

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

No. 249.—VOLUME XXIII [NEW SERIES]

FEBRUARY, 1939

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

## EDITORIAL

### LOOKING BACK

THE other day I had occasion to look through some old REVIEWS—those for January and February, 1919, to be exact. Even to one who did not have the privilege of knowing St. Dunstan's in those early days they made absorbing reading. To most of you, they would have recalled happy memories.

Sir Arthur at that time was in America but there was a message from him. You may remember it. He had visited the principal cities of Canada and the U.S.A., and he wrote: "You fellows should, every one of you, be proud of the fact that the example which you have set and are setting is going to prove of untold benefit to others who, like you, have lost their sight, but who, unlike you, have in the past not received a full opportunity of regaining it."

W. J. Hopper must have been one of the first to realize the possibilities of a guide dog. In January, 1919, he was experimenting with a thoroughbred Newfoundland, with considerable success.

The Christmas entertainment had taken place a few weeks before and was reported in the January number. Queen Alexandra, our Patron, had been present. The *Daily Telegraph* described it as "a capital entertainment. . . . Sightless soldiers being happily of a cheery disposition, it was only natural that the programme should have been of the lightest pattern, providing a jolly blend of the gay and sentimental, the former predominating, with an inevitable sprinkling of ragtime." Strathmore, Westall, Doyle, Trott, Downs, Henshaw, Betambeau, Hardy—these were a few of the names on the programme.

A Discussion Club was a feature of life at St. Dunstan's in those days. Their subjects were certainly varied. "Is the Competitive System the best for the Community?" they asked in January, and "What About Total Prohibition?" they were rash enough to demand a few weeks later. In between, Mr. Prady spoke on "Donkeys," Mr. H. B. Irving gave a lecture on "Shakespeare's Criminals," and Capt. Russell Roberts gave an account of his African big-game hunting experiences.

It was the practice then to reprint in full letters from men all over the world. That, of course, is not possible now since our "family" has grown to such proportions, but we are no less anxious for news of our men. The REVIEW is the chief medium by which St. Dunstaners may hear of one another, but unless we have that news, we cannot pass it on. Think it over and let us hear from you.

### SUPPLEMENTS

Our Poultry and Gardening Supplements are proving very popular. Mr. D. W. Ferguson, who is in charge of the Country Life Section at Headquarters, is the editor, and he welcomes comments and criticisms. In particular, he would appreciate useful hints from other gardeners, so that they can be passed on.

# SUBSCRIPTION FORM

---

---

To the EDITOR of "ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW,"

HEADQUARTERS OF ST. DUNSTAN'S WORK, INNER CIRCLE,

REGENT'S PARK, LONDON, N.W.1.

Please send me the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW for { *one year*  
*six months* } for  
which I enclose { 7s. 6d.  
3s. 9d.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

N.B.—Please strike out the period and charge not required.

### A St. Dunstaner in America

MANY St. Dunstaners will remember the prominence given in the Press to the visit of W. H. Oxenham, of Hove, to the United States at the invitation of the famous cartoonist, Mr. Robert Ripley.

We have asked our St. Dunstaner to give us his impressions of his visits across the Atlantic. Here they are.

"I have in the last few years had the pleasure of travelling in most parts of the world but the most outstanding trip was my last one, which was to America and Canada. The opportunity came my way of going to America as the guest of Mr. Robert Ripley, the world-famous cartoonist, who is also one of the most popular broadcasters in America. His programme, 'Believe it or not,' is claimed to have one of the largest listening audiences in the world. I was invited to go to America to play some exhibition golf and to broadcast.

"I sailed on the *Europa* and had a very pleasant journey across. When we arrived in New York a cutter came alongside and a crowd of reporters and photographers came on board. That evening the papers announced with photographs and story, 'Blind British golfer arrives.' The American people never do things by halves.

"Then I had a wonderful surprise. My two brothers, whom I had not met for twenty-nine years, had motored from Canada to meet me. My pleasure at seeing them so unexpectedly, coupled with the enthusiastic welcome I had received from so many Americans and the Press, simply took my breath away. My feelings were indescribable.

"During my stay in New York I was taken down to Radio City with Mr. Ripley where the whole technique of broadcasting was explained by a guide who was specially told off to conduct our party which comprised my wife, my eldest son, Lawrence, and my chauffeur, who acts as my caddie. Radio City is the largest broadcasting station in the world. The building is 75 storeys high.

"It had been arranged that I should go to Cleveland for the golf exhibition and United Airways of America very kindly placed an air liner at my party's disposal if I wanted it. I had never flown in my life and I gladly accepted the invitation. We flew in a 21-seater Douglas machine to

Cleveland which was some 700 miles away. We had lunch in the plane at 11,000 feet travelling at 215 miles an hour. It was a wonderful experience.

"At the golf course where I was to play, one of the holes was floodlit. The hole was 225 yards and was a bogey 3. It was arranged that as I played the hole it would be broadcast throughout America by well-known golf champions who would be present.

