders. In addition, he sends his trays to many parts of England, and the universal comment upon them is that they are always beautifully made.

A. R. Clover, of Long Melford, reports doing a roaring trade in picture framing and trousers presses.

### Why is the News so Scant?

Regarding the following contribution, the Editor desires to point out that the interpolations printed in italics are not his own, and were inserted without permission by the contributor himself, whom it will be noted has the wisdom to remain anonymous!

So sad a note was struck by the pathetic announcement in the *Review* recently that "News from the telephonists is scant . . ." that even my heart of stone was touched. One might think it the title of a new fox-trot, like "Why is the bacon so tough?" if it were not so full of pathos. It was just this picture of a poor disconsolate editor hungering for news of the telephone which stirred me so deeply: so deeply in fact that I determined to lead a new crusade for the relief of starving editors, a sort of "Send more news" campaign. I have now succeeded in gathering the following facts relating to the daily lives of one or two of that leisured class, the "Hullo" boys.

The first to be traced was the famous heavy-weight operator, Sam. Edwards, and no sooner had I explained to him the desolation he was bringing about by his silence that great tears poured down his pale cheeks and he very willingly imparted certain information. After ignoring the less respectable portion I find he is quite well, thank you, and has lately taken up a side-line to augment his rather slender stipend.

*We wish him the best of luck in his new brewing enterprise.*—(Ed.)

In his spare moments young Samuel is training hard and though he modestly refuses to disclose his purpose, it is whispered that he is going to make a bid to bring back the Ludo ashes this year.

*May the dice always turn up six.* (Ed.)

Then there is Brother MacQuirk who attends for daily exercise on the west side of London. Mac has been very much harassed of late by removal to new premises, but has now settled down. Comfort is provided in the shape of a new telephone chair.

*We hope his new telephone pin-cushion and his new telephone hat-rest will be as much to his liking.*—(Ed.)

I would like to take this opportunity of indignantly refuting the story that the removal was in any way due to the rumour that prohibition was to be introduced into the Fulham district.

*We are glad to hear that Mac is happy and extend our sincere condolences to Mrs. Mac.*—(Ed.)

Another delinquent in the correspondence class is Patrick Horan, whose delightful tenor voice has enthralled so many telephone subscribers. It seems that his work sometimes becomes rather nerve-racking, particularly on Derby days and about the time of the issue of the *Fourth Star*. Nevertheless, Paddy is a man of great resource and has invented a new game to counteract the strain. Any number of players can take part provide each is in possession of a switchboard. Paddy always acts as "banker," or keeper of the key position. The rules are that each player in turn rings up the banker and if answered in ten minutes scores a point. If not, the banker takes the point. It is understood that Paddy invariably wins.

*We congratulate Paddy on his ingenuity.*—(Ed.)

Although not able to get into actual touch with Oswald Warden, another of the species who has been unheard of for some years, it is believed he is suffering from severe attacks of sleepy sickness, this malady being most pronounced between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

*We hope he will soon be restored to the fold.*—(Ed.)

"BIZZIBACK."

A boot repairer to whom we should like to offer our most sincere congratulations is M. O. Anker, of Ealing. During the last ten years he has been steadily developing his business, with the result that he now has a sound reputation as a high-class boot repairer. Anker believes most firmly in getting into close touch with his customers, so that they realise that he is giving personal attention to their orders. The repairs coming from his establishment most certainly must give every satisfaction to his clients.



News from the Workshops

## BASKETS

**H.** J. BROWN made a good start on centre cane work, doing tea trays and barrels, and we are sorry that the state of his health prevents him from remaining at Brighton during the winter. F. A. Cole has been doing barrels, waste papers and dog-beds, together with some centre cane work. Now that his netting course is finished, he is already feeling the benefit of a full day at the trade. R. McCluskey is covering a good range of work; he has ability, and works his rods well. In his case, it is a question of working out a new thing with his hands, rather than thinking it out first in his head. W. J. Markwick has stuck to his work well, giving good time, in spite of the fact that he has not been feeling any too grand. Waste papers, dog-beds, and barrels have taken his attention during this term; he is showing interest and making progress. J. Murray does his work thoroughly, some of it exceptionally well. He would find it an advantage if he could now get through it a little quicker. When learning, it is better to make sure of strokes, and shapes, than to rush on, but once a stroke is mastered, it should then be performed quicker. A skeined luncheon basket was a very nice, neat job, and he should do well with the soiled linens he has just commenced. H. R. Palmer is to be congratulated on a very good start; for the period that he has been under instruction, some of his work is remarkably good, and we think that he will do well. B. Quigley is now becoming one of our experienced hands; he changes very well from one job to another, and gets quite decent results, with some variations. He is gaining in confidence. H. Wignell has been working very independently since the summer; he has a good general knowledge of the work, but has some trouble in getting out of difficulties by himself. Some oval clothes baskets done recently were a very good shape, and other work, in November, has been quite nicely done. E. A. Strand has also been getting hold of things, tackling some square work, in addition to barrels.

He is working much tighter and more regular; staking-up and siding is also showing improvement.

## BOOTS

T. Dickinson still continues to turn out satisfactory work; he is ready to tackle any job with a good spirit, and gets consistent results. D. Driscoll has made a decidedly good start this term; he is taking an intelligent interest in the work, and we feel that he should do well. A. L. Isaac, of Glasgow, found such a demand for boot repairing that arrangements have been made for him to continue with the work, with which he made a start when at headquarters previously. He is anxious to get on, is taking care, and shows that he realises what is expected of a man who is carrying on a boot repairing business. J. T. Illingworth has reached a fair level; he is having experience with children's repairs. His marking and riveting is generally good, but he is rather heavy with the use of his tools, his jobs lacking finish and style. M. Manning must conquer a little tendency to rush over his work; he is a good workman, and proud of his job, and we feel that this will lead him to give even greater care to his style and finish.

W.H.O.

The following amusing letter reaches us from Fallowfield, of Leytonstone. The basket he sent is really a remarkable production in view of the fact that no tools had been used in its making. Who is the next competitor for this sort of contest?

DEAR SIR,

I am sending you this basket hoping you are open to a joke. It is the result of an account of one of our men in the REVIEW who made a side-board with nothing but egg boxes, and used no other tools than a pocket knife (joiners push out their chests!) The material for this basket, however, was soaked in the rain, the bottom sticks were stuck into the ground and stakes both side and end were worked into the bottom. The ends of the bottom sticks were snapped off and the rest was easy. The shape might have been better had I made a square frame. As it is the basket took but 63 minutes to make altogether, which is my record for a square basket, notwithstanding that I used *no tools whatever*, not even a knife. The trimming that was possible was done by snapping off when the basket was dry.



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