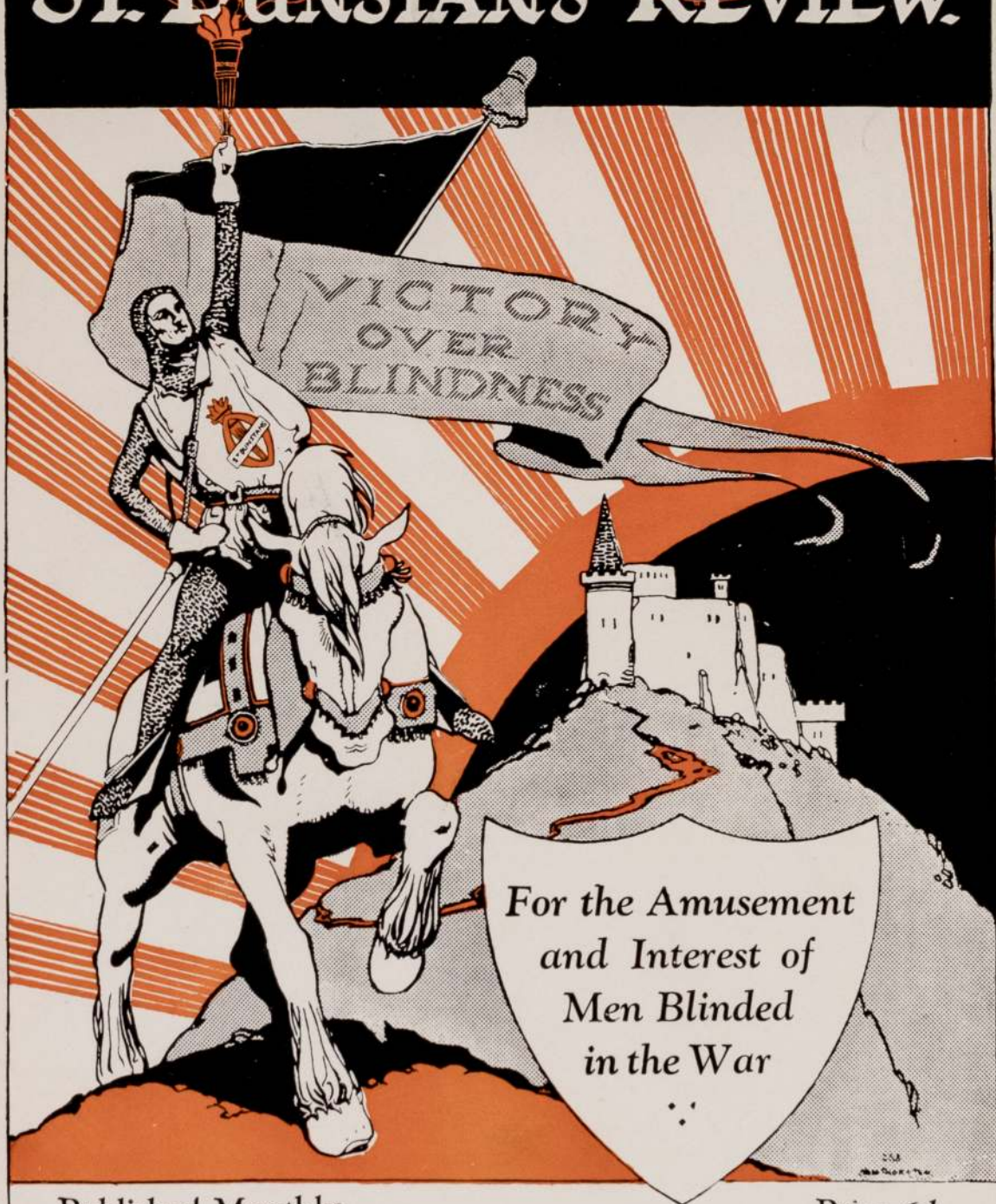


# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW



Published Monthly

Price 6d.

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

# St. Dunstan's Review

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

No. 163.—VOLUME XV. [NEW SERIES]

APRIL 1931.

PRICE 6d.  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN.]

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### An Outstanding Event in the History of the Blind

EVERY St. Dunstaner will await with interest the outcome of the World Conference on Work for the Blind, which is being held in New York at the present moment. Real and thoughtful interest in the blind and their welfare, as apart from a rather sentimental feeling of pity, is a relatively recent development. Certainly voluntary associations have done splendid work in the past, but it is not until we come to the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century that we find the care of the blind looked upon as a thing of national importance. Never before have the nations of the world combined, as they are combining on this occasion, to further the interests of the blind and to examine, with the deepest care and in the greatest detail, what has been done and what still remains to be done in this respect. Every side of the life of the blind will be discussed, each delegate bringing his or her experience to place in the common pool. There is no doubt that much will be drawn out which will be of the most vital importance in the future history of the blind, and that the Conference will forge a bond between the blind of the various countries of the world which will never afterwards be broken. If there is any motto which might be taken as of imperative importance in the world to-day it is "Think internationally." We may be proud that the blind have been among the first to realise this need, and, what is more—to put it actively into practice.

We in England have another cause for pride. When the discussion turns on the work done for the blind in each country to-day it will be seen that the British Empire has, with the United States of America, been foremost in placing the care of the blind in a position of national importance. Much as the British delegates will take from the meetings it is certain that they will receive admiration for the share that they will bring. It is certain, too, that the name of St. Dunstan's will be heard many times while the Conference is on. It is well known that the War, with its aftermath of men who had lost their sight but who were in every respect normal and fitted for a life of wide interests, did much to speed on the work done by the State for the blind. The problem came up in every country which had taken part in the War, but with all due modesty, and with feelings of the deepest gratitude to Sir Arthur Pearson, we may honestly say that St. Dunstan's has made a contribution to the history of the blind which will never be forgotten as long as memory lasts.

## NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS



**J** DEEGAN, of Brixton, is well and doing well at his telephone work. Unknown to him, one of the directors stood behind him while he was working and watched him, and congratulated him on the way he carried on. He said that he had had good reports but had never seen him actually at work before. Deegan gets so many calls on his board from abroad that he is taking lessons in French twice a week.

**J.** Mahoney is very happily settled into his new house, which is very dry and comfortable.

**F.** Williams, of Chiswick, is well and cheery. Mrs. Williams has been at work covering a sofa and chairs in a most professional way. Unluckily, the son has had influenza and has had to stay at home for some days.

**F.** Stratton, of Shirebrook, has been busy lately. Both his wife and daughter have been ill, and Stratton and his two sons have had to do all the housework. Fortunately, they are all three able to turn their hands to most household jobs, so things weren't as bad as they might have been.

**E.** Ling, of Chesterfield, is well and has made a very "posh" cabinet for his wireless set.

**R.** Horner, of Chesterfield, is very well, and exceedingly proud of his first-born, who is a lovely baby. Horner plays the piano well by ear, but is keen on learning to play properly. He is going to try to get Braille books on the subject. It would be interesting to know if any other St. Dunstaner has learned the piano this way.