I played this hole twice during the evening—at 7.30 and at 10.30—and on both occasions I did it in four. I also opened the Cleveland Open Championship which was being held that week and I came into contact with most of the eminent golfers including the American and Canadian champions. At a luncheon held for me at the Rotary Club, Cleveland, the key of the city was presented to me by the Mayor. When I stood up to respond, I felt rather as I had done on my arrival—completely overcome.

"I found the people of America wonderfully hospitable, and their hospitality was absolutely spontaneous.

"I left Cleveland and flew back to New York. Then I went to Canada where I stayed with my two brothers and their wives.

"I came back to New York for more sight-seeing. Then I returned in the most marvellous boat in the world, the *Queen Mary*, after a holiday which will always be in my memory as the most wonderful experience, and the Americans the most wonderful people."

### Chrysanthemum Growing

T. Cheal, of Saltford, has had a wonderful display of chrysanthemums this year. One of his varieties was the Blanche Poitevine (white) and he had between sixty and seventy blooms from one plant of this kind. In a most interesting letter to *Popular Gardening* (which, incidentally, won a prize of 7s. 6d.), Mrs. Cheal wrote: "After blooming, the plants are stood in a cold frame, and cuttings, with roots attached, if possible, are taken in March. The plants are set out of doors towards the end of April, lifted early in September and set in 6-inch or 8-inch pots according to size. Those in the smaller pots carry about twenty good blooms. Some disbudding is necessary."

### Letters to the Editor

The Editor,  
ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW.  
DEAR SIR,

Some months ago I had a chat with Sir Ian on the question of a bowling green for the men at the new Home. He thought it would be a very good idea to have one if sufficient numbers were obtained to warrant the taking up of such an amount of space necessary for the project. He very kindly suggested therefore, that I should write to the *Review* so that the idea could be put before St. Dunstaners so that they may—if they approve of the idea—write in and back it up.

I realize of course there is a great deal of skill needed to play the game efficiently, but I have found myself, that if you have handled woods before, it is not impossible by any means to get a great deal of enjoyment out of it as far as we are concerned. At Southsea, with a friend of mine, I played two men from Byfleet and we beat them by eleven shots to five, my contribution being five shots. With a little guidance from a sighted person you very soon get your direction and weight of throw. I have friends who are quite willing to come along and give a hand in a bit of training, and I am sure with the close proximity of the Rottingdean Bowling Club we can secure help in this matter and also in the arranging of matches between ourselves and outsiders. This game is not only good for the social side of St. Dunstan's but you can get a good deal of walking out of it, and this will be most beneficial for those who are older than myself who do not care to go for long tramps.

There are many St. Dunstaners who play at darts, throwing the football, skittles, and various other games where aim and a certain amount of skill is required, and I ask them, along with others who may find the game would suit them, to write in and say so at their earliest convenience, for I am sure that if there is a sufficient number of mendesirous of the new Home possessing a bowling green Sir Ian would give the scheme favourable consideration.

Yours sincerely,  
EDWARD SLAUGHTER.  
Harrington, N.4.

The Editor,  
ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW.  
DEAR SIR,

I was very interested to see in the *REVIEW* that Mrs. Condon was President of the Women's Institute in her district, and I wish her every good wish in her second year of office.

I have been a member of our Women's Institute since it first started twelve years ago. I have served on the Committee several times, and I am this year going to be Vice-President.

Yours sincerely,  
(Mrs.) B. HAMILTON.  
Thetford.

The Editor,  
ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW.  
DEAR SIR,

My two boys are very interested in stamp collecting and I am sure there must be lots of children of our fellows who may also be so interested.

As our family is flung over the four corners of the earth we might be able to form a "Stamp Exchange" in some way or another.

May I suggest that those who are interested send in their names and addresses? We could then exchange "sheets of swaps" from which we could then replace them with some "not on the sheet."

Yours sincerely,  
J. S. WHITELAM.  
Westcliff-on-Sea.

The Editor,  
ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW.  
DEAR SIR,

I should like, through the columns of the *REVIEW*, to obtain the views of other St. Dunstaners as to the advisability and possibility of establishing a Club for the exclusive use of St. Dunstaners, in or passing through London. I would suggest it be run on the following general lines:

1. That it should be residential.
2. That it should be fully licensed.
3. That it should be made self-supporting by membership subscription, purchases, etc.

This should make an interesting discussion through the columns of the *REVIEW*.

Yours sincerely,  
F. W. TARRY.  
Wandsworth.

### About St. Dunstaners

W. Allen, of Torrisholme, unveiled the War memorial tablet of his old school, Darwen Grammar School, on January 14th. Old students travelled from all parts of Lancashire for the ceremony.

☆ ☆ ☆

Amongst St. Dunstaners who hold important offices is Dennis Pettit, of Northampton, who has been a member of Toc H for about thirteen years, during the past six of which he has been Northampton Branch Chairman, and for the past two years, Northampton District Chairman. He feels that Toc H is one of the few worth-while things in this world and can commend it to any of his fellow-St. Dunstaners.

