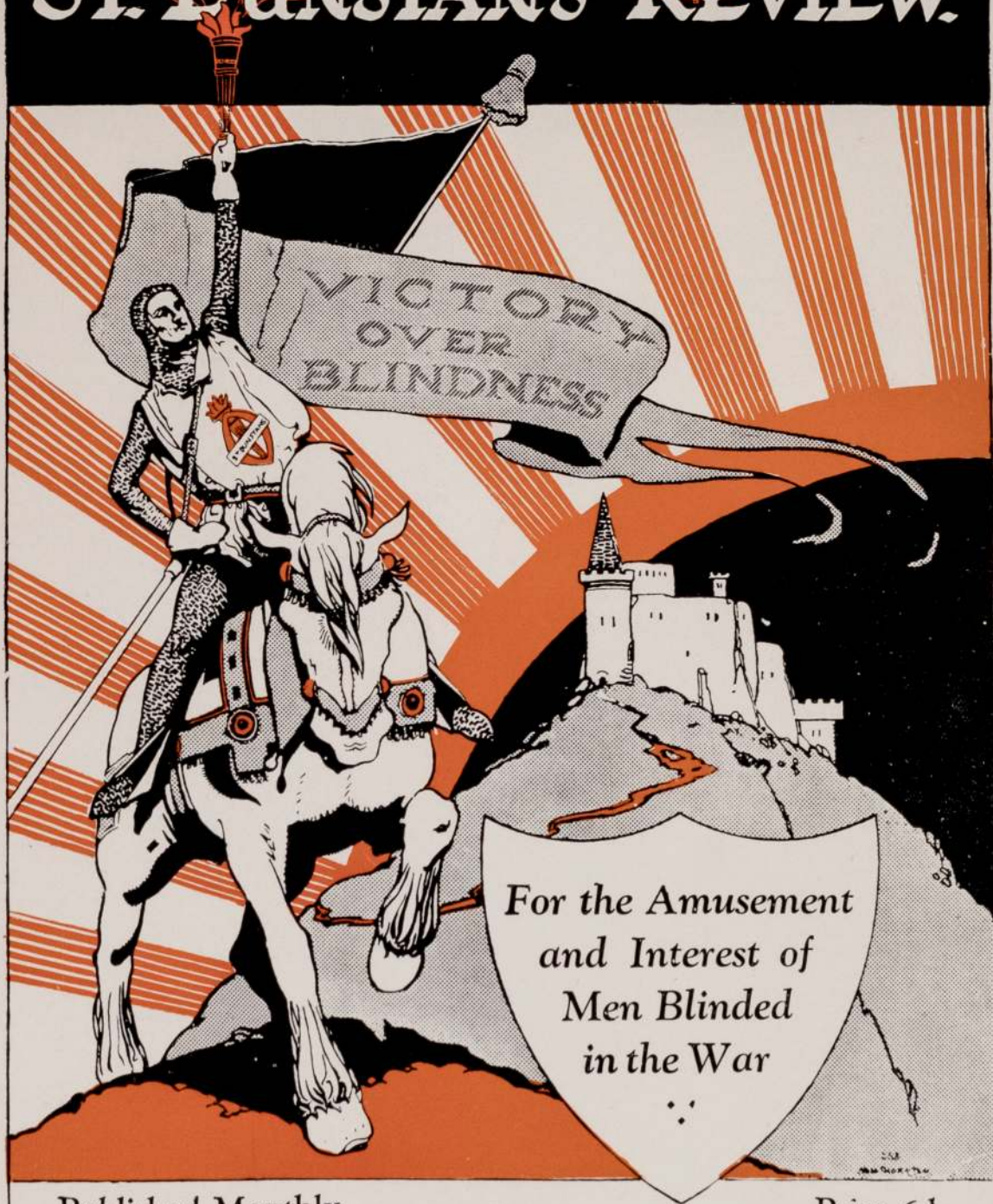


# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW



Published Monthly

Price 6d.

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

A MONTHLY RECORD OF WORK AND SPORT

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

## THE EDITOR SAYS—

I HAVE just been making a good start to the New Year by reading the first numbers printed of the "St. Dunstan's Review." In fact, I found myself so deeply interested that I did not stop until I had finished the 1916 issues and had dipped into several of 1917 and 1918. It was like reading a history book in little. First there were long lists of men newly come to St. Dunstan's; then tales of their work, their sports, and their jokes while they were training; often a notice of their marriage; and then news of their leaving and settling into their own homes; followed by extracts from letters showing how they were faring in their new lives. I may truthfully say that I have rarely read anything which interested me as much. No old numbers of school or college magazines could give one the same feeling, because there when the members of one generation leave they do really break away, making way for a new generation; whereas once a St. Dunstan—always a St. Dunstan. The men whose doings are chronicled in the "Review" to-day are in many cases the same men who provided news in the far-away war and just post-war days. They are older now, bread-winners and fathers of families; they have learned to live successfully in the world of the sighted as in those days they learned to live successfully among their blinded comrades. But I receive letters to-day from the same men who wrote to the first Editor of the "Review." Shall I say, "Editors may come and go but St. Dunstaners go on for ever?"

Changes strike one, of course. The motto of St. Dunstan's, for instance, was until the middle of 1919, "What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve about." Then it altered to Sir Arthur Pearson's world-famous phrase, "Victory over Blindness." Even the spelling of the name "St. Dunstaner," which started off by possessing two "n's" (after a heated discussion as to whether "St. Dunstanite," "St. Dunstaner," or "St. Dunster" should be used) finished by losing one of them.

But by far the biggest change is the amount of space in the "Review" taken by the men themselves in those days and these. Then one could not turn a page without coming upon some contribution sent in by a St. Dunstan—a story, a poem, a joke. Now one can sometimes look through the whole "Review" without finding a single effort made by a St. Dunstaner himself to help towards the interests and vitality of his own magazine.

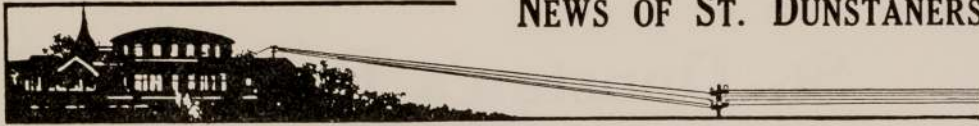
Yet St. Dunstaners are more adept at typewriting now than they were in the early days of St. Dunstan's. They are now living varied lives in every part of Great Britain and the Colonies instead of dwelling together in one building. They ought to have more to say through the columns of the "Review" to their fellow St. Dunstaners than they had when they could meet and talk to their comrades every day.

Perhaps St. Dunstaners will give me the answer to that question. Perhaps instead they will make a New Year Resolution—not for a month, as most Resolutions are made, but for the whole of the next twelve months—to take their part in the running of the "Review." On the front page of the first numbers I see that there always appeared the words, "Contributors, the Staff and the Boys." Will you all help throughout 1932 to make it possible to put those words back in the same place?

*And a very happy New Year to you all.*



## NEWS OF ST. DUNSTANERS



"QUIET, of course, but very pleasant" seems to be the general verdict of St. Dunstaners on their Christmas. May 1932 prove to be "the best year ever" for all our readers.