**P.** Johns, of Chesterfield, is also well, and is putting on weight rapidly. He says it would take him a year to reduce suffi-

ciently to compete in the walks!

**W. E.** Edmonds, of Dunbar, is going along well with his poultry. He has been going to one or two dances lately and has enjoyed them greatly.

**W.** Murray, of Hawick, has been to a dinner, where he was introduced to the Duke of Roxburgh, who showed great interest in him.

**W.** Stedman, of Ancrum, is working hard with his poultry farm, although he was unfortunate with his hens last year. He is very keen on continuing his lessons with the banjo-mandoline, which he started at Brighton.

**T. H.** Scotland, of Lanarkshire, is coming to London shortly for a week-end visit and is looking forward to it eagerly. He is also looking forward to the next Re-union.

**J.** Housden, of Manchester, is happy, in much better health of late, and very interested in his work.

Like many others, **J.** Macauley, of Manchester, is rather worried that trade is not better, but he manages to keep fit and cheery.

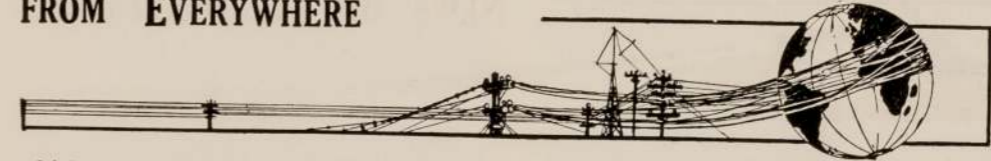
On the other hand, **R.** McCluskey, of Crewe, is so busy that he often has to work in the evenings. His daughter has started a club in the works where she is employed.

**R.** Giffin, of Crewe, is also "very cheery and busy."

**J. H.** Rutter, of Manchester, has had bad luck with his wireless set, which fell off the piano and broke.

**H.** Birley, of Pendleton, Manchester, is hard at it training for the walking race

## FROM EVERYWHERE



which is to be held shortly in Manchester. He is very keen on putting up a good performance.

**W. H.** Byrd, of Bridgwater, Somerset, has moved into a new house and is very pleased with it.

**J. H.** New, of Wolverhampton, is well, and pleased because both his sons, who have been out of work, have found jobs again.

**W.** Shakespeare, of Smethwick, is as cheerful as usual, although his shop is not doing much trade at the moment. As we all know, Shakespeare never loses his interest in sport, and came to London for the 15 mile walking race last month.

**E.** Moss, of Birmingham, is also "quite cheerful as usual," and is very busy putting his new house in order. He had a trying time moving, as the furniture van broke down in the street and they had to change vans.

We hear that **W.** Collins, of Cowes, did well at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition, and has had several orders as a result.

**I. H.** Poole, of Cowes, is feeling much better since he moved, and is finding more work. He has been busy canvassing the island for orders, and the result is very encouraging.

The only daughter of **F. T.** Reynolds, of Cowes, is returning to Canada this month. This is a great sorrow to Reynolds, who is naturally reluctant to part with her.

**J.** Smith, of St. Helens, is much better in health lately and has several local orders on hand.

**E. J.** Thompson, of Letchworth, has

also been very busy since Christmas with local orders. He is trying to sell his house but has not yet succeeded.

**W. H.** Collins, of Baldock, is keeping fairly well and has had a very good winter with his poultry.

**C.** Singleton, of Forest Gate, is very well but finding work slack; **A.** Keep, also of Forest Gate, is doing fairly well with mats; **J.** Fleming, telephonist, of Sudbury, is well and fit; and **A.** Welland, of Guildford, is "always busy."

We were interested to hear that **F. G.** Braithwaite, of Guildford, was on the committee of a dance held in Guildford in aid of St. Dunstan's. This dance is now an annual affair and is always a great success.

Here is good news. **J.** Goodison, of Sandymount, is "up to the neck" in orders. He has had an order from the Nugget Boot Polish Company for half-a-dozen mats, and some orders have also come along to him from the last Donnybrook Fair. He is so busy that he cannot leave his business even for a holiday.

**F.** Marshall, of Hull, is well and flourishing, as is **J. W.** Hopper, also of Hull. Hopper has a splendid new wireless set, on which he can get many foreign stations with no trouble. He is going along well with his work, and has electricity to run everything in his house, including the cooking.

**H. G.** Chafer, of Hull, is another St. Dunstaner who is on the move. He will be in his new house before the REVIEW is in print.

Spring-cleaning is taking place at the home of **W.** Hill, of Hull. Mrs. Hill has been busy decorating and painting, so the spring

**News of St. Dunstaners—continued.**

sunshine will find no dingy corners in this fortunate home.

\*\*\*

A. Urry, of Dunswell, is, as usual, hard at work and very keen on his work for the British Legion. He is still Chairman of the local branch, and is working hard for a social in aid of St. Dunstan's. He and Mrs. Urry have grown some beautiful indoor hyacinths.

\*\*\*

A. E. Coman, of Dunswell, is also working hard for the same Social, and is raffling one of his excellent mats for it. Dunswell is a happy village in the comradeship and mutual work of its St. Dunstaners. Coman is in splendid health and is doing well with his poultry.

\*\*\*

J. W. Whitham, again of Dunswell, is working well. He has been winning all sorts of prizes at tournaments, the last being a luncheon service which he won last month.

\*\*\*

All is well with T. S. Cooper, of Hull, and his family. Cooper is very busy at the office and very interested in his garden.

\*\*\*

T. W. Chamberlain is well and cheerful. He is looking forward to moving to another part of Hull, where more of his pals live.

\*\*\*

D. Hunt, of Highbury, has been very busy playing at Selfridge's store in Holloway.

\*\*\*

F. Hesketh, of Cheltenham, will not be "of Cheltenham" any longer. By the time THE REVIEW is published he will be "of London."

\*\*\*

A. Lane, of N. Devon, is working hard with his poultry farm. Both incubators are in full going, and Lane is hoping for a nice number of chicks. He has been very busy planting all the ground possible; as it has been so wet and the mud so heavy, he has not been able to do much on the land until now. Now he hopes to go well ahead.

H. Blakeley, of North Lew, Devon, has just secured some local orders for mats. As North Lew is such a small place, Blakeley is justly proud of his success.

\*\*\*

A. Anderson, of Forfarshire, has been hard at work making his place look smart. He has put a paling up, and planted some trees to act as a hedge, but boys came and pulled them up. Bad luck, Anderson! He has also had a hard time with snow-storms, the snow lasting once for six weeks on end.

\*\*\*

J. McFarlane, of Dundee, is as keen on reading as ever. He is now reading Dickens. His new little daughter, a few weeks old, is going on well.

\*\*\*

K. J. Howes, of Montrose, is a keen business man. He has been selling a large number of sinnet mats, and has also sold several fibre stools for St. Dunstan's.

\*\*\*

J. Stibbles, of Pitlochry, is another man who has found the snow trying. At Pitlochry they have had snow almost all the time since the New Year.

