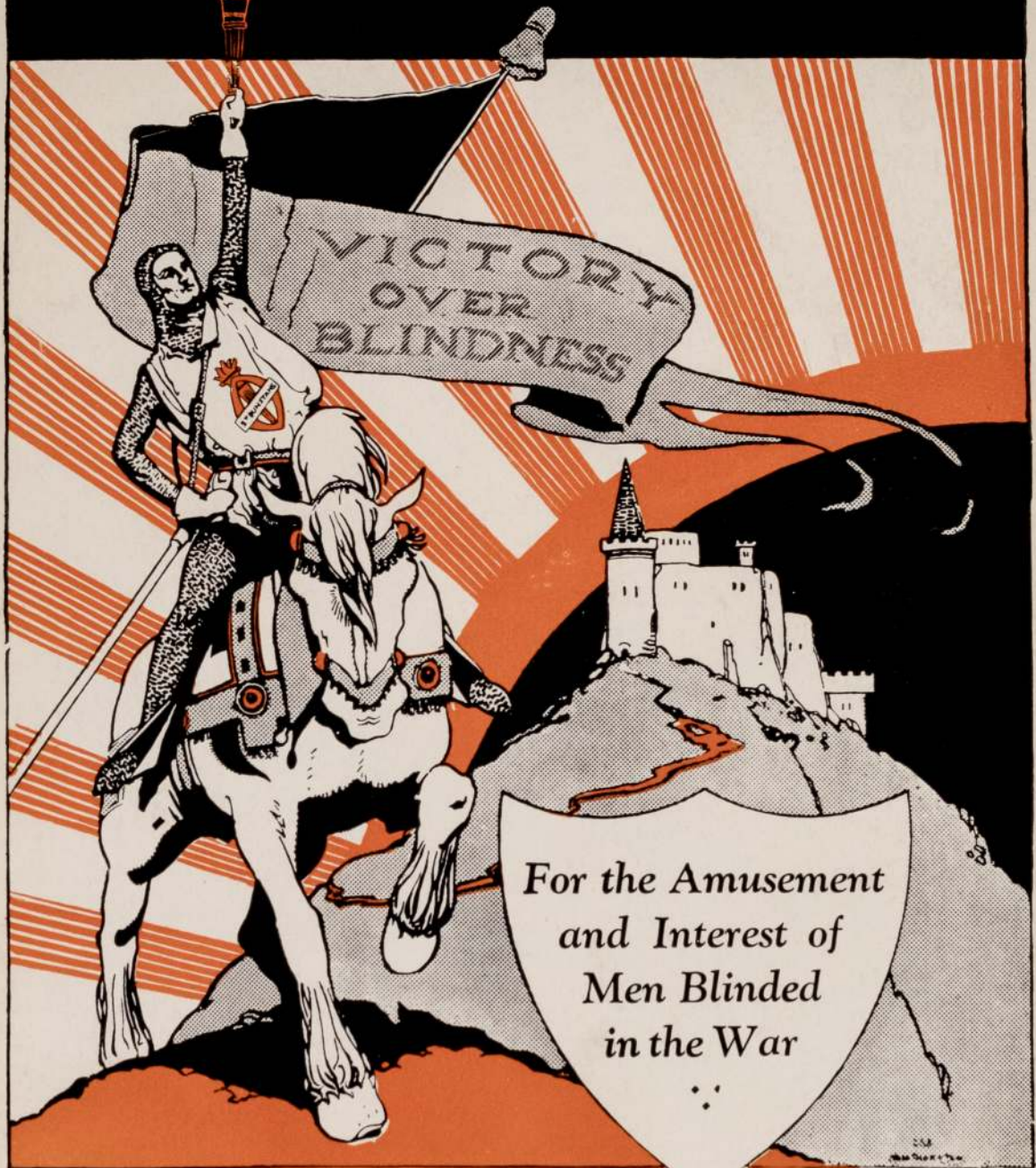


ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW.



For the Amusement
and Interest of
Men Blinded
in the War

Published Monthly

Price 6d.

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

St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

EDITED BY PERRY BARRINGER

No. 151.—VOLUME XIV. [NEW SERIES]

MARCH 1930

PRICE 6d.
(FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN.)

EDITORIAL NOTES

Dog Guides

CAPTAIN FRASER and the Editor have received a number of replies and contributions arising out of the Chairman's article about dog guides. Letters are still being received and accordingly the matter is being delayed. Further reference to it will probably be made next week when we shall print, so far as space permits, summaries of the various comments which have been received.

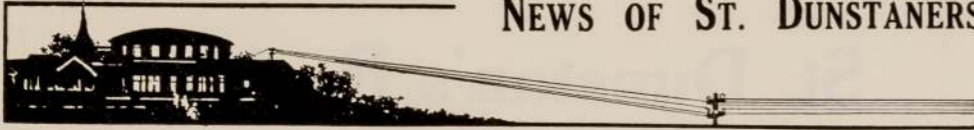
Our Derby Sweepstake

WE have reason to believe that the announcement we make elsewhere of the intention to organise a sweepstake on this year's Derby will be as popular an item as has appeared for a long time in these columns. We are divulging no secret in saying that one of the most regular suggestions we receive for the "improvement" of our little house magazine is that we should run some form or other of sporting competition or sweepstake. Well, here is the chance of our friends to prove that such a competition will justify in results and in popularity the work involved, and for our part, we hope that the amount we shall be able to send to the fortunate winner will be a really substantial one. We would add that in many cases, the suggestion has been made that a proportion of the entrance fees should go to benefit the funds of St. Dunstan's, but the authorities at Headquarters consider that these competitions should be regarded as purely for the amusement and interest of members of our big family.

Frauds on St. Dunstan's

EVERYONE connected with St. Dunstan's, in whatever capacity, is always concerned that the high regard in which our organisation has always been held shall not be jeopardised and yet, as is always the case with a name which has prestige, that of St. Dunstan's is only too frequently used without any authorisation, and often in a manner which might do grave injury to us. Hardly a week passes but Headquarters is notified of unscrupulous persons endeavouring to sell all sorts of rubbishy goods purporting to be made by St. Dunstan's men, or sold in aid of our funds. Even more impudent means are taken to trade upon St. Dunstan's name, and only just recently we asked the police to take action in a case where a woman had gained possession of a St. Dunstan's collecting box, probably by theft, and had been collecting in licensed and private houses "for St. Dunstan's." Many are the forms which this type of fraud takes, and the object of this note is to ask our readers everywhere to help us track these rogues down. St. Dunstaners will very often be told by friends and customers of cases where they have thought they were helping our funds by patronising these house-to-house hawkers. It would help us greatly if as full information as possible were secured at once and notification sent to these Headquarters, when immediate action will be taken to investigate the *bona fides* of the people concerned.

NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS



OUR post bag still contains a goodly number of letters from Overseas men, we are glad to say.

C. F. Hornsby writes from his home in Alberta, Canada, and reports himself as being very busy "both at the office and in the home." He has a larger bungalow now, and more land but it is still within walking distance of the office. He does his six miles daily which is an exceedingly good average and should keep him splendidly fit.