W. E. Glanville, of Cardiff, had a splendid time at the Reunion, which happened to be the first he had attended, and has already made up his mind not to miss next year's meeting on any account.

We are very sorry to learn that the youngest child of R. Popple, of Llandebie, met with rather a serious accident a few weeks back. She overbalanced into a bath of boiling water. Luckily, Mrs. Popple applied oil almost directly, before even calling the doctor, and the little girl is now going along favourably.

R. Meader, of Llangadock, has had bad luck lately with his poultry, several birds dying without any apparent cause. He still manages to keep cheerful, however, and certainly looks very fit.

Improvising on the piano is a favourite occupation of E. Brewer, of Bristol, one of whose sons is also very musical.

A. Smith, of West Hartlepool, is as usual very busy, as also is Mrs. Smith, who is a Parish Councillor, President of the Women's Institute, and Librarian of the local Library. They are both also members of a Whist Club, so that their time is fully occupied.

R. Humble, of Howden-on-Tyne, is very well, and keenly interested in the business of selling St. Dunstan's goods. A Christmas Club proved very popular.

H. Nelson, of Durham, has had some wonderful chrysanthemum blooms this season.

Once again influenza has been taking its toll of St. Dunstaners and their families. F. C. Fleetwood, of West Dulwich, and his wife were both ill at the same time, and Fleetwood has only recently been able to return to work again after an absence of three weeks.

Her friends will be sorry to learn that Mrs. Young, wife of H. W. Young, of Putney, had a bad fall in the street the other day when her instep gave way suddenly. She was very bruised and shaken, but although she has not yet recovered from the shock, she is her usual cheery self and insists upon making light of her injuries. The Youngs' eldest son was married on Christmas Day.

A splendid card table which folds up has just been finished by J. Ridley, of Finchley, the green baize being put on by Mrs. Ridley.

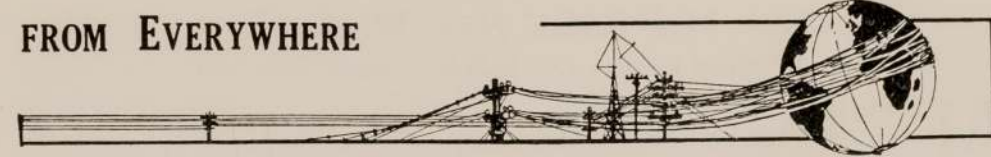
A. Crook, of Brixton, is very well and cheery, and C. Fennel, of Tooting, looks and feels much better for his stay at Brighton.

A. Doyle, of Finchley, is another enterprising shop-keeper. Just before Christmas he had the ingenious idea of filling St. Dunstan's trays with chocolates, and making his window look most attractive with them. Several orders have come along as a result, to say nothing of the publicity given to St. Dunstan's-made goods.

"Very fit and cheerful" is the report from A. Allen, of Stoke-on-Trent, and C. A. Biggs, of Dudley.

E. Roberts, of Abergele, is very well and has been busy singing at local contests. His little daughter, aged eleven, has inherited his musical talent, and has already passed two examinations in pianoforte.

## FROM EVERYWHERE



Furthermore, she has just been awarded a scholarship to the County School.

A. Hargreaves, of Accrington, has been helping his father-in-law on a farm, and says that the work seems to suit him very well.

C. Ross, of Padiham, and B. Purseglove, of Oswaldtwistle, are as cheerful as ever and all is well, too, with F. W. Brooker, of Brighton, who thoroughly enjoys the programme he receives from a Brighton relay station.

A. J. Cole, of Southampton, enjoyed demonstrating mat-making in Shanklin recently, and says that everyone was most kind and helpful.

An unexpected Christmas rush from a factory where he used to work kept H. B. Read, of Brighton, extremely busy just before the holiday, and we are also glad to learn that he is feeling much better in himself.

T. Eaton, of Southwick, very much enjoys his singing engagements, of which he has had quite a number lately. He also is keeping fairly well.

E. Parnell, of Kessingland, and his family are very happy in their new house. It is in a very pleasant position on a cliff.

F. Ashworth, of Gorleston, and his family are very well indeed, and have had a fairly good season with baskets considering the prevailing trade depression.

Influenza claimed another victim in J. Macfarlane, of Queen's Park, who was forced to be away from work for a week. He has, however, quite recovered now.

At the time of writing, W. W. Clarke, of South Bermondsey, is also getting over a sharp attack of 'flu.

W. Bower, of Troway, is going along contentedly, and is keenly looking forward to meeting some of his old friends at the Sheffield Reunion.

That cheery optimist, A. Oldfield, of Walkley, Sheffield, is carrying on as busily as ever. All his family are fit and well—the eldest seems to be growing up particularly fast.

It is splendid to hear from H. Smy, of Yoxford, that he has had a very good season with his poultry, and that he is feeling so much better.

H. Northgreaves, of South Croydon, is working very successfully at his job (telephony) and is a popular member of the staff.

A fine display of St. Dunstan's goods has been made by G. Phillips, of Enfield. The articles are arranged most tastefully and many friends who have never realised that St. Dunstaners produce such a wide range of goods are not only buying but are also interesting their friends in the work.

Wireless is the hobby of J. Levett, of Worthing, who is kept busy looking after the sets he installed some time ago for the Worthing civilian blind.

The news of our Irish group is brief this month. J. Brockerton, of Coleraine, and J. Davidson, of Kilrea, are in their usual good form, and S. Holmes and H. McAteer, of Belfast, are fit and still hard at work.



## Mrs. Bates' New Work

Great Britain's Loss is South Africa's Gain

MRS. E. M. CHADWICK BATES, O.B.E., who has been Secretary of St. Dunstan's since the very beginning, has resigned her office, and has been appointed Secretary and Organiser of the South African Committee of St. Dunstan's.

It will be remembered that Mrs. Bates went to South Africa for St. Dunstan's Executive Council some time ago, in order to carry on St. Dunstan's work in South Africa after the resignation of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Vintcent, who had been Chairman and Honorary Secretary respectively to our South African Committee, and who had for so many years done such wonderful work for St. Dunstan's Imperial objects, and for our South African comrades.

Originally Mrs. Bates went out with the intention of taking over the work which Mr. and Mrs. Vintcent desired to give up owing to Mr. Vintcent's ill-health, and of setting up a new Committee of prominent South Africans to carry on. She was expected to be away some months, and then to return to her post as Secretary of the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's. The work in South Africa of organising collections, and of after-care for the men and their families kept Mrs. Bates very busy, and the additional responsibility of consulting many various interests in different parts of the country—which is vast—and of securing the names of suitable representative ladies and gentlemen to serve on a South African National Committee for St. Dunstan's, took a great deal longer than was anticipated. Recently, however, a Committee was set up, whose members are well known and of high reputation in South Africa, under the Chairmanship of Brig.-General the Hon. J. J. Byron, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.P. This Committee has asked Mrs. Bates to remain in South Africa as its Secretary and Organiser, and she has expressed a wish to do this. St. Dunstan's Council do not wish to lose Mrs. Bates' services, and men and staff alike will regret her leaving the work in Great Britain, but duty and inclination have called her to undertake the very

important work of sole responsibility under the South African Committee for St. Dunstan's interests in that great continent, and all her friends will wish her good luck and success. South Africa's gain is Great Britain's loss from the personal point of view, although the parent organisation in London will continue to benefit materially by having its South African affairs in such capable hands.

