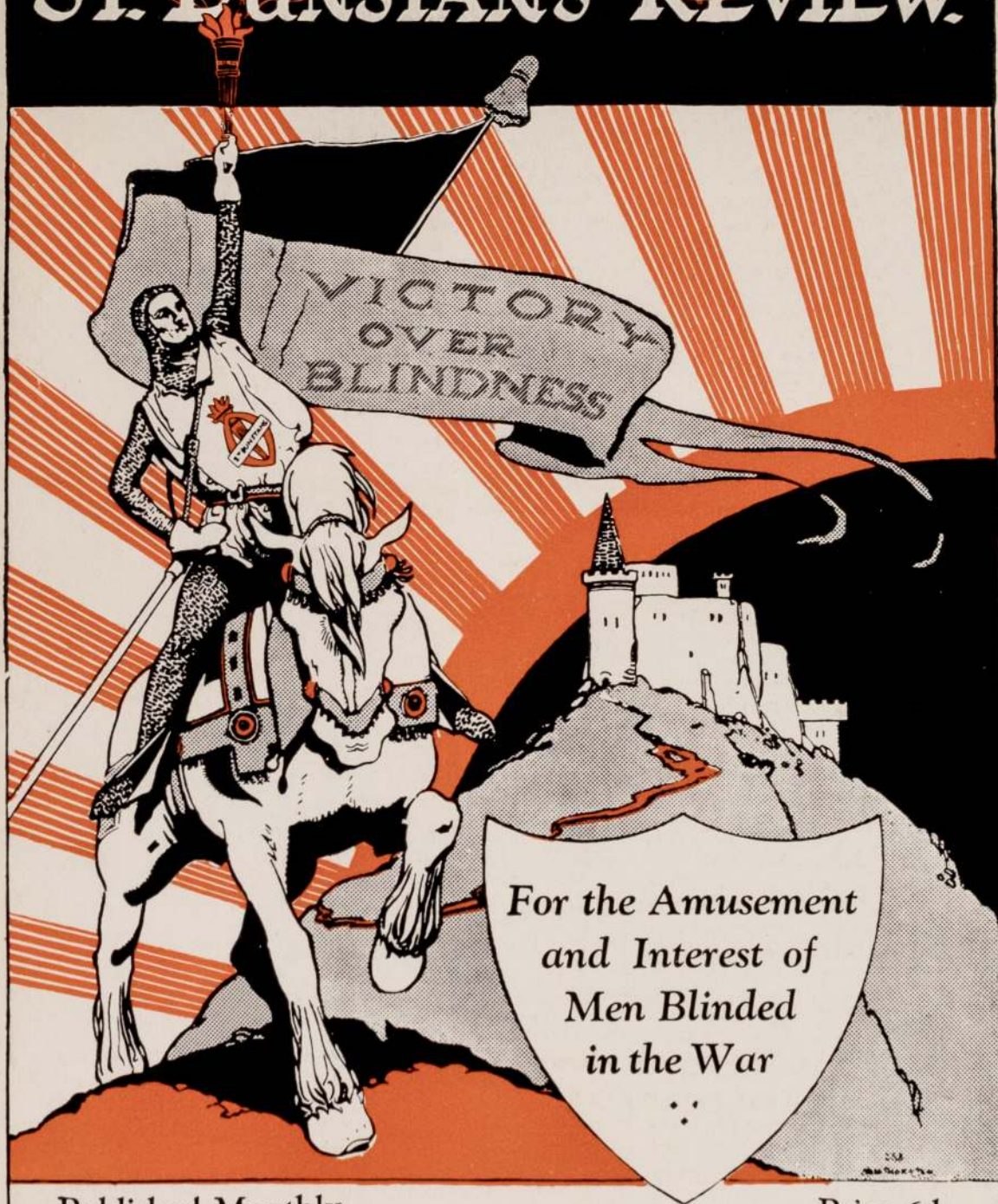


ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW



Published Monthly

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

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY PERRY BARRINGER

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Archdeacon Sharpe

ST. DUNSTANERS throughout the Empire will be delighted to hear that their revered friend of many years, the Reverend Prebendary E. N. Sharpe, has been appointed Archdeacon of London and Canon of St. Paul's. An honorary chaplain to St. Dunstan's since 1915, the reverend gentleman has given splendidly helpful spiritual guidance to many hundreds of St. Dunstaners. His help and advice have always been at the service of those needing it, and we are sure it will be the universal wish that he may long be spared to carry on the great and responsible duties of his new positions. When notice of the appointment was made, a message of sincere congratulation from St. Dunstan's was sent to Archdeacon Sharpe, and the following reply was received:—

"Most grateful thanks for your very kind congratulations, which I greatly appreciate. All good wishes for 1930.—E. N. SHARPE."

"Song of St. Dunstaners"

OUR readers will remember that, some time since, a suggestion was made that it might be interesting for St. Dunstan's to have its own marching song or anthem which would be sung at re-unions and gatherings of old-time comrades. We accordingly invited contributions from our readers and received in response three or four manuscripts. While all of these displayed very considerable musical merit, we do not feel that any quite fit in with the possibility of being used in the manner first suggested. Furthermore, a good many of our readers have expressed, both by letter and in conversation, the view that St. Dunstaners generally would not care to take part in the singing of a song which must necessarily be more or less in praise of themselves or of our organisation. We must admit that we were rather inclined to this opinion when the proposal was first made, and in view of the fact that the consensus of opinion is against going further with the idea, it has been decided to drop it. We should, however, like to offer our thanks and congratulations to the composers and authors who sent manuscripts.

The Quest of Independence

WE are sure every St. Dunstaner will be keenly interested in the article under this heading which appears in another page of this issue. Captain Fraser will be glad to receive from St. Dunstaners their personal views as to the employment of this means of dispensing with the human guide.

NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS



From Overseas

ST. DUNSTAN'S post bag is fuller than usual these days, for replies to Christmas and New Year letters are arriving from overseas men, and most of these make good reading.

Those who remember F. S. Owen, now of Johannesburg, will be glad to know that he is well and prosperous. "The year has been one of ups and downs," he writes, referring to 1929, "but, on the whole, I think the 'ups' have it."

South Africa, like England, has been having more than her share of gales, and Owen's beautiful garden was completely wrecked by a terrific hailstorm, all the fruit being knocked to pieces, "but, despite this, we are as happy and lively as ever." He adds, "I myself am doing basket-work and with fairly good results. Poultry are also going strong." He sees Nara sometimes and once in a while rings up O'Connor and has a chat on the telephone. O'Connor, too, is well, cheerful and a wireless enthusiast.

Another African St. Dunstaner going strong is A. J. Mason, of Maritzburg. He reports a good supply of orders as coming in throughout the year.