All who remember L. B. Barnum, of Toronto (Canada), will be glad to hear that he has a lovely baby boy. Barnum says that Mrs. Barnum is "just crazy" over him, but we think Barnum himself is equally proud of this fine young son and heir. Barnum is in the best of health and works steadily at baskets realising that now he has given a hostage to fortune there is need to make even better showing than before.

From among our Australians the letter from C. G. Murray, of Kalamunda, near Perth, must have mention. He reports 1929 as having been a very happy and good year. For one thing, he had excellent health. The new year began with a burst of heat; during the first days of January the thermometer registered 108 degrees in the shade—Murray used to find it quite refreshing to read of the cold spell in England. "The Blinded Soldiers' Conference," he writes "was held in Perth this year for the first time, it proved a great success and one of the best of its kind; everyone had a really good time."

Murray has half an acre of garden and finds that it takes most of his time to look after it and this he takes much pleasure in doing. The onions he grew in his back yard were sent up for exhibition as they were remarkably fine. With his letter came a photograph of his home, a charming bungalow (sheltered from the blazing Australia

sun by sun-blinds) set in a flower-filled garden—also, and if last not least, a portrait of Murray's daughter—a pretty girl looking as if she had lots of fun in her, who is now finishing off at a training college where she is mastering such mysteries as shorthand, typewriting and bookkeeping.

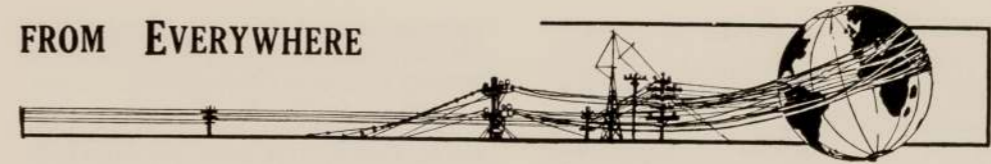
From Quebec comes news of M. Smith, who says that he welcomes the REVIEW because it helps to keep him in touch with St. Dunstan's in which he has never for a moment lost interest. "Some day" he looks forward to coming to England again to see all the old friends, all of whom will be glad to hear that he is well and prospering in his chosen career.

Another of our Canadians who has written lately is E. J. Turner, who is comfortably settled in a cosy house in British Columbia. He has about a quarter of an acre of garden which has kept him very busy since he was eager to get it into good shape before the winter. In Turner's district the land was originally somewhat heavily timbered and when the trees were blasted out chunks of wood and bark were scattered through the soil all of which the gardener has to extract!

The news from E. Nava (Johannesburgh) is less full, but we are able to report that his son is well up to the standard of young St. Dunstaners; his teachers make excellent reports on his school progress and Nava has every reason to be proud of him and confident of his future.

Now to turn to home men:—A. Abram, of Stockport, writes that he is continuing his musical activities. He has carried off first prize at the Hippodrome although quite a number of competitors entered with him. Abram played a clarinet solo amidst "terrific applause" and was presented with a portable gramophone together with a record of his own solo. He

FROM EVERYWHERE



can now put on this record and hear his own success reproduced at will.

Another who has been winning plaudits is C. E. Thomas, of London, who appeared at the Wigmore Hall on the occasion of the 234th Sunday entertainment organised by the Adair Wounded Fund. His fine voice was heard in two songs.

Trade is reviving a little in South Wales and as a result J. H. Ham is receiving quite a number of repair jobs; he seems a very popular man in Taff's Well.

Friends will be glad to know that E. Hughes, of Cwmgwrach, near Neath, has made a good recovery from the sprained arm which prevented him doing his usual Christmas work. Hughes has quite a nice connection of regular customers and the baby is a joy to the household.

A. Lane, of Cardiff, has been most successful with his canaries and intends to send one or two up to the Crystal Palace Show; we hope that the result of the venture will surpass his highest expectations.

The last gale struck the home of F. C. Harris, of Cheltenham, at least sufficiently hard to blow the coping off his roof, whereupon a great many slates followed—still "it might have been worse." His little business is making steady progress, sometimes quite a stream of customers pours his way.

Congratulations to J. B. Hart, of Cathays, Cardiff, in that he has secured his first local order; may it be the beginning of a run of prosperity.

The new home into which A. S. Dolby is settled in Wood Green, is very convenient and he has a garden which promises to be a decided asset when good weather comes.

Hospital work keeps A. J. Caple, of Grangetown (Cardiff) busy and he has had a number of seamen who were injured in the gales as patients. As for private work, Caple has an exceedingly nice treatment room and is ready for anything and everybody. He is very popular particularly among the Scouts being Assistant Scout Master to a troop. For some years past he has gone to camp with these, and on one or two occasions his medical knowledge has been of great use.

Floods have been very bad in certain parts of Glamorganshire and Mountain Ash, where G. Butts lives, has suffered severely. Just before Christmas the water flowed into Butt's house and for several days all the lower rooms held four feet of water. A good deal of clothing and household goods was damaged before rescue was possible.

A terrifying experience has befallen the son of G. Dawson, of Carlton, Newmarket—he was accidentally shot. The bullets caught his chin and jaw bone and the doctor says it was a miracle that a main artery was not pierced. It was a great shock to the family as well as to the boy.

J. Vernon, of Rugeley, is very fit. His garden is in excellent order for the time of year and Vernon boasts that he pulled some remarkable radishes on Christmas Day.

Looking back on 1929, J. Kirkham, of Swanmore, decided that it was an enjoyable year; it brought him a number of motor rides with his brother and friends which he much appreciated.

A large net has been employing the energies of G. Brewer, of Redruth, Cornwall. He is better already since he moved to the new district and is delighted with his house.

News of St. Dunstaners—continued.

C. E. Maker, of Horrabridge, Devon, is now comfortably settled in a delightful Council house which is well fitted up and in a splendid position; he is filled with ideas for the development of the garden which is said to be of very good soil. We wish him bumper crops of everything he sows.

Everyone will be glad to know that W. A. Muggeridge, of Great Bookham, Surrey, feels much stronger than he did. He is thinking of taking up carpentry work in addition to his shop and has made a famous cabinet for a Christmas present for his wife. It is evident that he has a real taste for such a handicraft for he has fitted the cabinet with glass doors and it is noticeably well made.

S. Clarke, of Beenham Green, Reading, has been very busy with private orders and is remarkably well and fit.

Quite a number of local orders for mats and some repair jobs have come the way of F. Handley, of Derby, of late.

As the result of his shows in the summer R. J. Williams, of Southwick, raked in no less than seventy orders. Good business indeed.

A. Taylor, of Lye, is working away as hard and steadily as ever; his clog work is excellent we hear.

A. Hinton, of Newtown, Malvern, is as cheerful and happy as usual. Repairs are coming in fairly regularly.

There is keen competition in Stoke Newington according to T. E. Gidney, but he is fortunate in getting plenty of customers, perhaps because he is careful to keep whatever promises he makes, even if it means working overtime.

W. J. Keen, of Battlewell, near Purton, intends to develop his poultry and pig operations this coming year, with mats as a side line. He made a most unpleasant

discovery a short time back for rats got at his mat material—so incidentally he is waging war upon these rodents.