\*\*\*

F. Marsden, of Blackburn, is very cheerful. He has two hundred chickens out and is up at his runs every morning.

\*\*\*

B. Wood, of Brackley, is well and cheery. Mrs. Wood won a prize a few weeks ago at the Women's Institute for the best grown white hyacinth. Her prize-winning flower was a beauty.

\*\*\*

W. Fitchie, of Preston, is very busy with rugs. His sons have made the garden very attractive and have planted fruit trees, &c. Mrs. Fitchie is very proud of it but is rather concerned at the loss of nearly all her drying ground.

\*\*\*

J. Wood, of Grange-over-Sands, is very busy in his workshop. He has a fair amount of work in and is in the best of spirits. He and Mrs. Wood are very excited about moving into their new house, which is beautifully situated.

\*\*\*

W. Buckle, of Mortlake, has made a splendid work-table for an order.

**News of St. Dunstaners—continued.**

V. Fennel, of Tooting, is very pleased with his new workshop, which has an exceptionally nice appearance from the front.

\*\*\*

F. Mussell, of Charfield, Glos, too, is delighted with his new house and garden.

\*\*\*

S. Worlidge, of Keelby, Lincs, has done wonders with his poultry farm. He has enormous houses, capable of holding a thousand chicks, all made by himself. He has also two big incubators full of eggs. Now he has built himself a garage, and has a motor van which Mrs. Worlidge drives to market. And he has lots of young stock. A really fine effort—one to make St. Dunstan's proud.

\*\*\*

W. A. Robinson, of New Holland, is working well and is very proud of his garden and chickens, and the new trellis work which he put up entirely by himself.

\*\*\*

A. Welton, of Cleethorpes, has a very nice house. Mrs. Welton is at present very busy getting it ready for visitors, and hopes to have a very successful summer season.

\*\*\*

F. Matthewman, of Goole, is doing very well. He has a large number of patients, knows all the doctors, and is thought very well of at the local hospital.

\*\*\*

B. Jarvill, of Thorne, is "very cheery and hard at work."

\*\*\*

P. J. Sparks, of Grimsby, is doing splendidly, with patients coming and going all the time. He is too busy ever to take more than a week's holiday in the year.

\*\*\*

G. Dennis, of Grimsby, has a daughter of whom he is very proud. She is a Red Cross V.A.D. and is in her detachment's team for a special cup. If she is successful in the next contest she will be going up to London for the final. All St. Dunstaners will wish her luck.

\*\*\*

W. Parnell, of Hull, is very pleased with his workshop, and hopes to work up a good connection, with some band work thrown in. He was worried a short time ago by a tank bursting and flooding the place. His

ceilings are still discoloured.

T. Condon's (of Worting) poultry are O.K. He is doing well so far in the Hants County Laying Test.

\*\*\*

J. Boyce, of Belfast, reports that his patients are looking up again and that he is very busy and in good form.

\*\*\*

A. King, of Bradford, sends an interesting letter about his early war experiences. He wants the "boys" to know that his family is in good health and he himself just recovering from the 'flu.

**Young St. Dunstaners**

**W**E have excellent news this month about the children of our little community, in whose doings and welfare we have always so great an interest.

The elder son of T. Condon, of Worting, is a mechanic in the Air Force and is doing well.

The little son, Harry, of H. E. Ollington, of Earlsfield, is going to school now and is very pleased with himself.

The elder boy of T. Dickenson, of Brighton, on the other hand, will be leaving school at the end of July and is very keen on getting a job in the Post Office.

A boy who is winning great praise from his teacher is the little son of G. Gidney, of Islington. He is not yet seven years old, and he is being put into a higher form this term.

The elder boy of G. Hill, of Gloucester, is doing well at his work, and the daughter has gone to work at a cuff and collar factory, where she is getting on nicely.

The two little girls of G. F. Smith, of Stoughton, have kept very fit this winter. The elder has gone up a class at school and is doing very well.

The son and daughter of P. J. Sparkes are also getting on splendidly.

The little son of S. Shields, of Brixton, has a remarkable memory for a child of three. He can also spell his own and his father's name and where he lives.

We have had interesting news about Audrey, the younger daughter of H. Ferrand, of Bradford, who appeared recently for a whole week in a Charity Revue at the Prince's Theatre, Bradford. She took part in the ballet and in other dances.

### Births

**BIRLEY.**—A son, on the 22nd of March, to the wife of H. Birley, of Pendleton, Manchester.

**CHAMBERS.**—To the wife of A. E. Chambers, of Ramsgate, on 17th March, a son.

**HOLMES.**—On the 2nd of April, to the wife of J. G. Holmes, of Harrow, a son.

**HORAN.**—To the wife of E. P. Horan, of Sandymount, Dublin, a son, on the 16th of March.

**McFARLANE.**—To the wife of J. McFarlane, of Dundee, on Sunday, 15th March, a daughter.

**POLLEY.**—On the 13th of March, to the wife of G. Polley, of Stansted, Essex, a daughter.

**WRIGHT.**—On the 6th of March, a daughter to the wife of R. F. Wright, of Winchmore Hill, London.

### Deaths

This month we must offer sympathy to the following:—

**BURDIS.**—To S. Burdis, of Burnley, who lost his father on 18th March.

**FOSTER.**—To J. Foster, of Ore, Hastings, who lost his father on Good Friday, 3rd April, aged ninety.

**FULLER.**—To A. Fuller, of Bedford, who lost his brother at the beginning of April.

**HAUGH.**—To W. Haugh, of Carlisle, who lost his mother, at the age of 61 and after a short illness, on 16th March. She had burned her arm very badly and died from the shock.

**MAYNARD.**—To P. Maynard, of Gamlingay, who lost his little daughter, Vera May, aged one month, on the 17th of March.

**OSMOND.**—To A. Osmond, of Walthamstow, whose mother passed away on the 28th of March.

**POWER.**—To D. Power, of Waterford, whose little daughter Christina, born on the 25th of December 1929, died on the 11th of March.

**TATTON.**—To E. Tatton, of Frampton-on-Severn, who recently lost his mother.

### Wedding

A marriage was celebrated on 26th March between W. Stuart, of Hampstead,

and Miss Margaret J. Solomon, at St. Pancras Registry Office.

### Silver Weddings

**BARRETT.**—E. Barrett and Mrs. Barrett, of Edmonton, celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on the 15th of April.

**HORRELL.**—H. Horrell and Mrs. Horrell, of Treorchy, celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on the 17th of April.

**STRINGER.**—T. Stringer and Mrs. Stringer, of Manchester, celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on the 31st of March.

### A Good Yarn

A. King, of Bradford, sends us the following war-time story:—

The transport officer of the R.M.A. siege guns looked worried. "Look here," he said, "If I have to indent for, say, six iron buckets how do I word it? I have to reverse it, don't I, and ask for Buckets, Iron, Six?" "Quite correct," I replied, "A noun first, then description, then number. But what exactly is your trouble?" "Well," said the T.O., "I've just had the cars of six brass hats put into my charge and I want some big bath sponges to clean them. So I am putting in for Sponges, Bath, Large, Six. That ought to do, don't you think?" "Yes," I replied, "but anyhow, your demand will have to go through a certain office in London where the corps experts will decide what you want."