Among our Canadians, C. Purkis, of Preston, Ontario, must have mention:—

"It seems to me that each succeeding year goes a little faster than the last," he writes, and sends the best possible greetings to all. Reports of England's bad weather have reached Canada, and Purkis thinks "it must have been a case of going down into the dug-out when there were so many slates, &c., coming down from the houses"!

"Myself and family," he adds, "are keeping in the best of health. Since my visit to England, in 1927, when I sold up all my stock, I began to build up again and at

present I have over four hundred birds. I look after them myself, with a very little help for the digging out, and giving them fresh litter, so you can imagine I have very little time to sit about, but I go out every evening. . . .

"I heard Premier MacDonald's speech while he was in Canada, which was sent out over the ether. It is wonderful what the radio inventors have made possible. I was also able, a few weeks ago, to hear Mrs. Byrd (the mother of Captain Byrd) send a message to the Antarctic explorers wishing them a safe return. . . . It was sent over a distance of 12 thousand miles. . . .

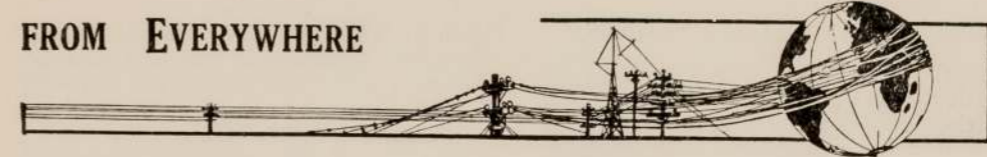
"What a fortune to be alive in this wonderful age when so many generations have passed out in ignorance of such wonders."

News of men nearer home reaches us more frequently, and is less in quantity for this reason. Among the most energetic this month has been A. G. Wise, of Great Ryburgh, Fakenham. He has been making a red tiled path up his garden, utilising for this old red tiles that had been taken up from the kitchen floor. It is a most successful effort, and Wise has every reason to be proud of his handiwork.

F. H. Hughes, of Cringleford, Norwich, has moved into a new house, which promises to be very comfortable. He has made an excellent recovery, and is now at work again.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester was the principal guest at a dinner given on the 15th January by the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, in connection with an appeal for £20,000 to form an endowment fund to establish Worcester College for the Blind permanently as a public-school institution. Among the distinguished company present was Captain Fraser, who is a member of the Board of Governors of the College, and Mrs. Fraser.

FROM EVERYWHERE



Poultry has been keeping C. R. Newell, of Cheltenham, very busy; his preparations for the hatching season are well on. Friends will be glad to know that Newell is looking much better, despite, or perhaps because, of his busy life. His second daughter has been at home from her school on a visit, and Newell finds that she is now nearly as tall as her father.

The variations in the weather have affected H. Donlan (another Cheltenham man), but except for this he is all right, while the Donlan baby is "really magnificent," we hear. He is jolly, cheerful and a fine child for his age—in fact quite the king of this happy little home.

W. H. Hildick, of Crowmoor, near Shrewsbury, is looking very fit. His Christmas trade was particularly good this year and he found himself working until all hours of the night to meet the demand for his birds.

Quite a number of St. Dunstaners were in the public eye as a result of the work they undertook on Poppy Day. In this connection a particularly good portrait of A. Bennett (of Dover) appeared in the *Kent Messenger*.

St. Dunstaners' wives, as well as St. Dunstaners themselves, will sympathise with Mrs. E. Watson, of Deal, in that she fell and sprained her wrist a few weeks ago and has had to have it in a sling. Such an accident is awkward, as well as painful, we know.

Folkestone, according to reports, is proving a good locality for G. Moore, of Cheriton; he has every hope of building up a trade.

Another with the same expectations is W. Mitchell, of Poplar; considering the

short time since he has re-established his business he has secured quite a good connection.

The young members of the family of C. F. Butler, of Twickenham, seem to be making an excellent start into this crowded world. One boy is in the Air Force, another, who has only just left school, has secured a job in an engineering works, while the two elder girls have both found employment at the Richmond Ice Rink.

A particularly keen and enthusiastic boot-repairer is S. Purvis, of Lemington-Tyne. Considering the very real interest he takes in all he does it is not surprising that he has a perpetual supply of odd jobs coming in for his attention.

One of the latest to join the group of house-owning St. Dunstaners is R. Dodds, of Whickham; we hope his home will be a never-ceasing pride and pleasure to him.

Surely A. E. Clewlow, of Brighton, is one of the gayest of our group? The story runs that he averages four dances a week—some at St. Dunstans and some at the Regent!

C. A. Biggs, of Sedgley, Staffs., has moved into a new house, which is a joy to him.

Mat makers and boot repairers will sympathise with their fellow-craftsman, C. H. Smith, of Bury St. Edmunds; he ran a screw-driver into his hand just before Christmas, when all men are hoping for an increase in trade.

Quite a lot of picture-framing, in addition to regular joinery work, is the news from A. Clover, of Long Melford.

Another keen worker, though one in a different line (mats), is J. Wishart, of South

News of St. Dunstaners—continued.

Moor, West Stanley. His seven year old little daughter, Lilian, is evidently a chip of the old block so far as keenness goes, for she is doing particularly well at school, being first in her class and has gained full marks for the term.

J. Simpson, of Westerhope, Newcastle, is as interested in his poultry as ever; he has been making many improvements and putting in a lot of glass on his place.

Although the year is still young T. Murphy, of Bedlington, is full of plans for getting the maximum result from his allotment. May he have record crops!

"All's well," with F. Ralph, of Purley, another of our joiners. His little son is growing fast, and was chosen to sing in the school play at Christmas.

Mats keep busy A. Perrin, of Forest Hill. His new hut looks remarkably nice, we hear.

As usual at this season there has been a good deal of illness about, and one of the "flu" victims has been J. Davidson, of Farncombe. We are glad to be able to say that the evil is past.

A fine contract as boot repairer to a boy's school has been secured by H. Abbey, of Lightwater, Camberley. May every youngster in the establishment be abnormally active!

The prospective legislation regarding the opening of shops on Sundays will hit a number of men hard, among them E. J. Brett, of Aldershot, who says that the Sabbath is quite one of his best days. One can only hope that, if the restrictive act goes through, people will develop the habit of shopping harder on the days when trading is permitted.

By the way, if anyone wants remarkably nice silk scarves, Brett is an adept at knitting them. One was raffled a short time ago and fetched something like 25s.

J. Crawford, of Eastbourne, is making progress. Considering the short time he has been in the town he has done very well indeed, though, of course, he has had his slack times like the rest.

An order for a mat for the local Police Station came to J. Francis, of Battle, a few weeks ago. This is the kind of order that often leads to "repeats" and we hope this will be the case for Francis.

