

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

No. 193.—VOLUME XVIII. [NEW SERIES] JANUARY, 1934

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

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

St. Dunstaner Honoured

ALL St. Dunstaners will join in congratulating Captain Frank Marriott, of the 1st Australian Division, who is a St. Dunstaner, because the King has conferred upon him the honour of C.M.G. (Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George).

Captain Marriott was one of the best of that excellent lot of fellows who came from Australia and New Zealand to the Great War and were blinded. He was at St. Dunstan's in 1917-18, learnt everything he could, and went back to Tasmania, where he farms and engages in public life. He has been a Member of the Tasmanian Parliament for many years, has been Head of the Boy Scout and Toc H movements there, and has been on a variety of public committees.

Incidentally Uncle Marriott, as we used to call him, is probably the tallest St. Dunstaner. I think he is six feet five inches in height.

His honour is well deserved, and his friends will rejoice with him.

Read Plays

A few months ago I wrote recommending my blind friends to read plays in Braille—and I might have added or to have plays read aloud to them. Both Braille and reading aloud are slower than reading by sight, and the play is an excellent medium for a story. Its brightness and shortness and the absence of long descriptions are a great attraction. I should like to hear from any St. Dunstaners who agree with me about this.

St. Dunstan's on the Air and the Talkies

Twice during the last month I have had the experience of broadcasting for St. Dunstan's. One occasion was two days before Christmas, when I introduced St. Dunstan's Band to the microphone at Broadcasting House. The other was early in January when I spoke at the Stable Lads' Boxing Tournament in aid of St. Dunstan's at the Stadium Club, and my speech was recorded on a talkie. On this occasion Miss Gladys Cooper (Lady Pearson—wife of Sir Neville Pearson, our Honorary Treasurer) was with me in the Ring, and she too said a few words. I wonder if any St. Dunstaners or their wives have heard or seen this little film in the British Paramount News Reel service.

Talking to the microphone is difficult and interesting. You have no audience with whom to establish a sympathetic bond. There is no feeling of contact and nothing to encourage you. I have found considerable interest as a listener to broadcasting, in studying the technique of the various speakers. Some of them are extremely good at putting across what they have to say in a realistic way. Others are not.

The Racing World and St. Dunstan's

A few words about the Stable Lads' Boxing Tournament may be of interest. We organize it every year in aid of our Funds, and it is very successful. A large number of famous trainers all over the country hold local competitions to discover their best Stable Lad Boxers, and the local winners come up to London for the finals. The classes vary from little midgets weighing not more than four and a half stone, up to lads weighing eight stone, and some extremely good fighting is to be seen. As this competition has been organized for St. Dunstan's for fourteen years, I should think there are few jockeys who do not know something about St. Dunstan's, for of course a stable lad of to-day is the jockey of the future.

I attach great importance to efforts like this, for they not only raise money, but also secure publicity for St. Dunstan's, and interest a lot of people in our work.

Thank You, Devon

Abundant evidence of the good-will of Members of the British Legion towards St. Dunstan's was shown at a recent Conference in the County of Devon. The delegate for one of the branches brought forward a Resolution to the effect that St. Dunstan's should not collect money from the public. He said it was a shame that the blinded soldiers should be used as bait, and that the State ought to do all that was necessary. The good sense of the delegates present was shown when they rejected this Resolution out of hand. Not one delegate supported it.

I devote much time and thought to the question of promoting good-will towards St. Dunstan's amongst ex-servicemen generally, and towards making known St. Dunstan's problems and needs in ex-service circles. Fortunately I had heard of this matter in advance, and was able to supply Brigadier-General E. R. Fitzpatrick, C.B.E., D.S.O., Member of the National Executive and Vice-President of the Devon County Committee of the Legion, with information before the Meeting. The General spoke up strongly on our behalf, and thus did us a good turn. We offer him our best thanks.

The idea that St. Dunstan's should not collect is too ridiculous, and that it should be suggested by a Member of the British Legion is even more absurd. After all, the Legion itself collects for its own disabled comrades who are employed at the Poppy Factory or at Preston Hall and other places.

However generous the State may be under any Government at any time, there will always be people willing to give personal service and money to do just a little bit more, and consequently there will always be voluntary effort. I wonder where British blinded soldiers would have been and what would have happened to the majority if there had been no St. Dunstan's.

IAN FRASER.