They did—for out came Six Large Zinc Spongebaths.

### Good Work

J. Butler, of Waterford, has recently been displaying his work at an Industrial Exhibition. Orders for all kinds of baskets, trays, teapot stands, and stools are rolling in. Butler's motto is "Baskets to suit all purses and purposes." The hard work he has put in is getting its reward through these pressing orders.

The *Waterford Evening News* commented on Butler's display and gave him great praise.

## In "Memory"

PRIVATE J. BENNETT  
(A.S.C.)

**A**FTER suffering for many years from bronchial trouble, Bennett developed pneumonia during the 'flu epidemic and died on the 24th March. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1920 and was trained as a mat-maker, but found it impossible to carry on owing to rheumatism in his hands, so he occupied his time with netting. He was always wonderfully cheerful, and spent many hours during the summer months riding his tandem bicycle with one of his sons.

Prior to his removal to Cheltenham seven years ago, Bennett lived for many years in Churchdown, where he was well known and much respected. It was always his wish to be buried there and arrangements were therefore made for the funeral to take place at Churchdown Cemetery on the 27th March. Many relatives and friends were present, and St. Dunstan's was represented by Miss Ayre.

The coffin was covered with the Union Jack and there were numerous beautiful wreaths, among them being one in the form of our badge from Capt. Fraser and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Bennett and her sons and daughters in their loss.

PRIVATE S. GOODWIN  
(Cameronians)

We regret to announce that S. Goodwin passed away on the 19th March. He went down to our Brighton Annexe in December last for a period of convalescence as he had been in poor health for some time, and whilst there took ill with 'flu which turned to pneumonia.

Goodwin was trained as a basket-maker but he gave up this trade in 1926 owing to his indifferent health.

The funeral took place on the 20th March and he was buried in the Brighton and Preston Cemetery. Goodwin's two sisters from Hull were present, also Mrs. Vandeleur, wife of the Colonel Vandeleur who was in charge of Goodwin's regiment during the great war.

Amongst many beautiful wreaths was one from Captain Fraser and his other comrades and a regimental wreath from his regiment—the Cameronians.

FLIGHT OBSERVER N. C. STANISLAUS  
(R.F.C.)

Stanislaus became a St. Dunstaner in 1917, and owing to the state of his health he found it impossible to undergo training. In February 1923 he was admitted to our Brighton Annexe as a permanent invalid, and during the 'flu epidemic this year he developed bronchial pneumonia and passed away on the 13th March.

The funeral took place on the 17th March at Brighton and Preston Cemetery, and was attended by Stanislaus' wife, two daughters and a son. There were many beautiful wreaths received, including one in the form of our badge from Capt. Ian Fraser and his other comrades.

### A Warning

The following extract is taken from a letter received from W. H. Bedford, of Sheffield:

*"I would just like to give you a warning to give to some one who is able to pass it on to all the boys. It is about celluloid eye shades. A man whom I know personally in Sheffield had a sore eye, so he put one on, and was lighting a cigarette when a spark flew on it, and set it on fire, and burnt his eye out, and all round his face. This proves how dangerous they are."*

### A Record?

From a letter from G. Fallowfield, of Leytonstone:—

"I have two daughters, the eldest just turned six years of age. My wife's mother is living, also her grandmother, the latter still very healthy and strong, doing all the housework, &c. This makes four generations, and all the same sex.

"I am wondering if there are any other St. Dunstaners' families included in a four generations—and all same sex—or do we hold the record?"

### World Conference on Work for the Blind

On Thursday, 2nd April, Captain and Mrs. Fraser sailed on the Cunarder liner "Carinthia" from Southampton. They are going to New York to attend a World Conference on work for the blind, to which, as reported in last month's REVIEW, Captain Fraser has been invited as one of the British delegates. The Conference opens on 13th April.

Mr. Ernest Kessell, Treasurer of St. Dunstan's, and Mrs. Kessell were at Southampton to say goodbye to Captain and Mrs. Fraser, and to wish them good luck and a pleasant and interesting time on behalf of all St. Dunstaners.

### A Fine Little St. Dunstaner

This is a letter sent by C. Durkin, of Putney:—

Enclosed please find a cutting from the *Wandsworth Borough News* giving the prize winners at the Huntingfield Road Parents and Teachers' Association 5th Annual Eisteddfod, which was held at the school from 27th February to 12th March. My youngest boy, Charlie, acquitted himself wonderfully, for, although he is only eight years of age, he got three prizes with only three entries. He got 91 marks out of 100 for recitation and only missed first prize by one mark. For reading prose and poetry at sight he got 84 marks out of 100 and tied for 4th prize. Also for performing a short play called "Father Christmas" he and his two pals (a boy and a girl, aged eight and seven respectively) got 86 out of 100 and gained an easy first prize. In the last event the story was Father Christmas getting stuck in the chimney, and my boy with his supposed sister was in bed and got awakened by the noise. The Adjudicator told young Charlie that he was "a born actor." As throughout the whole time the boy had a nasty cold, I am of the opinion that his performance was indeed a magnificent one."

The many St. Dunstaner friends of Durkin will readily agree with him in thinking that.

### An Interesting Appointment

We have been pleased and interested to hear that Captain E. W. J. Hurst has just been elected to the Durham County Council. Captain Hurst was last year a member of the Executive Council of the British Legion.

### Battlefields Tour

THE suggestion has been made that in view of the success of last year's tour of the French and Belgian Battlefields, in which about fifteen St. Dunstaners took part, and an account of which appeared in the October issue of the REVIEW, another tour should be organised this summer.

It is suggested that the tour should be made during the last week in July in order to avoid the August crush.

Last year's tour was restricted to four days, including the journeys from and back to London, and it is thought that a more extended visit of from five to seven days might be generally preferred this year. The cost per head would be probably in the region of £7 for a seven-day visit, and proportionately less for a four or five-day tour.

St. Dunstaners who are interested in the suggestion should communicate at once with the Secretary's office, as it is important that arrangements should be made as far ahead as possible in order to ensure the maximum of comfort combined with the most favourable terms.

Arrangements might possibly be made for subscriptions to be received in advance by weekly or monthly instalments, should such an arrangement prove a convenience.

### Fine Work

H. A. Dakin has always been one of our most energetic workers, both with regard to mat-making and boot repairing. He has regularly canvassed personally for his boot repairs, and this is a very important factor in his success, his customers finding that they are dealing with a very live man. After meeting many difficulties, he has, during the last year, been developing his new business at Herne Hill very methodically, and has quite recently effected improvements in his shop premises, which will, we trust, bring him in the increase of business which he so well deserves.

W. H. O.

FURNISHED APARTMENTS to meet all requirements. Terms moderate.—Mrs. Bailey, Victor Villa, 9 Edith Road, Ramsgate, Kent.

