

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

No. 229.—VOLUME XXI. [NEW SERIES]

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN.]

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### St. Dunstan's Brighton—Building Begins

THE construction of the Brighton Home will have begun by the time these words appear. The contract for land and building was signed towards the end of March. Thus ends a period of intensive thought and planning, and begins a period of action. A great strain will be thrown upon Mr. Askew and his staff, watching the progress of this enterprise during the coming year, and seeing that everything is carried out as it should be. In addition the arrangements for staffing, medical services, entertainments and so on, will receive the most careful consideration.

I received many hundreds of letters and expressions of opinion as a result of my circular letter about the Home. They were overwhelmingly favourable to the project, and expressed that abundant measure of confidence which is such an encouragement to us. Many valuable suggestions were made. None of these, down to the smallest detail, will be neglected. Many will be incorporated in the design or conduct of the Home.

We understand that the Hydro enterprise on the next site to our new Home is also proceeding. As a result of negotiations and representations by St. Dunstan's at a local meeting of Licensing Justices, a special Bar suitable for our men's use, but also available for the general public, will be erected on the side of the Hydro nearest to our Home. This will be just down the drive and across one little-used road, and exactly apposite, along a special path. We shall be able to approach it under our own steam, without a pilot.

I think we can legitimately congratulate St. Dunstan's, and thank the Brighton Council now that this splendid new development is under way.

### Mr. Banks for Brighton. Commander Smyth Joins the Staff

As I have stated on more than one occasion, the staff at the new Brighton Home will consist primarily and mainly of Matron and her splendid staff, who have served us so well at the old Home for so many years, but there will have to be additions and we hope to find suitable young people for this purpose.

It has always struck me that Miss Thellusson who has acted as Commandant Matron of the Home in every sense, has had a tremendous burden of responsibility to bear. As Head of the new Home she will take ultimate responsibility on the spot for every aspect of the work. But we will try and help her in various ways by allocating new duties to existing or new members of the staff. A scheme is now being worked out with a view to seeing that in the new Home the organisation of the many services to the men such as theatres, amusements, sports, outings, reading and so on, is properly planned and carried out.

One branch of activity which has imposed a great strain upon the staff of the existing

Home is general Welfare work. Many St. Dunstaners visiting the Home from a distance or living near, have made it a habit to consult Matron and other members of her staff about matters which are really nothing to do with the Home, but concern rather their relations with the Welfare Committee or the Welfare Services. It is felt that it would be advantageous to separate out these functions, and we have decided to appoint Mr. Banks as local resident representative of the Welfare Committee and Welfare Services, at Brighton. He will not take up this residential appointment until the new Home is open, but in view of Miss Thellusson's illness he is already taking up part-time duties at Brighton, the other part being taken up with his pension work at Headquarters. Mr. Banks is thus available for interviews and to handle welfare matters promptly and effectively at Brighton. There has been no more popular member of our welfare staff than Mr. Banks, whose knowledge of our men's affairs, including pension and many other difficulties, is so great. He has always placed this knowledge generously at our disposal and I am sure St. Dunstaners will welcome this appointment.

Mr. Banks' transfer to Brighton makes a vacancy in the Welfare Department at Headquarters, and we have, after very careful search and inquiry, appointed Commander A. D. D. Smyth, R.N., to our staff. Commander Smyth is a retired Naval officer, about the same age as most of us. He is thus in the prime of life, with the prospect of many years' valuable service ahead of him, and yet has considerable experience. He has now been undertaking his duties for a month or two, and is getting on very well with men and staff.

Mr. Ottaway will become Welfare Superintendent of the Southern Area, and Commander Smyth of the Northern Area. He will thus be taking charge of the forthcoming Reunion Meetings in the North, where St. Dunstaners will have the opportunity of becoming acquainted with him.

Mr. Doughty, who previously had charge of one of the areas, will now be Technical Superintendent for both. He will assist the Area Superintendents in all technical matters relating to training, settlement, trades, etc. Correspondence on trading matters should be addressed to Mr. Doughty at Raglan Street. The duties of Mr. Mace (Massage Department) and Mr. Ferguson (Poultry Farm) will remain unchanged.

Since the last REVIEW, Lady Fraser and I have had the pleasure of visiting the Exeter and Cambridge Reunions and hope also to attend the Edinburgh and York Meetings, as well as many others during the year.

### Widows

Last year I went to see the Minister of Pensions and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, to see if anything could be done to improve the position of blinded soldiers' widows. In the December REVIEW I hinted that something was afoot in this connection. The Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions (Voluntary Contributors') Bill is having its second reading as I write. This is commonly called the black-coated workers' bill, for its most outstanding provision is to apply widows', orphans', and old age pensions to the clerical classes. But a point that interests us is that it also opens up these provisions to people who are in business on their own account, and to disabled ex-service men, provided their un-earned income does not exceed £200 and their total income is not more than £400 a year.

The majority of St. Dunstaners are already insured for widows and old age pensions, but some hundreds are not, and if all goes well the majority of these will have the opportunity of the same valuable insurance under the new Bill. I say if all goes well because there are one or two details to be watched and about which we are at the moment in touch with the Government.

The man has to be under fifty-five years of age to enter this new scheme, and in the ordinary way would have to pay 1s. 3d. a week, but following its policy in connection with the previous Act, St. Dunstan's will pay half this contribution. Thus St. Dunstaners who are not at present in insurance and who are eligible for the new scheme, will get a pension of 10s. a week for themselves and their wives at age 65 respectively, and the guarantee of a pension of 10s. a week for their widows, at a cost of 7½d. a week. I calculate that the real cost of giving these benefits to the average St. Dunstaner is between 2s. 11d.

and 6s. a week, depending on his age, but he will get the benefits for 7½d. a week as the Government and St. Dunstan's are paying the difference.