F. J. Gibbins is now happily settled in a charming flat at St. Leonards.

Among the sufferers from the recent gales is M. W. Brown, of Seddlescombe, he had at least five pounds' worth of damage done—but this is considerably less than last year—so far!

"Workshop nearly under water at present!" says S. Usher, of Hastings; in addition, some boards in the front have blown in, so Usher has been in the wars (or should we say floods?) with a vengeance.

E. J. Summers, another Hastings man, has had word that his boy, who is on a training ship, is doing very well and there is every prospect that he will pass into the Navy this spring.

The gales have been so bad in St. Marychurch that T. Mardon decided that it was unsafe to sleep upstairs while they continued. His workshop is another sufferer from the unprecedented weather, having been unroofed.

Quite a rush of boot work set in at the New Year for H. C. Ollington, of Earlsfield.

A most interesting joinery commission has just been received by E. Willcocks, of Tottenham. He is to make a tea-table wagon with side flaps, and also a pair of trouser-presses so he should be hard at work for some time.

Several influential patients are availing themselves of the skill of C. Bregazzi, of

Hornsey Lane Gardens, at present. We are glad to hear too that he himself is in better health again.

Two counties join near the home of J. Bentley, of Southgate, with the odd effect that a friend of his sometimes harnesses up with his horse in one county and the cart in another—or so Bentley likes to say!

Friends will sympathise with both Mr. and Mrs. Bentley in that she has hurt her knee rather badly. We hope she will be about again, however, before these lines appear in print.

In a recent issue mention was made of the activities of W. Barnes, of Folkestone. The paragraph might have been open to misconstruction, so we take this occasion of saying that he is running a prosperous newspaper business and has every right to be proud of his shop. Customers who come for papers mostly have other wants to be satisfied, hence they are well worth having.

As usual there is something to report in connection with our Irish group. J. Goodison is going on well with plenty of local work. He is cudgelling his brains as to how he can make a reputation as a maker of especially fine motor mats.

As for E. P. Horan, he seems to be making a corner in tea-pot stands. Some of those which he has made with Dutch-tiles have proved so great a success that buyers dispatched them to America for Christmas gifts.

B. Martin, of Bray, has just finished a large clothes basket, 3 ft. by 2 ft. to the order of Lord Powerscourt. W. J. Berry, of Bangor, and T. McCann, of Belfast, are both very fit; J. Brockerton, of Coleraine, has been busy over a big motor-mat and S. Holmes, of Belfast, is finishing up a particularly fine piece of work—a decorated oak cupboard.

Brief Notes

E. C. Oram, of Hammersmith, is keeping very fit; C. E. Gill, of Teddington, is ever so much better as a result of the rest he took at Christmas time; J. W. Shread, of

King's Lynn, is another who is enjoying good health, and A. Matthews, of Dover, is also fortunate in this respect, though he has been among the many with illness in the home, but in this case it was only a child with whooping cough.

In Hull, G. Killingbeck, who has a remarkably nice little home and a sensible, helpful young wife, is looking for a shop, which we trust will soon be found; E. Baron, of Bridlington, says "All's well," as also does J. H. W. Porter, our well-known lecturer.

Trade in fish is good, according to H. R. Exall, of Peckham; W. Street, of Evesham, is as cheery as ever, and had a particularly enjoyable New Year.

In Colchester, J. Treby, is doing a trade in mats, while G. F. Payne works at the same handicraft in Arrington, Cambridgeshire; and D. Murphy, of Glasgow (who had "flu" rather badly just before Christmas) is as keenly interested as ever in the product of his mat-frame.

Those who met C. Roddy, at Brighton, will be glad to know that he is much better for his holiday and is already looking forward to "next time." H. N. Matthews is starting work again with fresh enthusiasm.

There is little to say about W. S. Pearey, but we may say that the way he developed his practice last year is eminently satisfactory.

All is going comfortably with B. Robinson, of Wortley, near Leeds, he is well settled in both shop and house.

We hear from A. Hicks, of Kenley, that his young son, who is only 10½ years old, was one of the pianoforte soloists at a concert arranged by Miss Mary M. Grant in aid of the funds of St. Dunstan's. We believe young Hicks is one of the most promising of Miss Grant's pupils, and we congratulate his parents and himself upon such an early appearance on the public platform.

The Quest of Independence

By Ian Fraser

THE blind all the world over are always seeking independence. Many find it to a greater or lesser degree in certain professional occupations or handicrafts to which they become quickly adapted. There are available, too, a number of indoor and outdoor games and sports, such as bridge and dominoes, riding, walking and swimming. Many blind persons walk alone for exercise or on their way to and from work.

The Sixth Sense

They see with their ears. They visualise the streets, pavements and the traffic, forming their mental pictures from the sounds and echoes they hear. Primarily the sense of hearing, but to an extent also the sense of smell and of touch, the warm glow of the sun, or the breath of the wind, serve to indicate direction. The feeling and the sound of gravel or of turf beneath the feet is different from that of tarmac or of pavement. The fundamental note of rumbling traffic is higher pitched in a narrow than in a broad street. The camber of a road tells when a pavement is being approached. Even a lamp post or a tree can be heard as it is passed or approached. A fish shop, a flower stall and a coal cart each has its own peculiar smell. The art or practice of getting about alone has with many blinded people reached high perfection, and something like a sixth sense—the sense of obstacle—is developed.

But getting about alone is always something of a strain; the indication of direction and position, the warnings of danger are indefinite and slight, and the mind must be acutely vigilant.

The Dog

The dog has ever been the friend of man, and he has traditionally acted as a guide for the blind man. In earlier times, unhappily, the blind man had no work or pleasure to go to; he was not seen abroad unless it was a pathetic figure with his dog, tapping and feeling his way to the pitch where he would receive alms. The use of the dog to the blind man is historical, and has even

received legislative recognition in more or less modern times, for within living memory Parliament decreed that a blind man and a shepherd need not pay licence duty for their dogs.

Give a Dog a Bad Name

As blind men were given their chance to earn a living and gain self-respect and a degree of independence, a reaction set in against the dog. This faithful animal had become part of the recognised equipment of the blind beggar, and blind men who were not beggars shunned the dog and walked alone.

Dog Guides for the War Blinded

Since the Great War, when thousands of young men of all nations lost their sight and started the quest for independence, the dog has come back into favour, not for beggars, but for men pursuing honourable activity in a hundred ways. The practical German was the first to develop the dog guide, and such success has attended the experiment that there are State Training Schools for blinded soldiers and their dogs, and even a weekly Government allowance for the animals' upkeep. Over sixteen hundred German blinded soldiers have their dogs and have used them as guides for years, and already some hundreds of German blind men and women have also been provided with dog guides. More recently an American philanthropist, Mrs. Harrison Eustis, has established an international training school near Lausanne, Switzerland. Swiss, French and Italian pupils have passed through her school, and have taken home a trained guide, with whom they have learned to walk with confidence. In the United States, too, Mrs. Harrison Eustis has developed a similar enterprise where several classes of instruction have already been held.