### The Anniversary Dance

THE Sixteenth Anniversary Dance took place on Tuesday, 24th March, at the St. Marylebone Hall. About 250 men were present, each with an escort (or dancing-partner one might say on this occasion). It was a very jolly evening. The band, composed of St. Dunstan's men, played the latest dance tunes vigorously and gaily, keeping perfect time (the first requisite of a dance band), the supper was all that a supper should be when strenuous exercise has just been taken and is shortly to be resumed, and the never-ceasing sound of talk and laughter showed how large a part the chance to gossip with old friends played in making the evening a success. Corporal-Major Tovell played the part of M.C. in his usual cheerily efficient way.

The dance started at 7.30. At 9 o'clock Captain Fraser entered, accompanied by Mrs. Fraser and by the guests of honour, Lady (Arthur) Pearson and General Sir Ian Hamilton. Sir Ian Hamilton, who was greeted with loud applause, made an interesting and amusing speech. After saying how pleased he was to be present, he said that he had often noticed that blind men had the prettiest wives, and this night had made him sure of it. He also, referring to his opinion that a physical disability often made a man more efficient in other respects, told an amusing story of how he had been talking to Lord Oxford, then Mr. Asquith, after he (General Hamilton) had received a wound in his arm at Majuba Hill. He was telling Mr. Asquith his idea that the loss of a limb might be an asset, and remarking that he thought the loss of the use of his own arm had made him a more capable man. "Well," said Mr. Asquith, "You have only to lose all your limbs and perhaps you'll become Prime Minister."

Captain Fraser, proposing a vote of thanks to General Sir Ian Hamilton, mentioned his own forthcoming visit to America, where he had been invited to attend the World Conference on work for the blind as one of the British delegates. He said that when the Conference was ended he and Mrs. Fraser intended to go on to Canada, where they hoped to meet old St. Dunstaners who were now living in that Dominion. They would take to them

the greetings of all their comrades of St. Dunstan's who were still in the Old Country. (Loud cheers.)

Captain Fraser referred to the presence among them that night of Miss Thellusson, the Commandant-Matron of the Brighton Annexe, and also of Sister Goolden, who had taken the position of Sister-in-Charge at Headquarters since the previous dance. He regretted to say that Mr. Swain, the After-Care Manager and the friend of all the men, was absent owing to the serious illness of his father. He then went on to express his pleasure in the presence of the President of St. Dunstan's, Lady Arthur Pearson.

Lady Pearson, who was carrying a beautiful bouquet of flowers, presented to her with a very apt little speech by H. Gover, rose amid great applause and in a delightful speech said how very glad she was to be present. Her son, Sir Neville Pearson, would also have come to the dance, but he was ill.

After the speeches came supper, and then dancing was merrily resumed. Nobody seemed to tire; every dance was vigorously encored; and it was not until close on midnight that the evening came to an end with the playing of "God Save the King."

### White Sticks for the Blind

IN last month's REVIEW a letter was printed from the General Secretary of the National "Safety First" Association, and St. Dunstaners were asked to give their opinions on the question of blind men carrying white sticks. Below are printed extracts from letters which we have received on the subject. Other letters, which arrived too late for publication, will be printed next month.

A. V. Law, of Gotherington, Glos (who incidentally sends us a picture of a very incompetent-looking lady driving a car, and asks what she is to carry to show that she is a danger to all) has sent an extract from a short article written on the subject for a local paper.

*While I am freely alive to the necessity which, owing to the speed and silence of modern traffic, has arisen in this connection, namely, that blind people should carry some signal-mark, may I*

ask, Why a white stick? Why the neutral tint?

In the first place, quite a number of blind men do not carry a stick at all, yet manage, for the most part, to get about without being a nuisance to their fellow-men. We do not wish, ordinarily, to draw attention to ourselves.

For many years the more energetic of us have waged ceaseless war on abnormality among the blind. In this, we have carried no white stick or flag.

In all armies, I suppose, a white flag is available, in case of dire need, but—it is not carried proudly, bannerwise, high and obvious to all the world.

If this white stick should by any chance become law it would plunge us right back where we were twenty years ago, into the realm of "Pity the Poor Blind." This we do not want. Pity is half-sister to contempt; assassin of self-respect.

To the mind of the average man white is a sign of submission, of weakness or disgrace. Have we earned any of these? Have we, in spite of all our efforts, qualified to bear with us, apparent to all our fellows, one of these signs. Sincerely I think and hope not.

In order to help us in our campaign against abnormality, why not give us something to live up to, not down.

For instance, why not a red disc, a gilt star or cross, or a silver star or cross inset in a wide leather strap with a loop at the other end. This could be carried in the pocket, and when the bearer wished to cross a street it could be held suspended from the fingers of the extended hand for a reasonable period before crossing. At least these have the advantage of being hidden, except where their use is desired by the blind person concerned; also they are no encumbrance.

Many of those directly affected by this proposal gave their sight during the War. The white stick, in my judgment, is parallel to the white feather.

We have received the following letter from A. Taylor, of Lye, near Stourbridge:

I heartily agree with Sheehy that we do not need to be made any more conspicuous than we already are. In my opinion, white sticks and red flags are quite unnecessary.

I travel about as much as any average St. Dunstaner, alone, in my own district, which, of course, I am well acquainted with, and during the twelve years I have been sightless I have never experienced any trouble or danger whatsoever. It seems to me that wherever I am I am noticed, and people are always ready to give me any assistance which I may require.

I occasionally travel to Birmingham alone—ten miles away—and have to cross a busy thoroughfare, but so far I have not met with any difficulty. The majority of pedestrians keep their eyes open and are always ready to lend a hand. Fortunately, most of us are still possessed of good hearing, and enough common sense to avoid running into unnecessary dangers. What motorist can you reasonably expect to keep a continual look-out for red badges and white sticks, and when

will the T.B. man be sure that traffic is at a standstill and that it is safe to cross?

Several more letters have been received, some on one side, some on the other. J. Lavell, of S. Wales, who agrees that something is needed to help blinded men in crowded areas, thinks that most aid would be given by a white glove. He says:—

In my opinion it should be law for a blind person to have the same privilege as a policeman in this respect, by being able to wear a white glove and to use it to hold traffic up when he wishes to cross a street. Also he could use it when he wishes to be recognised by sighted persons when walking along the pavement. He could keep it in his pocket and use it just when it was necessary. I think something is necessary to prevent accidents in many ways.

On the other hand, we have G. Egan-Smith, of Lincoln, who says:—

I find no difficulty in getting about; main roads and dangerous crossings are never attempted without the aid of a sighted person. I find they are always willing and eager to help and that there is no difficulty in obtaining assistance in an unobtrusive manner. Therefore you will readily understand that I am quite against the use of white sticks or for that matter any other unnatural device.