The contribution for the old scheme is 1s. 8d. a week, but this includes National Health Insurance, which does not apply to the new scheme.

When this business has been satisfactorily carried through and the Bill passed, the overwhelming majority of blinded soldiers will be able to know that their widows will be sure of a pension of 10s. a week as a right. This is at any rate an advance on the present position and will, I think, give a measure of satisfaction to many.

### Blind Persons' Pensions at Forty

A few months ago I mentioned another Bill which proposed to make the blind person's pension payable at age forty instead of at age fifty. In order to avoid misleading the majority of St. Dunstaners I stated that this did not apply to our men. In this statement I went a little too far, as has been pointed out to me by J. C. Robbins, a St. Dunstaner who is employed in one of the Government Departments and who has made a study of these matters.

Certain men, particularly those who receive the St. Dunstan's pension instead of the ordinary military pension, and a few others who have only the minimum pension and practically no earnings, have been eligible at age fifty for the blind persons' pension, and similar cases down to forty years of age may now become eligible, it depends entirely upon their income and the income of their wives, just as the old original old age pension used to do. We have already secured this benefit for a certain number of St. Dunstaners at age fifty, and we are issuing a special instruction to the Social Visitors, giving them full particulars so that they can advise the men when they visit them as to how they stand.

While correcting the impression I gave last time, let me again emphasise that it will only be in relatively few cases that the ordinary St. Dunstaner's income level will permit of his enjoying even a part of this blind persons pension at forty, which is really meant for civilians.

IAN FRASER.

### The Ideal Home Exhibition

ST. DUNSTAN'S is again represented—this time with two stands—at the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition which opened at Olympia on March 30th.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester performed the opening ceremony and in their subsequent tour of the Exhibition, they stopped at the first of our stands where they met Sir Ian and Lady Fraser. Their Royal Highnesses also shook hands with W. Birchall, who is demonstrating joinery at the stand, and with F. Craddock and P. Crafter who are operating a 50 line switchboard at the Exhibition.

Talking to Sir Ian, the Duke recalled a joke he told against himself, during his Australian tour. While out riding there, in advance of his party, he came upon a man sitting on a fence, who observed, "You must be Prince Henry."

"That is true," the Duke told him.

"Ah, I thought so," was the reply. "I recognised the horse."

### Young St. Dunstaners

THE eldest son of J. E. Davies, of Llandyssul, has passed his entrance examination, and is now a student at Carmarthen Training College.

Pearl Yarwood, daughter of our Manchester St. Dunstaner, qualified for the final heat in the All England Sunshine Dancing Competition which took place at the Scala Theatre at the end of last month.

The son of S. Wain, of Derby, was married on March 27th.

Avis Peckham, the little daughter of A. Peckham, of North Wembley, was chosen by the popular vote of her school to be one of the guard of honour to receive Queen Elizabeth and the two Princesses when they attended the Central Hall for the first of the Robert Mayer Concerts for Children on April 6th. These concerts have been organised to celebrate the Coronation.

### Competitions Continued

AS I promised in last month's REVIEW, here are a few lines that I have selected at random, all of which have won prizes ranging from £250 to £1,000.

Having been a first-prize winner myself, I think it would be a good thing to begin by telling you how I came to send in this line which brought me a cheque for £250.

You will all remember the song we used to sing when we were fed up and so far from home during the war days, "Old soldiers never die." Well, it struck me that the title of this soldier-song could be adopted to make a good winning line, and my faith in it was rewarded. For some years I had been waiting for an example to which this line could be added, to form what I thought was an appropriate line with a winning chance. The example was, "Beneath the moon."

This line conjured up in my memory a somewhat humorous incident which occurred one night while out with a wiring party, and it also reminded me of one of Bairnsfather's pictures in his book "Fragments." I immediately started to play about with the words "Old soldiers never shy" until I arrived at the conclusion that old soldiers were never shy, and my line was born and here it is.

*Beneath the moon—Old soldiers never shy.*

Evidently the Competition Editor must have been an old soldier too, for he awarded me the first prize and that's that.

I will now endeavour to point out to you various types of lines which have won, and which I classify under the headings of Humour, Grim Humour, and Pathos without snivelling.

First I will take a winner of some years ago which I think was very smart and a new way of telling the old joke about the Scotsman and the Jew. It was—

*Somewhat mixed—Jock McIsaacstein.*

If you can imagine all the jokes about meanness if the two races were to combine you have the meaning of his line clear, and, incidentally, a mind capable of producing humour just as good.

My next is an example of grim humour. Can you imagine a man, middle-aged, beginning to grey at the temples, regretting his lost chances of education and reading all about what a correspondence course would do for him, and then put the

whole story into six words? One man did it in this manner and won himself £1,000.

*My misfortune—Grey matter outside head.*

I am inclined to think he had plenty inside too.

My next line is also of the grim humour type and one which, I am sure, will be appreciated by our esteemed chairman, Sir Ian. It is the story of ambitions attained and lost in the field of politics, told in a few words. Here it is.

*The big stick—The polling booth pencil.*

Can you imagine the little stub of pencil tied to about two yards of string that you find in the polling booth being a big stick? It can be, and as this line was submitted about the time that political changes were taking place very rapidly in this country, it gained for its writer a first prize of £1,000. I think it thoroughly deserved it.