Domino tournaments have been occupying R. Young, of Glasgow. We hope he is keeping a list of his successes for REVIEW purposes.

D. Ironside is another who goes in for society, he has been to two enjoyable "Burn's Suppers," of late.

Everyone will sympathise with Mr. and Mrs. Cockerill in the run of ill-luck they have had of late. Mrs. Cockerill slipped and fell spraining her arm and shoulder and at the same time two of the children developed chicken pox. To make matters worse these catastrophies occurred just when Cockerill had started his incubators. Life certainly takes a deal of courage.

The braille machine has been interesting W. A. Robinson, of Welby, he finds the manipulation of it quite fascinating and has been devoting himself to a Braille Correspondence Course.

A. Singleton, of Grantham, says that his band is proving very popular; it was booked up for two nights a week all through February.

A. Palfrey advises other St. Dunstaners to encourage their children to go in for scholarships. He has found his own daughter's studies most interesting as she was required to read a number of well-known books. Being particularly intelligent she read these aloud so helping herself to a more sure knowledge and giving her father a good deal of pleasure at one and the same time.

Who owns the most stalwart young son asks R. Eggleton, of Bridgend, Glam.? His boy, aged ten-and-a-half has a chest measurement of 37 inches and takes men's 6's in boots!

One of the busiest of St. Dunstaner-families is surely that of J. Thomas, of Llandow, Cowbridge, S. Wales. He has a

fair number of poultry, Mrs. Thomas runs a tea round and supplies newspapers, and other members of the family look after the cows and supply milk; yet with the variety of callings around him Thomas finds some time for netting. (See also Silver Wedding notices).

It is early in the year to have much in the garden, at least in S. Wales, but R. Warren has quite a good supply of green stuff and is full of plans for the future months; he certainly manages to make his ground wonderfully productive. He still enjoys basket making and takes the greatest pride in all he does.

Another of our basket makers is D. O. Evans, of Llansamlet, Swansea, Glam., and he is fortunate in having a number of local orders at present, some of them being from schools for waste paper baskets. He counts that some of his success is due to the careful manner in which he sent out St. Dunstan's Calendars.

Wool rug making is employing C. Oppery of Bristol; he is working very steadily we hear.

Twelve pairs of boots in for repairs all at once sounds fine. K. J. Howes, of Montrose, must be working up a good connection else such a thing could not be; congratulations to him.

Now for our Irish group:—
J. Boyce, of Belfast, has been doing very well and everything points to his wisdom and courage in branching out as he has done; every year shows a steady increase on the preceding twelve months.

As to J. Goodison, "all the flowers in the garden are lovely!" He continues to receive orders for his mats—indeed one order was for eighteen. Perhaps some of his success comes from the publicity he contrives to get. For instance, at a big bridge drive two of the prizes offered were for mats to be made to the winner's specification by Goodison.

Another who is prospering is S. Holmes

(Belfast). He has got his garden dug over and has just finished an oak cupboard to order which is an excellent piece of work. He has made it with panelled doors to match the furniture in the room in which it is to be placed. We feel confident that it will give great pleasure to its owner.

Brief Notes

A. A. Hughes, of Cheltenham, is working hard with the intent of building up a good local trade in baskets. He has all our good wishes. J. Tindall is in good health but has given up his poultry for the time being at any rate, finding it too much for him.

Both W. Lingard, of Osney Green, Writtle and W. H. Thorpe, are fairly well. G. H. Hawkins, Canock, still faces the world with a bold heart; his poultry and pigs make progress.

J. Robson, of Wooler, is much as usual and takes, as ever, a keen interest in the progress of all St. Dunstaners.

G. Polley, of Elsenham, is very well as is S. H. Bush, of North Harrow; E. J. Burley, of Perranwell, Cornwall, is looking forward to a satisfactory season with his poultry; A. Tanner (another Cornwall St. Dunstaner)—St. Ives—is working very hard and contriving to keep wonderfully well although he devotes very little time to exercise.

H. Wilkins, of Gravesend finds his house and garden leave him little leisure for other work. He has just had a workshop erected and finding much enjoyment in match-lining the inside. It is his intention to take up some form of light woodwork. E. Roberts, of Abergele, is well, happy and busy; R. Edwards (Denbigh) has begun work again although his finger has not quite healed.

Of the Walsall group, J. Evans is well and has been lending cheerful help about the house while his wife was confined; T. W. North is an interested and active member of the British Legion; and G. T. Shaw, like a true St. Dunstaner, is making the best of things—though when the gale

blew down his chimney and he could have no fire in his house for two days, during the worst cold spell, we think even a St. Dunstaner might have been excused had he groused.

J. Thornton, of Camden Town, and A. J. Porter, of Seven Kings, are both among the group of basket makers who are doing fairly well, and F. Scott, of Langley, Bucks, in the same line, has been having quite a lot of local trade of late.

A. Welland, of Bramley, near Guildford, seems to find plenty of repair work to do; W. Chamberlain, aided by his mother, is working hard to make a success of his little business and hoping much since the district is a growing one. Good luck to him.

In the joinery line W. Shute, of Brain-tree, and G. C. Shields, of Rochford, are doing fairly well. The same can be said of A. Keep, of Forest Gate, in connection with mats, while J. Whittingslow, of Kidderminster, is finding poultry continually interesting.

Young St. Dunstaners

Ethel, the daughter of E. Pannifer, of Weaste, Manchester, has been accepted as a student for Warrington Training College, and hopes to start her studies in September. We offer her our congratulations on her success.

Tina, the little daughter of A. P. V. Crook, of Brixton, is a most expert and graceful dancer; her public engagements are invariably followed by good "notices" we hear.

Another possessing the same gift is Doris, daughter of A. C. Rodgers, of Wrexham; she is the leading child dancer in the Wrexham Pantomime which is given every year for charity.

The boys are in the minority this month, but two save the situation. The eldest son of J. Kennedy, of Barnhill, by Dundee, has won a bursary which will take him to Grove Academy for three years—a fine achievement indeed, and the small seven-year old boy belonging to A. H. James, of Harringay, has reached 72 marks out of a possible 76 in his first examination.

Our Guardsmen

We take the following from the *Manchester Daily Dispatch*, and would add the information that the Grenadier referred to is G. H. Richards, of Manchester.

"Gentlemen of the Guards" is not an empty form of address, writes a *Daily Dispatch* reporter who himself served with the Coldstream Guards and last night attended the reunion of the Grenadier Guards, attended by more than 200 of Manchester's tallest men.

The majority of them were recognisable in their mufti as Manchester or Salford policemen, but there was one whose face bore the black marks of a close-burst shell or bomb. He was blind, but a former corporal with the D.C.M., M.M., three Service medals, and Belgian Cross, took him under his care and eased him of the embarrassments of his affliction—as a Gentleman of the Guards.

The sightless Guardsman was quietly happy, and Viscount Gort, V.C., was speaking.

"If there is one man here to-night I would single out for mention, it is . . .," said Viscount Gort. "He was with me at Lange-maark."

That thrilled the 200 of us. The blind hero had heard his name and the tribute paid to him. He sat back quietly. A Gentleman of the Guards.