Another St. Dunstaner who is against the "Safety First" proposal is J. H. Mellor, of Croydon, who writes:—

With regard to the "Safety First" discussion, the suggestions so far seem to be dogs, special codes of signals, white sticks and red badges. Honestly, are these suggestions meant to be taken seriously or have they been put forward merely for the sake of raising a discussion? Dogs definitely belong to Victorian days when blind men walked considerable distances because they had no means of conveyance. The other three suggestions are merely humorous.

There is a simple method of obtaining the assistance we require, and one, moreover, which has been in general use for longer than any of us can remember personally by ninety per cent. at least of blind persons in this country, whether civilians or St. Dunstaners. I refer to the wearing of dark glasses. These are unostentatious because they are so well known and at the same time they are unmistakable. Many others wear them in the summer, but no one would ever mistake them for blind people.

I have come daily from Croydon alone to London for the last two years, and my route in London is by no means the same each day. I have never had to wait longer than a few seconds at any crossing, and so far as my inquiries go, this experience is that of the majority. Where, therefore, is the sense or use of trying to change a safe and perfectly satisfactory system?

And again on the other side, F. W. Bull, of Cheddar, Somerset, who says:—

I might say that I find that wearing dark glasses and the St. Dunstan's badge has been quite enough for me up to the present. But, of course, every blind person does not wear dark glasses, and that is where white sticks would be useful. I should be quite willing to have a white stick, providing, that is, the majority wished it.

These are all interesting letters and show that St. Dunstaners do not think this an empty discussion. Before any comment is made on them, we should like to hear still more opinions. Remember the subject was started because of a letter received from the Secretary of the National "Safety First" Association, and we are asking for letters so that we can send a considered and well-backed reply. Therefore send in all letters, please, as soon as THE REVIEW is out, so that the next number is not held up for the insertion of late copy.

## A Gay Evening

(Taken from the *Sussex Daily News*)  
THANKS to the generosity of a number of local business men, practically all the patients of St. Dunstan's Home, Brighton, were entertained to a dinner and concert at the Grand Hotel, on 12th March. This jolly function was first introduced by the Cheerful Sparrows many years ago; but for the past two years the expense has been borne by individual gentlemen, most of whom are members of that Society, and the way in which the men enjoyed themselves must have been ample reward to the organizers. About 70 of the patients were present, and despite their affliction they were all obviously in the best of spirits. They were conveyed to and from the hotel in two of the latest luxury Southdown coaches.

During the meal delightful selections were rendered by the Grand Hotel Orchestra, and in addition to a liberal distribution of cigars, each man was given a packet of 50 cigarettes. The community singing which followed was of a whole-hearted character.

Among the guests were the Mayoress of Brighton (Mrs. Sidney C. Thompson) and Councillor H. G. W. Bishop.

### A HEARTY WELCOME

Mr. Maurice Woolley, who was in the

chair, extended a hearty welcome to "the boys" on behalf of all his friends who had helped to arrange that function. Unfortunately, Mr. Kessell, the Treasurer of St. Dunstan's, had been unable to get down from London. The Matron of the Brighton Home (Miss A. Thellusson) was forced by duty to remain at the Home, but although the absence of Miss Thellusson was greatly lamented, a great compensation was received in Miss Boyd-Rochford and her most efficient aide-de-camp, Miss Davies, being present. Among those he specially thanked for contributing towards the success of the event were Mrs. Lonsdale, who again provided the cigarettes; their old friend, Major Maitland, who had given cigars; Mr. F. J. Mantell, of the Southdown Motor Services, Ltd.; Mr. Sidney Smith, the Manager of the Grand Hotel, who, as usual, had shown his willingness to do anything for "the boys," and the staff; and last, but by no means least, the artists, many of whom had given up earning their living to be present.

### "I WILL SUCCEED"

The Mayoress, in a happily-worded little speech, declared it was not the first time she had had the pleasure of meeting them, and she hoped it would not be the last during her year of office. Finally, she quoted the following verse:—

Just think to yourself, "I will succeed!"  
And every day do some good deed.

Trust in your friends, and let this be your creed,

Say to yourself, "I will succeed!"

Mrs. Lonsdale stated her hopes were realised when she was invited to attend again, because it was always a great joy to her to be among such a splendid lot of fellows.

### EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

Mr. L. Hunt expressed his sincere thanks to the organizers on behalf of his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Mr. T. T. Birch, who acted as toastmaster, proposed a vote of thanks to their Chairman and Mr. Ferdi Jones, their Hon. Secretary. Among those who had supported and assisted them in every way were all classes, including solicitors, ex-Army officers, jewellers, engineers, com-

mercial travellers, provision merchants and licensed victuallers. He was sure they realised that without someone to take the reins they could not possibly carry on.

Hearty cheers and musical honours were accorded Mr. Woolley and Mr. Jones.

Responding, Mr. Jones said the organisers realised what sacrifices the men of St. Dunstan's had made for them, and if their little efforts brought happiness, that was their reward. He hoped that was only the forerunner of many similar functions.

The delightful concert which followed was contributed to by Kitty Willett, Reg Alderton, W. Lane, Molly Browne, W. S. Willman, and Cyril Leslie, with Mr. Leslie Browne acting as accompanist.

### The N.I.B. Competition

WE are continually receiving letters in connection with the competition announced in the February REVIEW from men who wish their contributions to be sent in for them from Headquarters. This, of course, is not possible. Below is printed a list of rules for the competition, together with the address to which entries should be sent. Any contribution which has found its way to Headquarters will be returned.

Mr. Frank Whitaker, Acting Editor of the famous "John o' London's Weekly," who has exceptional experience in Literary Competitions of all kinds, has very kindly consented to act as Judge.

The Rules for both Classes A and B are as follows:—

1.—Lyrics may be on any subject or be in any metrical form, but should contain not less than 12 lines or more than 24 lines.

2.—Essays may be on any subject, but should not exceed 1,000 words in length.

3.—Reviews should not exceed 500 words in length and should be of any one of the following books:—

For Class A Competitors.—"Inimitable Leaves," by P. C. Wodehouse; "Fortitude," by Hugh Walpole; and "The Key Above the Door," by M. Walsh.

For Class B Competitors.—"Kim," by Rudyard Kipling; "Typhoon," by Joseph Conrad; and "The Three Hostages," by

John Buchan.

All these books are obtainable in Braille either on loan from the National Library for the Blind and other libraries or by purchase from the National Institute for the Blind. "The Key above the Door," by M. Walsh, is published by the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Craigmillar Park, Edinburgh.

4.—Competitors can enter for one subject or all subjects in the class to which their age entitles them to enter, but only one effort may be submitted in each subject.

5.—Full name, age and postal address must be given at the head of the first page of the Lyric, Essay or Review submitted.

6.—Entries may be handwritten, typewritten or in Braille, but great care should be taken to secure legibility and correctness of phraseology, spelling and punctuation. The lines of lyrics should not run on, either in script or in Braille, but each line should begin on a new line of writing.

7.—All attempts must be in the English language, but the Competition is open to certified blind people of all nationalities.

8.—Each attempt must be the unaided work of the competitor and no Lyric, Essay or Review which has been published in Braille or Letterpress may be submitted.