My next is an example of the homely type which never fails to score if applied to the right example, and it is the life story of Darby and Joan told in six words.

*Love story—Takes lifetime to tell.*

Next comes a line which was entered about Easter time and has what is known as double meaning. It is the story of the Crucifixion, and also a story of self sacrifice rewarded—in reality, two stories in seven words,

*For services rendered—King pinned on Cross.*

Have you got the meaning of the two stories? The second one is clear when you think of the coveted V.C.

I hope you will be able to grasp the idea as to what the Competition Editors are wanting from these articles, but before I close I would like to quote you a winning line from the *Empire News* Doublits of April 4th.

*Unshed tears—She's seeing him through.*

A pathetic little story of a husband struggling against hard times or perhaps some little slip which he is trying to live down, his gallant wife, although her heart aches, is forcing back the tears and helping him all she can. The whole story is there, again told in exactly six words.

I could go on to fill the whole of the REVIEW but I suppose I had better end before I begin to bore you all with my pet hobby. I will conclude with wishing you all Good Thinking, Good Writing, and a handsome cheque as a reward.

H. CRABTREE

### "In Memory"

JOSEPH HARKER

It is with very deep regret that we record the death of J. Harker, of Hove.

Harker came to St. Dunstan's in 1916, where he was taught Braille and typewriting. Leaving St. Dunstan's in 1917, he taught Braille at our annexe in Queen's Road, later returning to Headquarters to take a course of shorthand. On the completion of his course, he left to take up employment with the Brighton, Hove, and Worthing Gas Company, and he remained in their employ until the time of his death. He was extremely popular among his fellow employees, many of whom attended his funeral. A wreath from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was among the many flowers.

The *Brighton Evening Argus* wrote: "A man who can truly be said to have conquered blindness—through the combined aid of his own will power and St. Dunstan's—was buried at Hove Cemetery yesterday. He was Mr. Joseph Harker, who died suddenly at his home on Friday last, 26th February. Mr. A. A. Yeoman, representing the General Manager of the Brighton, Hove and Worthing Gas Company, said to a reporter: 'The firm has lost an extremely valuable member of the staff.'"

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Harker in her loss.

Private CLIFFORD HERRING

(Labour Corps, attached Durham Light Infantry)

We deeply regret to announce the death of C. Herring, of Sheffield.

Herring enlisted in the early part of 1917, and his sight was severely damaged as a result of his service. Although he was discharged in 1919, it was not until the end of 1920 that he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained as a basket-maker and took an active interest in this occupation for a considerable period. Of late, however, he had not felt sufficiently fit to do more than occasional orders, but his death was nevertheless totally unexpected. He died on the 10th March and was buried at Norton Cemetery. A wreath from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's, in the form of our badge, was amongst the many tributes received.

Herring leaves a widow and three married daughters, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Corporal JAMES SIMPSON

(Royal Engineers)

With deep regret we have to announce the death of another St. Dunstan's man, J. Simpson. Simpson was a despatch rider and was wounded in France. He came under St. Dunstan's care early in 1919, when he was suffering from very indifferent health. He improved, however, and took a full course of poultry farming and basket making. He returned to the North of England and continued with both occupations for many years, only giving up serious basket work six or seven years ago, but he was keenly interested in poultry right up to the time of his death, which took place on the 3rd March, after a short illness.

Simpson was a single man and lived with his sisters, and we extend our deep sympathy to his relatives.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his comrades in the form of a St. Dunstan's Badge, was sent from London.

Leading Seaman FRANK GLOVER

(New Zealand Battle Cruiser)

We deeply regret to announce the death of F. Glover, of Lancing.

As a result of war service, Glover lost his sight and came to St. Dunstan's in 1922. He was trained as a telephonist and carried on with this work until 1930, when his health made it impossible for him to continue.

He later went to live at the seaside, and he and his wife lived there very happily until his death took place quite suddenly on the 3rd instant.

The funeral took place on the 7th April, the Vicar of St. James' Church, North Lancing, officiating, and it was attended by his widow, and friends and relatives. A wreath was sent from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's, and also one from Glover's comrades in Lancing.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Glover in her sad bereavement.

WILLIAM COLEMAN

(Merchant Service)

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of W. Coleman, of Canonbury, N., which occurred suddenly at Brighton on 3rd April.

Coleman was serving on H.M.S. "Salsette" when it was torpedoed in 1916, and he lost his sight as a result of his injuries. When he first came to us, he was trained in mat making,

## "In Memory"

but, owing to ill health, was never able to follow this occupation. Since then his health has deteriorated, and during his last visit to the Annexe he was under the direct care of our Medical Officer.

His death, however, was a great shock to us, as he dropped dead on the Brighton front while out walking.

The funeral service was held at St. George's Church, Brighton, conducted by the Rev. Eyton Jones, and was attended by Mrs. Coleman, members of the staff at the Annexe and a number of the "boys" at present staying there. The "boys" were represented at the graveside by his old friend—J. D. Higgins, and there were several beautiful wreaths from relations and friends, also one from Sir Ian Fraser and his other comrades at St. Dunstan's, in the form of St. Dunstan's badge, and one from the Matron and Staff of the Brighton Annexe.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow.

### Births

- BRIDE.—To the wife of L. Bride, of Dublin, on the 25th March, a daughter.  
 SWANSTON.—To the wife of G. B. Swanston, of Lockerbie, on the 23rd March, a son.  
 VARLEY.—To the wife of E. Varley, of Birmingham, on the 1st March, a daughter—Maureen Beatrice.  
 WASS.—To the wife of R. Wass, of Kemp Town, Brighton, on the 20th March, a son.  
 WISHART.—To the wife of J. G. Wishart, of South Moor, on the 20th March, a son.