Pyramid Patience

OUR attention has been drawn to the fact that this puzzle is by no means a new one; the National Institute for the Blind have had a similar game, much smaller in design, on sale for a number of years. It has round discs instead of squares, and contains full instructions as to how to play; the price is 7d.

A Message from Miss Peacock

MISS PEACOCK wishes, through the REVIEW, to thank all her friends at St. Dunstan's for their Christmas cards and letters, and only regrets that on account of illness, she is unable to reply to them personally. She sends greetings for the New Year to all.

Miss Thellusson's Thanks

MY DEAR BOYS,

A thousand thanks for all the cards, calendars and letters I have received from you, your wives and children, all of which I greatly appreciate and think it so nice of you to remember me. Alas! time will not permit my writing to each one, so will you accept my very best thanks through the medium of the REVIEW.

May 1934 bring you all the best of good luck, health and happiness.

Your affectionate old

MATRON.

St. Dunstan's, Brighton.

January, 1934.

Christmas at Brighton

From the *Sussex Daily News*, December 28th, 1933:—

"Both the Mayor of Brighton (Councillor Miss Margaret Hardy, M.B.E., J.P.) and the Mayor of Hove (Councillor Victor R. Hudson, J.P.) visited St. Dunstan's Annexe, Portland-place, last night, and in the name of the two towns conveyed hearty seasonable greetings to 'the boys.'

"The occasion was the dance which is always a great feature of the Christmas festivities. It was attended by a company of 150, including inmates of the Annexe and others residing in the district or on holiday in Brighton. Many were in fancy dress, and the elaborate decorations of the rooms, together with a Christmas tree presided over by a figure of Father Christmas, lent further brightness to the scene. Mr. Jim Heasman's orchestra played for dancing, and Mr. A. Nichols, who suffered the loss of both hands and an eye during the war, acted as M.C.

"The Mayor of Hove's good wishes were couched in characteristically jovial terms and were suitably responded to by Mr. Nichols, who expressed regret that the Mayoress had been unable to accompany his Worship.

MAYOR OF BRIGHTON'S THANKS

"Miss Hardy arrived with the acting Mayoress (Mrs. Major) and Mr. A. E. Lowry (Mayor's Secretary). In a few sympathetic and genial words she said when she spoke to the boys of St. Dunstan's there was only one thing she could say, and that was 'Our heartfelt and sincere thanks for the things that happened so many years ago. We do thank you boys,' she continued, 'and we shall always thank you. This generation and succeeding generations will never forget what you did for England and for us. If our appreciation is of any worth, and if our sympathy and our love and respect mean anything, you have

them in full and abundant measure. And don't think this is some sort of sob stuff produced at Christmas. It is there all the year and every day in the year, but we can't always express it. At Christmas we can let ourselves go and be sentimental. So, from my heart, I say that the world loves you and thanks you for all that you did. We will never forget it and we will never forget you.'

"Mr. Nichols, thanking the Mayor, wished her every success in her year of office and hoped she would have an easy time. (The Mayor: Oh, don't wish me that!)

"Both Mayors, who were welcomed by the Commandant Matron (Miss Thellusson) were given musical honours.

GENEROUS GROCERS

"On Christmas Day St. Dunstan's received a visit from representatives of the Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' Association, who are among the best friends of the institution. The party included Mr. G. Smith (President), Mr. E. C. Parsons and Mr. W. A. Yeoman (respectively Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the St. Dunstan's Committee of the Association), Mr. W. H. Wilsher, and Miss Morley (Acting Secretary). They brought with them a packet of cigarettes and a packet of toffee for each man. Mr. Smith wished the men a thoroughly enjoyable Christmas, and Miss Thellusson responded. Hearty cheers for the visitors were given and these were renewed when it was announced that the grocers would be entertaining the 'St. Dunstaners' to a social evening at the Old Ship Hotel on 6th February."

Resignation of Miss Reynolds

THE following is a copy of a letter sent by Captain Fraser to Miss Reynolds:—

8th January, 1934.

DEAR MISS REYNOLDS,

I hear with very deep regret indeed that you have had to resign your work at St. Dunstan's. Mrs. Fraser, and indeed all those with whom you have been working will share my sorrow. There are very few now who have done eighteen years service, and your leaving reminds me of the splendid work you all did in the old Braille Room, and which you have continued for so long.

You have rendered a most valuable service to the officers and men who were blinded in the War, and they, together with the Council of St. Dunstan's, will wish to thank you most sincerely and to place on record their deep appreciation.

