ST. DUNSTAN'S PREVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The King Honours Dominion St. Dunstaners

N the King's New Year Honours List Captain Edwin Baker, M.C., of Canada, has been awarded the Honour of the Order of the British Empire, and Mr. Clutha Mackenzie, of

New Zealand, has been created a Knight Bachelor.

I wrote a letter which appeared in last month's Review telling how these two St. Dunstaners had returned to the Dominions of Canada and New Zealand after the War and had devoted themselves whole-heartedly to work for the welfare of the blind; how they had induced their Parliaments to pass legislation in aid of the blind and had built up the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the New Zealand Institute for the Blind to give a splendid national service. Their success and the value of their work will be present in readers' minds, and I need not therefore stress it.

All St. Dunstaners and, indeed, all blind people in the Old Country will join in offering congratulations to Captain and Mrs. Baker and Sir Clutha and Lady Mackenzie on this occasion when the King has been pleased to honour them. We shall feel, too, that St. Dunstan's is honoured, for out of St. Dunstan's came the education, the new outlook and the

inspiration for their work.

The letter to which I refer dealt with the work done for the blind generally in the Dominions. Here in this Magazine I can add some personal comments as a colleague and

friend, and as one lately returned from a visit to their countries.

Captain Baker has more than once visited us in London and has impressed all of us with his enthusiasm and efficiency. He is a man who carries every detail of his vast organization in his mind and can speak fluently and to the point on any matter affecting the employment or the welfare of the blind, which comes up for discussion. His reputation is also very high in the United States and he is frequently consulted by the leading authorities there. During my few days in Canada recently I realized in what a wide field his name is known and respected for his work, and also how much he had helped Canadian blinded soldiers by the organization which he and his friends built up. I met the majority of the Canadian St. Dunstaners who were settled in the bigger cities and they all had a good word to say for Eddie Baker and will rejoice that his work has been recognized. Incidentally, he is one of the few St. Dunstaners whose gallantry during service was recognized by the award of the Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre.

Sir Clutha Mackenzie was a member of the first New Zealand Expeditionary Force; after he was blinded on Gallipoli he came to St. Dunstan's and then started and edited a

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Magazine called the Chronicles of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force which was very widely read by people in New Zealand and by New Zealanders overseas. Returning to New Zealand he was elected to Parliament—the first blinded soldier, I think, to enter political life. Then followed his interest in the welfare of the blind, first on a Royal Commission and later as Director of the New Zealand Institute. Clutha Mackenzie is one of the best known figures in New Zealand, and he also has a very high reputation in the blind world in Australia, the United States and here.

New Year Greetings

THANKS to my many St. Dunstan's friends who sent me and my family Christmas messages, or messages of welcome on our return. I shall write about our travels next month. In the meantime—A very Happy New Year to all.

IAN FRASER.

The Duke of Kent and St. Dunstan's

E announced last month that a gift of a reversible tea-tray and a cable wool rug had been sent to the Duke of Kent on behalf of all St. Dunstaners on the occasion of his marriage.

Mr. Askew has now received the following letter from His Royal Highness:

> Buckingham Palace, 19th December, 1934.

Dear Mr. Askew,

The Duchess of Kent and I wish to offer our sincere thanks to all the members of St. Dunstan's for the reversible tea tray and the wool rug which they sent to us on the occasion of our marriage.

We both very much appreciate the thought which has prompted this gift.

ours sincerely, GEORGE.

New Year Greetings from Canada

THE following letter has been received by Sir Ian Fraser, from Captain E. A. Baker, of Toronto:

Dear Sir Ian,

At the Annual General Meeting of the Sir Arthur Pearson Club held on November 17th, I was directed to extend cordial greetings of the members to St. Dunstan's and all blinded soldiers in Great Britain.

On behalf of British blinded soldiers, will you kindly accept this expression of remembrance and good-will, and indicate to all concerned our desire that the ensuing year may be a pleasant and more prosperous one for them.

With personal best wishes, I remain, Yours faithfully, E. A. BAKER, Secretary-Treasurer.

These good wishes are, we know, sincerely reciprocated by St. Dunstaners everywhere.