### Deaths

- We extend our sincere sympathy this month to the following:—  
 ALVEY.—To P. G. Alvey, of Leytonstone, whose mother passed away on the 13th March.  
 BROWNE.—To P. Browne, of Bordon, whose wife passed away on the 7th April.  
 CASTLE.—To the wife of W. S. Castle, of Birmingham, whose father died suddenly on the 23rd February.  
 FEARN.—To E. Fearn of East Kirkby, and his wife, whose son, Michael, died on the 27th March.  
 GALLOWAY.—To W. J. Galloway, of Oxford, who lost his mother on the 15th March at the age of 77.  
 HUGHES.—To E. T. Hughes, of Cwngwrach, whose mother, known to many St. Dunstaners, passed away on the 15th March.  
 JACKSON.—To J. Jackson, of Keighley, who lost his mother on the 20th March, aged 76.  
 KIRK.—To C. T. Kirk, of Lancing, who has recently lost his father.  
 MILLIS.—To the wife of E. Millis, of Sevenoaks, whose mother has recently died.  
 NOLAN.—To J. Nolan, of Market Drayton, who has suffered a loss in the death of his little grand-daughter.  
 STRAUGHTON.—To J. Straughton, of Workington whose brother died at the beginning of March.  
 TOOTH.—To the wife of R. Tooth, of Christchurch, whose father passed away on the 29th March.  
 WHEELER.—To J. B. Wheeler, of Rubery, whose father died on the 10th March, aged 72 years.  
 WHITE.—To R. White, of Sunderland, whose father died on 21st March.

### National Laying Test

REPORT for the sixth period of four weeks, 22nd February to 21st March, 1937.

Position.	Name.	Test score	value
1	Hill, R. E. ...	...	579
2	Holmes, P. ...	...	526
3	Smith, W. Alan ...	...	523
4	Holmes, P. ...	...	513
5	McLaren, D. ...	...	481
6	Knopp, H. A. ...	...	454
7	Carpenter, E. H. ...	...	448
8	Pink, A. ...	...	401
9	Fisher, T. M. ...	...	394
10	Brown, C. H. ...	...	391
11	Coman, A. E. ...	...	388
12	Hammett, H. A. ...	...	363
13	Fisher, T. M. ...	...	360
14	Richardson, H. ...	...	350
15	Powell, George ...	...	338
16	Chaffin, Albert ...	...	338
17	Gwyn, A. Ivor ...	...	332
18	McLaren, David ...	...	325
19	Jackson, G. C. ...	...	317
20	Webb, W. ...	...	315
21	Stock, C. H. ...	...	314
22	Carpenter, E. H. ...	...	311
23	James, G. ...	...	304
24	Chaffin, Albert ...	...	274
25	McIntosh, C. ...	...	270
26	Davies, G. ...	...	268
27	Smith, W. Alan ...	...	249
28	Woodcock, W. J. ...	...	245
29	Campbell, J. ...	...	239
30	Hamilton, B. ...	...	198
31	Miller, H. S. ...	...	156
32	Boorman, F. W. ...	...	110
33	Miller, H. S. ...	...	98

### Derby Sweepstake

Closing Date: May 24th

Don't forget your tickets, and please mark your envelopes "Derby Competition."

## The Fall in Egg Prices

ST. DUNSTAN'S AND THE MINISTRY

FOLLOWING on the "collapse" in the price of eggs, Mr. D. W. Ferguson, Superintendent of St. Dunstan's Poultry Farm at King's Langley, submitted a memorandum to Mr. W. S. Morrison, the Minister of Agriculture, through Captain Sir Ian Fraser, our Chairman. In this he pointed out the hardships that fell on our poultry farmers as a result of the "unprecedented rise in the cost of foodstuffs, coupled with the greatly reduced value of eggs," and expressed the hope that as soon as possible some safeguard against the excessive flooding of our markets with eggs from abroad could be imposed. In his answer the Minister assured Mr. Ferguson that the Government fully appreciated the concern caused by the recent unexpected fall in egg prices, but said that they were not in a position to increase the Customs duties on foreign eggs or to restrict supplies.

Mr. Ferguson's memorandum included the following passages:—

"St. Dunstan's exists to aid, as far as possible, those who have lost their sight in the service of their country. To them there is a very limited choice of occupations, but among these occupations is Poultry Farming. There are in our organisation 126 poultry farmers, and 130 others who maintain a small number of poultry.

Nearly all of these men are in a small way of business. Any profits they have made in the past have been used for extension. They, with few exceptions, have no reserves, and are less able than others, both by reason of their age and their disability, to turn to alternative methods of obtaining a livelihood.

I view with grave concern the position of our poultry farmers to-day. During the autumn and winter, poultry farmers generally must make such profits as will enable them to face the difficulties of the spring and summer, when the expenses of rearing stock for replacement is a heavy drain on their resources.

The unprecedented rise in the cost of foodstuffs, coupled with the greatly reduced value of eggs, has produced the position that poultry farmers will be sorely tried during the next six months. Those most unhappily placed will be those with no reserves of capital, and these include the majority of St. Dunstan's poultry farmers.

The lower prices of eggs are due to the increase of imports. In 1936, imports exceeded those in 1935 by nearly five million great hundreds (i.e., nearly 25 per cent. increase), and the imports for January, 1937, still further exceed those of January, 1936, by nearly 2 per cent. increase.