St. Dunstan's Singers

From H. Gover, of Acton, we have received some interesting notes as to the activities of the St. Dunstan's Singers which, with Miss McCall as instructress and Miss Munroe at the piano, consist, as most of our readers know, of eleven of our men. During the season commencing September last, the party have already given eight concerts in various parts of London, and have two other engagements yet to fulfil. The places already visited are Sevenoaks, Shepherds Bush Baptist Church, Peckham Sunshine Guild for the Blind, the Home for Incurables, Streatham Common, Ealing Town Hall (in aid of Earl Haig's Fund), and Gifford House, Roehampton. Since Christmas, our Singers have visited Dr. Barnardo's Village Home for Girls at Barkin-side, and also have entertained the Pensioners at Chelsea. We congratulate the party and their leaders upon the excellent work they are doing, and the pleasure they are providing in so many quarters.

"St. Dunstan's Review" Derby Sweepstake

On many occasions we have been asked that St. Dunstaners should have their own sweepstake on the Derby, and our readers will be interested to know that we have now been able to arrange for such an event on this year's race. The rules for the sweepstake are set out clearly below, and entrants must conform exactly with them. It must be understood that this competition is solely confined to St. Dunstan's men and their wives, and members of the executive and administrative staff. The draw will be made in the Lounge at St. Dunstan's Headquarters by two T.B. St. Dunstaners, under the supervision of responsible officials of the Headquarters staff, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 28th May.

RULES

1. The price of tickets is 2s. 6d. each.
2. The total amount subscribed will, with the exception of the actual cost of printing and postage involved, be distributed in the following manner:—
50 per cent. to the holder of the ticket which has drawn the winning horse.
20 per cent. to the holder of the ticket which has drawn the second horse.
10 per cent. to the holder of the ticket which has drawn the third horse.
The remaining 20 per cent. will be equally divided among all whose tickets have drawn a horse which actually starts in the race.
3. Applications for tickets can be made at once and will be received up to the first post on Monday, 26th May. All applications must be accompanied by a remittance to the value of the number of tickets required and must be addressed as follows:—

Derby Competition,
c/o "St. Dunstan's Review,"
Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

Tickets will be despatched in rotation and must be produced before payment of prize money is made.

Free Wireless Licenses

The success of Captain Fraser in putting through the bill which gave free wireless licenses to the blind has been far reaching in its effect. When England led the way other countries followed and the privilege is now almost world-wide. The last country to fall into line is Colombo.

It would be very interesting to know exactly how many people have benefited by this effort of "St. Dunstan's M.P."

In humour St. Dunstaners are never found wanting. Here is a case in point. A. Horrell, of Treorchy, was not long since knocked down by a motor 'bus. Sending his claim to the owners of the 'bus, he had a visit from a representative of the insurance company. This is the conversation that took place:

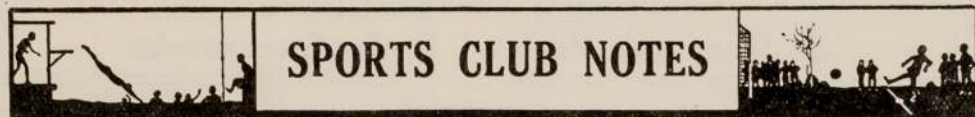
Insurance Agent: "Well, Horrell, and how are you to-day?"

Horrell: "Thank you, sir. I be better than I were, but I'm not as well as I were before I was as bad as I am now."

We are glad to hear that Horrell is now quite fit.

As mentioned in a previous issue of the REVIEW, the father of our St. Dunstaner, T. Till, of Lancaster, has been elected Mayor of that ancient borough. We hear from Mr. Hay, one of our technical visitors, that he and Capstick, one of our mat-makers, received an invitation to the Mayoral reception. They received a very hearty welcome from His Worship, who spoke very highly of the training his son had received at St. Dunstan's. Incidentally Mr. Hay says he was pleased to note that St. Dunstan's-made trays were in evidence during the serving of light refreshments.

C. F. Thompson of Kingston-on-Thames, and his wife have suffered a severe loss by the death of the latter's father, Captain James Rickards. Although over sixty years of age when war broke out, Captain Rickards served during the war in the R.N.R. at Scapa Flow. Mrs. Thompson was, as many of our readers will know, Sister Rickards, who was at the Bungalow in 1918-19.



SPORTS CLUB NOTES

25-Mile Maidenhead Walk

The 25-mile Maidenhead Walk, starting from Maidenhead, is arranged to take place on Saturday 3rd May. I should be glad if all those wishing to enter for this walk would send in their names to me not later than 15th April.

Sports Meeting

The Sports' Meeting will take place in the Lounge at Headquarters on Tuesday, 8th April at 6.45 p.m. to discuss:

1. Summer Sports,
2. Regatta,
3. Shield Competition followed by a dance at 8 p.m.

The Winter Term will end on April 15th, and Summer Sports start in Regent's Park on Tuesday, April 29th.

The Socials for the month of April are:

- April 1st—Miss Lester's Concert Party
 „ 8th—Dance
 „ 15th—Whist Drive

These will end the Winter Socials as after Easter Rowing and Out-door Sports will start, and we shall all look forward to a busy and full gathering on Tuesday evenings during the summer.

The walkers, who have shown great keenness and enthusiasm throughout the winter, will still be training hard for the longer distance at Maidenhead as it is rumoured a record entry is expected this year. I feel sure that they would like a very sincere vote of their appreciation and thanks to go to their escorts who never fail to turn up on sports evenings and are so ever ready and willing to give their help both in training and at the walks.

L.W.

SPORTS POINTS			
4th March			
Brown ..	151	Birchall ..	86
Northgreaves ..	143	Craigie ..	47
Scott ..	138	Martin ..	45
Nichols ..	131	Roden ..	44
Dyer ..	112	Burran ..	28
Taylor ..	110	Gale ..	27
Prior ..	92	Winter ..	15

Who Wants a Cycle Rally?

G. Fallowfield, of 6 Esther Road, Leytonstone, E.11, has always been a very enthusiastic cyclist, and in a recent letter he says:—

"We have had social and sporting events of all kinds which will, no doubt, add to the history of St. Dunstan's. It has occurred to me that there must be enough St. Dunstaners keen on cycling to make it possible to arrange a Cycle Rally somewhere."

The idea strikes us as being quite an interesting one, and we would suggest that those of our readers who would like to take part in such a meeting should get in direct touch with Fallowfield.

From our "Brighton Bruiser!"

Dear Sir,
 With regard to the challenge to a ball punching contest, which appeared in a recent number of the *Review*.

Several sportsmen here are wondering if our vigorous ball-punching exponent would welcome a bare knuckle prize fight to decide the championship of St. Dunstan's. After very careful and considerable consideration I beg to submit for your approval the rules under which such a championship might be decided.

It has been proposed that the bouts should be fought in the sick lounge of St. Dunstan's Annexe, Brighton.

RULES: The contest to be fought under Marquess of Queensbury prize ring rules, scratch as scratch can, weight for age.

HANDICAPS: All users of crutches, artificial arms, cork legs, to be placed under severe handicap, to prevent these articles being used for destructive purposes.