We all send you our very best wishes for recovery from your unfortunate ill-health, and for your happiness in the future.

Yours very sincerely,

IAN FRASER,

Chairman.

Blind Voters' Act comes into Operation

OF the new laws which came into force on 1st January, 1934, none is of more importance to St. Dunstaners than the Blind Voters Act, designed and introduced into the House of Commons by Captain Ian Fraser.

There are four by-elections pending, and the London County Council Election takes place in March. Captain Fraser would be glad if St. Dunstaners who vote at these Elections would write to him and say if all goes smoothly with the new procedure, or if they have any difficulties.

We would again remind readers that henceforth, in any Parliamentary or Municipal election, a blind voter may either:—

(a) Take to the polling booth a companion, who may be any other person having a vote in the constituency or ward, or his or her father, mother, wife or husband, brother or sister, son or daughter, such persons being 21 years of age, to mark the ballot paper;

or

(b) Utilize the old method by asking the presiding officer to mark the ballot paper in the presence of representatives of the candidates, as hitherto.

If the blind person wishes to make use of the new method, he must tell the presiding officer that he is blind and that he has brought a companion to mark his paper. The companion must then fill in and sign a simple declaration which will be given to him by the presiding officer. This declaration merely states who the companion is, and that he will keep his knowledge of the vote secret.

H. D. GAMBLE, of Hitchin, sends us the following story.

A spider asked another how he was getting on and received the reply that in these days of vacuum cleaners he couldn't get any peace anywhere. "Why not come and stay with me," said the first spider, "I'm peaceful enough."

"Where are you then?" asked the other. "In an offertory box in Aberdeen."

Triangles

LAST month's competition proved a teaser after all, and entries dropped considerably. Those from W. Collins, of Redhill, and R. Young, of Blackfield, Southampton, were the first opened containing the correct solution, which was:

```

      T
     E E
    U   M
   Q   P
  N     E
 A     R
B A N T E R S
  
```

Here is this month's competition:—

```

      a
     . .
    . . .
   . . . .
  . . . . .
 b . . . . . c
 ba=Smoke
 bc=Bird
 ac=Cad
  
```

As this example is still a fairly easy one two prizes of half a guinea each will again be awarded. Entries must be addressed to the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review," Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1, and the envelopes marked "Competition." Entries will be received up to the first post on Monday, 5th February. The prizes will be awarded for the two first correct solutions opened.

St. Dunstaners only are eligible for the competition and no correspondence on the matter will be entertained.

Guide Dogs for the Blind

WE have received a suggestion in a letter from G. E. Fox to a member of the staff, which we print below:—

"Regarding Mr. Christopher Stone's appeal for Funds for training Dog Guides for the Blind—do you not think it would be a wise idea if an appeal was published in the REVIEW for one and all of us St. Dunstaners to contribute a small donation towards such a valued appeal and submit same in bulk to the said organizer? The said scheme could be used merely as a 'start off' or even better still a yearly contributory scheme, while the organization lasts, as I do not think there would be many, if any, who would begrudge a few pence per year towards such an appeal."

Letters to the Editor

A ST. DUNSTAN'S FLOWER SHOW?

DEAR SIR,

It is pleasing to see St. Dunstan's taking a direct interest in gardening now, for this is such a popular hobby amongst St. Dunstaners, and so healthy too. Is it not possible to arrange an annual Flower Show? There could be limitations in the way of classes and the number of prizes one might win, and entries for such a Show could be sent up from all over the country. What an addition this would make to the General Sports Day if it were possible to arrange it on the same Saturday!—Yours truly,
31st December, 1933. BRIGHTONIAN.

DEAR SIR,

I have just had a short article read to me out of the REVIEW on gardening. This interested me very much and I feel sure many of our men have felt the same.

Would it be possible for some good nurseryman to give us advice as well each month? I for one send every year for different plants or trees and as I say, if a nurseryman could help us each month, he would no doubt receive our orders. There are many little questions I should like to ask on gardening. I know a little but I am always out to know more.—Yours sincerely,
Bilston, Staffs. G. MATTHEWS.

SUGGESTED CHESS LEAGUE.

DEAR SIR,

Will you please enrol G. Fallowfield and R. J. Williams in the proposed Chess League.

We should like to make a few suggestions.

A secretary should be appointed with a knowledge of the game. Mr. Panton (Mat Instructor) might be asked, as he is a chess player.