9.—All entries should be addressed to the General Editor, "Literary Competition," National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, England.

10.—All entries must reach this address by the 30th June 1931.

11.—The National Institute for the Blind reserves the right of printing any entry in its own periodicals and of granting permission to reprint in other periodicals.

R. Stone, of The Island, Grand Redoubt, Dymchurch, opened a tea garden on Good Friday, and will be continuing to serve teas and refreshments and mineral waters through the summer months. Ladies' cloakroom and wash and brush up twopence; car park sixpence; camping ground, visitors to fetch their own tents, five shillings a week. Lovely sands, good view, and beautiful sea air. Two miles from Hythe and two miles and a half from Dymchurch. On the main road. Two minutes walk from sea.

### Brighton News

ALTHOUGH the weather was not at all kind over Easter, it did not affect the high spirits of the large party which came to stay at the annexe for change and relaxation from the daily routine of office work and the various occupations which keep a large percentage of our men employed in and around London. There was plenty of cards, dominoes, music and singing and dancing; in fact, there was not a dull moment during the whole of the holiday. A jolly little jazz on Thursday evening set the ball rolling. Friday being wet, indoor amusements were resorted to. Saturday the sun came out in all its glory and enabled us to spend the morning outside, whilst in the afternoon there were theatres, football and walks, everybody being catered for. There was also a delightful outing in the shape of a drive to Plumpton Races. The conditions were ideal; the hot rays of the sun were tempered by a refreshing breeze which blew from the west, over the Sussex Downs, making one feel the joy of life, even when any horse but the one we had backed was shouted home, but strange to say most of our boys had slightly the better of the argument with the "layers." In the evening we had a domino drive, for which there were several money prizes, cigarettes and handsome ties.

Sunday, there being plenty of talent in the house, a first-class concert was arranged, every artist being well and deservedly encored.

The big dance on Monday night was a great success. Commencing at eight o'clock, dancing continued until nine-thirty, when an excellent supper was served in the dining-room. After the interval, there was a Lucky Spot Dance, the first prize of a £1 note and writing case being won by Mr. and Mrs. Higginson, and the second a box of cigarettes and sweets, by W. Nicholls and Miss Johnson. Our old friend, Mr. "H.," presented the prizes and, when called upon for a speech, created much laughter with his ready wit. Everybody then joined in singing "For he's a jolly good Fellow," and cheers were given for Captain

and Mrs. Fraser and Matron. Dancing continued until eleven o'clock, when the singing of God Save the King rang down the curtain on Easter 1931.

### Items of interest among the Joiners

D. IRONSIDE, of Clyde Bank, is to take an early holiday which will extend for six months and involve a trip to America on a visit to his brother.

J. W. Birchall, of Chadwell Heath, has been making extensive alterations to his house, including the replacing of a modern register stove with an oak mantelpiece, cupboards, &c. The mantelpiece is his own work and does him great credit. The cupboard is not yet finished, but promises to be quite as good. Mrs. Birchall is a successful polisher and is responsible for the splendid finish given to his work.

T. W. Blackman, of Market Harborough, is very happily situated with a workshop in the middle of a very nice paddock, surrounded with trees. He is as happy as the birds that sing about him and is most successful as a maker of dumbwaiters and bedtrays.

A. H. Billingham, of Northampton, is now established in his new shop situated in the yard at the back of his house. He has been most successful in making loud speakers with oak cabinets and a base to a china cupboard. He has sold a few of the loud speakers and has several other orders in view. His workmanship is of a high quality, and Mrs. Billingham is able to put the finishing touches on the work by her skill as a polisher.

W. Brogan is another happy St. Dunstaner and possesses a lovely home in Cambridge with an extensive garden, in which several fruit trees have been planted. His workshop at the end of the garden is pleasantly situated and provides him with ample accommodation for his tray-making.

W. Tout, of Exeter, with his two merry little girls, is a happy and industrious man and enjoying his work as a joiner. He excels as a maker of gong stands, bedtables, and dumbwaiters. His workmanship is of excellent quality, and Mrs. Tout is just as good with the polishing.



## After-Care Reunion

### READING

ANOTHER happy Re-Union has come and gone. At Reading on Thursday, 19th March, old and some very young St. Dunstaners assembled at the Central Cafe. It was a pleasing feature of the occasion to meet so many old friends and members of the staff, including "Auntie," Miss Warren, Miss Lloyd, Miss Bamberger, Miss Davis, and our Social Visitor, Miss Staddon, and last, but not least, Mrs. George.

One can imagine the mixed nature of the conversation, and now and again one could hear "just imagine he has gone and done it!" By the time tea was served it had been definitely established that our After-Care Superintendent had joined the matrimonial circle. How it would be received at the tea table and the manner in which it would be expressed was awaited with some anxiety, especially by Mr. Swain.

D. Maclean, of Brimpton, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Swain for his encouraging message, said that on one occasion he would be unusual in this respect at any rate. He wished to congratulate Mrs. Swain on her choice of what he nearly described as a model husband, but he would refrain from using that term, as he was reminded of a case where it was used, and the wife, as soon as she reached home, turned to the dictionary and found to her indignation that the term "model" meant an imitation of the real thing!

The vote of thanks was seconded by D. Vine, of Ewhurst. Mr. Swain received the congratulations and best wishes from all present in real good style. There was some breezy Scotch music and dancing followed.

Winners of competitions were as follows: Ladies.—1st, Mrs. Luker; 2nd, Mrs. Smith.

Men.—1st, H. Abbey; 2nd, J. T. Rouse. D. M.

### Braille Notes

Very many congratulations to T. Duncan on passing the Braille Reading Test. M. H. R.

## An interesting Event at Dunswell

The Annual Whist Drive and Dance in aid of St. Dunstan's took place at Dunswell on Friday, 20th March, and was a great success, dancing being kept up to a late hour.

The first prize for Whist was won by A. Coulson, of Witherwick, and a special prize for Dominoes being won by A. Coman of Dunswell, one of the promoters.

Prizes and raffles were presented by A. Coman, C. Temperton, J. Witham, and A. Urry, all of Dunswell, and these were much appreciated.

Miss H. K. L. Pease came over to present the prizes to the lucky winners, and A. Urry acted as M.C.

A sum of £10 15s. 6d. was realised.

### Typewriting Notes

We heartily congratulate the following men on passing the Typewriting Test:—W. E. Freeman, T. McAlonan, T. Duncan, W. H. Lacey, E. A. Harrison, W. Haslam.

### "Out of the Mouths"

MOST St. Dunstaners are the fathers of children. They know what quaint sayings come "out of the mouths of babes and sucklings," in what a topsyturvy way their little minds often seem to work. Following is a list of "howlers" perpetrated by children and compiled by Mr. Cecil Hunt, who says that "most of the most delightful and amazing ones are genuine, and often the actual examination paper has been sent for inspection." We should always be pleased, by the way, to print any amusing story sent to us by St. Dunstaners about their children. The more we know about one another's children the more like one big family we shall seem.