Matron's Thanks

Y dear boys,
Ever so many thanks to you, your
wives and children, for the hundreds
of cards, calendars and good wishes I
have received from you this Christmas
and New Year. I wish I could write to each
one of you individually to tell you how
much I appreciate your kind thought of
me, but alas, time will not permit me to
do this, but I do send each one of you,
through the medium of the Review, a
very big "THANK YOU" and best of
good wishes for the New Year.

Blessings on you all,
Your affectionate friend,
Adeline Thellusson,
Commandant Matron.

Armistice Day, 1934

N Sunday, 11th November, a party of twelve St. Dunstaners, headed by Colonel Eric Ball, who was acting as Chairman in the absence of Sir Ian Fraser, marched from Wellington Barracks with representatives of other ex-Service men's organizations to take part in the service at the Cenotaph. After the ceremony the St. Dunstan's wreath was placed on the Cenotaph by Colonel Ball and W. Birch.

In the evening a number of St. Dunstaners were present at the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall.

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G. E. Crook, of Herne Bay, placed a wreath on the local Cenotaph on behalf of his branch of the British Legion.

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W. Burgin, of Sheffield, also placed a British Legion wreath on the War Memorial.

Brighton News

T was a large and happy house party which gathered at our Brighton Annexe for the Festive Season, which was given a good start with a dance on Christmas Eve.

At breakfast on Christmas morning each man found beside his plate Matron's gift of a tie. During the morning members of the Grocers' Federation came in to wish us the compliments of the season. After viewing the decorations, our old friend, Mr. Yeoman, on behalf of the Federation, reiterated the promise of their continued interest in everything connected with St. Dunstan's. Before departing, they showed their usual generosity by leaving a parcel of cigarettes and handkerchiefs for each one of us. Over a hundred guests sat down to dinner of real old Christmas fare. during which Matron read messages of good wishes from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, Mrs. Bates and Sister Morris. Then, over port and cigars T. Healey, on behalf of the men, in a delightful speech, asked the Matron to accept a very pretty dress ornament as a token of their love and respect. An adjournment was then made to the lounge for music, song and dance.

On Boxing Day we had our big dance at which there were the usual large company. The fancy dresses were most original, the prizes going respectively to F. Craddock, Glaxo Baby; A. Evans, Trunk Crime No. 1.; G. Jolly, Belisha Beacon. A flashlight photo was taken for the local press.

For the rest of the holidays there were concerts, talkies, pantomimes and dances. There was great fun on New Year's Day. A kind friend sent in a £1 note for the boys and another a box of chocolates. Matron decided to split the £1 into half-crowns and with the chocolates and a shoe off the racehorse "Enfield," given by Sister Boyd-Rochfort, made a draw. The port we had at dinner had sharpened our wits and many were the remarks as the lucky names came out of the bag.

Another treat was the visit of the variety artiste, Miss Gracie Fields, a great favourite, who in her own inimitable way, amused and entertained us for nearly an hour.

We cannot close without paying a tribute to those responsible for the decorations which were both pretty and artistic. Miniature electric lights criss-crossed in and out of the green and coloured lamp shades, and other decorations were used in the lounges and dining-room. A jolly Father Christmas was a great delight to the hosts of children as well as the adults.

The Fresh Air Fund

WE have received from Mr. Kessell the 43rd annual report of Pearson's Fresh Air Fund. It has as its title, "Especially the Children," and readers will probably remember that it was with these words the King ended his broadcast message on Christmas Day, 1933. "I wish to all who hear me, and especially to the children, whose real day this is, a happy Christmas." His Majesty's generous financial support of the Fresh Air Fund for the twenty-seventh year in succession this year enabled twenty-five children from London to spend a happy fortnight at Bognor Regis, while a special donation provided a wonderful day in the country for hundreds of Hull children.

The report is a record of a year's splendid work. From the poorer districts of our large industrial towns, 114,838 children were taken for a happy day or fortnight at the sea or in the country—a new experience for most of them and one which few will forget.

A feature of this year's work was the setting-aside of a number of "name-days"—days on which special parties of children were taken to the sea or country, the cost being borne by a certain subscriber or collector. July 31st, 1934, was St. Dunstan's Day, when four hundred children from the Hoxton district of London were taken to Epping Forest as the guests of St. Dunstaners and members of St. Dunstan's staff.