There could be a trophy to be contested for, the champion to hold it for the year with a replica to keep. Should a man win it so many years in succession—say five years or longer—it becomes his property.

From the names of intending competitors could be drawn those of each pair to play through the post, their moves being recorded on post-cards, numbering the cards as they are sent. When the game is won, all the cards to be sent to the secretary who can check the moves. The semi-final could be played through the post in the same way, with a Chestnuts (chess-nuts) Reunion at Headquarters at the end of the year to play the final over the board, or the finalists could spend the week-end at Brighton and play there or wherever would be most convenient.

We should like to know what other chess men have to say or what suggestions they have.

Wishing all chess players and yourself a very happy New Year.—Yours sincerely,

63 Mile Oak Road. R. J. WILLIAMS.
Southwick, Sussex. G. FALLOWFIELD.

DEAR SIR,

My attention has been drawn to a letter which appeared in your November issue, advocating a St. Dunstan's Chess League, and it seems well that I should inform you of the existence of the Braille Chess Association. If St. Dunstan's should form a league of its own, my association will be very glad to play matches with it, but I very much doubt whether there is the room, or the need, for two organizations in the limited world of blind chessists. The Braille Chess Association, now in its third year, has 31 members of various strengths, and confines itself to correspondence play. It arranges tournaments, both championship and handicap, among its members, matches with other clubs, and friendly games for all grades of players. Members are supplied with a Braille report in November, and gazettes, also in Braille, in March and July. The annual subscription is 3s., and becomes due on the 1st of October of each year. This subscription is inclusive, and there are no extras. Anyone capable of conducting chess correspondence in Braille is eligible for membership, and I shall be glad to supply further particulars to anyone desiring them.—Yours faithfully,

ERNEST A. H. EATON.

Secretary, The Braille Chess Association.

157 Whippendell Road,
Watford, Herts.
15th December, 1933.

Silver Weddings

WE have two silver weddings to record this month. F. J. Shepherd, of Intake, Sheffield, and his wife celebrated their anniversary on 26th December, 1933, and Sergeant and Mrs. A. M. Nichols had been married twenty-five years on 14th January.

Births

DEMBENSKI.—To the wife of A. A. Dembenki, of Cheltenham, on 13th January, 1934, a son.
MOELLER.—To the wife of J. G. Moeller, of Dagenham, on 13th January, 1934, a daughter.
WILLIAMS.—To the wife of E. Williams, of Shipley, on 18th December, 1933, a son.

Deaths

We offer our deep sympathy this month to the following:—

BROWNE.—To P. Browne, of Bordon, who lost his brother on 16th December, 1933.
CHIVERS.—To C. Chivers, of Dowlais, whose aged father passed away on 22nd December, 1933.
COOKE.—To H. G. Cooke, of Birmingham, who lost his mother on 23rd December, 1933.
MANNING.—To H. Manning, of Upper Holloway, whose mother passed away on 4th January.
MUIR.—To W. Muir, of Leeds, who lost his father on 5th January.
YUILE.—To the wife of P. Yuile, of Glasgow, whose father died recently after a long and painful illness.

"In Memory"

A.B. JOHN DOYLE
(*Mercantile Marine*)

ST. DUNSTANERS will learn with regret of the death of John Doyle who passed away on 10th December, 1933. Doyle, who, by his sunny nature and friendly disposition, had endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact, was spending the September holidays with his married daughter in Cologne when he was attacked with a stroke. He was brought back to Brighton, but gradually got worse and for the last three weeks could not speak, but never failed to acknowledge the attention given him with a smile.

The interment was at Brighton on 14th December. The coffin, which was draped with the Union Jack, was followed to the grave by Matron, Miss Downing, Sister Mason, and several of his comrades. The Rev. Father Newton conducted the burial service at the graveside.

Among the floral tributes at the funeral were those from Captain Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's, Mr. and Mrs. Jacklin, Mrs. Brix (Doyle's daughter in Germany), Miss Downing and Miss Thellusson.

Many of us will miss his quiet, humorous personality, as, having been a seaman, Doyle had a fund of interesting anecdotes to recount, although he was, by nature, very retiring.

A.B. ALFRED PETER BURTON KNOTWELL
(*Royal Navy*).

It is with much regret that we have to record the death of A. P. B. Knotwell, of Portsmouth, which occurred on the 30th November, 1933. Knotwell lost his sight through an accident while serving at Portsmouth Dock Yard, and shortly afterwards came to St. Dunstan's, where he was taught boot repairing and mat-making. His health, however, which had never been very good, began to fail, and he was unable to do much at these occupations, and after a little while, he gave up his boot repairing. He continued with his mat-making for some years, but eventually had to give this up too, owing to ill-health.