It is our earnest hope that at the earliest moment some safeguard against the excessive

flooding of our markets with surplus eggs be incorporated in the existing trade agreements with Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, and Sweden."

Sir Ian sent this memorandum to the Minister with the following letter:—

"DEAR MORRISON,

I enclose a note from the Superintendent of our Poultry Farm, which I asked him to prepare for me.

You have no doubt had this case put to you by others, but I ask you to let us add our voice to theirs in demanding some help.

I imagine that from the point of view of the defences of the country in case of war, it is an advantage to have the Home poultry business growing and flourishing rather than decreasing and languishing.

Would you very kindly let me know if we can hope for further protection as soon as possible, or at any rate in time to give us better conditions next winter season?—Yours sincerely,

(Signed) IAN FRASER."

In his reply, Mr. Morrison said:—

"It is quite true, of course, that imports of eggs in 1936 were considerably higher than they were in 1935. It should not be overlooked, however, that throughout 1936 up to the beginning of November, prices of English eggs were, in spite of increased imports, higher than they were on the corresponding dates of 1935, and that even taking into account the fall in price in November and December, the average price throughout 1936 was higher than the averages for the two previous years.

The abnormal fall in prices of eggs in November, December, and the early part of January appears to have been mainly due to the weather. The exceptionally mild weather of this winter increased production very considerably both on the Continent and in this country. Insofar as the fall in prices was due to increased home production, the reduction in the receipts of poultry keepers as a result of lower prices has, of course, been counterbalanced to some extent by the increase in the quantity of eggs they have sold. During the past five weeks there has been a decided falling off in the volume of imports which were 28 per cent. below the quantity arriving in the United Kingdom in the corresponding period of 1936. Prices of eggs have improved substantially and on 3rd March, National Mark Standards were 14s. per great hundred as compared with 12s. a year ago and 10s. at the same date in 1935.

The Government are not in a position to increase the custom duties on foreign eggs, nor, in the absence of a marketing scheme, to restrict supplies quantitatively, owing to the provisions of certain trade agreements with foreign countries. You can, however, assure Mr. Ferguson that the position of the poultry industry in this country will receive full consideration by the Government when the negotiations for a renewal of these agreements take place later in the present year. In this connection the Import Duties Advisory Committee have at present before them an application for an increase in the existing customs duties on imported eggs."

## Letters to the Editor

DOMINO PATIENCE.

*The Editor, St. Dunstan's Review.*

DEAR SIR,

I hear from the REVIEW that a St. Dunstaner would like to know of anyone who can play patience with dominoes. I myself pass hours with dominoes at patience. I just shuffle all the dominoes then take four out of the set and play with these four, as far as I can. If I can only play two dominoes, I pick up another two from the set, but you must not have more than four dominoes in your hand at the pick up. If you by any chance play all four you are allowed to pick up four more. I find this very interesting and I am sure most St. Dunstaners will. I would like my comrade to hear of it and enjoy it as much as I do.

W. ANDERSON, Morecambe.

### KEEPING FIT.

*The Editor, St. Dunstan's Review.*

DEAR SIR,

I was most interested in the article in last month's REVIEW on physical fitness which was most interesting, and it certainly would be interesting to hear from St. Dunstaners as to how they manage to keep fit. I am most fortunate in being employed by the Everton F.C., so am able to train with the players on two mornings each week, which consists of quick walking, running, and sprinting on the ground, followed by fifteen minutes in the gym, with skipping, dumb-bells, rowing machine, etc., so you see I manage to keep 100 per cent. fit. During the last 14 years I have not missed attending one first team home match and I wonder if any of my St. Dunstan's friends can beat this, for I certainly hold the record here in Liverpool.

Would you mind telling St. Dunstaners, through the REVIEW or "Nuggets" that my job with Everton is as masseur and manipulative specialist and not as trainer as some of them think. It is rather strange but the trainer's name is also Harry Cook, and this has led to a great deal of confusion.

HARRY COOK, Wallasey.

*The Editor, St. Dunstan's Review.*

DEAR SIR,

About physical jerks—I get a good deal of exercise in the fine weather by cycling, and though I can get no sculling, I have made myself a sculling machine. I usually have a "scull" on this for three minutes after the early cup of tea. During the day, when my feet get cold from sitting at my basket work, I take a skipping rope and skip for three minutes. Time is taken by the counts on the hops, and the pulls at the sculling machine.

I do not advise "jerks" such as "On the hands down." You are liable to misjudge when falling to the hands down and crash your head on a wall or door.

G. FALLOWFIELD, Sompting.

## St. Dunstaners and Their Vote

SINCE the Blind Voters Act came into force on 1st January, 1934, most St. Dunstaners seem to have recorded their votes at Parliamentary and local elections without any trouble. There have been one or two instances, however, of presiding officers being unaware of the new rules.

At a local council poll, W. A. Burtenshaw, of Wimborne, was not allowed to take his wife into the booth to register his vote for him although he insisted that this was now the law. H. Wignell, of Market Harborough, had a similar experience at the last Parliamentary election, but at the Municipal Election he had no difficulty at all.

## Reunion Meetings

Reunion.	Date.	Place.
Birmingham	Friday, 28th May	The White Horse, Congreve Street, Birmingham
Cardiff	Thursday, 3rd June	The Carlton, Queen Street, Cardiff
Leicester	Friday, 11th June	Winns' Oriental Café, Market Place, Leicester
Manchester	Wednesday, 16th June	The Grand Hotel, Manchester
Liverpool	Thursday, 17th June	Reeces' Café, Parker Street, Liverpool

Irish Meetings will be held during the week commencing 21st June, 1937.