☆ ☆ ☆

A. Martin, of Peacehaven, entertained more than one hundred and fifty children at a British Legion Party on February 1st. As "Will Hay" he kept them happily amused with games, competitions, and a display of ventriloquism. The *Brighton and Hove Herald* referring to the fact that Martin was once connected with the circus ring, wrote: "Mr. Martin found it quite like old circus days taming the 'lions' at the Legion Party. The youngsters thoroughly appreciated being kept in order by such an entertaining 'ringmaster'."

## The New Brighton Home

### THE DORMITORIES

FROM the pile of correspondence we have received from St. Dunstaners regarding the new Brighton Home, the verdict is unanimous on the subject of the sleeping arrangements—"no complaints."

Every dormitory at the Ovingdean Home is entered by two sets of doors—the outer doors leading from the landing (edged with thick rubber tubing to ensure quiet and safety), and inner doors leading direct to the dormitory. In the little corridor thus formed, there is a room on the right with lavatories and bath; the other, on the opposite side is the "boot-room."

Deep, wide windows run from end to end of the dormitories, taking up more than half of the wall space on either side. Light curtains and the very modern "accordion" type of blinds allow the greatest possible amount of light to enter. These blinds are rather like the old Venetian blinds but all the slats are adjustable so that any part of the blind may be raised or lowered according to the position of the sun.

The bedsteads are of cream and each has a Dunlopillo mattress and pillow. Each bed is covered by a red and blue blanket worked with St. Dunstan's badge, and has beside it a St. Dunstan's made rug, a stool and a waste-paper basket. The rugs are fixed to the floor by an ingenious press-stud device.

Behind every bed is a cased-in radiator, and every bed has its wireless headphones. The occupant can tune in to any of three programmes.

Beside every bed is a cabinet fitting. The upper half is a locker with a flap which comes down to form a desk or table. The lower half is for boots and towels, which are heated by the radiator already mentioned. Next to the cabinet fitting is a wardrobe, half of which is divided into shelves for small articles, leaving the remaining half for coats.

At the rear end of every dormitory is an orderly's room and an emergency staircase in the event of fire.

In the Sick Ward a bell-push is behind each bed. This rings in the orderly's room, and at the same time shows a light over the bed of the patient ringing it.

## A Little Gardening Advice

offered by W. E. Brookes of Southampton, after reading last month's Gardening Supplement in the *Review*:

You have not as much time before you as you had in December. Dust everything you see with sulphur. Gather rotted cowdung, old tomato plants, putrid cucumber beds; take a coal-scuttle and a shovel and chase every horse you see, take the winnings home and mix with the other stuff you have collected. Put some guano on it and give it a healthy treat, then turn it over and leave it to mature. In the greenhouse: nurse your invalids, take care of the healthy, train the undisciplined, keep down the upstarts, restrain the wanderers—pinch them hard—bury the dead, and raise up a new generation with all your might and main. Don't dig the ground when it is sodden, or dry, or hard. Search for snails' night-clubs.

Think well what you mean to do next spring, get everything planned, observe in which department you are strongest; you possibly find it is your head. Soothe it. Discover your weakest part; you will probably find this at the mid-section, rear-rank. Improve this to the utmost, make it your war-horse, your charger, your shining beacon. Pile plenty of coal on the fire, and see that your weakest part is well protected. This is good gardening.

## The Music Department

LITTLE is heard of the work of the Music Department of St. Dunstan's but most of our musical St. Dunstaners in the London area will think with pleasure of the help they have received from Mrs. Brancker, Mrs. Hodson (née McCall), Miss Deane, Miss Monro, and many others, at 60 Paddington Street.

The Department has been in existence now for very many years. One of its most successful ventures has been the formation of the St. Dunstan's Singers who, for fifteen years, have, as a choir, given concerts all over the country, and on several occasions have broadcast. Although they will not, in the future, appear as a choir, some of the members will continue to give concerts with Mrs. Hodson and Miss Monro, and of course, will remain active members of the Music Department.

## Competition Corner

AFTER last month's *Review* had gone to press, it was discovered that R. J. Vine's entry in the December competition was not strictly in accordance with the published rules. He had included a word which was in the given sentence. The prizes were therefore adjusted, P. S. Sumner receiving a guinea, and Vine, whose entry made him the runner-up, a consolation prize of five shillings.

### JANUARY COMPETITION RESULT

Ten St. Dunstaners made sentences of six words from the word "Possibilities." They were J. McFarlane, of Angus (*I lisp, so be, tis I*), R. Warren, of Stratford (*It is I, so be slip*), T. Floyd, of Teignmouth (*So be I slip, I sit*), M. O. Anker, of Ealing (*I slip, so I be sit*), R. J. Vine, of Ealing (*I set, I slip, I sob*), O. Windridge, of Wigston Magna (*Be I so 'lit I sip?*), G. E. Wilkins, of Reading (*I slip*

*so be, I sit*), P. S. Sumner, of Worcester (*"I bet I slip," I S.O.S.*), Miss B. B. Simon, of Ruthin (*I slip, I sob, I set*), and E. J. Lloyd, of Cardiff (*I sip, so be, I sit*). Five shillings goes to each of them.