The Editor of the "Review" has asked Mr. Kessell, who was Mrs. Bates' colleague since the first days of St. Dunstan's, to write something about these earlier times, and about the magnificent part Mrs. Bates played in building up and carrying on St. Dunstan's, and I will not cover the same ground.

I will only say that so far as the Council is concerned we shall all feel that we have lost one of the best secretaries in the world, and a personal friend, and I know that this view will be shared by all officers and men of St. Dunstan's, and members of the staff. It is a consolation to us, as it will be to her, that she will be associated still, though in another sphere, with St. Dunstan's, which she did so much to found, and with St. Dunstan's men, who owe her such a deep debt of gratitude.

During Mrs. Bates' absence Mr. W. G. Askew, who has been General Manager of St. Dunstan's for nine years, and was before that Pensions Officer and an assistant in the administration since early 1919, has been acting-Secretary. At a Council Meeting held on 16th December, Mr. Askew was appointed Secretary, and the office of General Manager was merged in that of the Secretaryship.

Mr. Askew rendered extremely valuable services to many hundreds of individual St. Dunstaners in the early days, when pension queries and difficulties were constantly cropping up. He then became Accountant of the After-Care Organisation under my control, and later, General Manager. In all these offices he has shown a keen sympathy with the men and their needs, and a very high capacity in administration. Although he has been doing the

## Mrs. Bates—An Appreciation

By ERNEST KESSELL.

I am Mrs. Bates' oldest colleague (in more senses than one) and to write a short appreciation of her for publication is one of the most pleasing tasks I have ever had put up to me. To fulfil it should be very easy, and yet, being easy, it is difficult, for I am afraid whatever I say will not do justice to the subject.

I will paraphrase Mark Anthony and say: "She was my friend, faithful and just to me." And as she was my friend, so she was the friend of every man who entered St. Dunstan's, all the staff and all who came into touch with her.

Her personality was one of unfailing charm and tact, and Batey, as she became known to her intimate friends, provides a topic upon which all can write or say something of an appreciative nature.

She and I first met when the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel was only two or three weeks old—before even it came to be known as St. Dunstan's. She beat me by about two or three weeks. From that time, throughout the rush and stress and hard time of the war years, and ever since, our relations have been of the most cordial and happy nature.

In the very early days I filled the dual positions of Treasurer and Secretary, but a paternal registration authority held up its hands in dismay at the thought of one individual holding these two offices—although there was a war on and workers were scarce—and I was asked to give up one or the other.

Hence, Mrs. Bates became Secretary, whilst I turned my attention more to money-getting for the Hostel, and other matters well known to all St. Dunstaners and the staff as it was then.

From the first she was a success. A little diffident at first, perhaps, at assuming the responsibility, but because of the natural aptitude for business which she possessed this was soon overcome.

Gifted with an excellent and very retentive memory, few details in connection with the many hundreds of men whose

work of the Secretary for some time now and is not, therefore, embarking on a new responsibility, this is an occasion for wishing him success in the post which he will now formally occupy.

By one of those curious turns of fortune, some of the men of St. Dunstan's approached me about two years ago, asking my advice about raising a little fund out of which a personal gift from the blinded officers and men throughout the Empire might be made to Mrs. Bates on the occasion of her completion of fifteen years' service at St. Dunstan's. I thought this was an excellent idea, but suggested that to make the scheme thoroughly effective, and give the greatest possible pleasure, we should keep it an absolute secret. This was done to such effect that Mrs. Bates does not know about it, and won't until she reads these words.

Most of the subscriptions had been gathered in by the time Mrs. Bates left for South Africa. But the decision to go there came so swiftly that there was no time to get in outstanding subscriptions from the Dominions and decide what to do before she left. We accordingly held the matter over, intending to make the presentation to her on an appropriate occasion immediately after her return.

We are now to be denied the pleasure of making the presentation to her ourselves, and must send her a gift instead. I am delighted to be able to say that contributions have come from officers and men all over the Empire, and that the gift will represent the unanimous goodwill and affection of the men who were blinded in the War, and for whom she has done so much. Directly I hear from Mrs. Bates what she would like us to do with the gift—for I think my friends would wish me to consult her—I will publish further details.

IAN FRASER.

We have been asked by Miss Wilson at Headquarters to thank the many St. Dunstaners who have sent Christmas cards for Mrs. Bates. Although she has not been able to acknowledge these individually, Miss Wilson has sent all of them to Mrs. Bates in South Africa, knowing how delighted she will be that so many St. Dunstaners have remembered her.



cases passed through her hands were forgotten, and, in consequence, it was possible for her to get through an immense amount of work which ordinarily would have required much research and reference. The history of all blinded soldiers was at her finger-tips—their health, colour of hair, general affairs, even to linking up with a particular man the fact that his aunt was a delicate woman and had undergone an operation sometime previously.

Mrs. Bates was always a "sticker" if there was work to be done, and never appeared to watch the clock, though there might be an outside appointment to keep or a train to catch.

Night after night, especially in the early days of St. Dunstan's, it was a case of nine and ten o'clock or later, and the work was cheerfully and good-humouredly done with a smile, the moral value of which, combined with an optimistic temperament, was a great incentive to those around her at that time, and up to the time of her departure.

A position at St. Dunstan's is not, and never was, a sinecure, and this applied particularly to the Secretary. On occasions the deluge of matters to be attended to would have led many people to give up in despair. But not so with Batey, for she possessed a very strong sense of humour, and more than once I heard her laugh heartily when the situation was bordering on the tragic, and give vent to some such expression as "there are worse misfortunes at sea," or "let's get on with it," and then carry on to the bitter end with whatever was in hand.

Always sympathetic in the matter of "the boys," she looked after their interest and cared for them with the kindly spirit and consideration which was imbued in her by the great founder of our work, and very jealously she guarded her preserves and prerogatives.

At Headquarters Mrs. Bates loved her own departmental staff, and the members thereof loved her. I do not think I am going too far when I say that to such an extent was this carried that a mistake made by one of them would be condoned and explained away. A similar mistake

in another department was unforgivable. Exactly as it should be, of course. I do not say it was wrong.

Mrs. Bates has the faculty of getting the best out of staff and friends, and it is this, added to her thoroughness in detail, which made her so successful a woman and secretary.

But apart from her own immediate staff she endeared herself to heads of other departments and to their staffs. Determined when necessary, yet gentle and helpful, even to those who on rare occasions disagreed with a suggestion, with the result that many lasting friendships have grown up out of her good nature and happy method of meeting people, for when speaking to anyone she possesses the rare quality of responding as though that person is the only individual in the world.

One often hears the expression that somebody has a personality of his own. That is true in the case of Mrs. Bates. Her personality is her own, a personality of competency and faith in her own ability. A personality which endeared her to St. Dunstaners so that men of all types sing her praises.