Meetings will be from 12.30 to 5 or 5.30. Lunch will be served at 1 o'clock and tea during the afternoon.

## Holiday Apartments

### Brighton

Bed and breakfast, or full board if required. Two minutes from sea and Annexe. Apply, Mrs. C. A. Stracey, 4 Bloomsbury Street, Brighton. (Note new address).

### Morecambe

Accommodation for summer visitors.—Apply Mrs. Anderson, 16 Balmoral Avenue, Sandylands, Morecambe, Lancs.

### Southend-on-Sea

Furnished apartments, bed and breakfast; near sea and amusement grounds. Children not objected to.—Apply Mrs. F. Worlidge, 24 Stanley Road, Southend-on-Sea.

## Marriage

PEACOCK-YEOMAN.—On April 10th, F. Peacock, of Stokesley, to Miss Blanche Yeoman.

## A Week-end at the Brighton Annexe

AND SOME CHARACTERS OF THE QUIET LOUNGE

A WEEK-END at the Brighton Annexe is an interesting, jolly and stimulating affair. There may be a few who do not care for it, but after all, what does it matter if the fattest boy, accompanied by the thinnest one of St. Dunstan's, wakes you up at midnight with a jolly, full-blooded laugh? I did not know the fat one was in my ward and when I awoke to hear his voice I got quite a pleasurable thrill out of it, for it was a voice which took me back to the old days when we were in St. Mark's Hospital together, nineteen years ago this month, and what fun we had there! You soon get to sleep after a rude awakening like this, filled with pleasurable anticipation at the thought that you will be awakened at six in the morning by the night orderly with a morning kiss and a hot cup of tea, and a tablespoonful of rum which has evaporated during transit from the kitchen. It's most exhilarating to get up and go for a long stroll before breakfast—though I am inclined to agree with Harry Lauder "it's nicer to lie in bed." And again, what does it matter if some wayward bloke barges into your back, making you swallow your spoon while in the act of taking your first mouthful of porridge? It gives you an exciting half minute or two getting it out again, and, incidentally, provides much laughter for the troops in your immediate vicinity.

Nevertheless there is much amusement provided, what with the theatres, pictures, and other functions in the town, for which I, for one am duly grateful. I went to one of the shows at the Pier Theatre, and was greatly disappointed. The piece was entitled "Her First Affair," and, ladies, if your first affair is no more exciting than this one was, I suggest that you keep rabbits—they are much more interesting—or give your services to taking the boys of St. Dunstan's out for walks—it is much more exciting. The dialogue was very poor and that brings me to a place where dialogue is of the highest standard—the Quiet Lounge of the Annexe. A truly remarkable place this, for here foregather some of the most interesting characters, and here some of the most interesting subjects are

discussed, and some of the funniest things are uttered. Also you may pick up quite a number of hints ranging from food to psychology.

It is with a few of these fascinating types that I desire to acquaint you, and I am sure they will interest you whether you have met them or not. Here is the great cynic of the bunch, who declares that there should be a national slaughterhouse for all blind people and surplus women. Then there is the stiff-legged Yorkshireman who is a fund of information on most subjects and a professor of dot chasing and tick-tacking, is well read and politically minded. There is also that gentleman of leisure who practises massage in the City, has a charm all his own, and exercises this in a most deft manner in connection with his most absorbing hobby of collecting cigarettes. I don't think there is a cigarette he has not sampled, and he will nearly always provide you with one of any brand you care to ask for, but you must not on any account whatever ask him where he bought them. He is, however, more warm hearted than his name implies.

You will probably find yourself in the middle of some absorbing conversation when the door will open and a high-pitched voice will call out "Drum" or "Cow" and you will see a tall aesthetic looking person, who looks as if he is about to take your photograph any minute, for he carries a small object resembling a camera. In fact, it is an electrical gadget which enables him to hear what is said to him. He is an expert at post mortems after every game of bridge.

Then there is that soft-voiced, Irish-accented, six-feet-and-a-bit, who forsook that most gentlemanly of professions—massage—for the more cultured and literary one of translating languages, full of frivolity, possessing a fascinating explosive which he emits from between his tongue, cheek and teeth after cracking a joke. He is often to be found sprawled out on the settee when the lounge is all but empty, and living up to its name "quiet." He reminds me of the "Scarlet Pimpernel" somewhat, except that Sir Percy could sing "God Save the King" in tune. The name Quiet Lounge is really a misnomer, for as a Lancashire stalwart, with old age and rheumatism creeping on, aptly put it when someone

asked if this was the Quiet Lounge—cryptically replied “anything but.” There is also that Australian globe-trotter, who can tell you exactly where to get off, the bespectacled Canadian manipulator of carcasses who will interest you on most subjects, and who, by the way, is giving a paper—or will have given a paper at the Study Circle before this article gets into print, which I am sure will be most interesting. There are many others too numerous to mention.

But the quietest parts of the Quiet Lounge are the card tables. After supper groups of shadowy forms will cluster round various of the tables and one of the professional players will bang down a pack of cards, four chairs will be quietly drawn up, and guns will be loosened in their arm pit holsters, and beware to the first one who speaks—out of his turn I mean. To sit behind the dealer is a great privilege, but though granted this honour, you must not get too near his right arm and hinder access to the very wide open coat pocket. It is the man with a fist full of clubs who breaks the hearts of the rest, and what a great part that little word “if” plays in these card games. You can always hear it at the end of a game—“If I had had so-and-so” or “If you had played the king instead of the ten in that last round, we should have got him down,” and instead of misère there is misery.