The Dog Guide at Work

The dog that has been universally chosen to perform the responsible work of guiding a sightless man or woman is the German shepherd dog—the dog we call the Alsatian. He is not the show dog,

bred for his good looks and with a small head, leaving no room for brains; he has a wide fine head, an amiable temperament, and a sturdy body. He needs all these characteristics for his anxious work. If some Alsations are bad tempered and treacherous, it is because they have been bred for looks rather than character, and perhaps also because their masters or mistresses have not realised that they are strong working dogs who need exercise—like sturdy human beings—to keep them amiable.

A Friend by his Side

The shepherd dog does not walk in front at the end of a long string, heralding his master's approach. He walks by his side as would a sighted friend. He or she—for the bitch as well as the dog is used—wears a harness carrying a semi-rigid lead, just long enough conveniently to reach the blind man's hand. The substantial nature of this lead enables the sightless walker to feel every movement of his guide. The dog walks by his side, but a few inches ahead of him, and has been taught to allow for the width of the person he is guiding. He will not pass an obstacle or cut a corner so closely as to bump his master. The pair, dog and man, must work together. The commanding intelligence is that of the man who determines his movements having regard to his own knowledge of the route he wishes to take, his own sense of obstacle, and the indications which his dog gives him of what is to be seen.

Not only will the animal guide him round obstacles, but he is taught to "check" immediately a step down or up from the pavement to the road, or *vice versa*, or a flight of stairs or even a ladder across the pavement or an overhanging sign board is approached. When the dog "checks," the man feels his movement through the leather lead, and "checks" also, listening, feeling a little with his foot or with his stick, or in some other way seeking to ascertain what obstacle or danger has caused the dog's hesitation. Dog and man may be seen walking freely and fast along the pavement, until they come to the step down to the road at a corner. The dog will "check," the man's foot will be seen instinctively feeling for the

edge of the kerb, while his head and that of the dog will be inclined towards the oncoming traffic to hear and see if the road is clear. If all seems well to the man he will order his dog to advance, and the pair of them will go forward, unless there is danger in the road.

Avoiding Traffic

This is perhaps the most remarkable thing about the behaviour of the dog; he has been taught to obey his master; it is, of course, fundamental that he should be absolutely obedient, but in this one instance, if there should be coming along the road a motor car, too silent for the master to hear, the dog, in spite of his orders, will disobey, and will sit still on the pavement. If necessary he will pull backwards to resist the effort his master may make to walk into the road, and not until the danger is entirely passed will he obey the order to advance.

One Friend and Master

One of the instructions given to the blinded soldier during his training is that he and he alone is to care for, talk to and caress his dog. It is a point of honour with a man's family and friends not to intervene in this matter, and as a result an extraordinary friendship grows up between man and dog which in itself is a source of great pleasure. This mutual understanding, too, is the basis of all the work that has to be done in common, and therefore has its utilitarian as well as its social value. The dogs appear to be well and happy and seem very keenly to enjoy the friendship with their masters, and their work. They start their training between eighteen months and two years old, and this takes three or four months. They learn first to obey, to come when they are called, to retrieve, to turn to the right or the left on the word of command, to stop, to go forward, and to proceed faster or slower. Then training begins on the road, when the sighted instructor takes the dog out and teaches him how to behave in traffic, round obstacles and so on. At the end of the three or four months period the dog is ready for training with the blind man, and the two then work together for three weeks, at the end of which time dog and man may go home. Thereafter, as the

weeks pass, the two become more closely acquainted with each other, learning the roads commonly traversed for pleasure or business, and eventually the whole neighbourhood in which the blind man lives may be traversed without difficulty or danger. This does not mean that only areas which have been learned in this way can be covered, for many of the blinded soldiers have ventured far afield into strange towns and new country districts.

The dog must be corrected when he makes mistakes, as must all animals, but this does not involve cruelty in any shape or form, nor does the training. The master must use words of reproof when they are needed, and must be lavish in his praise when the dog behaves correctly.

The English View

We at St. Dunstan's, who are responsible for the well-being of British blinded soldiers, have known for some time of these experiments in the use of the dog guide, but I, for one, have till now been a little sceptical about it, and a little unconvinced.

I have just returned from a visit to Lausanne and Berlin, where the work is being conducted, and can fairly say that my mind has been greatly influenced in favour of the dog guide by what I have heard and experienced. In the first place there is the prima facie evidence that some two thousand blind persons in Germany have used these dogs for years and are still using them. And moreover, that the German Government has set up State Schools for their training and provides weekly allowances for their upkeep from State funds. Then I have had the advantage of talks with some of those who manage these schools, who have told me the value of the dogs to the blind men, and of the success of the scheme as a whole. Thirdly, I have had numerous talks with individual German blinded soldiers as well as with some Frenchmen, and I am completely convinced by what they say that the dog is of incalculable value to them and that they would not be without him.

I am of opinion that an experiment should be tried in England. There is one factor which is unknown at present and in regard to which continental experience

gives us no clue—namely, the attitude of the English blinded soldier towards the proposition that he should have a dog guide. He may not receive the idea with an open unprejudiced mind. The desire to disassociate himself in his independent outlook upon life, from the traditional idea of a blind man and his dog, may be very strong. I should have taken this view myself soon after I was blinded, for I can well remember the immense trouble I would take in those early days to try to avoid people noticing that I could not see. This was, I think, partly the desire to behave as normally as possible, and partly a measure of self-defence against the awkwardness caused by the excessive sentimentality of a few of the people whom one used to meet. The passage of time, however, alters one's attitude in these matters a little—at least it has altered mine—and I have long ago become accustomed to the fact that I am blind. While I may still strive to do things normally it does not upset me to be recognised as a blinded soldier, as it used to do. I think perhaps this change of attitude may have been experienced by many of my comrades throughout the country, and now that they have become known and respected in the neighbourhoods in which they live, there will perhaps not be the same objection in their minds to the association with the dog as might have been the case earlier. I picture the blinded soldier walking, upright and confident, with his dog by his side, and his friends who meet him being interested and full of admiration for his and the animal's skill in getting over their very great difficulties.

Getting the Dogs

Trained dogs cannot be imported from the continent, because they have to pass through a period of six months in quarantine, during which they would forget what they had learned, and, moreover, they have all been taught to expect traffic to be on the right-hand side of the road instead of the left. It might be thought that the language difficulty was a serious one, for the Continental dogs hear German, French and Italian. This is not, however, a substantial point, for the dog listens much more to the tone of the voice than

"In Memory"

ABLE-BODIED SEAMAN F. T. BOCOCK

(Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Osborne")

WITH deep regret we have to announce the death of this St. Dunstaner. When Boccock came to St. Dunstan's in 1919, he learnt mat-making and netting, and took a keen interest in his work. He set up a nice little business in Southampton, but was very much hindered by his poor health. He gradually became worse and was advised by the doctor in 1928 to give up his mat-making. His death took place on the 23rd December 1929.