REFEREE: It is hoped that the editor of the *Poultry World*, can be prevailed upon to give his services for this office.

His expert judgment of "fowls" is widely recognised.

TIME KEEPER: For this important office we suggest The Old Bailey Recorder, who is well known for his ability to give "time."

SECONDS: Sixty to the minute.

TRAINERS AND SPARRING PARTNERS: For these necessary services no doubt the lady members of the various pantomime companies now at Brighton, might be willing to oblige.

Hoping that a fistic tournament on these lines will be entirely successful, I remain,

Yours sincerely,
 GEORGE JAMES WHEELER.

St. Dunstan's Annexe.

After-Care Re-unions

SHEFFIELD

It is no exaggeration to attribute the success of the Sheffield Re-union, held on 23rd January, to the manageress of Roberts' Café—Miss M. Lowe—if it is true that to gain the affection of man we must "feed the brute." Not only was there plenty of food but the dishes were in such delicious variety that it was a problem to know where to start or when to finish. To Miss Lowe, too, we are indebted for the gent's first prize in the competition, a wonderful cake weighing over five pounds, beautifully decorated with large deep red almond paste roses. W. Burgin was the lucky winner, and could now tell us more about it no doubt. Other prizes were won by Mrs. Marshall and F. Hemsworth.

Mr. Swain, in his speech, expressed Captain Fraser's great regret that he was unable to be present, as he was in Germany, but he hoped they would have a most enjoyable meeting.

C. Greaves proposed a vote of thanks, and asked Mr. Swain to convey to Captain Fraser, on his return, their thanks and appreciation of the Meeting, and their sincere hopes that he would be able to be present next year. This was seconded by W. Burgin.

Mr. Bert Copley came to cheer us with his amusing songs and stories and when the clock told us it was six we simply couldn't believe it!
 E.E.R.

LEEDS

At the Masonic Hall, Leeds, on Wednesday, 22nd January, we had an influx of visitors, including the Lord Mayor, Councillor Morrison, and the Chief Constable, Mr. Matthews. Then Canon Mitchell and Canon Thompson Elliot (Vicar of Leeds) came along later in the afternoon. Our Leeds Re-unions seem to be gaining in popularity, for I noticed that all these outside friends enjoy themselves as much as we do and come again year after year.

Mr. Wallace Cunningham, assisted by his son, kept us delighted most of the after

noon, for as an entertainer he stands quite alone and his unusual and brilliant entertainment won loud applause. Mr. Harold Harrison—an old friend by now—was the pianist, and in his generous way accompanied the artistes. Sam Wright remembered his 'cello (probably because he was reminded in time) and G. Heeley sang for us—two additional and greatly appreciated items in the programme.

Speech making there was in plenty—almost with a vengeance—and more than one St. Dunstaner won honours as a result for G. Heeley made a splendid response to the Lord Mayor's address and was seconded by A. Turrell (his maiden speech too). After lunch, W. Muir proposed a short, sincerely expressed, vote of confidence in Captain Fraser, and this was seconded by F. Cairns and so with the usual competitions and interviews with Mr. Swain the afternoon came to a happy close all too soon.

PRESTON

A rather smaller number this year made the Preston Re-union at the Bull and Royal Hotel on 31st January, more than ever a "family party," for there were several absentees due to illness and this was our only regret.

An unexpected and very welcome visitor was Mr. E. Kessell, who was in Yorkshire on business and came along to spend a happy hour with us and renew many old friendships.

As at last year's Re-unions, we missed one very familiar and much loved presence, and there were many enquiries for Mr. P. Fairclough and wishes for his recovery.

Mr. Jimmie Worsley came to entertain us, supported by Mr. Turner, whose beautiful baritone voice has given pleasure at so many previous Preston Re-unions. Miss Pettit delighted us all with her violin solos, and J. Walsh is recommended to keep to his present tutor (and Blackpool air) for his voice has improved beyond knowledge and his songs were a welcome addition. We have to thank W. Allen too

for more than one laugh which his after-lunch speech provided, and A. Rogers for the nice way in which he seconded.

There were the usual competitions, and the Meeting ended with three hearty cheers for Mr. Swain.

Hull Re-union is still to come—it being the only Yorkshire Meeting we could leave in abeyance until Captain Fraser could attend. Consequently we are hoping to be rewarded for patience during the interviewing weeks by our Chairman's presence there and hope it will be possible for him to attend all the Yorkshire Re-unions next year.

A Wonderful Family Record

With reference to the mention in a recent issue of the *Review* that Mr. and Mrs. J. Gilbert, of Barnstaple, had celebrated their golden wedding, and have had six sons serving in the war, F. L. Green, of Gosport, sends us the following interesting information. Remarking that Gilbert must be proud of this record, he says that his own parents celebrated their golden wedding on the 23rd September last, both being aged 71 years. They have brought up a family of nine children, namely, eight sons and one daughter. Seven of the eight sons served with various branches of the Forces on land and sea, the father and daughter being engaged in war work also. The eighth and youngest son was then at school. One son was killed in action in France in 1917. The second eldest son was mentioned three times in dispatches whilst serving in Mesopotamia, and was awarded the (Military Order) M.B.E. The same son also holds the "Indian Order of the Sun and Lion," which was presented to him by the Shah of Persia. Green remarks that although it would have been his parents' dearest wish to have all the family united on the unique occasion of their golden wedding, it was impossible owing to the great distances separating them. However, cables were received from Persia, Columbo and New York from the four absent sons. We think it doubtful if any other St. Dunstaner can equal this remarkable family record, although we have in mind one man who can probably give an interesting family history, namely, F. W. Thompson, of Tavistock.

A St. Dunstaner Buffalo

J. R. Brown, of Nuneaton, was the recipient on the 4th inst. of an honour which has given him very great pleasure. This was the presentation to him of a handsome marble clock and ornaments to match, for services rendered to the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, of the Shepperton Lodge of which Brown is a member. The clock is inscribed as follows: "Presented to Bro. J. R. Brown, by the Brothers of the R.A.O.B., Nuneaton, as a token of their appreciation of him as a man, and as a Brother." It was intended that the presentation should be made by Corporal Beasley, V.C., but as he was unable to be present, the Mayor of Nuneaton officiated in his stead. Brown expressed his appreciation of the honour conferred upon him in suitable style, and afterwards Mr. C. T. Earp presented the Lodge with a large framed photograph of our St. Dunstaner. We are sure that all Brown's friends will heartily congratulate him upon the distinction conferred upon him.

Matron at Brighton sends us the following charming verses written by A. V. Law, of Gotherington.

THE INNER VISION

Eyes do not see; yet through that very screen
The soul emerges, clearer vision'd still;
To it—unblindable—appear more green
The wind-stirr'd woods upon the distant hill.

To it—alert, more freshly lie defined
In green and silver, ribbons o'er the mead,
Whence rising 'neath the clouds on April's
[wind,
The nesting pee-wits, sobbing, intercede.

To it—awake, while yet the mind recoups,
More wondrous are the dreams which picture
[sleep;
There is a vine, which heavy-laden, droops;
There is a harvest which the soul may reap.