From the Weston-super-Mare Gazette,
December 8th, 1934:

The art of Mr. Bertram B. Bowering, the blind ex-soldier, is not unknown in Weston, and his exhibition of willow, cane and basket work at Drove Road during the week has attracted considerable attention. The great variety of the exhibits was a testimonial to the industry of the worker, who has displayed splendid courage in fighting against one of the worst handicaps anyone can suffer in life. Many of the examples of wicker work were designed to appeal to those seeking Christmas presents, but in addition to the more domestic subjects such as shopping baskets and larger utility items. Mr. Bowering has earned hearty congratulation.

Queer Birds

(From a Correspondent.)

THE London Zoo has acquired a bird with an illuminated nose, which sounds almost too good to be true, but is not, because Zoological Fellows are not pullers of legs, nor can the Press lie, although it sometimes may have a very exaggerated sense of rumour. I suppose that most of us have read of Lewis Carroll's "Dong With A Luminous Nose"; here it is in the flesh—and, one presumes, in the feather as well, unless it has moulted.

This seems to me only to be one more proof of the fact that fiction is stranger than truth, because one year fiction is fiction, and the next it is not. Lewis Carroll was really only a little previous. That is all. First, he thought of the Bird with the Illuminated Dial, and then Nature was so struck by the notion that she produced one and gave it to the Zoo.

The latter, I have no doubt, is very proud of its highly-coloured acquisition, but it had better not get too puffed up with pride, for there are many other strange birds I should like to see there, and which are inexplicably missing. Moreover, when they do get an example of a curious bird, it seems to me that they sometimes manage to get hold of a wrong example altogether.

Take, for example, the Secretary Bird, which spends its time alternately woofling and stenographing to itself. As I understand it from Bluffem and other very natural historians, the Secretary Bird should have a pouch just under its heart, where it keeps its note-book and pencil. The one at the Zoo has no pouch. Is then the Zoo deceiving itself or the public?

I say both. I don't think it's a Secretary Bird at all. It is more like a Great Tippety Tap. The other day I took the trouble to ask. I went up to a Fellow of the Royal Zoological Society and said "Hey! Zoological Fellow! Where is the pouch of the Secretary Bird?" To which he answered, very superciliously, as I thought, "Hoi! Writing fellow! Our Secretary Bird uses a dictaphone, and its pouch has become extinct. Take it or leave it." I took it and left, but I think the Zoo is wrong.

Anyhow, I will give them the Secretary Bird, which is rather generous of me, and point out some definite gaps in their collection, which cannot be glossed over by light prattle about dictaphones. Have they, for example, an Ouzel Bird? I think not. I have never seen one there. The peculiarity of this feathered freak is that it always flies backwards to keep the sun out of its eyes.

Again, there is the Lesser Furry Siskin which flies only so far and no furrier. There is not one in the Zoo.

Then there is the Tinned Asparagus Bird, an Empire product, of course. This is also missing. This pathetic creature leans so far back on its branch, when eating tinned asparagus that it invariably overbalances and falls with a sharp curse and a dull thud to the ground. I am starting a society for the provision of Ornithological Asparagus Tongs for these poor creatures, as their life is a very hard one. So is the ground on which they so constantly crash.

The Great Spotted Chuckwood is also missing from Regent's Park. This gets its name from its habit of pecking bits out of spotted rocking-horses and throwing them away. Nor have they a Sprightly Aunt-Eater, which is a pity. It might put in an especially good day's work at the Zoo during the School Holidays. I believe that there was once a hope of acquiring a Half-Hearted Burbler, but a sudden General Election cornered the whole stock, and a few hundred Scrawny Wibble Wobbles as well.

And have the Zoo a Snub-Nosed Humph, a False-Toothed Shronk, or a Blathers Kite? They have not.

Have they a Green and Orange Dado? Again, they have not. To which they will reply that the Dado is extinct. To which I retort "Pshaw!" but only, of course, in a Pshavian sense.

And have they——? But, No! Indignant as we are, we can at least keep the conversation clean.

Silver Weddings

CONGRATULATIONS to R. J. Thomas, of Worcester, and his wife, whose silver wedding was on December 18th, to J. Vernon, of Rugeley, and his wife who celebrated their anniversary on December 26th, and to H. J. Edwards, of Norwich, and his wife, whose anniversary was on January 15th.