Boccock was buried at St. Mary's Extra Cemetery on the 26th December, and the brief service was conducted by the Rev. Father J. E. Hayes. Numerous beautiful wreaths were received, including one in the form of our badge from Captain Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

We extend our sympathy to his wife and son.

PRIVATE H. A. MANN

(Labour Corps)

We deeply regret to announce the passing of Private Mann, which took place on the 9th December. Although Mann's health was always indifferent, his death was very sudden and came as a great shock to everyone who knew him.

Mann was trained at St. Dunstan's as a basket-maker, and worked up a good connection in Nottingham.

The funeral took place on the 12th December at Carlton Cemetery, and the service at St. Alban's Church was conducted by the Rev. F. Martin. There were many friends and relatives in attendance, and among the numerous wreaths was one in the form of our badge from Captain Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Mann leaves a wife, son and daughter to mourn him.

PRIVATE W. MORRIS

(8th North Staffs.)

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Private Morris. Morris became a St. Dunstaner in 1922, but he did not come to Headquarters for training as he was quite content to remain at home and look after his small general shop with the help of his wife.

He was always troubled with poor health, but never complained, and had a cheery word for everybody. He was taken very ill in November and died on the 21st December 1929.

Morris was buried on the 26th December in Burslem Cemetery. Several relatives and friends attended the funeral, but his wife, who was ill at the time, was unable to be present. Among the number of wreaths was one in the form of our badge, from Captain Fraser and his many comrades at St. Dunstan's.

We extend our sympathy to his wife.

The Quest of Independence—*cont'd from p. 8*
to the words which are spoken to him, and I am told that he would readily obey English commands if the transition from the Continental words to the English was gradual over a period of a week or two.

It seems to be necessary either to import young dogs of the right breed, let them go through their quarantine, and have them trained in England subsequently, or alternatively, find the right kind of dog in England.

I am setting on foot inquiries in this direction forthwith, and after what I have witnessed on the Continent, am hopeful that a limited experiment will show whether or not the dog is likely to be useful and appreciated in this country. If we can bring into the lives of British blinded soldiers, or some of them, part of the pleasure which the foreign soldiers I have met secure from the friendship and use of their dog-guides, the effort will have been well worth while.

News from the Workshops

BOOTS

J. Coupland is experiencing the usual difficulties of a beginner, but has already made a good show at marking and riveting, and is shaping in quite the right way. T. Millington is anxious to gain some knowledge of this work, and has made a very fair start. A. H. Wilson has a good idea of what boot repairing involves, but it will be necessary for him to get into correct methods. D. Driscoll continues to show great interest and always profits by instruction. He seems anxious to make the best of his opportunities. A. L. Isaac is doing useful work. It is necessary, however, for him to realise that a uniform standard should be maintained on all work, whatever its character. The same thing should be borne in mind by J. T. Illingworth, who needs to exercise more care and give consideration to shape and cost of material used. M. Manning is progressing satisfactorily, and evidently intends to make the best use of his training. T. Dickenson seems to be quickening up his work, and has turned out some nice jobs; there is considerable improvement in appearance of his finished jobs.

BASKETS

H. R. Palmer has been doing centre cane barrels, teapot stands and pail baskets, and is gaining experience rapidly. A. E. Strand is now settling down to baskets, and now that he has all day, should advance quickly. During January he has made an all-round improvement.

L. Williams is having better health this term, and has been getting varied experience with corner soiled linens, wastepapers, and some centre-cane work. J. Murray tackled some corner linens before Christmas, and has continued this work with some barrel baskets this term. In common with most men in the shop, R. McClusky did some stools and teapot stands before Christmas, and the general standard reached was good. He is also making a nice job of wastepapers, and seemed to master the border of his square-arm quite quickly. During January, W. J. Markwick did some wastepapers, completed some barrel baskets without assistance which were very good, and also had experience with round soiled linens. F. A. Cole is now full time, and during January got through some useful work on barrels and wastepapers, and tackled square-arms. He is making a general all-round improvement. H. Wignell and B. Quigley have got going thoroughly well on the revision of the whole of their course, making various types of baskets for the purpose of providing themselves with a stock to start with. Their work throughout has been up to a good standard.—W. H. O.

News of St. Dunstaners—*continued from p. 5*

H. J. Fleming, of Becontree, is one of our basket men who manages to keep fairly busy, and the same may be said of S. Goodman, of Luton.

“A pretty good year on the whole,” says G. C. Jackson, of Kingsnorth, looking back over the happenings of 1929.

The combined trades of boots and mats continue to employ J. Ballantyne, of Isleworth; G. Parrick, of East Ham, and A. J. Burtenshaw, of Walthamstow; while J. Lomas, also of the last-mentioned district, is a single craftman (mats), as is M. Hutchinson, of Wood Green.

After-Care Re-unions

NOTTINGHAM MEETING

THERE was a record attendance at the Nottingham Meeting which was held this year at the Elite Café. Nearly one hundred and forty sat down to tea.

Everybody was delighted that Capt. Fraser was able to attend the meeting, and he received a very warm welcome when he got up to make his speech. He dealt very fully with the present policy and the future of St. Dunstan's generally, and paid a warm tribute to Nottingham people for their generosity towards St. Dunstan's. At the end of his speech Capt. Fraser said that he would now call on Mr. Knopp, as he had a very interesting announcement to make.

H. A. Knopp, rising, said:

“Ladies and fellow comrades, before asking Mr. Swain to accept this silver Dunhill table lighter, I should like to thank Miss Gough and Miss Hodgson for their help in enabling us to make this presentation. Collecting the subscriptions was an easy matter compared with choosing what we should give. It was at last ascertained that one of the few things that Mr. Swain did not possess was a cigarette lighter such as I have in front of me at the moment. The lighter is solid silver, engine-turned, and incised with the crest of St. Dunstan's. It bears the inscription: “T. Evelyn Swain. A token of appreciation and esteem from the men at the Nottingham Meeting. November 1929.”

“On behalf of us all I now have the greatest pleasure to handing the lighter to Mr. Swain. The gift, though small in magnitude, carries with it a wealth of good wishes, Sir. It is a token of appreciation from the boys at the Nottingham Meeting, for the efficient, sympathetic, and just way in which you have administered the after-care for so many years. No St. Dunstaner could have a better friend, and we trust that you will use it daily and remember the spirit in which it was given, that is the true spirit of St. Dunstan's.”