Some submitted entries with "words" which were not words at all. S.O.S. for example, could only be judged one word and not three as some claimed. However, congratulations to all competitors upon their ingenuity, and better luck next time.

### A E D I C M L

From the letters above, make four different seven-letter words.

Ten and sixpence will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution opened. Closing date: March 6th.

## Braille Competition Result

The competition for deaf St. Dunstan's men in the December issue of the *Review* was won by J. Dale, of Stoke-on-Trent, to whom a prize of 10s. 6d. has been sent.

## Physical Training at Home

TABLE III of the Physical Training programme is published below—again a slight strengthening on Table II in the last issue of the *REVIEW*. In carrying out Exercise 8, Abdominal Exercise, care should be taken that the chair is quite firmly placed in the corner, and a square fronted chair is recommended.

### INTRODUCTORY EXERCISES

- (1) *Leg Ex.*—Hips firm—foot placing sideways.
  - (2) *Neck Ex.*—Head bending backwards with fingers stretching.
  - (3) *Arm Ex.*—Arms bend—arms forward stretch.
  - (4) *Trunk Ex.*—Arms bend—foot forward place—trunk turning.
  - (5) *Leg Ex.*—Hips firm—heels raising and knees bending quickly.
- GENERAL EXERCISES
- (6) *Balance Ex.*—Hips firm—leg raising sideways.
  - (7) *Lateral Ex.*—Hips firm—foot sideways place—trunk bending sideways quickly.
  - (8) *Abdominal Ex.*—On the hands (on chair)—leg raising.

- (9) *Dorsal Ex.*—Arms bend—foot sideways place—trunk bending forward.
- (10) *Marching Ex.*—Hips firm—with knee raising mark time.
- (11) *Final Ex.*—(i) Heels raise and lower quickly. (ii) Arms raising forward and upwards, lowering sideways and downwards.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Carry left foot off 30 inches toe leading, lower heel, raise heel and bring foot into right foot. Repeat with right foot.
- (2) As before in Table II.
- (3) As before. *Important*—Do not move body when coming back to arms bend.
- (4) Turn from the hips above only towards forward leg.
- (5) (i) Raise on toes. (ii) Half knee bend. (iii) Up on toes again. (iv) Heels lower.
- (6) Raise leg as far as possible without disturbing the position of the body.
- (7) As before, only done quickly. Do not let head fall to side inclined.
- (8) Place a chair firmly in corner of room against the wall. Follow instructions for Ex. 8 last month, but instead of hands on ground, place hands on chair. At conclusion of last month's exercise, raise leg as high as possible, toe pointed. Do not alter position of body.
- (9) Force hands well back and keep chin in when bending forward.
- (10) Raise knee each time as high as possible.
- (11) As before in Table II.

### Young St. Dunstaners

Jack, the son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Martin, of Bray, has gained his A.I.C.M. Diploma for pianoforte playing.

☆☆☆

Hazel, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. T. Pearce, of Leighton Buzzard, has won a prize for not missing school once in three years. She was the only pupil to achieve the distinction.

☆☆☆

Alan, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Cooke, of Wood Green, has passed the General Clerks' Examination of the Civil Service.

☆☆☆

Mavis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Hazel, of Merton, has passed her Grade IV music examination with distinction.

☆☆☆

The three children of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Waldin, of Winchester, are doing well. Sixteen year old David has obtained his School Certificate and hopes to go into a bank. John, who is thirteen, has won the school diving championship and swimming cup for his house (his rival in the diving competition was a boy of seventeen years of age), and Jean has passed a final examination qualifying her as a librarian.

☆☆☆

Graham, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Prettjohns, of Peckham Rye, has passed his examination, obtaining a credit in every subject.

☆☆☆

The eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. McAndrew, of Bournemouth, who last year passed the Higher School Certificate in English, History and Latin, was placed 18th out of three hundred and fifty candidates in the Army Entrance Examination, and was awarded an Army Council and also a Kitchener Scholarship at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

☆☆☆

The youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Radford, of Castle Cary, has passed her examination and received her certificate for the Royal College of Music.

☆☆☆

Nora Sebbage, daughter of our St. Dunstaner at Moulscombe, is a young St. Dunstaner who is an excellent swimmer. She recently received a Certificate from the Brighton Ladies' Swimming Club for her achievement in swimming from pier to pier at Brighton in 23 mins. 25 secs.

Pearl Yarwood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Yarwood, of Manchester, continues to add to her dancing laurels. She has won the Carlotta Trophy of the National Association of Teachers of Dancing, and second place in the competition for the Eros Trophy, both held in London; she was also awarded the Grimshaw Trophy for the highest marks at the festival held at Belle Vue, Manchester.

☆☆☆

Joan, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Walch, of Bolton, has passed the Intermediate Class with honours, for the London College of Music. She had the highest marks in the district examination, securing 92 out of a possible 100. She wins a medal.

☆☆☆

Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Mitchell, of Leith, N.B., was married on the 31st January, to Samuel Hanna, of Belfast.