"In Memory"

Rifleman William Henry Farr (19th Bn. Rifle Brigade)

It is with great regret that we have to record the death of W. H. Farr, of Windsor. Farr came to Windsor in 1898 from S. Devon, and was a carpenter there until 1915 when he joined up. As a result of his War Service he lost his sight and it was then he came to our notice. He continued with his occupation of furniture making at which he carried on successfully. He enjoyed very good health until quite recently when he suddenly became ill and after being confined to his room for about three weeks he died on November 29th, aged 73 years.

The funeral took place on December 4th at Windsor Cemetery, and was preceded by a service in Windsor Parish Church. Many mourners were present, including his wife and family, and there was a large number of wreaths, amongst which was one from Captain Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's. In the evening of the funeral the bell ringers of Windsor Parish Church, of whom Farr was a member, assembled and rang a muffled peal of 1200 Stedman Triples.

Our sympathy goes out to his widow and family.

Private Herbert B. Read (Queen's Royal West Surreys)

It is with deepest regret that we announce the death of H. B. Read, of Brighton. Read served in the Great War from 1915 to 1919, at the end of which his eyesight began to fail and in a very short time had practically gone. Later on he came to St. Dunstan's where he was trained in the occupation of basket-making at which he was most successful.

For some time past his health had not been too good, and about the middle of December he was taken seriously ill and brought to our Brighton Annexe whence he was removed to the Royal Sussex County Hospital. He was only there a few days when his death occurred on December 22nd.

The funeral took place in Brighton and was attended by many relatives and friends. There were many beautiful wreaths, including one from Sir Ian Fraser and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to his widow in her bereavement.

Births

FEARN.—To the wife of E. Fearn, of East Kirby, on the 9th January, a son.

Homan.—To the wife of T. Homan, of Cork, on the 28th December, a daughter—Abina Eva.

RODEN.—To the wife of T. G. Roden, of Wembley Park, on the 24th September last, a son

Deaths

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

BLAKER.—To the wife of A. W. Blaker, of Lancing, whose mother passed away a few weeks ago at the age of 84 years.

GRIBBEN.—To A. Gribben, of Belfast, who has recently lost his mother.

GRIFFITHS.—To J. Griffiths, of Coventry, and his wife, whose little 10 year old son, Gordon Crisp, died on December 28th.

Harrison.— To E. A. Harrison, of Nottingham, whose mother has recently died. Another St. Dunstaner, W. Foxwell, who lives in the same village, will also mourn Mrs. Harrison's loss as she has "mothered" him for a long time.

GRIFFIN.—To C. Griffin, of Clive Vale, Hastings, whose wife passed away on December 27th.

McAvoy.—To J. McAvoy, of Mauchline, whose brother died suddenly on December 9th.

New Venture by St. Dunstan's Shopkeeper

E are very interested to hear that J. H. Mason, of Bognor Regis, has opened another shop for the sale of women's and children's underwear, hosiery, household linen, etc.

The business is under the personal supervision of Mrs. Mason, who, with the assistance of a daughter, is being kept extremely busy knitting goods specially ordered by customers.

Mason has, of course, carried on the business of a grocer and provision dealer in Bognor for many years, and is one of the best known shopkeepers in the town.

We wish him every success in his new venture and hope that his wife and daughter will be kept busy knitting the constant demand for repeat orders.

National Laying Test

REPORT for the 2nd period of 4 weeks November 12th—December 9th, 1934:

Positio	on. Name.	Test	score	value.
1	Jarvis, A			217
2	CI I C TT			189
3	Carpenter, E. H.			188
4	Brown, M. Watson	1		180
5	Peach, C			175
6	Transaction A			172
7	Yates, H. W.			167
8	Campbell, J.			166
9	Pink, A		***	154
10				153
11				153
12				147
13	Hill, R. E			146
14	Chaffin, A.			142
15				138
16				133
17			***	131
18	Sutton, A. W.			115
19	Webb, W.			103
20	Holmes, P.			97
21	Watson, W. W.			96
22	Hamilton, B.		1244	93
23				79
24				73
25	Brown, C. H.			72
26	McLaren, D.			70
27	Woodcock, W. J.		CRRA	63
28	Goodley, H. F.		***	52
29	Benning, A.			51
30	Jackson, G. C.		****	45
31				38
32	James, G			10

British Legion, Dover Branch

T the annual general meeting of the above branch, which was held at the Oddfellows' Hall, on the 16th October last, J. Sheehy was re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Branch. This is the second year he has held this office.