I have always admired Mrs. Bates' capabilities as a worker, organiser and director. Far seeing, often going beyond the immediate, bridging the gulf and expressing an opinion with regard to the ultimate result of a certain activity. I know it will not hurt her feelings if I say Sir Arthur Pearson was doubtful, when the appointment was made, as to the wisdom of it. It did not occupy a long period before he realised the choice was a correct one, and at the time of his death St. Dunstan's was fortunate in having the secretarial duties in the capable hands of one who by that time had assimilated his ideas, and who so well knew how to continue and carry out his wishes in the best interests of St. Dunstaners.

From a personal point of view I am sorry Mrs. Bates has decided to remain so far away. It is another break in the associations and memories of the early days of St. Dunstan's. From a business point of view, I am glad for her sake, because I think she will do well in South

## St. Dunstan's Singers to Broadcast Again

EVERY St. Dunstaner will be delighted to hear that the St. Dunstan's Singers are again to broadcast—this time from London Regional, on 20th January, from 6.30 to 8 p.m. They will be singing at a Wireless Military Band Concert and are giving three groups of part-songs. Their programme is as follows:—

1. (a) "Men of Harlech," arr. P. Jackman.  
(b) "Drink to me only," arr. Eaton Farring.  
(c) "John Peel," arr. J. Tait.
2. (a) "Dinah Doe," J. Molloy.  
(b) "Lincolnshire Poacher," I. Davies.  
(c) "Calino Custurame," arr. G. Shaw.  
(d) "When Johnny comes marching home," arr. E. Moy.
3. (a) "Bonnie Dundee," G. Bantock.  
(b) "Annie Laurie."  
(c) "Soldiers' Chorus" (from "Faust"), Gounod.

## The Music Staff Party

THE music staff gave their annual party on the 14th December. Captain and Mrs. Fraser, many members of the staff and a large number of men with their wives and families were present, the great majority of the men being those connected with the music department. A first class entertainment was provided by a concert and short play. The concert opened by the always popular St. Dunstan's Singers (Messrs. G. A. Brown, Burran, Gover, Henry, Lynch, O'Kelly, Osmond, Pearce, Peckham, Rhodes, Singleton, C. Thomas and Webster) followed by Miss Marie Wilson (violin), Miss Katherine Stuart (contralto), and Mr. Gillie Potter (comedian). Miss Constance Stockbridge kindly accompanied. Miss Wilson and Miss Stuart gave splendid performances, and Mr. Gillie Potter's topical references and wit delighted the audience. The entertainment wound up by a realistic thriller, "The Ghost of Jerry Bundler," given by the Dramatic Class (Messrs. Ashton, J. Hughes, McFarlane, O'Kelly, Wiltshire and Webster.) Each man received a present from a lucky draw. The cake-weighing competition was won by "Tiny" Fleming.

Africa as in England, for though still young in years she is full of experience which can be turned to good account. Socially, too, Batey is a great success, her cheery manner and nature making her an asset to any party. In her new sphere some friends, she told me, have already sought her out to help them "paint the town red," and she admits that she much enjoyed the assistance she rendered them.

In the foregoing appreciation I have not mentioned that Mrs. Bates is, amongst all the other qualities, of a modest nature, and she probably will be the first to disclaim most of the things with which I have credited her. That will not matter much, for I know I shall be backed up by everybody who reads what I have written. On their behalf I wish her good luck and God-speed.

## The Council's Appreciation of Mrs. Bates' Work

It was proposed by Captain Ian Fraser, seconded by Sir Neville Pearson, and passed unanimously, at a meeting on the 25th November, 1931:—

THAT this Council places on record its deep appreciation of the services rendered to St. Dunstan's by the retiring Secretary, Mrs. E. M. Chadwick Bates, O.B.E., more particularly in the following respects: THAT she was one of the late Sir Arthur Pearson's principal assistants in the early and difficult days when St. Dunstan's was founded and during the years when the work was built up to its recognised position as an outstanding organisation for the re-education and after-care of disabled soldiers; that she occupied the post of Secretary to St. Dunstan's for more than fifteen years with distinction, ability and single-minded devotion to her duty; that she became the personal confidante and adviser of many hundreds of blinded officers and men, to whom she rendered very valuable assistance.

The Council deeply regrets her retirement from the office of Secretary to St. Dunstan's, but rejoices in her appointment as Secretary and Organiser of its work in the Union of South Africa and other Colonies and Territories in Africa, and wishes her success and happiness in this new sphere of work.

The Council directs that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Chairman of St. Dunstan's South African Committee, and be published in the "St. Dunstan's Review."



### A Letter from Miss Thellusson

MY DEAR BOYS,

A thousand thanks to you, your wives and children, for all the hundreds of cards, calendars and letters I have received this Christmas and New Year—alas, too many for me to answer individually, but I do thank you one and all from the bottom of my heart, through the medium of the "St. Dunstan's Review," for all your good wishes.

May 1932 bring you all the best of good luck, and may the wish you most want come true.

My love to you all.

Your affectionate old friend,  
ADELINE THELLUSSON,  
Commandant Matron.

ST. DUNSTAN'S ANNEXE,  
BRIGHTON.  
4th January, 1932.

### Christmas at Brighton

OUR staff at Brighton had a very busy time preparing for the large party which came to spend Christmas at the Annexe, which, as in former years, was artistically decorated with red and white pennants and masses of holly with electric lights interspersed with the bunting. There were two large Christmas trees and a Father Christmas waited just inside the Lounge to welcome visitors among whom was a very old friend of St. Dunstan's, Captain McMahon. On Christmas Day several of our good friends from the Grocers' Federation paid us a visit and, after admiring the decorations, assembled in the Lounge, where Mr. Parsons, on behalf of the Federation, wished every St. Dunstaner the compliments of the season, remarking that we could count upon the continued support of the Federation, and adding that the parcels of cigarettes and sweets, together with the invitation to the party in February, were from members all over the country. The dining-room presented a very pretty picture, where over a hundred guests sat down to a dinner replete with the proverbial Xmas fare. During dinner, T. Rogers, on behalf of the men, presented Matron with a silver inkstand. Matron, after thanking us, then read messages of good wishes from Captain and Mrs. Fraser, and a letter from Mrs. Bates. After the usual toasts and the pulling of crackers, we gathered in the

Lounge where our old friend, "Mr. H," officiated at the piano. On Boxing Night there was a Domino Tournament, the prizes for which were double the usual amount, and on Sunday night H. Costigan brought up a splendid concert party. Owing to our inability to procure a band for New Year's Eve, we moved our New Year's Dance to the 30th; this in no way detracted from its success. Dancing commenced about eight o'clock and at 9 p.m. the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton arrived to judge the fancy dresses. This was a difficult task, the dresses being both original and varied. Eventually their decision went to:—*W. Coleman* (1st), Irish Sweep; *F. Peacock* (2nd), Player's Cigarettes; *G. Wheeler* (3rd), A Sweep; *A. Forster* (4th), "Canned." Forster's and Wheeler's prizes were given by the Mayoress and Miss Llewellyn respectively. The ladies' prizes were won by:—*Miss Canneaux* (1st), French Doll; *Miss Hiskey* (2nd), Queen Elizabeth; *Miss Batten* (3rd), Newspaper Boy; *Miss England* (4th), "Buy British." The two latter prizes were also kindly presented by Miss Llewellyn. After the judging a very naughty little boy and girl wandered into the Lounge, causing roars of laughter and much speculation as to their identity. When the disguise was penetrated it was discovered that the "boy" was Sister Wildey and the "girl" Sister Lloyd. A shepherdess impersonated by Sister Davies, then led her "lambs" through the room, making a very effective tableau. These lambs were having a royal time of their own, about fifty happy St. Dunstaners' children sitting down to supper, after which they had games in the braille room, Orderly Legge as Father Christmas handing each little guest a present from the large Christmas tree, which was provided by Matron, V.A.D.'s and staff of the Brighton Annexe. Supper was served, then came a "lucky spot march," the prize for which was taken by J. Coupland and Miss England. At 11 o'clock the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the King" brought the festivities to a close, much to the regret of the merry-makers.