Who said, "See that thou fall not out by the way"?—Elisha to Elijah when the latter went up to Heaven in a chariot.

A miracle is something that mother doesn't understand.

St. Andrew is the patent saint of Scotland. The patent saint of England is the Union Jack.

What did David mean when he said he was glad to be a door-keeper? He meant he was glad he was a doorkeeper because then he could walk about outside while the sermon was being preached.

Magna Carta provided that no free man should be hanged twice for the same offence.

Our country has a King who can't do anything but what he ought to.

Gorilla warfare means when the sides get up to monkey tricks.

The father of the famous Black Prince in English History was Old King Cole.

The floral emblem of England is a rose, and of Wales an onion.

The Duke of Marlborough was a great general who always commenced every battle with a fixed determination in his mind to win or lose.

Napoleon's men were cannibals because they existed on raw recruits.

On Empire Day we think of King George killing a large dragon.

Scotland is quite a nice place and the people have no shoes.

The reason why you see the smoke out of a gun before the noise is because the smoke comes out of the gun before the noise.

The chief industry of Ireland is fighting.

What does a bat do in winter? It splits if you don't oil it.

The pig is not pretty, nor is he good-tempered, but he is like some of us. Although we are not pretty we are sometimes useful, and so it is with the poor pig.

Pigsties should be cleaned regularly and disinfected. We have another life to look forward to, but animals have not, and it is our duty to make them as comfortable as

possible.

K.C.B.: King's Colonial Butcher.

The Rule of the Road is always to look before you walk in front of tram-cars.

When roused the British lion becomes a very hard nut to crack.

Gooseberries are grapes with hairs on.

### A Visit

G. Rickard, of Wingrave, paid a visit to the stores at the end of March, and we were extremely pleased to see him looking so fit and well. He carries on very regularly with his mats, maintaining a good standard of work. A friend of his, who has a butcher's shop, says he is the only one who can turn their sausage machine with satisfaction, and this is a weekly job.

### Sports Club Notes

#### GENERAL SPORTS POINTS

J. Coupland ..	80	W. Lacey ..	64
W. Haslem ..	88	R. Wass ..	59
T. McGuire ..	86	T. Duncan ..	58
J. Yuill ..	80	T. Warren ..	45
F. Martin ..	78	J. McCarthy ..	43

#### FOOTBALL CUP WINNERS

##### The Spurs

W. H. Lacey	T. McCarthy
T. Duncan	F. Martin (Capt.)

##### RUNNERS UP

##### The Lindfields

R. Berry	N. Rand
W. E. Freeman (Capt.)	W. Gay
W. Haslem	

#### FINAL-LEAGUE TABLE

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Spurs ..	20	10	5	5	108	86	24
Lindfields ..	20	9	7	4	90	85	22
Rochforts ..	20	8	8	4	104	103	20
Kemptowns ..	20	5	12	3	63	86	13

#### HIGHEST GOAL SCORER

##### T.B. S.S.

W. H. Lacey ..	17	J. Coupland ..	29
----------------	----	----------------	----

During the term there has been very keen competition, and nobody could tell until very near the end which team were going to be top notchers. W. Lacy has been kicking very well and is a worthy winner of the medal for T.B. J. Coupland has out-kicked his opponents and comes out on top a good winner.

### The Two Minutes' Silence

The death took place recently of a man who must be of interest to all St. Dunstaners—although probably they either do not know his name or else never associate it with the event with which it should be associated. The man referred to is Sir James Percy FitzPatrick, the first proposer of the Two Minutes' Silence on Armistice Day.

Many persons had claimed to have made the suggestion which led to the adoption of the Silence, and it was only in November last that the mystery was finally solved.

A letter was sent from Lord Stamfordham to Sir Percy assuring him that "the King ever gratefully remembers that the idea of the two minutes' silence was due to your initiation." Sir Percy, while in London, had made the suggestion to Viscount Milner, formerly Colonel Secretary and High Commissioner for South Africa, who put it before the authorities.

The publication of this letter, of course, silenced all the other claimants of the honour, and it is Sir Percy's name which will always be remembered and esteemed in this connection.

Sir Percy FitzPatrick's life had been full of interest and adventure. He was a South African, born at King William's Town, Cape Province, but he was educated at Bath in England, and only returned to South Africa when he was twenty-two. In 1891 he accompanied the expedition which Lord Randolph Churchill made to Mashonaland. He was in the thick of the movement which led to the overthrow of Kruger in the Transvaal, the South African War, and the ultimate establishment of the Union. He was entirely against a resort to arms, but when war came he rendered loyal support to the Imperial Light Horse during the whole of the campaign.

### Conjuring for the Blind

We print below the account written by Fred Gower, the well-known Magician, of the performance which he gave to St. Dunstaners at Brighton. The article is taken from *Pearson's Weekly*.

Since then Mr. Gower has given a very

much appreciated performance at a sports meeting at Headquarters.

#### HOW I GAVE A DEMONSTRATION OF MAGIC TO A SIGHTLESS AUDIENCE

By FRED GOWER

It seems ridiculous to think of giving a conjuring performance before a blind audience. Yet recently I conjured before a group of St. Dunstan's men at Brighton, who, despite their sightless eyes, were a keen and enthusiastic audience.

The arrangements, of course, needed a lot of working out, and much of my apparatus, such as cards and discs, was Braille.

In the front row there was a referee, who could see, and who noted and checked every action and movement of mine. He was at liberty to call out and stop the demonstration if he suspected any trickery or required a fuller explanation of any point.

For the first item, four sightless men came on to the stage. Each was given six cards from a new pack of Braille cards, and asked to select one.

All the cards were returned to the pack, well shuffled, and then handed to the first man, who *spelt* out the name of his selected card, and, stopping at the last letter of the word, turned up the correct one. The pack was then handed to the other three in turn, with the same satisfactory result.

Next, an unknown card was placed in an envelope, which was then sealed up. A borrowed coin was spun—and checked by the referee. The audience fixed on heads for red, and tails for black, and thus the colour of the card was determined. The suit was also decided by the spinning of the coin.

Then thirteen numbered Braille discs were placed in a bag, shaken, and one drawn out. The envelope, on being opened, was found to contain the card thus eliminated.

A "spiritualistic experiment" followed this. Four inverted tumblers were placed on a card table. A glass shelf was used to cover them. Then two cardboard tubes—duly examined and pronounced quite "innocent" by my sightless audience—were placed on this shelf.

A little soft music was played to conjure up the spirits, after which two men—who had been holding my wrists—and myself approached the table, lifted the tubes and disclosed several messages—and a bottle of whisky!

This was duly sampled and pronounced O.K. Needless to say, this "spirit visitation" was hopefully encored.

Despite the misgivings of my critics, who said the men would not be interested, the entertainment was a huge success. Even those who did not take an active part seemed to have a clear mental picture of all that went on.

#### GOOD IDEA!

"Say, Bill, what are you on strike for?"  
 "Shorter hours, mate."  
 "Good! I've always thought sixty minutes too long."

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