### Derby Sweepstake, 1939

ONCE again we have pleasure in announcing our own Derby Sweepstake. This is the ninth year of this competition, and the number of tickets sold last year proves beyond doubt that it is as popular as ever.

The sweepstake is confined strictly to St. Dunstaners, and tickets will not on any account be issued to anyone else.

#### RULES.

1. The price of tickets is 2s. 6d. each.
2. The total amount subscribed will, with the exception of the actual cost of printing and postage involved, be distributed as follows:—  
Fifty per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.  
Twenty per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.  
Ten per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.  
Twenty per cent to be equally divided among all those who hold tickets drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.
3. Application for tickets can be made at once and will be received up to the first post on **Monday, May 15th**. Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, and envelopes, which must be plainly marked "Derby Competition," must be sent to the REVIEW, St. Dunstan's Headquarters, Regent's Park, and not to any other department. Postal orders must be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. Tickets will be despatched in rotation, and must be produced before payment of prize money is made.

### Racing at Ovingdean

1 O'CLOCK — The DINNER STAKES

"THEY'RE OFF." The warning clang of the gong sounded clearly above the din and noise of the waiting crowd, and the expectant throng turned in one direction, heading for the rails. There was a large and very mixed field. A few appeared to be fit, some having only one sound leg; others, stout in the girth, suggested overweight, whilst most wore blinkers.

"Here they come!" As the field thundered along, hugging the rails the excitement grew more intense, and above the noise could be plainly heard the sniffing of nostrils and the clatter of plates. Nearing the bend, the field drew closer together and began to bunch ready to slip through—ready to take full advantage of an opening on the other side. On they tore, rounding Tattenham Corner at great speed and midst much bumping and boring. Weight told its tale and the lighter-weighted were forced well on to the rails till it seemed that an objection at the end would be inevitable.

Once clear the field opened out, the leaders forging ahead, the string following closely on their heels. After a few yards, a sharp turn to the left and they had entered the straight where the field straggled and began to drop out, some to right and some to left, to stand by their seats at the dinner tables—to await the whistle for an instantly hushed silence—very remarkable—for grace before the weigh-in commenced.

The race was over; dinners went rapidly into the frame, showing tribute to the two Ministers of our Interior.

R. Z. H.

### A Useful Tip to Shopkeepers

There is no doubt that a number of shopkeepers find their shop windows getting very steamy at this time of the year; we hope that the following tip will help to remedy this nuisance:—

First clean the window, and then, before drying, go over again with a damp cloth well rubbed with ordinary soap, afterwards polishing with a dry cloth.

### A "Doggy" Affair

G. S. Chappell, of Saltford, sends us the following, which, he says, actually happened to a friend of his.

A youth of seventeen had for several days and nights been driven nearly mad with toothache, and as he lay tossing in his bed, he decided to evacuate from the sheets, and advance to the dining-room.

The terrible commotion awakened his mother, who proceeded downstairs to investigate. On reaching the aforesaid room, she found Ronald dancing with tears in his eyes, and a pair of pinchers in his hand. His mother was told that he had been trying to remove the tooth with them. First of all with them cold which had made matters worse, and afterwards with them heated by the dying embers in the grate, and this made it "worsen." Using her "motherly instincts" his mother persuaded him back to bed again with the promise that she would bring up an E.N.T. powder and a couple of aspirins.

The promise was carried out, the powder was given, and Ronald was instructed to take the aspirins later on if the powder did not take any effect. His mother retired to her room and was just about to occupy the space allotted to her in the bed by her husband when she casually read the printed matter on the wrapper which had contained the powder. Suddenly she shrieked "I've killed him, I've poisoned him." This melody rudely awakened her husband from his slumbers. "If you carry on like that," he said, "you will drive me mad." The next moment he was in hot pursuit of his wife who had rushed down to Ronald's bedroom, where his two brothers had also gathered. The victim asked what all the fuss was about and when told that he had been given a "Bob Martin's" condition powder in place of E.N.T., he replied: "Can't be helped now, the job is done, and it's a case of 'wait and see'."

FINALE. Party dismissed, leaving Ronald counting the minutes, and with one consolation, that he would not suffer from the effects of distemper.

### News of Telephonists

Our best wishes to telephonists M. Doyle, W. Bishop, and S. Prideaux, who have started work.

## Origins

*Cackling.* Hens cackle after laying an egg because their ancestors have done it for thousands of years. In the old jungle days wild fowls who were taking time out for laying an egg, signalled their whereabouts to the remainder of the wandering flock by cackling as soon as they laid an egg.

☆ ☆ ☆

*Port wine,* the vintage which took its name from the city of Oporto, Portugal, and in turn made that place famous, also gave the name "port" to the left side of ships, according to seafaring men. The port side, one explanation goes, is so called because it used to display a red lantern, the light of which had the colour of port wine.

☆ ☆ ☆

*Blimp.* During the World War the British Army's best non-rigid airships were referred to as the B-limp type of aircraft. Eventually the hyphen was eliminated.