To it—in spring, the ear it's medium then,
More sweet the lark's, the thrush's notes are
[sung;
Wind-song at dawn, which wakes to song the
[wren,
Waving the willow-trees she dwells among.

To it—undimm'd, God gave that greater light;
And unto it gave memory's control,
Gave us the blessing of that inner sight;
Gave us the windows of the inner soul.

A. V. LAW.

"In Memory"

PRIVATE J. TAYLOR
(Northumberland Fusiliers)

IT is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Private Taylor. This St. Dunstaner was first wounded in 1916 and again in France in 1918, when he lost his sight and was taken prisoner. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1920 and was trained as a basket-maker, at which trade he made excellent progress, and became one of our best craftsmen. After leaving Headquarters, Taylor's health began to fail and he was compelled to give up work, but in 1925 he greatly improved and obtained a post with his old employers at a saw-mills in Bradford. At the end of January, however, he was suddenly taken seriously ill and passed away on the 18th February. Taylor was greatly respected in the district and the sympathy of everyone in the neighbourhood goes out to his mother and family.

The funeral took place on the 21st February and Taylor was buried in the Congregational Graveyard, Idle, Bradford. Among the many friends and relatives who attended were two fellow St. Dunstaners—C. Hutchinson and A. King, both of Bradford. A large number of wreaths were received, including one from Captain Fraser and his many comrades at St. Dunstan's.

PRIVATE H. P. TILL
(Essex Regiment)

We deeply regret to record the death of Private Till, which took place on the 25th January last. Despite his blindness and very poor health, due to war injuries, he worked for some years as an upholsterer with Messrs. Batchelars, of Croydon, where he was very popular. He afterwards became a St. Dunstaner, but was unable to undergo training on account of his health. His sufferings were very great but he would never give in and always had a cheery word for everybody.

Till was buried in Queen's Road Cemetery on the 30th January, and the Rev. Father Hopkins conducted the service at St. Alban's Church. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and there were many beautiful wreaths from various relatives and friends, and also one, in the form of our badge, from Captain Fraser and his many comrades at St. Dunstan's. Till's death was a terrible loss to his mother and we extend our sincere sympathy to her.

Deaths

We have a long list of St. Dunstaners to whom sympathy must be offered this month:—

BARNARD.—To Mr. and Mrs. Barnard in that their baby son, born on the 9th February, barely lived ten days.

RICKARD.—To G. W. Rickard, of Wingrave, Aylesbury, who has just lost his father whom he has been helping to nurse most devotedly for weeks.

BRUCE.—To W. Bruce, of Skipton, who lost his eldest brother on 1st February after an illness lasting six months.

BURNETT.—To W. J. Burnett, of Exeter, whose sister died on the 18th January after a long and painful illness.

FORRESTER.—To Mr. and Mrs. Lundie Forrester, of Maryhill, Glasgow, who have lost their four year old son, Norman. The child died in his mother's arms, peacefully. He had been delicate for over a year.

EGGLETON.—To R. Eggleton, of Bridgend,

Glam., who lost his sister recently after an operation.

McMAHON.—To F. McMahon, of Manchester, whose brother died on the 4th January.

PARKER.—To Mrs. W. G. Parker, of Nottingham, who lost her uncle on the 28th December last. We know that Mrs. Parker feels the loss keenly as she lived with this uncle prior to her marriage.

STIBBLES.—To J. Stibbles, of Pitlochry, Perthshire, who lost his mother on the 12th January.

SUMMERFIELD.—To F. Summerfield, of Northampton, whose mother died on the 6th February.

YOUNG.—To R. Young, of Glasgow, who lost his only sister on the 15th January.

RILEY.—To W. Riley, of Camden Square, who lost his grandfather on the 31st of December (aged 91 years). He was buried at Preston Cemetery on 3rd January.

ROGERS.—To the wife of A. G. Rogers, of Biggleswade, who lost her mother on Christmas Eve. *Continued on page 14*

Brighton News and Notes

We take the following report of a very happy gathering at Brighton from the *Sussex Daily News* of January 14th:—

"Brighton must be notable for its unostentatious Samaritans. A few weeks ago members of several local clubs, by a spontaneous and kindly thought, put their heads together and commenced working quietly but energetically on a certain suggestion. Their efforts have resulted in that project becoming fact, for the band gave at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, yesterday evening, a highly enjoyable treat to a contingent of warriors from St. Dunstan's, Kemp Town.

"The entertainment was the more appreciated because of the thought that prompted it, and because of the generous and noble efforts that had been displayed in its organisation.

"The promoters were purely local individuals who gathered together under the organising banner of Mr. Maurice Woolley. Mr. Woolley, who has been closely supported by Mr. P. W. T. Birch, worked self-sacrificingly, and a visitor to the entertainment would have seen how successful his and his supporters' efforts had been.

"Over fifty invalids (in charge of Sisters Huffan and Baker) sat down to a highly satisfying dinner, and the gathering was increased to nearly a hundred by supporters of the scheme and their friends. Mr. P. W. T. Birch occupied the chair. After dinner, each guest was given a tin of fifty cigarettes, kindly given by Mrs. Leslie Lonsdale, of Hove.

"Then followed a most enjoyable entertainment, sustained by well-known artistes who generously gave their assistance.

"In an interval the chairman, on behalf of the organisers and subscribers to the event, offered a hearty welcome to the guests. Chivalry was not dead, and when the suggestion for the party was put forward there was a wonderful response. 'There are reputed to be 5,000 lonely wives in Brighton,' he observed, 'but thirty of those ladies are very kind, for they have allowed their husbands to remain out a little later to-night' (laughter).

"Regretting the absence of the Mayor of Brighton, who was prevented by other engagements from being present, the speaker read a letter in which his Worship conveyed his best wishes.

"Thanks were expressed by the chairman to the Southdown Motor Company for providing two motor-coaches for the conveyance of the guests, and also to the artistes.

"Mr. C. Molloy spoke on behalf of the men of St. Dunstan's, expressing keen appreciation of the wonderful evening they had enjoyed.

ANOTHER jolly gathering took place on the 5th February when the Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' and Provision Merchants' Association entertained one hundred St. Dunstaner guests to a concert, supper and dance. As President of the Association, Mr. E. C. Parsons gave our men a message of goodwill from the members, and expressed the hope that the entertainment would be but the first of many. He announced some generous gifts including the sum of £28 from Messrs. Lovell & Christmas, £5 5s. from Mr. Stevens, of Beefex, and the presentation of a permanent platform for the use of the Annexe by Mr. Ewart Watson. Mrs. Chadwick Bates, representing Captain Fraser who was then in Berlin, expressed St. Dunstan's thanks to the Grocers' Association for their many kindnesses and she reminded the audience that it was to the Federation of Grocers' Associations that St. Dunstan's owes West House. She called for hearty cheers for the Brighton Association, and for Mr. Parsons, which were given with right good-will. Mr. W. A. Yeoman moved a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Thellusson and her staff, to Mr. Dumbleton and the artists, to the lady helpers, the subscribers, and to Mr. Parsons which were carried with musical honours. The Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton arrived later in the evening from another engagement, and both made a short speech expressing the pleasure it gave them to be present.