Mr. Swain appeared rather overwhelmed

at the honour conferred on him, but returned thanks in a really charming little speech.

After tea Mr. and Mrs. Greenacre of Toc H. gave us some delightful songs, and led the chorus singing, and the Elite Restaurant Band played for dancing. During this time competitions were in full swing.

Our thanks are again due to Miss Phyllis Scott, Commandant, and the members of the British Red Cross Society, Notts. 32., for helping to make the meeting such a success. Their Red Cross uniform looked very pretty, and reminded us of old times at St. Dunstan's.

At Nottingham the thing everyone seems to enjoy most is meeting old friends and having a really good talk. The Reunion this year was a specially cheerful and friendly gathering, and when it became time to go I am sure everybody left wishing the Nottingham Meeting many happy returns of its 9th birthday!

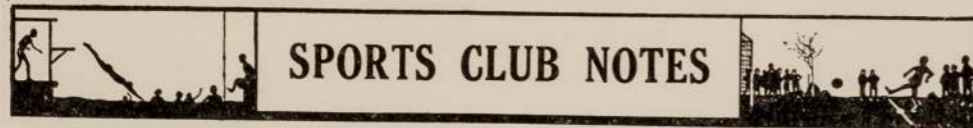
A. H.

[Reports of Leeds, Sheffield and Preston Re-unions will be printed in our next issue.—ED.]

A Domino Champion

By three games to two, J. H. Twigg, of Little Broughton, won the New Year's domino competition at the Thomas Paisley Memorial Institute, Great Broughton, following a fine struggle with his sighted opponent. Naturally enough, Twigg was very heartily congratulated on his victory by the members of the Institute.

We have received from a resident of Bingley a letter expressing high admiration for the work done by F. J. Guiseley; the work particularly referred to is the division of a shop window and the provision of a number of step shelves and stands for display. Our correspondent tells us that it is an exceedingly neat job and a great credit to Guiseley. This is the sort of thing which does good, not only to the St. Dunstaner concerned, but to our organisation as a whole.



Nine Miles Outer Circle Walk

THE Nine Mile Sealed Handicap Walk took place from Headquarters on Saturday, 25th January, and at long last the clerk of the weather was kind and the sun shone upon us. This fact, doubtless, helped to put everybody in a very cheery mood. The lads from Brum were early on the scene, chirpy as usual and loaded with "calendars." The Brighton contingent, looking very fit after their own competition, were full of enthusiasm for the Brighton Football Club. These and the various provincial and London entries made a total of 28, of whom 26 started. It was indeed bad luck for Fallowfield, who had trained hard, to be unable to compete owing to a chill, also Percy Holmes, who was unable to start at the last minute. We had a splendid gathering of escorts, all as keen as mustard to assist anybody. Mr. Ernest Kessell, C.B.E., so well known to all the boys, kindly consented to officiate as starter, and before performing that office had a few words of encouragement for all the competitors. Both sections, T.B. and S.S., were started together; one or two may have thought the distance nine furlongs instead of miles, but they soon "took a pull and came back to their horses" as they say in racing parlance.

On settling down Brown took the lead, followed by Gover, Ashton, Trott, Giles, Quigley and Williams, of the S.S. In the T.B. Section, Riley was followed by Kerr Castle, Boorman, Thompson, Moeller, Lenderyou and Read, and remained in this order at 3 miles. Archie Brown increased his lead, inches only separated Gover from Ashton, Trott seemed to be walking with cool judgment, and Giles has greatly improved. Then came Triggs, who I am sure would do better if he gave up the flat soled shoe and walked with a heeled boot or shoe. Then came Quigley, also greatly improved. The T.B. position hereabouts altered slightly, Billy Riley was still leading and Castle had gone up into second place, followed by Kerr, Boorman, Thomp-

son, Moeller, Lenderyou, Read, Rhodes and Billy Shakespeare. These positions were maintained at six miles. In the last two miles some rare tussels were witnessed. Lenderyou feeling the effects of his recent illness retired. Quigley, Strand and Williams had a B.B. (meaning a Brighton Battle), Roberts eased after showing early promise, meanwhile Brown had won in 79 mins. 56 secs., Gover second 81 mins. 46 secs., Ashton, third 82 mins. 12 secs. In the T.B. section Riley, who had a commanding lead, was retired, this led in Billy Castle, who won from H. Kerr, with Thompson third. Coupland showed great promise for a beginner.

The handicap winners were:—

T.B. *First*.—J. Moeller. *Second*.—F. Rhodes. *Third*.—W. Shakespeare.

S.S. *First*.—B. Quigley. *Second*.—W. Roberts. *Third*.—A. Brown.

PRIZES FOR FASTEST TIME

(Kindly presented by Mr. Parsons, Mr. Binks and Mr. Harris.)

T.B. 1. W. Castle. 2. H. Kerr.

S.S. 1. A. Brown. 2. H. Gover.

An excellent tea was served to a great gathering in the lounge, by Miss Davis and her ever-willing band of helpers. Miss Hamar Greenwood smilingly presented the prizes and had a cheery word for each of the winners and proceeded to thank the officials, escorts and all helpers, and congratulated the competitors on their splendid performances. Mr. Warwick, who officiates as one of our judges, was instrumental in persuading the Edmonton Silver Prize and British Legion Band to come and entertain us. Conducted by Mr. Walter Tyrill, they rendered selections during tea, and some old time choruses were gone through, with everybody joining in real good community style. Then followed dance music for the remainder of a very happy and pleasant evening. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the gentlemen of the splendid band who, in return, promised to pay us another visit on some future occasion.

W. E. T.

RESULTS NINE MILE SEALED HANDICAP OUTER CIRCLE WALK 25th January 1930 T.B.

Name	Escort	Scr. Race	Rd. 1	Rd. 2	Total Time	Hand. Allow.	Hand. Time	Pos. in Hand
W. Castle ..	Mr. Chalk	1	30.27	57.57	87.45	Scr.	87.45	4
H. Kerr ..	„ Dodkins	2	30.21	59.24	91.22	2.30	88.53	5
H. Thompson	Messrs. Webster Smith & Hall	3	30.49	60.27	91.59	1.30	90.29	6
H. Boorman	Mr. Steer	4	30.44	59.55	93.42	2.0	91.42	8
J. Moeller ..	„ Crook	5	31.46	62.9	96.57	10.0	86.57	1
H. B. Read ..	„ Nye	6	32.51	64.27	100.33	10.0	90.33	7
F. Rhodes ..	„ Belchamber	7	33.36	66.35	103.22	16.0	87.22	2
W. Shakespeare	„ Eborall	8	36.35	70.30	107.39	20.0	87.39	3
W. Riley ..	„ Davis							
F. Lenderyou	„ Matthews							

S.S.

