

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

MISS WINIFRED BOYD-ROCHFORD, O.B.E., the Matron of St. Dunstan's, died on the night of Saturday, February 8th. The great family of St. Dunstan's all over the Empire, the men who were blinded in the war and their wives and families, the staff—and particularly those who worked at Brighton—and all who have helped or visited St. Dunstan's and have seen Matron, so charming, so kind, so dignified in her long blue uniform with the flowing white cap, or who have heard her sweet voice, will sorrow at her passing.

I wrote last month that His Majesty the King had been graciously pleased to confer upon her the honour of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for her long and devoted service to St. Dunstan's. This formal act on the part of the King was followed by one of personal kindness which gave Matron very real pleasure, for the King, knowing that she could not obey his summons to attend at Buckingham Palace to be invested with the Order, sent the Jewel of the Order to her at Brighton.

You will read in other pages of this REVIEW of her fitting funeral service. Members of Miss Boyd-Rochford's family, representatives of all aspects of St. Dunstan's, headed by Lady (Arthur) Pearson, our President, were there.

Miss Boyd-Rochford held her great office in St. Dunstan's greatly, and she was truly loved by all who worked with her and for whom she worked. All in St. Dunstan's feel that we have lost a best friend, but her spirit of service goes on, and her nobility of character, serenity of mind and rare combination of dignity, humility and humour will be a cherished memory to us all.

I HAD a talk with the new St. Dunstaners at Church Stretton a few days ago. The Editor thinks that a report of this talk will interest old St. Dunstaners on account of the reference to War Pensions and also because it may call to mind our own early days at St. Dunstan's. I think this may be so, and have given permission for the talk to be printed this month as Chairman's Notes.

As the war proceeds and the number of new St. Dunstaners increases, the REVIEW should reflect more and more their activities and experiences. If necessary, we will enlarge the REVIEW, but we must try and save paper and labour in the national interest as far as we can. I am sure that old St. Dunstaners will be glad to share the space in the REVIEW with the new, and will be interested to read of their problems. If any St. Dunstaner, young or old, cares to write me any thought or suggestion or constructive criticism arising out of this talk, I shall be only too pleased to receive it.

IAN FRASER.

It has been my practice for many years to speak to St. Dunstan's men wherever they are gathered together for a few minutes about various matters of interest, and to invite them to ask me questions afterwards. I propose to continue the practice as long as it is agreeable to you and we find it useful.

Rationing

We are now beginning to suffer some of the inconveniences—I won't say hardships—of rationing. Meat is particularly scarce.

I think you will agree with me that it is the duty of all of us to put up with these inconveniences as cheerfully as possible, because we know that the saving of shipping on our rations makes a direct contribution towards the better supplies and armament of our troops in distant theatres of war. The shipping problem is a very serious one indeed—I will go so far as to say that it is the most anxious problem the Government and the country have to face at the present time, and any contribution we can make which will perhaps help towards the clearing up of the position in the Mediterranean—if, for example, we could drive Italy out of the war and avoid having to keep such large fleets in the Mediterranean, it would be an enormous difference to the whole military and naval outlook.

I learnt that all of you are putting up with the shortage of meat and other good things in a cheerful and understanding manner, and I should like to offer you my congratulations and thanks for this.

War Pensions—Old and New

One word about pensions and allowances. I am not satisfied with these. You know that the rates which are payable to people who have lost their sight in this war are a few shillings lower than the rates payable to those who lost their sight in the last war, and there are other discrepancies. My view is that the pensions rates for the two wars should be the same, at the higher level. More than this, I think the time has come when even the higher, old rates should be increased to meet the extra cost of living at the present time. The Government does not agree with this at present, and has said that we must wait until the cost of living figure gets a good deal higher. I do not think it is our duty to quarrel with the Government, or engage in any public campaign or propaganda about this. We do not want to show people in our own country or the enemy abroad that we have disagreements amongst ourselves. But, on the other hand, a free Parliament exists amongst other things for the purpose of voicing complaints, and I shall continue to press the matter on the Minister personally and in Parliament in the future, as I have done during the past year. You will all realise, of course, that the Government has to face the possibility of enormous casualties, military and civilian, and that it must necessarily hesitate before setting a standard which, should the numbers be very great, could not be maintained. I will keep you informed from time to time how this matter progresses, and I am sure of two things—first, that no harm but much good is done by continually bringing the matter forward, and secondly, that in due time Parliament will listen to us and do something for us.