He has also been elected Pensions Representative on the Benevolent Committee, delegate to the Annual National Conference next Whitsuntide, and he has again been honoured by being re-elected a Vice-President of the Kent Council British Legion. He is also a representative of disabled men on the Isle of Thanet and Dover War Pensions Committee.

An Enquiry from Canada

THE following letter appeared in the Stornoway Gazette on December 21st:

(To the Editor of the "Gazette") Sir,—On or about the 25th day of April, 1915, I happened to meet a wounded soldier of the Seaforths, in a Church at "Vlamertinghe" which was being used as a dressing station. The Medical Officer in charge told me he had lost his eyesight. It is a long time since then, but I have often thought of him.

His name was either Matheson or Mackenzie, he came from Stornoway or an adjoining parish. The late Provost Mackenzie informed me that he had taken a course in Braille at St. Dunstan's.

If you know anything about the man, I would like you to tell him that the writer is the officer of the Canadians who spoke in Gaelic to him, and endeavoured to tell him where he was.

Yours etc...

J. M. MACMILLAN.

If a St. Dunstaner should recognize himself as the wounded soldier referred to, he might like to get in touch with the writer of the letter c/o the *Stornoway Gazette*, Stornoway.

Army Comrades Meet After Thirty Years

 J. SMITH, of Leicester, has just met again an old Army friend whom he had not seen for thirty years. When he joined the Grenadier Guards in 1904, one of Smith's comrades was Mr. A. J. Blake, who, however, eventually left the regiment and is now a physical instructor at Skegness. His story of how he recognized Smith after thirty years appeared in the Leicester Evening Mail of 15th November. He said: "I was standing with the Old Contemptibles at the Armistice Day Memorial Service in Leicester Cathedral on Sunday. A few yards away was an old soldier with his profile turned towards me. The face struck me as familiar and I pondered for some time. I thought that it was an old comrade named Smith who served with me in the Grenadier Guards, and I asked one of the Old Contemptibles to ask him if his name was Smith. He sent back a message that it was, and we met outside after the service."

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H. Acton, of Paignton, was initiated as a member of Toc H on December 12th, after a Dedication Ceremony at which his branch received its Lamp of Maintenance.

February in the Flower Garden

URING the wet weather and gales we had in November and December your wallflowers and other plants were very probably blown about a good deal. See that the soil is pressed in around the bottom. This will straighten them and most important of all, will keep the frost from getting at the roots. While we are talking of frost, it is very likely that your bulbs are a good way through the ground owing to the mild weather we had before Christmas. Keep an eve on these, and, if the frost becomes very severe, it is advisable to cover them over lightly. Bracken is one of the best things you can do this with, although of course it is not always possible to obtain. My advice, however, is don't cover unless it is absolutely necessary as the bulbs will stand a fair amount of frost and it is a bother to have to cover a number of them.

If you have been planning out a new garden you can still plant roses. You will be able to do this until about the middle of March. No doubt you have a little spare time on your hands just now. Try and get a few of those weeds out of the lawn; it is surprising how many you can find when you start.

C. F. VIGAR.

News of Young St. Dunstaners

THE family of A. G. Briggs of Norwich is proving a musical one. His eldest son has passed his seventh examination, with honours, for the A.V.C.M., and his little daughter has just taken her first music examination and has passed.

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Gwilym Kenneth Debnam, the elevenyear-old son of J. H. Debnam, of Chester, has passed, with distinction, his first examination for pianoforte playing for the Victoria College of Music, held at Manchester last November.

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The little daughter of W. Robinson, of Welby, near Grantham, has passed the Junior Division examination of the Trinity College of Music, London, for pianoforte. Beatrice, who is only just eleven, is her music-teacher's youngest pupil to pass.

Edwin Owen, son of J. C. Owen, of Liverpool, is yet another young St. Dunstaner who is doing well at music. He has passed, with honourable mention, the first examination of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London. The examiners' report says that his reading at sight was exceptionally good.