A "Cup" Match

Sex equality received an added impetus on the football ground at the Annexe on 14th March, when two teams of Sisters showed the men how the game should be played.

The teams were made up as under:—

Tremblers.

Sister Mason, Sister Pease, Sister Morris, Sister Cohn, Miss Goss and Miss Reynolds.

Captain, Sister Huffom.

Puffjers.

Sister Wildey, Sister Davies, Sister Osmond, Sister Baker, Sister Vivian and Sister Boyd-Rochfort. *Captain,* Mrs. Broughton.

Goalkeeper, Sister Peacock.

Every member of the Annexe, together with friends, was present when Matron, who was *Referee*, started the game at 1.30, to the accompaniment of squeakers, blowers, rattles, bells and every kind of instrument dear to the hearts of football fans.

The ground was decorated with flags, had its turnstile, and prominent among the spectators were an undertaker, a stretcher bearer and a nurse, in fact nothing was left to chance! Every goal scored was greeted with all the discordant noises usual to a great Cup Tie. The costumes worn by the members caused roars of laughter, and would have gladdened the heart of any futurist artist.

The Tremblers won a hard-fought game by seven goals to six. At the finish J. Sheehy, as King of the Cannibals, was introduced to the winning team and presented the Captain with a box of chocolates and an aluminium egg cup.

The game provided one of the funniest hours that we have enjoyed at the Annexe.

OBSERVER.

Netting Notes

We have received the following notes from Miss Morris at Brighton:

T. Millington, J. Coupland, F. Coates and A. Belcher are all getting on very well with their rugs.

D. Driscoll, J. Darbinson, R. Robinson, S. Thompson and A. Wilson are now well on with boundary netting.

W. Phillips has just completed his second string bag.

E. Taggart has started on a short course of netting and H. Griffiths has completed his full course.

Everything is going along merrily in the Netting Room at Raglan Street. We have just completed two very nice orders for golf netting and are now busy preparing good stocks of all our articles for our stall at the Ideal Homes Exhibition which is being held this month, and hope we shall do well there.

H.W.

Our Polka Champion

The management of Sherrys at Brighton have recently been instituting a series of old-fashioned dance competitions, the prizes for each of which were gold cigarette cases valued at ten guineas. We hear that A. E. Clewlow and his partner won the polka competition, and on 12th March last the winners of each of the dances gave a demonstration. Clewlow and his partner received such a great ovation that they were asked to repeat their performance. When presenting Clewlow with his prize, the Mayoress said she would like to dance the polka with him one evening. We may add that Clewlow won a first prize at the Regent Dance Hall for the valeta not long since, so that in his words, he finds dancing not only a nice recreation and exercise, but a profitable one!

In the course of a recent visit to Aberdeen, Countess Haig had a long chat with D. Munro and W. J. Sim, both of Aberdeen. Lady Haig asked Munro if he was very busy and what sort of work he did, and when told that some of his work was on exhibition in the Hall, where she was to attend a war-time concert later in the day, she expressed a wish to see it. Naturally both Munro and Sim are very pleased at this further evidence of her Ladyship's sympathy and interest in St. Dunstan's men and its work generally. A photograph of our men with the Countess appears in the *Aberdeen Press*.

Births

- BAKER.—On the 2nd of February to the wife of T. Baker, of Holloway, a daughter
- BARNARD.—To the wife of H. B. Barnard, of Dalston, a son on the 9th of February. (See Death Column.)
- BILLINGTON.—On 25th of January, to the wife of J. Billington, of Chelmsford, a son.
- BUTLER.—On 1st February, to the wife of C. A. Butler, of Long Eaton, Derbyshire, twin sons. Wife and children are making good progress.
- GREGORY.—To the wife of T. Gregory, of Thetford, Norfolk, a son on the 5th February.
- HINDLEY.—On the 8th February, to the wife of J. Hindley, of Manchester, a daughter.
- STUBBS.—To the wife of J. Stubbs, of Liverpool, a son (Victor).

Christenings

- BROOKES.—The little son of W. E. Brooks, of Southampton, born on the 17th January, has been christened Robert Reginald.
- SHURROCK.—The little daughter of W. Shurrock, born on the 5th January, has been christened Jean.

Silver Weddings

The silver wedding anniversary of G. E. Meakes, of Chelmsford, was celebrated in July last. St. Dunstan's recognised the event in the usual manner.

The silver wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. J. Thomas, of Cowbridge, S. Wales, is to be celebrated on the 30th March. Fine plans are being made for the event and it is expected that quite a large party will gather to offer their congratulations to the family.

DEATHS—continued from page 11

- THOMPSON.—To F. W. Thompson, of Tavistock, Devon, who is heartbroken on the death of his wife.
- WEST.—To the wife of W. T. West, of Minter, Ramsgate, who lost her father (aged 76) on Boxing Day.
- WILCOCKS.—To the wife of E. Wilcocks, of Tottenham, who lost her mother on Christmas Eve.
- WILKIE.—To Mr. and Mrs. Wilkie, of Burton-on-Trent, who lost their baby son Robert William, on the 17th January aged nine days.

Hyde Park Carillon

A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE BLIND
The London *Daily Sketch* and the Hyde Park authorities have offered to arrange a special performance of the famous carillon in Hyde Park, and to invite at least three hundred blind people and their guides. Mr. Shanly, the chair contractor, has offered to supply five hundred seats, and has already subscribed towards the expenses. The probable date would be the Saturday in the last week of April in the early afternoon, but a final announcement will be made later as to this. Meanwhile, St. Dunstaners who would like to attend this interesting performance should let Mrs. Bates know as soon as possible.

Captain Angus Buchanan, the St. Dunstan V.C., presided at the annual dinner of the Coleford Branch of the British Legion at Coleford Town Hall, which about 170 guests attended. Captain Buchanan also presided at the annual dinner of the Coleford Bowling Club, of which he is President. This is one of the many clubs on the town's 72-acre recreation grounds which are known as the Buchanan Recreation Grounds, and which were laid out in recognition of Captain Buchanan's heroism in the Great War.

"A 'Hullo' Man"

The fact that Albert Waite has been put in charge of a switchboard in a London office, has won quite a lot of attention from gentlemen of the Press. *The Belfast Evening Telegraph*, *Reynolds News*, *The Morning Post*, *Evening News*, and *Irish Telegraph* all published brief "interviews" with Waite as a result of his appointment.

J. Sheehy, of Dover, has added to his public responsibilities by permitting himself to be elected chairman of the Dover Branch of the British Legion. Congratulations to him on the honour that has been done him, but we know his value on committees and are not surprised at the recognition that has been accorded him.

FOR SALE

Large Caravan, 22 ft. long, 7 ft. 6 ins. wide. Pullman top, fitted with cooking stove, cupboards, wardrobe. Veranda on full length of front (detachable). Built on motor chassis, easy to move. Cheap, £55.—Apply, W. C. Shaw, 38 High Street, Hucknall, Notts.

The World of the Blind

By PIERRE VILLEY

(Published by Duckworth. Price 7s. 6d.)