We Are Proud of St. Dunstan's

There were three thousand men blinded in the last war; two thousand of them still survive and are scattered all over the Empire. St. Dunstan's and its affiliated organisations

looks after the interests of all. We are the biggest brotherhood of the blind in the world; we are very proud of our record and spirit, and we feel sure that the young men who are now joining us will not only benefit from St. Dunstan's but will be proud to belong to such a splendid organisation. I am equally sure that the younger men will not only benefit, but will themselves make a great contribution towards the strength of St. Dunstan's. You will learn new things about blindness, and will teach them to us in your own good time.

Meanwhile, there are certain experiences we older men have had, and certain conclusions we have reached about blindness, which we will try to pass on to you for your consideration, in the hope that they will be helpful. Blindness is such an unusual disability, and the number of blind people in the country is relatively so small—less than one in a thousand—that until we are blinded ourselves we have not much experience in the matter. A very large proportion of the blind population in civil life is old; very many are unemployable, and most are poor. The probability is therefore that if we personally have met or remember any blind people in the past we are not encouraged by what we remember of them. But we were young in our day, and you are young now, and with youth and adaptability in your favour, and St. Dunstan's—or for the civilians, the National Institute for the Blind and other agencies—to help and advise, there is a useful and happy future for all of you.

Learning to Be Blind

Do not hurry your training, and do not worry unduly about the future. Make the most of your early lessons here and from time to time members of the staff and I myself will be available to talk over the future with you, and give you the best possible advice.

The first thing to do is to learn to be blind, and this means learning to move about, to read and write, and look after yourself. The spirit in which these problems are tackled is the essence of the whole matter. We do not want to look upon blindness as a calamity which puts us out of the world, but rather as an opportunity of investigating and learning about a new and interesting world in which we can make our way. Try to look upon blindness as a handicap which diligent effort and ingenuity can reduce and even overcome.

Try to think normally and to be normal in every possible respect. The world is full of kindness and friendship, but it does not come like manna from heaven; you have to seek it and give out of your own store of good nature and kindness to get it in return. In talking to strangers, or to your own friends or relations, whom perhaps you have not met since you were blinded, it is up to you to make the conversation and the relationship easy. Old friends or strangers will be shy of you, just as perhaps you are shy of them. You must break down the barrier by showing that you are not only taking your knock courageously and cheerfully, but that you have an easy manner and that there is nothing to stop easy conversation. Do not hesitate to talk about blindness—not to make a song and dance about it, but to put the people you are with at their ease.

I have been very pleased to learn how many of you get about this building and up to the workshops and round the island by yourselves. It is very important to do this as much and as often as possible. You will get a grand feeling of independence and pleasure when you have undertaken a difficult walk alone. Ask a V.A.D. or an orderly, or one of the more skilled blind men here to show you the way; go carefully over the route, feeling every yard of it, and trying to get a picture in your mind of what it looks like, where the turns are, and so on: then try it alone, a little bit at a time, going further and further as you get confidence. I advise you to use a stick at first, and perhaps always to use a stick out of doors, but give up the stick in the house as soon as you can, as it is not natural or normal to have a stick in the house. Do not hesitate to feel your way about, to examine the doors and walls with your hands, to look for the railing or the wire with your stick. Do not be sensitive lest somebody should happen to see you. If they do they will not think you are making a fool of yourself; on the contrary, they will admire you for trying to get on, and very soon you will get on.

Later, as you get confidence, try and study the matter of looking as normal as possible as you move about. Pay great attention to your clothes, your hair, your shaving, and your appearance generally. The world half expects the blind to be untidy. They say, "Poor chap, he can't do any better." This is not true, and it is tremendously worth while for your own self respect, as well as for the impression which you make upon other people,

to take very special pains about looking smart and being well turned out. This is not a matter of money, but a matter of trouble. In particular, do not let blindness be an excuse for carelessness or slackness about shaving. If you once allow yourself to make the excuse that you need not shave because you are blind, you will be doing yourself and St. Dunstan's and all blind people a very great dis-service.