A. Brown ..	Mr. Winter	1	26.13	51.4	79.56	Scr.	79.56	3
H. Gover ..	„ Harris	2	27.13	53.5	81.46	1.45	80.1	4
P. Ashton ..	„ Woodyard	3	27.12	53.7	82.12	2.0	80.12	5
W. Trott ..	„ Hind	4	27.25	53.34	83.35	1.45	81.50	8
W. Giles ..	„ Fear	5	28.0	55.25	85.40	4.0	81.40	7
J. Triggs ..	„ Witham	6	28.55	57.25	89.11	6.0	83.11	11
B. Quigley ..	„ Cox	7	30.1	58.36	90.25	12.0	78.25	1
A. Strand ..	„ Birch	8	30.59	59.36	90.36	10.0	80.36	6
R. G. Williams	Messrs. Poke & Jarvis	9	30.14	59.20	92.20	10.30	81.50	8
P. Cashmore	„ McSweeney & Cawte	10	31.42	61.35	92.45	10.0	82.45	10
W. Roberts ..	Mr. Leary	11	30.36	60.20	95.7	15.30	79.37	2
J. Coupland	„ Marlow	12	31.56	62.29	95.53	10.30	85.23	12
T. Gidney ..	„ Bellis	13	32.25	62.55	99.34	9.45	89.49	15
G. Taylor ..	„ Card	14	33.10	66.58	102.35	14.0	88.35	14
J. Whitten ..	„ Willing	15	35.0	68.26	104.57	17.0	87.57	13
J. Mellor	Messrs. Boyce & Williams	16	38.4	75.15	117.59	10.0	107.59	16

15 Mile Outer Circle Walk

The 15 Mile Outer Circle Walk will take place on Saturday, 15th March, starting very punctually at 2.30 p.m. All entries must reach the Sports Office not later than 1st March.

SPORTS POINTS

4TH FEBRUARY			
A. Brown	.. 121	Birchall ..	.. 84
Northgreaves	.. 118	Martin ..	.. 40
W. Scott ..	.. 107	Craigie ..	.. 34
Nichols ..	.. 98	Burran ..	.. 28
Dyer ..	.. 94	Roden ..	.. 22
Taylor ..	.. 93	Gale }	.. 9
Prior ..	.. 85	Winter }	

L. W.

FINEST Sheffield stainless table cutlery. Excellent value at wonderfully low prices. Special terms to shops, agents and club-holders. —Write for particulars to J. C. Robbins, 141 Alicia Gardens, Kenton, Middlesex.

A Strange Coincidence

A very strange and interesting coincidence befell F. G. Richardson recently at Dartford Drill Hall, where he was giving an address on St. Dunstan's work at an entertainment given by the pupils of Our Lady's High School. The Reverend Mother had invited some priests to be present to see the children, and Richardson sat next to her brother. In the course of conversation it transpired that this priest was with Richardson's old regiment before he joined it, and more striking still, that the priest on the other side of Richardson was in the regiment at the same time as our St. Dunstaner. Naturally, Richardson was very delighted at the revelation of these facts.

Births, Marriage and Deaths

Births

BROOKES.—To the wife of W. E. Brookes, of Southampton, on the 17th of January, a son.

COLLEY.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Colley, of Luton, Beds., on 18th December, a son (Robin Marshall).

COX.—To the wife of F. Cox, of Crowthorne, on the 8th of January, a daughter.

DENNISON.—On the 22nd of December 1929, a daughter, to the wife of T. H. Dennison, of Longsdon, Stoke-on-Trent.

EVANS.—On the 15th of January, to the wife of J. Evans, of Walsall, a daughter.

POPPLE.—On the 21st December 1929, to the wife of R. Popple, of Llandebie, Wales, a daughter.

POWER.—On Christmas Day, a daughter (Christina), to the wife of D. Power, of Coalisland, Ireland.

SHIELDS.—On 14th January, to the wife of G. C. Shields, of Rochford, a son.

SHURROCK.—To the wife of W. Shurrock, of Chilton, Oxon, a daughter, on the 5th of December 1929.

SIDA.—To the wife of H. Sida, of Bedhampton, Havant, Hants., a daughter on the 10th of January.

TRIGGS.—On the 6th of January, to the wife of J. Triggs, of Leaden Roding, a baby daughter (Kathleen Annie).

WILKIE.—To the wife of J. Wilkie, of Burton-on-Trent, a son (Robert William), on the 8th of January (see deaths).

A Marriage

WILSON-FIRMAN-GIFFIN.—On the 4th of December 1929, A. Wilson, of Middlesbrough, to Miss Helen Firman-Giffin.

Deaths

This month there is an unusually long list of those who have suffered bereavement. To all we offer sympathy.

BAKER.—To the wife of R. Baker, of Chopwell, who lost her father in October last; the loss is the more severe since he had made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Baker.

BREWER.—To Mrs. E. Brewer, of Bristol, as she has suffered a similar loss.

CLARK.—To Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Clark, of Colchester, who are stricken with grief. Their daughter Christine, aged 19, was killed when riding in a side-car on 2nd January. She was a very great companion to her father, who is feeling the loss keenly.

COLE.—To A. G. Cole of Ilkley, who is overcome by the loss of his wife. She died on the 11th of January, after a short but severe illness. Two days later Cole lost an uncle.

COOKE.—To H. G. Cooke, of Birmingham, who lost his brother on the 13th of January.

FINCH.—To the wife of R. Finch, of Upper Gornal, who lost her father recently.

FORRESTER.—To Mr. L. Forrester, of Glasgow, who has suffered a double loss in the death of his sister and brother-in-law.

HERITAGE.—To W. Heritage, of Banbury, whose father passed away very suddenly on the 21st of December last.

HINDLEY.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Hindley, of Manchester, whose little son Wilfred died on the 23rd January, aged two years.

JOHNSON.—To F. Johnson, of Derby, who lost his brother on 28th December. Mr. Harry Johnson was one of Derby's best known athletes, and he died in Derby Hospital after a very short illness. He was 42 years of age. He was at one time the quarter-mile and half-mile champion of the Midlands, and was in the Derby and County A.C. team which won the Midland Counties Relay Championship in 1912, 1913, 1914 and after the war, in 1919.

LANE.—To A. Lane, of Cardiff, who lost his eldest sister recently.

PERRY.—To Mr. and Mrs. G. Perry, of Wolverhampton, on the loss of their little son Derrick Thomas, on the 10th of January. The baby would have been twelve months old on the 23rd.

[Other notices held over—Ed.]

Men's Anniversary Dance

The Fifteenth Anniversary Dance will be held on Tuesday, the 25th March, from 8 to 11 p.m. at the St. Marylebone Hall, Marylebone Baths, Marylebone Road, N.W.1, admission from 7.30 onwards. St. Dunstaners wishing to attend should apply in the usual way to Matron, Miss Power, for tickets (one escort for each man). It is regretted that children under 14 years of age cannot be admitted.