"OBSERVER."

### A Gift to the Chapel Fund

As a result of an effort which he has organised locally, the splendid sum of £17 has been handed to Miss Thellusson in aid of the Chapel Fund by W. A. Biggs, of Leicester.

The gift has been most gratefully accepted and we should like to convey to Biggs our sincere thanks for his aid.

### A Narrow Escape

A terrifying experience befell D. Woodrow, of Ebbesbourne Wake, near Salisbury, a short while back, when he and his son were attacked by a bull which had escaped from a compound. Woodrow told a reporter:—

"When the animal came galloping along the road my son said, 'It's a bull.' I flung myself over a fence, and my son tried to get over, but the bull made a plunge at him and knocked him in the arm and leg.

"It tore the fence down, and we dashed towards a tree. My son told me there was a branch over my head, and I grasped it, and climbed into the tree with him. I was up in the tree for three-quarters of an hour."

Attracted by their shouts, Major Stewart, the owner of the animal, went towards the tree when he too was attacked by the bull, which had already torn up the ground round the tree and gored the trunk. Major Stewart's shouts for help brought his wife to the rescue and she very pluckily dragged him away, but not before he had sustained severe injuries.

Woodrow said that men armed with guns tried to shoot the bull, but were prevented owing to the fog. Later it was captured by a dairyman, who led it away to a stall.

The shock to Woodrow must have been very great, and his friends will be glad to know that he has now almost recovered from his ordeal.

### Important Notice

Will all St. Dunstaners who may require special visits from the Social Visitors for any urgent matter please write direct to Mr. Swain, and not to the Social Visitor, and state for what purpose the Visitor is required.

## SPORTS CLUB NOTES

### Nine Mile Outer Circle Walk

13TH FEBRUARY.

May I remind all competitors for the Nine Mile Open Handicap Walk that their entries should reach the Sports Office not later than 30th January.

### Congratulations

To J. T. Scrymgeour, of Warwick, Queensland, whose blood stallion, "Ladamond" was awarded the blue ribbon and the championship at the Brisbane Exhibition in the premier class for stallions best adapted for improving racing stock. In a summary of the entrants, and report of the judging, The Brisbane *Daily Mail* said: "Ladamond, who was shown by Mr. J. T. Scrymgeour, of Netherby, Warwick, was produced in great show condition . . . After a searching inspection, Mr. White (the judge) finally selected Ladamond and Violin Solo. He awarded Ladamond the blue ribbon, and also the championship, and gave the red ribbon and the reserve championship to Violin Solo. Ladamond stands 16 hands high, and is a beautiful dapple brown in colour. Mr. White said that Ladamond was a magnificent type of horse, of nice length, had beautiful shoulders, and was brimful of quality. Mr. Scrymgeour, who was present at the judging, was heartily congratulated on Ladamond's success."

To G. C. Jackson, of Ashford, who has added to his many poultry successes by securing at the Ashford Cattle and Poultry Exhibition held in December, three Reserves, one Very Highly Commended, and one Highly Commended, with six entries. The Show is a very large one, there being over two hundred entries in the poultry section, and Jackson tells us that he has certainly done better than he expected.

### Braille Notes

We heartily congratulate C. J. Walker on passing his Braille Writing Test.



## "In Memory"

PRIVATE R. CALLAGHAN  
(Royal Army Medical Corps)

We regret to announce the death of R. Callaghan on the 14th December, 1931. Callaghan came to St. Dunstan's in 1921, and was trained as a telephonist, a post being obtained for him in Leeds. He gave this up, however, a year or two afterwards, and in 1928 took a course of mat-making and made good headway. For some months before his death he suffered from trouble with his eyes, and on the 10th December he was taken seriously ill and admitted to hospital, where he died.

The funeral took place on the 19th December, at Becontree Cemetery, and was attended by several relatives and friends. Among the numerous wreaths received was one in the form of our badge from Captain Fraser and his many comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our sympathy is extended to his widow.

PRIVATE W. C. PHILLIPS  
(4th Battalion Essex Territorials)

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of a new St. Dunstanian, W. C. Phillips, on the 20th December. Owing to very poor health, he was unable to complete his training in centre cane work, but after returning home his health seemed to improve, and he was very anxious to continue with this trade. He therefore went back to the Brighton Annexe in March, 1931, to finish his course. Although he persevered with the work, however, his health would not permit him to do very much, and he gradually became worse. On the 18th December he was taken seriously ill and returned home, where he died two days afterwards.

The funeral took place on 24th December, 1931, at Barking Cemetery, and was attended by Phillips's wife and daughter and several other relatives. There were numerous beautiful wreaths received, including one from the Friendly Society Lodge (of which Phillips was Secretary for a great many years), two from Buffalo Lodges, and another in the form of our badge from Captain Fraser and his many comrades at St. Dunstan's.

We ask Phillips's wife and daughter to accept our sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

### Births

- ASHE.—To the wife of T. Ashe, of Lancing, on the 23rd December, a daughter.
- BUCHANAN.—To the wife of H. Buchanan, of Sutton, Surrey, on the 17th December, a son.
- BURGIN.—On the 30th December, to the wife of D. Burgin, of Thurgoland, a son.
- GREENWOOD.—To the wife of J. Greenwood, of Laindon, on the 13th August, a son—Peter Kenneth Geoffrey.
- GREGORY.—To the wife of T. Gregory, of Methwold, on the 12th December, a daughter.
- LOVETT.—On the 31st December, to the wife of G. W. Lovett, of Romford, a son.
- MCCARTHY.—To the wife of W. F. McCarthy, of Nuneaton, on the 25th November, a son.
- MCLEOD.—On the 30th December, to the wife of G. McLeod, of Cricklade, a daughter.
- MILLEN.—To the wife of G. A. Millen, of Birchington, on the 2nd January, a son.
- PARRICK.—On December 24th, to the wife of G. Parrick, of Bromley, a son.