Yes! it is the Quiet Lounge—but only when the Annexe ghost walks in the small hours of the morning, and when the night orderly is collecting the fag ends for his smoke of mixed shag later on, just before he brings you that tea and rum I spoke about at the beginning of this article, from my “weak end.” But, nevertheless, as heretofore, it is a jolly rollicking place to be in, and I wouldn't miss it for anything. The staff and everyone conspire to give you as good as time as they possibly can. I even came across one person who had himself been a St. Dunstaner, and, having fortunately regained his sight, now spends a good part of his holidays in doing what he can in the service of the men not quite so fortunate. As a friend of mine said after visiting the place and meeting the “Knuts,” “A rattling jolly crowd and a jolly place for a week-end.” “WEEK-ENDER.”

### On Making the Most of Braille

“ARE you a maximum Brailist?” as Mr. Rodenberg of Illinois, so expressively puts it. That is to say, do you make the most and the best possible use of our splendid Braille system? You will probably reply that you read Braille books, and write Braille letters, and what more is there to be done? Well, so far, so good: but let us see if there are not other ways in which we may make use of Braille. And are you quite sure that you know of all that is published in Braille concerning the subjects in which you are interested? The ignorance of quite good Brailists on this matter has often astonished me. It is quite easy to obtain catalogues from libraries and publishing houses and this will often save much trouble and expense in transcribing or having transcribed something you may require. There are also other ways in which we can make our Braille as useful to us as letter-press to the seeing.

If you have a large correspondence, keep an alphabetical list of your friends' addresses and telephone numbers. If you have to keep letters or papers in ordinary writing, it is a great convenience to Braille at the top of each one what it is, and a few particulars that may help you when dealing with it.

You will find it useful to be always provided with some kind of pocket frame and paper to fit it, so as to be able to take down names and addresses you may wish to remember.

Nowadays it is hardly necessary to advise people not to be shy of using Braille in public as a blind street reader is practically a thing of the past: why should we not take our book with us when travelling, as a seeing man does his newspaper?

If one has to write a magazine article it is very helpful to make a Braille copy first, on which one can make any necessary corrections. If you know Grade Three ‘so much the better’ and type from it for the printer.

Besides the pocket-frame alluded to above, the small ‘Diaries’ sold by the National Institute for the Blind are extremely useful for entering any dates one may require for future reference.

A. G. OKE.

### Coronation Procession

THE following St. Dunstaners were successful in the ballot for the seats allocated to St. Dunstan's by the Coronation Committee: P. M. Austin, of Higham Ferrars; C. E. Beck, of Bishop's Stortford; J. Boyce, of Belfast; A. Chilton, of Leighton Buzzard; J. M. Colley, of Luton; C. T. Condon, of Basingstoke; J. W. Cookson, of Kendal; M. Costello, of Clacton; J. Coupland, of Preston; W. Davies, of Blockley; A. Doyle, of Ryde; M. Doyle, of London, W.1; H. A. Gardiner, of Leyton; J. H. Greaves, of Oldham; H. Harris, of Maidstone; F. J. Harriss, of Billericay; G. H. Heeley, of Wakefield; A. B. Hill, of Bristol; W. J. Hopper, of Hull; E. T. Humphries, of Swindon; L. Jackson, of Heswall; F. James, of Hove; E. W. Jarman, of Llandudno; M. Lane, of South Tottenham; G. W. Lovett, of Linwood; R. K. Lowrie, of Portslade; J. R. Lynch, of North Wembley; W. J. McQuirk, of Wimbledon; W. Macpherson, of Brighton; F. Marsden, of Blackburn; A. C. Matthews, of Dover; W. Millar, of Hook; J. Muir, of Arundel; W. Newland, of Hever; M. O'Hara, of Clara, Ireland; H. Payne, of Cardiff; G. Perry of Wolverhampton; R. Pidcock, of East Leake; J. Rendall, of Tiverton; J. G. Rose, of North Berwick; S. Sephton, of St. Helens; G. T. Shaw, of Walsall; W. Strachan, of Motherwell; F. J. Trendell, of High Wycombe; A. T. Turrell, of Leeds; A. Waite, of London, E.3; W. Wells, of Finedon; J. G. Wishart, of West Stanley.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations to C. Chivers, of Dowlais, and his wife, whose silver wedding anniversary fell on March 11th, to A. E. Parsons, of Sutton Courtenay, and his wife whose anniversary was on March 16th, and to A. H. Wernham, of Bracknell, and his wife, who celebrated theirs on April 8th.

### St. Dunstan's Camp Stratford-on-Avon

June 29th (Tuesday), to July 7th (Wednesday). Camp fee, 27s. 6d.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are thinking of coming.

A. SPURWAY.

The Vicarage, Titchfield, Hants.

## SPORTS CLUB NOTES

### Brighton

WE have just concluded one of the most enjoyable winter sessions experienced in this area.

The Domino Drive, which has been running throughout the winter for Matron's Prize, ended at the last meeting. Tommy Millward was the winner, with an aggregate score of 20 games, and he was given a very sporting reception by the rest of the competitors, many of whom had finished close behind him. C. Kirk who finished at 19, was handed a special consolation prize by Mrs. Broughton. Votes of thanks were accorded to Matron for her generosity, and to Mrs. Broughton. A vote of thanks was also given to Sister Peacock, who presided over the splendid tea department. At W. Collins' proposal, a collection was made for some flowers to be sent to Miss Thellusson, with the club members' best wishes for her speedy recovery.