Netting Notes

January is a month of preparation for our summer orders for fruit, boundary and tennis nets, hammocks and tennis ball bags. We have had a busy time and hope that orders will pour in and the season be better even than last year.

Will the boys please make a special note of the following with regard to rug wool. The word "Turkey" is a registered name and belongs to Messrs. Paton & Baldwin, and in future we must use the word "Turkan" instead of "Turkey."

Work in the netting room at Brighton goes as merrily as ever. We have received the following notes from Miss Morris:—

A. Belcher has overcome the difficulty of working with one arm, and is making a green turkan rug very well.

T. Millington and J. Coupland have just started and are on their first string bag.

R. Robinson and D. Driscoll are making a good start on netting with their single hammocks.

J. Darbinson, S. Thompson and A. H. Wilson have now passed on to boundary netting, which they are doing well.

H. Griffiths is a little more advanced and is now on fruit netting.

Braille Notes

Very many congratulations to B. Quigley, on passing the Braille Reading Test, and to L. Williams on passing the Braille Writing Test.

Typewriting

We heartily congratulate A. Belcher, D. Driscoll, A. H. Wilson and S. Thompson on passing the Typewriting Test.

Brighton News

5-Mile Walk

Saturday, 11th January, witnessed our first Present and After-Care Walk at Brighton, and the weather smiled for the occasion. We had fourteen entrants, whose names and times appear below.

Mr. Harry Preston, the well-known Brighton sportsman, very kindly started the walk and his invigorating personality must have been felt by the competitors who were away like greyhounds. Some hundreds of enthusiastic spectators watched the race from both the upper and lower esplanades and heartily cheered each man.

The four *News of the World* Novices' Medals, presented by Mr. J. Binks, were awarded to R. Wass and R. Warren in the T.B. class and F. Coates and J. Coupland in the S.S. The other prize winners were T.B., C. Molloy, 1st, and fastest time medal; F. Peacock, 2nd, and T. Dickinson, 3rd. S.S., B. Quigley, 1st, and fastest time medal; R. J. Williams, 2nd, and R. McCluskey, 3rd. The walk was followed with great interest by Mrs. Bates and Matron, who did the course by car, and were delighted with the fine show the "Boys" put up.

The handicapping was remarkably well done by Mr. J. Tree and Mr. H. C. Evans, Hon. Secretary of the Sussex County Amateur Athletic Association, some of whose members helped splendidly to train the walkers and escorted them during the walk.

Miss Harris, the Sports Mistress, in a very cheery speech after the tea, congratulated the walkers, and expressed her thanks to all who so kindly gave their interest, time and assistance to making the walk a huge success.

Competitor	H'cap		Actual			
	m.	s.	m.	s.		
1. C. Molloy ..	51	5	0	30	51	35
2. F. Peacock ..	51	26	4	45	56	11
3. T. Dickinson ..	51	30	4	30	56	0
4. R. Wass ..	51	52	2	50	54	42
5. R. Warren ..	52	23	2	30	54	53
6. H. B. Read ..	54	0	Scratch		54	0

Novice Medals—R. Wass and R. Warren.

Competitor	H'cap Time		H'cap		Actual Time	
	m.	s.	m.	s.	m.	s.
1. B. Quigley ..	47	5	1	0	48	5
2. R. J. Williams	47	31	1	0	48	31
3. R. McCluskey..	47	57	4	0	51	57
4. A. E. Strand ..	48	15	0	25	48	39
5. F. Coates ..	48	23	3	30	51	53
6. J. Coupland ..	48	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	0	52	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
7. L. Williams ..	48	54	Scratch		48	54
8. E. G. Daniels	54	2	5	0	59	2

Novice Medals—F. Coates and J. Coupland.

Our next walk will take place at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, 5th April, starting and finishing at Portland Place. It will be open to all St. Dunstaners living in Sussex and to trainees and men spending two weeks or more at the annexe. The distance will be a 9-mile handicap in conjunction with a 5-mile novices scratch walk. All entries to be sent to Sister Morris at Brighton by 22nd March.

The Birmingham Annual Walk

The walk is fixed for Saturday, 12th April, distance 14 miles. Team Race, Scratch Race and Sealed Handicap; entries invited from T.B. or S.S. men from all parts. Anyone wanting to come, and wanting help with arrangements, please write to A. HODGSON, Clopton, Stratford-on-Avon.

Nottingham and District Social Club for St. Dunstaners

The Nottinghamshire Branch of the British Red Cross has most kindly undertaken to organise some social evenings for the local St. Dunstaners. It was decided at the B.R.C.S. Commandant's Meeting to organise three this winter, and if they are successful three or four next winter. Three detachments each undertook a social.

Mrs. Crooks' detachment organised the first of these meetings splendidly. It was held on Tuesday, 4th February, 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. at the Parish Room, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Belgrave Square, off Goldsmith Street, Nottingham. It is only three minutes' walk from the Hippodrome. The room is charming, warm and comfortable, and provided with a piano, chairs, tables and crockery. It was given free with only a small charge for crockery and firing. An excellent tea was provided;

unfortunately there was a good deal over, as we were disappointed in the number who turned up. But let us hope that when it becomes better known you will all make an effort to attend and repay all the trouble being taken. The county director, Col. Jardine, most kindly gave the tea for the first meeting.

After tea there was a dominoes tournament and informal concert and "sing-song." A discussion followed on the best way to carry on a small social club. Those present decided that the subscription for men living in and near Nottingham should be 6d. for their own tea and 6d. for their escorts whenever they attended, but that any men who were sporting enough to pay fares to come from places as far as Derby and Leicester should be admitted free. The V.A.D.'s said they would be willing to give cakes to help with the tea. Mr. Morby is reporting all that happened to the county director. Notices of the next meeting, which will most likely be held in the same room on Tuesday, 25th March, will be sent out from the Red Cross Office. I am giving Mr. Morby a list of men in Nottingham and district. Will those further off who think they might sometimes be able to come, please let me know and I will add their names to the list.

I think we have a unique chance of starting a social club; if it does not succeed it will be our own fault for not backing it up; the Red Cross are willing to do all the work if they get good attendances. Now! troops of the Nottingham area, don't let me down after I have asked the Red Cross to do all this for you! Seven turned up last time, let's have fourteen next time! It's an awful pity not to make use of a splendid opportunity when you get the chance.

Grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Crooks and her detachment for doing all the pioneer work for the first social.

A. HODGSON.

Clopton, Stratford-on-Avon.

The Editor regrets that owing to exceptional pressure on space he has had to hold over a number of articles and news items for the next issue.

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