M M M

The son of F. Gilhooley of Verwood has sailed on the "Empress of Australia" as a bell-boy on a seven-seas cruise. He will be away until the end of April.

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George D. Shayler, the son of W. Shayler, of Stoneycroft, Liverpool, did splendidly in the recent Boxing Competition. He was successful in winning through to the Finals and only lost the Final of the Mosquito Weights by a narrow margin. He received a medal. George, who is now 15½ years old and is training on H.M.S. Ganges, is determined to make a brave effort to carry off the Final next year. He has our good wishes.

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The son of P. J. Sparkes, of Grimsby, has passed his final examination of the Incorporated Accountants' Society. We wish him every success in his career.

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The son of C. Matthews, of Maidenhead, has now won three swimming certificates, including one for swimming fully dressed.

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Charlie Gill, son of our St. Dunstaner at Teddington, is captain of football at his school and has played for Surrey County Boys. He is also vice-captain of his school, chosen by the boys' vote.

A Correction

We regret that in error it was reported in last month's Review that the wife of W. J. Bowers, of Hounslow, had been involved in an accident. The announcement should have read—"the wife of W. Bower, of Sheffield."

We extend our sympathy and good wishes for her recovery to Mrs. Bower and an apology to Mrs. Bowers for the mistake.

SPORTS CLUB NOTES

NINE MILE WALK

Saturday, January 26th Three laps of Outer Circle

TWELVE MILE WALK Saturday, March 9th

DANCE AT HEADQUARTERS 8 to 11 p.m. Tuesday, February 5th

Brighton

10 MILE WALK—SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9th

Sealed Handicap for A. and B. Section open to any St. Dunstaner who can come to Brighton and back in the day, paying his own fares.

Entries to Sports Office H.Q. by Saturday, January 26th, please.

Manchester

This year we had the annual party with other war disabled men in November instead of January. It was a great success—about ninety men were present. Members of the Lord Mayor's Unemployed Orchestra very kindly came and played both before tea and afterwards when the competitions were going on, and so helped to make the party go with a real swing right from the start.

The competitions were run in three sections—each section having the same number of prizes—all given by various shops in Manchester.

An excellent variety concert was arranged by Mrs. Ward, and during this the Lord Mayor of Manchester kindly looked in and said a few words to the troops.

Before going to tea a telegram of loyal greetings was dispatched to H.M. the King, and just as a very happy evening was being brought to a close a telegram conveying His Majesty's thanks and good wishes arrived and gave the right finish to the party, which ended with the very hearty singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the King."

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The December meeting, which naturally

seemed rather small and quiet after the big party, was spent in doing competitions, playing dominoes and dancing.

The next meeting is January 16th at the Y.M.C.A., Peter Street, from 4 to 7 o'clock, when there will be a concert and dancing.

A very happy and prosperous New Year to all St. Dunstaners.

K. V. M. IRVINE.

Christmas Party

THE Christmas Party held in the Lounge at Headquarters on December 18th drew a splendid crowd of St. Dunstaners and their wives, and a great many old friends and staff, past and present, including Miss Hamar Greenwood and "Mr. H."

Everyone seemed to enter into the Christmas feeling of good cheer right from the start.

Dancing started at 7.30 p.m. After one or two dances Miss Norah Gruhn gave a delightful selection of songs. Her singing was greatly appreciated by everybody.

Just before supper Miss Stacey and Miss Woolrych handed out paper caps and masks, whistles and squeakers to each St. Dunstaner and escort.

A Paul Jones followed in which everyone in the room joined—with the result that no one could get round at all.

no one could get round at all.

Instructor Tovell blew his whistle to announce a draw for various presents that had been given, but all the other whistles blew in chorus. The louder he blew his for silence the louder the others chimed in. Order being at last restored, H. A. Dakin drew the lucky number and Miss Stacey presented the prizes.

Sister Sutcliffe and Miss Davis had arranged a wonderful supper; the cakes, mince pies, oranges, and cream were all presents.

Supper took about an hour, which gave time for old friends to meet and talk. After supper quite a few people with long distances to travel had to leave. It was sad to lose them, but for the last half-hour—we carried on till 11.30 p.m.—there was more room to dance.

It is always sad to finish up a good party, and the time to sing "Auld Lang Syne," which we did hand in hand, came all too soon.