### Deaths

- We offer our deepest sympathy this month to the following:—
- DYER.—To E. Dyer, of Cardiff, whose father recently died very suddenly.
- EDWARDS.—To R. Edwards, of Denbigh, who lost his father, aged 72 years, on Sunday, the 20th December, 1931.
- MURRAY.—To J. Murray, of Blackburn, who lost his wife on 5th January. Mrs. Murray had been ill for several weeks in hospital.
- OLDROYD.—To M. Oldroyd, of Cold Norton, Essex, whose father died on Armistice Day, 11th November, 1931, at the age of 69 years.
- PURVIES.—To D. A. Purvies, of Middlesbrough, and his wife, whose little son, Alick, aged 5 years and 9 months, died on Christmas Day. It is extremely sad that Purvies was at the Brighton Annexe for convalescence when he heard that the little boy had been taken ill, and was unable to reach him before he died.
- SIMPSON.—To J. Simpson, of Newcastle, who lost his mother on the 15th December last.
- VINER.—To Mrs. R. Viner, of Newport, whose father died on 20th December, aged 77 years.

### "Wireless for the Blind" Fund

THREE children, the eldest of whom was only three and a half years old, and three pensioners, whose ages totalled 217 years, were among the 16,500 people who, in reply to Lord Snowden's broadcast appeal on Christmas Day, contributed £4,500 to the British "Wireless for the Blind" Fund. The donations ranged from a penny stamp to a £100 note, and came from every quarter of Great Britain. The fund has now achieved its primary object of raising the money to provide wireless sets for the whole blind population of this country. The object of future appeals will be to meet the new need arising from year to year.

In his broadcast speech, Lord Snowden said that mainly in response to Mr. Churchill's appeals, and the appeal made by the Prince of Wales and by Captain Ian Fraser, 18,500 wireless sets and accessories had been supplied to blind listeners-in up to 25th December.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations to W. Hines and E. Moss, both of Birmingham, who celebrated their silver wedding anniversaries on Christmas Day; to G. Lawlor, of Leamore, nr. Walsall, whose anniversary was on January 5th, and to G. Perry, of Wolverhampton, who will celebrate his silver wedding on January 26th.

### Netting Notes

Will the Netting men, and all men who buy wool from the Netting Department, take note that if shades other than stock colours are needed it is not possible to supply a smaller quantity than three pounds of each shade, as a three-pound packet (or duplicates) is the smallest quantity the manufacturers can let us have.

Men who make patterned rugs and rugs of special shades (other than stock colours) often want  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.,  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb., or 2 lbs., but in future we cannot do this. Also 10 per cent is charged on all rugs made of shades other than stock colours. Any quantity of stock shades from  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. upwards can be bought as usual.

K. H. W.

### American Braille Press Review

THE tremendous growth of the movement to provide the blind with braille reading matter and music is indicated by the American Braille Press for War and Civilian Blind in a review of its activities during 1931, which has just been issued in New York.

Books, magazines and music published by the organisation have been distributed among libraries and institutions for the blind in eighteen different countries, including more than fifty cities in the United States. Three monthly braille magazines are published in English, and one each in French, Spanish, Polish, Roumanian, and Serbian.

"Yet the work has but just begun," it is pointed out by William Nelson Cromwell, the Founder and President of the American Braille Press. "The blind," said Mr. Cromwell, "assuredly can never hope for full equality with the seeing, whether in respect to life's occupations or in respect to reading. There can never be enough reading matter in embossed print for them, let alone a surplus as in the case of inkprint for the seeing."

"It is possible, however, to approximate a condition wherein the blind will be provided with the elements of most general interest in the vast abundance available to the seeing, and this can be done if we but recognise their needs and give our aid to meeting it."

An important achievement of the American Braille Press during the past year was the completion of the enormous task of publishing in braille the well-known French dictionary, *Petit Larousse*. The braille transcription is composed of twenty large-sized volumes of two hundred pages each; the inkprint edition is about half the size of one braille volume, as shown in a photograph. The braille dictionary has been sent, free of charge, to public libraries, schools for the blind, and blind scholars throughout the world.

"Another voluminous work which also has just been distributed by the American Braille Press," the review says, "is Hans Rohl's *Geschichte der Deutschen Dichtung* (History of German Poetry) in German. This masterwork has six volumes in braille."



It was sent to schools and libraries in Germany, as well as to various institutions in other countries which are interested in the subject."

The strong taste for adventure stories on the part of the blind has been recognised by the American Braille Press in the selection of novels which have been embossed in braille. The titles include "The Count of Monte Cristo" by Dumas, in twenty-one volumes; "The Sea Hawk" by Sabatini, in four volumes; and "The Rover" by Joseph Conrad, in three volumes. Other authors, however, are Willa Cather, Knut Hamsun, Anatole France, Leon Tolstoi, and Mark Twain.

The music of the American Braille Press includes a variety of titles, mostly classical, which range from "Faust" to "On the Road to Mandalay." Among the compositions available in braille musical notation are the works of Leoncavallo, Debussy, Rachmaninoff and Victor Herbert. The latter is especially popular among the blind in America, and there are frequent calls, especially for his song, "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life."

The blind are particularly hard hit by the business depression, with the result that they have more leisure than they really can afford. Reading, therefore, seems for them the adequate means to while away the otherwise dreary hours.

### Football Competition

**A** PRIZE of 5s. will be awarded to the competitor who sends in the nearest forecast of the first four and the last four teams of the First, Second and Third (Northern and Southern) Divisions, on 27th February, 1932.

Entries must reach the Editor by the first post on 15th February, and only one entry can be sent in by each competitor. Send in your forecasts, study the papers, and if your entry is not more than two positions out, send in your claim by 2nd March, 1932.

Please send in entries on post-cards, and mark them "Football" in large letters. Typewriting or block letters should be used.

This competition is confined to St. Dunstaners.

### Forty Years of Golden Memories

**U**NDER this title the fortieth Annual Report of Pearson's Fresh Air Fund has just been published. In a delightful way the history of this splendid Fund throughout the forty years of its existence has been reviewed, with special emphasis given to the work performed during 1931. For forty years, the Report says, the number of poor children to whom "golden memories" have been given has grown. Twenty thousand the first year, an added forty thousand the next, seventy thousand the next, and on and on, year after year, until this year the fortieth milestone was reached.

Pathetic and amusing stories are related in connection with the outings to which hundreds of children look forward from one year's end to another. A parent, for instance, remarked to a Dundee organiser, on the return of the train from the excursion: "Aye, mester, it's the best day o' a' the year for the puir bairns, an' there's naething mair for them till it comes roond again next year."

A Nottingham paper said: "Some idea of the party given in Nottingham this year by the Fresh Air Fund can be gathered by the quantity of food consumed: 4,400 sausage rolls, 4,400 jam turnovers, 4,400 buns, 4,400 rock cakes, 4,400 cheese cakes, 4,400 servings of ice-cream, 4,400 cheese portions, 4,400 packets of sweets, 500 gallons of tea."

So, for one day in the year, 4,400 Nottingham children had too much to eat!

We hear from B. Martin, of Bray, that his eldest son, William Joseph, has secured First Place (Honours) in an Intermediate Examination recently held at the Select Christian Brothers' School in Kingston, with the splendid total of 1,157 marks out of a possible 1,200—149 marks ahead of the second competitor. This is a fine achievement and Martin may well be proud of his son.