☆ ☆ ☆

*Quinine* received its name from the Countess of Chinchon, a famous malaria sufferer who was cured by the use of quinine.

☆ ☆ ☆

"*Goat and Compasses*" on inn signs is a corruption of "God encompasseth us."

☆ ☆ ☆

We have recently passed the centenary of the *envelope*.

Up to a century ago messages and correspondence were written on one side of sheet of paper which was folded into a square and sealed.

It was a stationer in Paris who thought it would be much better and more economical to use both sides of the paper and enclose the folded sheet in a covering.

After much thought he designed the first envelope. At first a wafer of paste was used to seal it, but soon gummed flaps were introduced.

☆ ☆ ☆

*Shire horse,* on show recently at the Royal Agricultural Hall, has long held a high place in the esteem of English breeders.

Its ancestors were the great beasts that drew the ponderous war chariots of the Ancient Britons over the roughest roads (astonishing the Romans, who were used

to much smaller breeds), and later carried warriors whose armour weighed 30 stone or more.

The Shires obtained their name from Henry VIII, who, finding the breed declining, gave orders for special breeding in certain specified shires.

The Shire Horse Society was formed on July 11th, 1878, so last year was diamond jubilee year.

☆ ☆ ☆

*Chop suey* did not originate in China. When Li Hung Chang visited the United States in 1898, his chef prepared a concoction intended to appeal to both the American and the Oriental taste, which later became known as chop suey.

☆ ☆ ☆

"*Hobson's Choice*" comes from an ostler of that name, who hired his hacks as taxis hire to-day—front one or none.

☆ ☆ ☆

*Barbers* have a noble heritage. The early Romans erected a monument to the first of them. Shaving dates back to the Macedonian Conquest, when, according to Plutarch, King Philip wearied of seeing soldiers seized by their beards and run through with swords. Consequently he introduced shaving in his army as a protective measure. Shaving became the vogue thereafter.

## Births

HORGAN.—To the wife of D. Horgan, of Cork, on January 26th, a daughter.

LOVETT.—To the wife of G. W. Lovett, of Sturminster Newton, on January 24th, a daughter.

## Marriage

COOPER—LOVE.—On February 16th, at St. Nicholas, Linton, near Maidstone, V. A. Cooper, of Brighton, to Miss Edna Love.

## Deaths

Our sincere sympathy is extended this month to the following:

BOWEN.—To R. W. Bowen, of Cape Town, South Africa, whose wife died in London on January 31st.

KEVILL.—To J. Kevill, of Manchester, whose wife has recently passed away.

MCCLUSKEY.—To Mr. and Mrs. R. McCluskey of Crewe, whose twenty-seven years old son has died as the result of an operation. Their loss is particularly sad since this is the second son they have lost at that age.

## When Smoking Was a Crime

*Extracts from an article by Thomas Raleigh from the "Fact Digest" of New York.*

AMERICA took to the pipe and cigar early—long before Columbus discovered America. Stone carvings of the ancient Mayan and Aztec civilisations in Central America show the deep religious veneration with which tobacco was held.

Columbus took some of the tobacco plants back to Spain with him as a curiosity. Rodrigo de Jerez, a member of his party, also as a curiosity, tried smoking a cigar on the main street of his home town of Ayamonte. He was promptly arrested, turned over to the Spanish Inquisition and spent several years in prison.

It was a hundred years before Europe smoked. Tobacco was looked upon as a medicine. Jean Nicot, a Frenchman, popularised it as an alleged cure for coughs and asthma. From Nicot came the word "nicotine."

England taught Europe to smoke. Contrary to the popular story, it was not Sir Walter Raleigh who introduced smoking to England. It was the British sea captains. Raleigh didn't learn to smoke until later, but it was he who saw the commercial possibilities of tobacco.

People collected in great crowds on the streets of London to see the strange spectacle of the British sea captains home from America strolling about and puffing. They had learned from the Indians. In a short time the "barbarous habit" became the mode in London.

It was not called "smoking," however. It was known as "drinking" tobacco, because the pipe was used principally, and it suggested the act of drinking the smoke.

The price of tobacco was extravagantly high. It was literally worth its weight in silver, a pound of tobacco being balanced against the weight of silver coins. In Virginia, which at one time was planted all in tobacco, it became so important that it took the place of money, wages and the price of goods being paid in bales of tobacco.

Pipes were rare and precious things. In the so-called *tobagies* in London—meeting-places resembling ordinary taverns—they were passed from hand to hand. Women smoked freely with the men.

By the seventeenth century the habit had spread to Holland, France, Germany and Austria and had penetrated into eastern Europe. Soldiers meeting in the Thirty Years War (1617-1648) in Germany carried the habit back to their native lands with them. Every war subsequently has been responsible for a remarkable increase in the use of the weed.

Attempts to cultivate the tobacco plant were made in all the countries which came to use the weed, but only in Turkey and the surrounding territory were the climate and soil receptive to the American plant. Many countries established a tobacco monopoly.

Portuguese sailors spread the tobacco habit to Japan, China, India and the Philippines. By the eighteenth century the whole world was smoking.