At a meeting to determine the summer sports, after some discussion it was agreed to handicap the previous year's winners, 75, 50, 25 points, the same programme and handicaps to remain as heretofore. We are looking forward to a splendid gathering at the opening night of the summer session on Wednesday, 5th May, at 5.30 p.m., at the Annexe.

Any newcomer will receive a hearty and sincere welcome.

### Domino Drive

T. Millward	... 20	C. Reddish	... 8
C. Kirk	... 19	J. Hollindrake	... 8
F. James	... 17	T. Campbell	... 7
H. Jacklin	... 17	T. Newman	... 7
C. Peach	... 17	W. Anderson	... 7
W. Gannaway	... 17	F. Frank	... 7
F. Creasey	... 17	G. Bullen	... 7
S. Green	... 16	J. Thompson	... 6
S. Pyke	... 16	T. Williams	... 6
W. Sheridan	... 15	H. Robinson	... 6
T. Dickinson	... 15	G. Stracey	... 6
J. Allcott	... 13	A. Wilson	... 6
G. Fallowfield	... 13	W. Markwick	... 5
G. Lidbetter	... 13	V. Alderson	... 5
S. Haylings	... 13	E. Stevenson	... 4
A. Cooke	... 12	R. Wass	... 4
C. Cornwell	... 11	J. Triggs	... 2
W. Baughn	... 11	L. Hardy	... 1
T. Rouse	... 11	W. Sebbage	... 1
J. Higgins	... 10	V. Cooper	... 1
H. Randall	... 9	C. Hardwick	... 0
W. Collins	... 8	P. French	... 0
C. Van Niekerk	... 8		

## Birmingham Walk

A BEAUTIFUL day, a fine race and a happy meeting of old comrades marked this year's annual 10 mile Birmingham Walk on April 3rd. New ground was broken this year by starting from the New Inns, Handsworth, the headquarters of the Lozells Harriers, and treasures were found in our new host and hostess—Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lees, and the Lozells Harriers, who did everything in their power to make every St. Dunstaner welcome and comfortable.

In the race eighteen started and sixteen completed the course. The usual struggle for the lead left Archie Brown and Jerry Jerome fighting throughout, with Archie establishing his superiority only over the last mile or so. The thrill of the race came from the effort of ap Rhys, who at one time was confidently pressing towards the leaders and threatening to wrest second place from Jerome. It was a grand effort sustained over the last three miles and was marvellous walking by a "B" section man.

The minor struggles between the other competitors were full of interest, and produced splendid walking, in fact the style of the competitors generally aroused the admiration of all the judges and spectators.

The only disappointment to record is that Birmingham did not start a complete team and Manchester did not finish a complete team as defined in the rules, so

that the victory of the London team with 21 points seemed rather a bloodless victory. To avoid this in future, would it be as well to stage the event as a team match, London versus the Rest?

The winner's time was 2 minutes slower than last year, but the wonderful walking of ap Rhys meant that he finished in 5 minutes less than he took last year, and won the first place in the Handicap. The other Handicap prize-winners were faster than last year as follows: Trott (2nd), nearly 4 mins; Birchall (3rd), 3½ mins; Jolly (4th) 3 mins. Such improved performances mean that valuable training has been done, and the prizes the men won are less reward than the physical benefit that must have resulted from their training.

The tea and prize distribution was a happy function. We missed the report of Mr. Donoghue, but were delighted to hear Mrs. Spurway and Mrs. Irvine. Mrs. Jack Mould presented the prizes with a charming grace which emphasised the debt the Birmingham Club owes to the Mould family. Councillor Percy Cox, J.P., presided over the gathering. We were proud to welcome him and his wife amongst the new friends who rallied to the Birmingham Club on this occasion. With such splendid help it is not surprising that the Birmingham Walk marks a red-letter day for St. Dunstaners, and makes an annual success to look back upon and to look forward to.

## Birmingham St. Dunstan's 10 Mile Walk, April 3rd, 1937

Finish	Name	Team	Actual Time			Start mins.	Handicap Time			H'cap Posn.	Award
			hrs.	mns.	sec.		hrs.	mns.	sec.		
1	A. Brown	L	1	25	18	SCR.	1	25	18	15	1st Prize "A" Section
2	J. Jerome	L	1	26	8	½	1	25	38	16	2nd Prize "A" Section
3	T. ap Rhys	M	1	26	21	6	1	20	21	1	1st Prize "B" Section
4	H. Gover		1	28	52	6	1	22	52	10	3rd Prize "A" Section
5	G. Fallowfield		1	29	53	6½	1	23	23	11	
6	W. Trott	B	1	30	7	9½	1	20	37	2	1st Prize Handicap
7	H. Boorman	L	1	31	33	9	1	22	33	8	2nd Prize "B" Section
8	J. Coupland	M	1	34	36	9½	1	25	6	14	
9	H. Giles	B	1	34	52	10	1	24	52	13	
10	J. Rouse		1	37	26	16	1	21	16	6	
11	A. Craigie	L	1	37	41	16½	1	21	11	5	3rd Prize "B" Section
12	W. Castle	B	1	38	25	17	1	21	25	7	
13	W. Birchall		1	39	14	18½	1	20	44	3	2nd Prize Handicap
14	W. Scott	M	1	40	35	18	1	22	35	9	
15	G. Jolly		1	47	52	27	1	20	52	4	3rd Prize Handicap
16	P. Cashmore		1	51	21	27	1	24	21	12	

TEAM RESULT: London 1, 2, 7, 11—21 points. Winners.