Martin has been fortunate in having received many orders from prominent local people recently.

### A Blind Tradesman

**F**ROM the *Northampton Echo*:—

"Talking of shops reminds one of the gallant fight against odds which is being made by the blind war hero, Mr. G. Craddock. He has a tobacco business, and although he is quite blind he can supply any need of a customer without outside assistance. The other day a shilling was tendered, and when Mr. Craddock picked it up he said immediately: 'Is it a shilling?' 'Certainly,' replied the customer. Mr. Craddock was still doubtful, and on examining the coin the customer found it to be a Canadian shilling, which has a different reverse side from the English coin."

### Mr. Jack Payne's New Appointment

**M**R. JACK PAYNE, so well known to wireless listeners, has been appointed Honorary Director of Dance Music to the National Institute for the Blind. His new duties will begin in the New Year. For some time past the National Institute has been seeking to develop its Braille music production with a view to providing a better service for blind instrumentalists who specialise in dance music. It is on this work that Mr. Payne will be engaged.

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Writing on the 11th December, R. J. Williams, of Southwick, says: "My wife and myself had the great honour of being present at a supper given to Earl Winton, M.P., last night at Southwick Town Hall by the Conservative Association. We had a most enjoyable supper, and after this my wife and I had a long talk with his Lordship, in which we gave him one of our calendars. The Earl was greatly interested, and has promised to help me in getting orders, and said he will always remember us. He joined in the dancing which followed, but had to leave early to attend the Indian Conference in London, taking the calendar with him. We had a great time. I have been doing most remarkably well with orders for mats and should think I must hold the record, having obtained nearly 200 local orders, some of them for mats of very large size, and I am hoping for many more to come."

### The Great North Road

**W**HERE does the Great North Road actually begin? This interesting point has been raised in a letter recently received from one of our readers, who writes:

"I was walking along Hampstead Road with my escort—an old soldier and for thirty-five years a London policeman—when he said: 'This reminds me of the time I walked to York.' 'Then you did not take the Great North Road,' said I, and a terrific argument ensued until we reached Raglan Street, where one of our boys told us that we were both wrong. My escort maintained that the Great North Road commenced at Trafalgar Square, went up Charing Cross Road, and along Tottenham Court Road, etc. I held that it commenced at the G.P.O., running up Goswell Road, Upper Street, Islington, and thence up Holloway Road, but our new friend said the Marble Arch and along Edgware Road. When I questioned my wife on our return, she said that the Archway Tavern started the Great North Road, while my after-care instructor was of the opinion that it commenced at the north side of London Bridge and ran through Edmonton. Just to make perfectly sure I wrote to the Editor of *Answers* and received in reply a letter something like this:—

"In reply to your letter, I failed to find any records as to where the Great North Road starts in London, so I communicated with the Ministry of Transport, whose reply I enclose herewith."

This was the enclosure:—

"In answer to your correspondent's enquiry . . . there are no records as to where the Great North Road commences in London, but if he will purchase Harper's "Great North Road," he may find something to interest him therein."

"So that was that! The amusing part was that we all had something on which to base our theory, and were all so certain of our opinion."

G. F.

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Two extracts from a class's essays on the horse:

"The horse you bet on is called a cert; if it loses it is called a dead cert."

\* \* \*

"Horses are useful when alive to draw carts and carriages, and when they are dead their hair is made into sophas."



### Pages from the Diary of an O.C. Details

[We think that all St. Dunstaners will appreciate the following humorous article, for which we are indebted to "The Iron Duke," the magazine of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.]

MARCH 26th.—Battalion marched off at 9.30 a.m. leaving me alone in the middle of the square, a solitary and pathetic figure, slightly pale about the gills. Little did those careless lads guess what an agony of anxiety lay concealed beneath that gallant and debonair exterior.

Order Q.M.'s clerk to prepare estimate of property on my charge. Q.M.'s clerk estimates value at £2,786,542. 5s. 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. This is a bit thick. Decide to send in my papers.

March 27th.—Last night was terrible. Tossed and turned till 5.30 a.m., and then got up and walked round. Greatly relieved to find barracks still there. To bed again and slept till 9.30. Look up K.R.'s and Manual of Map Reading to find out how to send in papers. No luck. Order O.R. clerk to prepare draft.

March 28th.—Appalling nightmare last night. Dreamed sanitary man had gone mad and thrown colours into dustbin. Rise at 3.30 a.m. and inspect dustbin. All clear. Decide to postpone despatch of papers till something serious has occurred.

Something serious has occurred. Receive a complaint from Mrs. Foresight that Ada Foresight has been severely scratched by Mrs. Cruciform Lug's cat. Mrs. Foresight demands destruction of said cat. Consult Animal Management and War Office Exercises without Troops (1928). No mention of cats in either. Submit case to Brigade. No time to-day to send in papers.

March 29th.—*Re* Ada's scratch. Brigade refer me to K.R. 1,451 and Manual of M.L.P. 112, but these do not apply, as in one case the cat is not dead or disabled, and in the other the cat was not known to be dangerous before the offence was committed. Ring up Brigade about this. Brigade suggest that an application for the destruction of Cats, Recalcitrant Persons subject to military law the Property of, should be forwarded to Area on A.F.B. 75. 2. No such Army Form in Orderly Room. Indent for supply of same on Area.

March 30th.—Somewhat flippant reply

from Area, stating that supply of these forms is confined to Units stationed in the Isle of Man, and requesting details as to the sex and age of the cat in question, together with chest measurement, medical history sheet, address of next of kin, terms of service, and vocabulary description, whether Tortoiseshell (Mark II), Siamese (Buff facings), or Tabby (G. S. Pattern). Reluctantly conclude that Area must be pulling my leg, and decide to act on own initiative.

Meanwhile, a complaint from Mrs. Cruciform Lug to the effect that Pte. Foresight has thrown an old boot at her cat, thereby causing it to refuse nourishment.

Decide that O.C. Details ought to get extra pay.

March 31st.—Discover that cats are not subject to military law under A.A. Sec. 175, but a charge might be laid against Pte. Foresight under Sec. 4 (2), i.e. "Shamefully casting away a boot in the presence of the enemy," or under Sec. 24 (5), i.e. "Ill-treating a horse or other animal used in the public service." Ask Mrs. Cruciform Lug for what public service the animal has been used. Mrs. C. L. states that it killed three mice in the miniature range on the night of March 5th-6th.

Request O. i/c Musketry to confirm this in writing, stating whether mice were killed by his orders.

April 1st, Sunday.—Peaceful atmosphere marred by undercurrent of unrest.

April 2nd.—Discover slight tinge of grey in my hair this morning. Decide to take summary of evidence against Pte. Foresight. Letter from Brigade Major stating that in view of my initiative in cat question I have been recommended for the award of The Royal Feline Associations Medal (4th class). Never heard of this medal, but naturally gratified. Gratification somewhat marred by consternation in the married quarters.

April 3rd.—Write to Brigade Major thanking him for his letter, and asking when I may expect to see my name in the *Gazette*, and whether the ribbon should be worn on the right or left breast. Proceed with summary. Evidence most conflicting.