Towards the end of the past year, he became very ill, and passed away on the 30th November. The funeral took place at Milton Cemetery on Tuesday, 5th December. Among the wreaths was one from Captain Fraser and his comrades of St. Dunstan's.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family in their bereavement.

The F.A.F. in 1933

ONE day's holiday for 109,800 children; a whole fortnight's holiday for 2,676 children. This was the splendid record of Pearson's Fresh Air Fund during 1933 in its endeavours to bring a little happiness into the drab lives of the poorest children in London and forty provincial towns.

The "King's Party"—made possible by a special donation from His Majesty in addition to his annual subscription—was this year devoted to children of Burnley, and 6th July, 1933, was a red-letter day for 650 local youngsters.

The opening day of the London season—known since 1922 as "Founder's Day," in memory of Sir Arthur Pearson—saw one thousand poor children entertained and made happy at Loughton. Mrs. Stanley Baldwin motored from Downing Street to be with them and was met at

Loughton by Sir Neville Pearson, Bart. (President), and Lady Pearson, Mr. Ernest Kessell, C.B.E. (who has been Honorary Organizer of the Fund for forty-one years), and other officials.

The photographs in the 42nd Annual Report, of happy, care-free children away from the slums in which their other days are spent, and the extracts from the letters from the children themselves, are surely the Fresh Air Fund's best reward.

Brief Notes

J. Palmer, of Maryhill, Glasgow, won a bedspread at a limbless ex-service men's whist drive.

We are glad to hear that W. Hallam, telephonist, has started work again.

A. F. Mussell, of Charfield, presented the prizes at a whist drive at the British Legion Club, Wotton-under-Edge, in aid of St. Dunstan's.

Fragrance

UNDER this heading in their seed catalogue, Messrs. Ryder & Son, Ltd., of St. Albans, published an article which must be of such interest to all gardening St. Dunstaners that we do not hesitate to reprint it in the REVIEW.

If any reader would care to have the catalogue numbers and particulars of any of the seeds described, the Editor will gladly send them.

A recent visitor to our Exhibition Hall told us a most interesting story of how, years ago, he was medically advised that he was going blind. Feeling that he could not live without a garden he commenced collecting and planting plants with scented flowers and aromatic foliage, so that he could recognize and enjoy them in the dreaded, dark days. Fortunately, his sight recovered, but nevertheless both he and his friends still derive the greatest enjoyment by wandering through his scented garden.

We consider his idea was a most beautiful one, and we feel justified in drawing attention to the following scented or aromatic plants which are offered elsewhere in this seed book.

Abronia	Exacum	Nicotiana
Aloysia	Fennel	Pinks
Alyssum	Freesia	Primrose
Ambrosia	Genista	Primula
Asperula	Gilia	Rosemary
Auricula	Heliotrope	Rue
Balm	Humea	Silene
Basil	Lavender	Soalnum
Camomile	Mandevillea	Stocks
Candytuft	Malva	Sweet Peas
Carnations	Marjoram	Thyme
Cyclamen	Mignonette	Valerian
Dracocephalum	Mint	Verbenas
Erysimum	Matthiola	Wallflowers
Eucalyptus	Monarda	
Eucharidium	Nasturtium	

Gardening Hints for February

FEBRUARY is the month for sowing tomato seeds. Here is a good method. Get shallow boxes about two or three inches deep, some good riddled soil, and a small portion of old manure. Work the manure through the soil and fill the boxes with it; press down lightly with a piece of wood, and water the top with a spray. When this has drained through, get a piece of stick the length of your box and make rows an inch apart, putting each seed also an inch apart. This method takes a little extra time but it is worth it in the end. Now cover the seeds with more fine soil.

Some gardeners cover the tops of their boxes with glass. I find, however, that this causes a sweat underneath the glass, making the plants dampen off when they are shooting up, and I prefer to cover mine with paper.

Some people, too, prick off the seedlings when they get the fourth leaf, but they haven't much root on them then and they dampen off. By sowing your seeds my way, you can fill up between each row with soil until they get up to their sixth and eighth leaf; this gives them a better chance to make more roots and fewer are lost when it comes to pricking off.