It was at the end of the eighteenth century that America perfected the cigar and it was introduced successfully in Europe. The cigarette followed, appearing in France in 1844. It was the French who popularised the habit of taking snuff. Nobles used it at court, considering it less "barbaric" than smoking.

The Crimean War (1856) gave the cigarette universal popularity. But opposition sprang up immediately. Anti-Cigarette Leagues were formed. In America the Women's Christian Temperance Union fought long and bitterly against the cigarette habit. At one time the sale of cigarettes was forbidden in no less than twelve American states.

The word cigarette is the diminutive of cigar. And cigar comes from the Spanish *cigarro*, meaning "little garden." That's what the Spanish called the rolled leaves they took from their *cigarrals*, or flower gardens, where they planted the first tobacco Columbus brought back from America.

The origin of the word tobacco is shrouded in mystery. Some claim it was derived from Tobasco in Mexico, where Cortez found much tobacco. Others say it is a corruption of the native name (tobak) the San Salvador Indians gave their pipes.

☆ ☆ ☆

HE that respects himself is safe from others; he wears a coat of mail that none can pierce.

—LONGFELLOW.

**Bridge Tournament**

BELOW is published the result Chart of the Bridge Tournament concluded on January 31st last. It will be noticed that a draw has been recorded for second place, but it has been decided to play a rubber to decide who shall be declared Second best pair to C. Gover and C. Thompson, to whom we offer our hearty congratulations on winning the first St. Dunstan's Tournament.

**Silver Wedding**

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. V. J. Fennell, of Tooting, who celebrated their silver wedding on January 17th.

**Not a Clean Sweep**

A St. Dunstan's mat-maker was once visiting a south coast town with his wife. Passing a small hotel one day they noticed that the door-mat was decidedly the worse for wear. Being a very enterprising St. Dunstaner he slipped his business card underneath it and they went on their way. Four months later they were again in the town and near the hotel. The old mat was still at the door. Out of curiosity his wife lifted it. His card was still there too.

Can you tell a good story—amusing or interesting—connected with your work? If so, send it along to the Editor who will be very glad to publish it.

**Bridge Tournament—Final Placings**

NAMES	Waite and Slaughter	Crook and Nuyens	Coles and Toft	Gover and Thompson	Milligan and Brown	Downs and Graves	Rhodes and Collins	Taylor and Craigie	Winter and Roden	Points Scored	Final Placings
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Waite and Slaughter	1	A	W2	W2	A	L	W2	L	W2	13	5
Crook and Nuyens	2	A	L	L	W2	W2	A	A	L	8	7
Coles and Toft	3	L	W2	W2	W2	W2	L	W2	L	20	3
Gover and Thompson	4	W2	W2	L	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	24	1
Milligan and Brown	5	W2	L	L	L	L	A	W2	L	5	9
Downs and Graves	6	W2	W2	L	L	W2	L	L	W2	18	4
Rhodes and Collins	7	L	A	W2	A	W2	L	L	L	6	8
Taylor and Craigie	8	W2	W2	L	L	L	W2	W2	L	12	6
Winter and Roden	9	X1	L	L	W2	W2	L	W2	W2	20	2

A — Abandoned. W — Win. L — Lost. X — Draw.

**SPORTS CLUB NOTES**

**Nine Mile Handicap Walk**

In fine but cold and windy weather the nine-mile Handicap Walk took place at Regent's Park on Saturday, January 28th.

Once again for this Walk we were obliged, owing to road repairs, to walk across a section of the Park from the North Gate to Hanover Gate.

We were honoured on this occasion by the attendance of His Worship The Mayor of Marylebone in the capacity of starter to a small but enthusiastic field of walkers.

After a good race the placings were:— T. ap Rhys, 1st with 90 minutes 5 seconds in the B Section and G. Fallowfield 94 minutes 18 seconds, 1st in the A Section.

Owing to sickness and the weather we had only two competitors in Section B and our thanks are due to the anonymous donor who presented a consolation prize to A. Craigie, the loser in this event.

Miss Hamar Greenwood very kindly presented the prizes to the successful walkers and expressed thanks to the officials, escorts and all helpers who had once again come along and with their great help, contributed to the success of the afternoon.

In a word of thanks to Miss Greenwood, T. ap Rhys coupled with it a vote of thanks to Miss Davies and the staff of ladies who never fail in their untiring efforts to gain the approbation of the general company of sportsmen who attend these functions.

Appended below will be found the times and placings of the walkers.

**Nine Mile Walk, 28th January, 1939**

Competitor	Actual Time	Handicap Time	Handicap Allowance	Position in Handicap	
T. ap Rhys	90.5	87.35	2.30	1	B SECTION
A. Craigie	99.48	88.18	11.30	2	Takes con. prize
S. Dyer	95.14	83.14	12.0	1	A SECTION
H. Giles	95.51	86.51	9.0	2	Fastest Time
T. Rouse	98.35	87.5	11.30	3	
G. Fallowfield	94.18	87.18	7.30	4	
J. Triggs	109.46	96.46	13.0	5	

**Twelve Mile Walk**

MAY we remind walkers that the 12-mile Handicap Walk from Headquarters will take place on Saturday, February 25th, commencing 2.30 p.m., when it is hoped that all the walkers will be fit and well.