Pte. Foresight states that at the time in question he was out of barracks, that he didn't throw a boot at the cat, and that he

wouldn't demean himself by throwing anything at a miserable, skinny, half-starved little shrimp like Mrs. Cruciform Lug's cat. Alternatively, that if he did throw a boot at the cat he couldn't have hit it, he being afflicted with rheumatism in the right arm. Alternatively, that if he did hit it, it couldn't have refused food, as it never got any food to refuse, Mrs. Cruciform Lug being that mean.

Summary not proceeding on orthodox lines. Decide to postpone action.

April 4th.—*Re* medal. Brigade Major refers me to date of his letter. Letter dated 1st April which conveys nothing. Refer matter to O.R. clerk. O.R. clerk laughs, and is confined to guard room.

Write to Brigade Major for explanation.

April 5th.—Weighed myself before breakfast. Lost two stone. Orderly room clerk still in guard room. Correspondence in hopeless mess. Mrs. Cruciform Lug in tears. Cat in hysterics. Receive explanatory letter from Brigade Major. The dirty dog. Continue summary and wonder whether an action would lie under Sec. 5, i.e. "Of using a boot to create alarm and despondency among the forces." A disastrous day. Hair now quite white at the temples.

April 6th.—Release O.R. clerk from guard room.

Mrs. Cruciform Lug states that cat is again taking nourishment, and that she and Mrs. Foresight have decided to settle the matter out of court by going to see "Flames of Passion" at the Electric. Decide to let matter drop. Decide to leave barracks for two hours and see "Flames of Passion" myself. "Flames of Passion" quite a good show and barracks still intact on my return. A much better day. Hair gradually recovering its pristine auburn tint.

April 7th.—Bad news in papers. Riots in Malta, Egypt, Palestine, and India. Serious unrest in Hong Kong. Decide to put barracks in state of defence. Mount a Lewis gun at main gate. Unfortunately no ammunition, but decide to bluff it out. Refer to Bulldog Drummond, Section Leading, and Instructions in the care of Barracks for hints on bluff.

April 8th.—According to Sporting Life,

Empire seems to be toppling. Mount two Lewis guns at main gate. Arm Orderly Room Staff. Police report suspicious character hanging round guard room. Probably foreign agent. Milkman late this morning. Decide to have milk cans inspected daily for foreign bodies.

April 9th.—Parade all storemen in full marching order and direct them to keep marching round barracks in fours to give an impression of strength. Bulldog Drummond never thought of this. Decide to rewrite Section Leading. Wonder what pay you get in the Secret Service.

April 10th.—To-day "D" Company's storeman reports sick with severe stomach ache. Position getting critical. Request M.O. to analyse remains of breakfast with a view to possibility of strychnine poisoning. M.O. replies that he has neither the apparatus, the time or the desire to do anything of the sort. Wants to know if I think he is Sir Bernard Spilsbury. Suggests sending remains of breakfast to Public Analyst. But O.R. clerk doubts if such an item would be passed by the paymaster.

Awkward visit from some curious people calling themselves the Fire Committee. Request to see a copy of my fire orders. Explain that fire orders will be given as required, but point out with some pride that one Lewis gun can rake Fore Street, while the other commands the approaches from London and Tavistock. Fire committee dissatisfied, and explain that they want to see Barracks, Fire in, Prevention of, Orders for. Forgotten all about this.

April 11th.—Suspicious character arrested by gate police, and brought before me. Turns out to be a highly indignant representative of Messrs. Hawker and Flighty with a suitcase of patterns for summer suitings. Threatens me with action for illegal arrest. Appease him at the cost of one suit, lounge, flannel, gents., two vests, evening, and one pair of half-hose, silk, artificial. Presume you get an allowance for this sort of thing in the Secret Service.

April 12th.—Lovely spring day. Sun shining, birds singing in empyrean. I singing in bath. Battalion due back at 3.30 p.m. Write out application for two months' leave, put on my best suit, repair



as far as possible the ravages that the last three weeks have made upon my complexion, and go down to receive their sympathy and congratulations.

Sympathy and congratulations! What a hope! Nothing but ill-timed facetiousness from certain mannerless brother officers about the spreading effect that soft jobs with the details have on the figure. Fools! "What do they know of details, who only Tidworth know."

O. P.

### After-Care Re-union Exeter

THE Exeter Meeting on 4th December was one of the most successful ever held there. Certainly everything helped to make it so; the weather was kind, we had almost a full muster and, best of all, we had a most pleasant surprise in the presence of Captain and Mrs. Fraser.

It never seems to take long to get everyone at home and chatting at Exeter, and there seemed even more than usual to talk about this time; in fact, it was difficult to get even the competitions tried.

Everyone was so anxious to hear Captain Fraser's promised speech that we had tea a few minutes earlier than usual (several escorts who had "popped out to do some Christmas shopping" found the meal well advanced when they returned; we *do* hope they got enough tea in the end). Miss Brandt had obtained the services of members of an Exeter Red Cross Detachment to help, and it did look like old times at St. Dunstan's seeing V.A.D.'s waiting on the tables; one quite expected the well-remembered "Sister, my cup is empty!"

Captain Fraser's speech was listened to with an almost breathless interest and pleasure; all were grateful for his kindness in coming down to the meeting and in explaining in so clear a fashion the scheme for the future of St. Dunstan's. In fact, the clearness with which Captain Fraser explained, and the complete accord of the meeting with the scheme, was shown by the very small number of questions

asked when Captain Fraser asked for any comments or queries at the end of his speech. W. J. Burnett brought forward a suggestion, which Captain Fraser said he would note and consider, and F. Westaway asked a question about the percentage now paid to St. Dunstan's from Poppy Day. Then S. Ash, in a very eloquent little speech, thanked Captain Fraser for his speech, assured him of the loyalty of the West Country St. Dunstaners, and said how much the men appreciated all that was done for them, especially the care and kindness which Mr. Swain gave to their affairs. T. J. Floyd seconded this in a very neat little speech.

Captain Fraser, in his reply, complimented Ash on his speaking, and said he really felt he should be in Parliament! A very charming little ceremony rounded off this part of the proceedings, W. Carnell and F. W. Thompson presenting to Mr. Swain a coffee tray, as a mark of appreciation from the Exeter Meeting and in celebration of his marriage. Carnell explained, amid much laughter, that he felt a little apprehensive in the matter, as for some years he had replied to Mr. Swain's remark "not married yet" by saying that he was waiting for Mr. Swain to set him an example! However, he thought he might be allowed a year or two of grace to see how Mr. Swain got on. W. J. Gilbert also spoke and assured Mr. Swain of the good wishes of all present.

Mr. Swain, in his reply, said how very much he appreciated the gift and the kind thoughts that prompted it, and mentioned that there must be someone with second-sight in the proceedings as a coffee tray was the one thing he really needed.

While all this was taking place several of the musical friends of Miss Brandt had arrived and we had a most enjoyable little concert. We just managed to rope in late-comers for the various competitions in time to finish them, though several of the prizes had to be posted on to the winners.

Results: Cake, A. Day; Pie, Mrs. A. Brown; String, Mrs. Vigar and F. Humphries.



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