D. MAKIN.

National Laying Test

THE following are the results for the last four weeks in the St. Dunstan's Section of the National Egg-Laying Contest:—

Position.	Name.	Test Score	Value.
1	Smith, W. Alan	...	259
2	Jarvis, A.	253
3	Campbell, J.	...	204
4	Carpenter, E. H.	...	195
5	Cork, W. F.	...	179
6	Westwood, R.	...	173
7	Hamilton, B.	...	172
8	Stock, C. H.	...	171
9	Holmes, P.	...	167
10	Knopp, H. A.	...	166
11	Woodcock, W. J.	...	162
12	James, G.	155
13	Yates, H. W.	...	154
14	Melling, D.	...	153
14	Ashwell, R.	...	153
16	Jackson, G. C.	...	151
17	Roach, C.	142
18	McLaren, D.	...	121
19	Brown, M. Watson	...	116
20	Lea, J. H.	...	107
21	Chaffin, A.	...	82
22	Condon, C. T.	...	71
22	Watson, W. W.	...	71
24	Burtenshaw, W. A.	...	48

Advertisement

GENUINE BARGAINS. Strong, healthy goats for sale; good milking strain. Due to kid in April. From 15s. each.—G. PRICE, Cross House Farm, Jay Wick Lane, Clacton-on-Sea.

After-Care Meetings

BRISTOL.

THE Bristol After-Care Meeting on the 25th November, 1933, was as cheerful as usual, and was a very good muster. "Pyramid Patience" had many devotees, and "Passing the Parcel" proved a very amusing competition, the Musical Trio quite entering into the spirit of the game.

Mr. Ottaway's speech was most interesting, and there were so many requests for interviews that he only just caught his train. It was disappointing that the members of Toc H, who had promised to come in, were unable to do so, but we hope to see them another year.

The competitions were won by E. Brewer and Mrs. Bowering, H. Weeks and Mrs. Taplin being second. The cake was won by A. C. Robbins.

D. I. M. AYRE.

EXETER.

THE Exeter Meeting can always be described as large and cheerful. The fact that the 8th of December last year was a very cold day did not interfere and there was a record attendance. The small orchestra made valiant efforts, and could just be heard above the hum of conversation. "Pyramid Patience" had a few players, and "Passing the Parcel" caused great amusement, Mrs. Chaplin and A. Eden being first, and Mrs. Tout and G. Hadfield second. The cake was won by A. Lane.

Everyone enjoyed Mr. Ottaway's speech, and S. Ash and F. Westaway spoke very well in reply.

D. I. M. AYRE.

Young St. Dunstaners' Achievements

IN a recent examination for pianoforte playing, Vera, the daughter of James Horridge, of Atherton, near Manchester, passed with honours, gaining the splendid marks of 96 out of a possible 100. Furthermore, these marks were the highest gained by any of the entrants.

This is the second occasion on which

Vera has gained this distinction for in March last she passed again with honours, gaining 88 marks out of a possible 100. She thus holds the record of gaining the highest marks in Bolton for 1933.

Vera has now been asked to play at the presentation ceremony, when she will receive, in addition to her honour's diploma, a special prize from the Mayor of Bolton.

This young St. Dunstaner is also a clever elocutionist. At an "All-England" contest at Alderley Edge, she was only defeated by one mark for the highest marks obtainable.

※ ※ ※

ANOTHER young St. Dunstaner who shows great musical promise is the little ten-year-old daughter of S. Sephton, of St. Helen's, who has just gained a First Class Pass in the Junior London College of Music (Pianoforte).

A Birds' Boarding House

W. Ward, of St. Leonards, writes:—

"I am very fond of Nature and I have several kinds of birds nesting on my shed. I have made a large box with three partitions in it, and in this box a family of starlings occupy all the three partitions; they are all friends and live in one block like tenants.

"At the rear of the shed I have made a shelter by placing a board leaning to the earth and several birds perch under this at night.

"Just outside the back door there is a small fig-leaf palm growing and during the wet days, early morning and evening, quite a dozen birds take shelter and wait for the door to be opened. As soon as it is opened they all fly out to see if anything has been thrown out for them. It is very amusing and they look so disappointed if there is nothing for them."

Congratulations

To Miss Blodwyn Brooks Simon who has been awarded the first prize for hand-knitting in the National Institute's competition, open to the blind throughout the British Isles,

and to J. Sheehy, of Dover, who, at the Annual Conference of the Kent Council British Legion, on 9th December, 1933, was reelected a Vice-President of the Kent Council.