I have been amazed and very pleased at the efficient and quick way in which you have many of you found your feet. Already some have passed the typewriting test, some even the braille test, and all of you seem to me to be getting on splendidly. This is partly due to the splendid efforts of the staff who, from top to bottom, have done the very best they can to make the atmosphere right and to provide the means for your recovery and education. I am sure you would wish me to express sincere thanks to all of them. But it is mainly due to your own good sense and courage and determination, and to your cheerful spirit. This is not a house of despair, but a house of hope. You have made it so, and I offer you all my congratulations and my very good wishes.

Appointments

Mr. D. W. Ferguson will in future conduct all the work of the Poultry Department from an office in the grounds of St. Dunstan's, Church Stretton. He will continue to supervise the welfare of all St. Dunstan's poultry farmers, the work of the technical visitors, and will establish at Church Stretton a small poultry farm for the production of food for St. Dunstan's Hospital. One or two new blinded soldiers who desire a country life will be taught on this farm and may help to run it as a model.

Mr. L. Banks, Pensions Officer, is also moving his office to Church Stretton. All pension matters relating to old St. Dunstaners and new will be dealt with there.

Mr. F. T. Dickie, Chief Accountant of St. Dunstan's since war broke out, has resigned to take up another appointment. Mr. W. R. Grant has been appointed Chief Accountant in his place.

In view of Mr. Swain's retirement, which was announced last month, Miss M. K. Wilson has been appointed Acting Welfare Superintendent, Northern Area.

In view of the great increase in property and estate difficulties, owing to the war generally, and the bombing of many of our men's houses, Mr. Day has been moved from the office of Welfare Superintendent, Southern Area, to assist Mr. P. Lale, head of the Estate Department. Mrs. M. Paul has been appointed Acting Welfare Superintendent, Southern Area.

St. Dunstaner Matriculates

Congratulations to Dennis Pettit, of Northampton, who has passed his matriculation examination. He is a shorthand typist, and has studied for the examination in his spare time.

Good Wishes from New South Wales

The following cable has been received by Sir Ian Fraser:—

"Between now and victory our thoughts are with our blinded comrades in the Old Land. All good cheer.

N.S.W. BLINDED SOLDIERS."

Sir Ian has sent an appreciative reply to our friends in New South Wales.

St. Dunstan's, Junior A Tribute to New Comrades

*Ye sons of men we knew in days of old,
Brave scions of a noble island race,
Now is the time appointed to be bold
And new-born love and duty fast embrace;
'Tis not my plan to laud you to the skies
In high oration, true, but undesired;
Sufficient that your gallant enterprise
Reveal ambitions that were ne'er aspired.
From those around you, let the grace you gain
Be magnified a-many on your part,
That loving dear ones see the virtuous strain,
And glad rejoicing ease their anxious heart;
Fear not to walk where others on before
Have carved a road that leads to victory,
Lit by their torches, full a hundred score,
With here and there a tree of memory.*

*Tread firm the road, that they who follow you
May find it smoother for your passing now;
Hold high the torch and keep the end in view,
Till lasting joy reward the early vow;
And with that joy your inward light shall grow,
Burning with fine and clear sincerity,
Casting its beams abroad with radiant glow . . .
The will within that shapes a destiny.*

*So shall the flaming torch rise even higher,
Kindling a beacon that shall not expire.*

R.J.V.

Church Stretton Notes

CUT off by ice and snow from the rest of the world, we have been thrown back on our own resources for amusement. An American tournament at Darts involved nearly 7,000 throws and much calculation, and brought to light many champions hitherto undiscovered, but the foremost event has been the formation of our Debating Society. This meets every Tuesday evening to thrash out knotty questions, under the chairmanship of E. Toft, with H. Miller as Chief Whip. The subjects so far discussed are:—

(1) It would be to our advantage if America entered the war.

(2) Lord Haw-Haw is an asset to us.

(3) England was justified in entering the war when she did.

On each occasion one or more have summoned up enough courage to make their maiden speech, and it is hoped that they will continue to make some contribution at future debates. So far, ladies have been debarred from entering the precincts, and none have risked the cry of "I spy strangers." Now, however, they have been invited to debate, on Shrove Tuesday, on any subject they may choose, and are looking forward to the clash of arms.