**Cup Final, April 29th**

We hope to have a limited number of tickets to sell to St. Dunstaners for the Cup Final. Tickets for this popular annual event will be 7s. 6d. Applications for tickets should be sent in to the Sports Office not later than March 22nd, when a ballot will be made and successful applicants notified immediately. The maximum allotment of tickets will be two per member.

**Army International Football**

We have been fortunate enough to secure the privilege of a number of complimentary tickets for the Army v. The French Army match at the Crystal Palace Football Club's Ground, Selhurst Park, on Saturday, February, 25th, 1939. K.O. 3.15 p.m.

Will any St. Dunstaner with an escort, wishing to attend the above Match, please send in his application to the Sports Office immediately to enable a draw to be made if necessary.

**Tuesday Night Dance**

A dance will be held in the Lounge at Headquarters on Tuesday, March 7th.

**Brighton**

The next Brighton Sports Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8th.

## "In Memory"

PRIVATE HERBERT VICTOR THOMPSON  
(3rd Middlesex Regiment)

It is with deepest regret that we record the death of H. V. Thompson, of Hastings.

"Tommy", as he was known to all his friends, was totally blinded at Salonica early in 1917, and a few months afterwards was admitted to St. Dunstan's where he took up training in boot-repairing and mat-making. Later on he gave up this occupation in favour of telephone operating. For seven years he worked in the offices of the Finchley Branch of the Gas Light and Coke Company, and it was a great sorrow to him when, because of his health, he had to give up this post. After various periods in hospital, he and his wife went to live near Hastings, in the hope that his health would benefit, but unfortunately this was not the case, and some months ago it became evident that the end was near.

He died on January 12th, and a few days later was buried in the "Heroes' Corner" of Ore Cemetery, a privilege which had been specially given him because of his war record. "Mr. H" and several of his St. Dunstan's comrades were among those attending the funeral. Among the wreaths was one from Sir Ian Fraser and his friends at St. Dunstan's.

We extend our very sincere sympathy to Mrs. Thompson in her great loss.

PRIVATE ENOCH ALFRED HARRISON  
(Royal Berkshire Regiment)

We deeply regret to record the death, on January 13th, of E. A. Harrison, of Mapperley.

Harrison was wounded at Cambrai in 1918, as a result of which not only was his sight damaged, but his left hand was crippled and he suffered severely from deafness. Naturally he was not able to take up any strenuous training, but he had a period at the Brighton Home, when he learned typewriting and wool rug work.

Arrangements had been made for him to come down to the new Home at Brighton for the Christmas holiday but he was taken ill and admitted to hospital where he died.

A wreath was sent for the funeral from Sir Ian and comrades. We extend our sincere sympathy to his relatives, in particular his sister and brother-in-law, with whom he resided.

PRIVATE WILLIAM WILSON  
(Labour Corps)

With deep regret we record the death of W. Wilson of Kirkham.

Although this St. Dunstaner has been under our care since 1924, it was not possible for him to take any training on account of his age and his extremely bad health. Many men will remember him, however, as he always enjoyed a holiday at the Annexe at Brighton.

Wilson was staying with a nephew at Lytham when he was taken ill at a concert, and died a few hours later in hospital. His death took place on January 12th.

A wreath was sent from Sir Ian and comrades, and we extend our sincere sympathy to all relatives, particularly to his brother and nephew.

CORPORAL WILLIAM ARMSTRONG  
(1st Royal Welsh Fusiliers)

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on January 12th, of W. Armstrong, of Liverpool.

Armstrong enlisted in 1915, and was wounded at Passchendaele in 1917, but he did not come under St. Dunstan's care until 1925.

He learned both mat-making and boot repairing at different periods after his admission to St. Dunstan's, but not being a very fit man, for the last two or three years he had been content to carry on with wool rug-making.

He was taken ill at Brighton. He returned home, but became worse and passed away there.

A wreath was sent from Sir Ian and comrades. Armstrong leaves a widow and two children to mourn his loss, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

### Mrs. R. W. Bowen

We have heard with deep regret of the death in London of Mrs. Bowen, wife of our South African St. Dunstaner, Advocate R. W. Bowen, M.P., after a serious illness.

Many St. Dunstaners and workers for St. Dunstan's will remember Mrs. Bowen as a V.A.D. and Braille teacher before her marriage to Bowen, and as the sister of Sir Harold Gillies, the famous plastic surgeon, who did such wonderful work for many of our men with severe facial wounds.

### Miss G. Drage

Many St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret of the death of Miss G. Drage who for some time worked as a V.A.D. at the Bungalow. Miss Drage had been very ill for over a year. She passed away on December 29th.

### Miss E. Gowers

We have heard with regret from Miss Pain of the death of yet another old friend, Miss Edith Gowers, who was with us at one time as a Braille teacher. Miss Gowers died suddenly last month from the effects of an accident.