A very interesting book on the psychology of the blind has been written by a Frenchman, named Pierre Villey, who is Professor of Literature at the Caen University. The book (which has just been translated into English) won a prize of 5,000 francs as the best recent work on the subject, and has our especial attention because it is dedicated "to the memory of Sir Arthur Pearson."

Monsieur Pierre Villey became blind when he was a small child of four years of age and has made as magnificent a fight as if he had been a St. Dunstaner. He went through school and college brilliantly and then wrote a monumental work on *Montaigne*, which is regarded as a text book, before turning his attention to psychology.

"The World of the Blind" should be invaluable to those who are teaching and training civilian blind, but there are chapters which, for purposes of comparison alone, must interest the war blinded—for instance, when Professor Villey writes of "muscular memory" and describes "the way in which the imagination of the blind man takes possession, as it were, of the place in which he moves about . . . He has within himself a map of the places that he is passing through. All the obstacles, the various ups and downs of the road are marked out on this map. He sees them as a whole, and then takes them one at a time. He watches, as it were, his own image moving from one place to another on this mental photograph."

In another chapter Professor Villey deals with the achievements of many blind people he has known and quotes one blind man who had proved himself a remarkable judge of character by making a study of voices.

"A person," said this student, "may disguise the expression of his or her face in order to deceive others. It is impossible to disguise the expression of the voice, as that informs us with certainty of the qualities of the soul. It is not the face which is the mirror of the soul, but the voice . . ."

Have St. Dunstaners arrived at the same conclusion—and have they learnt, with Helen Keller that a great deal of character is shown by hands? Professor Villey quotes her as saying:—"One of my friends has tenacious, self-willed hands which denote great obstinacy . . . The contact of certain hands hurts. I have met people so absolutely joyless that, when I touched the icy ends of their fingers, it seemed to me like giving my hand to a north-eastern hurricane! There are others whose hands seem to hold sunbeams, so that their contact warms my heart."

Wireless Winners

It will interest all readers of the REVIEW to learn that St. Dunstan's has provided two winners of the wireless sets offered by the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express* respectively in connection with the Radio Week competitions they promoted. A St. Dunstan's officer, Captain V. M. Deane, of Colchester, one of the winners, has, we understand, presented his set to another blind person whom he knew to be a most deserving case. The other winner was William Strachan, of Motherwell, Scotland, who has won a four-valve portable set in the *Daily Express* competition. Strachan entered thinking he might stand a chance of winning one of the prizes offered by this paper specially to blind competitors, but was delighted to find, when the announcement appeared, that he had won the second prize in one of the open competitions.

Half Value—Half Price!

G. Fallowfield, who is at present at the Brighton Annexe, sends us one of his characteristically humorous stories. Whether it is founded on fact we would not venture to say!

The blinded ex-Scots guardsman was making his way along the High Street when the voice of the announcer in front of the cinema proclaimed: "Come and see 'The Broadway Melody'—all music, dancing, singing, laughing and talking. Come and see the most up-to-date talkie."

Jock made his way to the pay-office and put down 4½d. The girl looked at it and then at him and said, "But we have no seats at that price; the cheapest are 9d." "Hoots," said the blinded Scot, "I ha'e only come to listen."

Seeing Life's Humour

[This interesting article is contributed by a St. Dunstaner, who is the telephone switchboard operator at the "M.P." Company's head office. In it he reveals most of our men's philosophy—a philosophy which shows us that a blind man can see many things in life which we are apt to miss.—ED.]

Readers of this journal may have from time to time come into contact with persons who have lost their sight, and I think I am right in stating that the thing that has amazed you most is the very cheerful way in which they accept their loss. It may be that you have asked the question, "Why is it that these persons can see so much humour in life when they are denied the greatest faculty that has been given to man?" I can assure you that it is not because they do not realise the significance of their loss. On the contrary. It is not possible for a sighted person to understand what it means to a blind man, especially one who is in the prime of life, to miss the joys of sport, the wonderful beauty of nature, the museums, and picture galleries, and many other things which are denied to a blind man. I think one main reason for their cheerfulness is because they have accepted perhaps the truest philosophy of life, namely, to take one's lot and to make the best of it.

THE SERIOUS-MINDED ENGLISHMAN

It is not my intention in this article to dwell on the tragic side of blindness. Rather, strange as it may seem, I am going to tell of one or two humorous incidents that have come into my own life. The Englishman has always been characterised as a very serious-minded individual. On many occasions, lately, I have marked to people on the splendid weather we have had for the past few months, and invariably the answer has come back to the effect that we shall suffer for it when the winter comes along. You may have congratulated a friend on the prosperity of his business, and his reply will probably be, "But there is a bad time ahead." I remember the first occasion I came home on leave from France, and one of the first persons who met me said, "Hello, you home? When are you going back?" Why take life too seriously? There is a certain amount of truth in the statement that the greatest difficulties in life are those we never have to meet.

THE ACTOR TRAMPS

Quite a good story came to my knowledge a short while ago of two tramps who were not finding life too easy, so they hit on what they thought to be an original idea, that one of them should pose as a blind man in the next town, and so try to improve their financial position in this way. So the next day one of the tramps carried out the artificial guise of a blind man, his friend

leading him. The end of the day came and their efforts had not been very successful. The tramp who had been acting the part of the blind man throughout the day turned to his pal and said, "It ain't no cop being blind. I'll be deaf and dumb in the next town."

SPORT—AND A LEG-PULL

I have said previously that the joys of sport are denied to a blind man. They are—in so far that they are not able to watch or to play. But on each Saturday afternoon during the winter months, among the football crowds of the many clubs in London you will find quite a party of disabled men, and among this party see a number who represent St. Dunstan's. I can assure all my readers that these men follow the game with intense keenness. Each man usually has an escort, and the latter will from time to time comment on the varying phases of the game. Recollections of my first visit to the Chelsea football ground as a blind man brings back an incident which is always a source of amusement. I was sitting quietly down on my seat in front of the grand stand. The match had not commenced and the band was entertaining the crowd. Presently I got into conversation with my neighbour on my right. He started to describe the position of the ground, how far we were from either goal, and that the ground was quickly filling up. From time to time during the match he described what I thought to be a very good idea of the fortunes of the match. I was not aware, until I had been informed after the match, that my kindly commentator was in the same position as myself. I certainly had my leg pulled that day.

AN IRISH TOUCH

My next little story may seem almost incredible, but nevertheless it is perfectly true. There is a touch of the Irishman about it, but I can assure you the person responsible for the incident was a perfect Cockney. For some three or four years I was employed at one of the wireless firms in London testing earphones. On a particular day and during a break, one of my colleagues was reading a newspaper, and his interest was attracted to some photographs in one of the pages. For some moments he was gazing intently at the photographs and then suddenly exclaimed to me, "Lummy! If you could only see these photographs you'd have your eyesight back."

UNDERSTANDING LIFE

I have endeavoured to show that a blind man's life is not exactly drab. There is plenty of fun and humour in life if we will only look for it. To lose one's sight is a tragedy indeed, but it has its compensations. One of the compensations is that a blind man is able to understand life a little more than the sighted person. In these days when people are so apt to distrust each other, I find that human nature is not as bad as others would have us think.

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