Special thanks are due to all those friends who have braved the elements and visited us this month: To Mr. Chandler and his daughter and Mr. Burton, who gave us a very enjoyable concert on the 26th, and honourable mention should be made of the two "A.T.S." who walked over from Shrewsbury and back again . . . past snowed-up vehicles of all descriptions.

Congratulations to the following—

G. Stanley, who has passed the Braille Reading Test.

W. Carlton and R. L. Berry, on passing the Typing Test.

New Admissions

Service Case—Gunner R. Dow, aged twenty-one, R.A. (Auchleeks, Perthshire).

Civilian Case—Mr. E. J. Wright.

Two civilians, J. Barker and L. Wetheridge, have left us and are now under the care of the National Institute for the Blind.

Comforts Fund

The raffle for the "baby" grandfather clock, made by J. Burley, of Norwich, and presented to the Comforts Fund, has been a great success. Requests for tickets have come from all over the British Isles and Ireland, and the Committee of the Fund would like to send a hearty vote of thanks to all those who have so generously supported the raffle.

Four hundred and twenty-six tickets have been sold, and the handsome sum of £21 6s. paid into the Fund. H. Nelson, of Trowbridge, is the lucky winner of the clock. Many congratulations to him. We feel sure he will be delighted with the prize.

The needs of the Comforts Fund grow steadily, as the following figures show:—
Number of names, 393; Number of parcels sent, 360.

From Mr. Swain

To my St. Dunstan's Friends.

I do want to thank all of you who have been kind enough to write to me regretting my resignation and expressing warm wishes for my future.

Your letters have contained many delightful references of the ways in which I have helped you, and while they are far from being deserved, they are nevertheless immensely appreciated.

I am conveying my thanks through the medium of the REVIEW because your letters have been so numerous that I dare not attempt to answer them personally—much as I would like to do.

Yours sincerely, T. EVELYN SWAIN.

Tribute to Mr. Swain

In a letter to Sir Ian Fraser, T. North, of Cannock, expresses the feeling of indebtedness which he says will be shared by so many St. Dunstaners to Mr. Swain for his long and devoted service. He would like this to be placed on record as coming from one of the boys.

Miss Morris

Miss Morris, whom everyone hoped was rapidly getting better in Cornwall, is unfortunately back into plaster again. She is, needless to say, as cheery as ever, but everyone will send their good wishes to her and their sympathy in what must be such a very trying time. "My love to all I know," she writes.

Matron Boyd-Rochfort

BELOVED by St. Dunstan's men all over the Empire, who had known her first as a V.A.D., then as Assistant Matron, and finally as Matron, Miss Winifred Boyd-Rochfort, O.B.E., died on Saturday, February 8th, at Port Hall, St. Dunstan's Annexe, Ovingdean, after a lifetime spent in their service.

By her own wish, she was buried at Brighton and Preston Cemetery, in the lovely corner set aside for the men of St. Dunstan's, and where Miss Thellusson lies.

Nearly a hundred St. Dunstaners gathered together on February 12th at the Chapel Royal, Brighton, where the funeral service was held, but the thoughts of two thousand St. Dunstaners were with them in that tribute to her dear memory.

The simple choral service included her favourite hymns, "Nearer, my God, to Thee," and "Jesu, Lover of my soul," and the Rev. R. M. Raper, Vicar of the Chapel Royal, and Chaplain of St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, gave the Address.

Mr. Raper spoke movingly of the deep sense of loss among St. Dunstan's men and the friends of St. Dunstan's everywhere. He spoke of Matron's grace and infinite understanding, her tender sympathy, and her gentle, lovely soul. "But I want to remind you," he said, "that the very things which made this radiant woman so lovable and so loving are things which are untouched by death. . . . She was one of the noblest women it has ever been my privilege to meet. Her most radiant spirit made itself felt on all who knew her. Such a light as hers will remain untouched by death, for in a sense her great work in this world was accomplished, for she drew the source of her inspiration from the Fountain of all Goodness and of Light itself."

The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and upon it rested St. Dunstan's tribute, a wreath of poppies and white chrysanthemums, in the form of St. Dunstan's badge.

Dr. Leonard Marsh and Mr. Anderson Shaw were at the organ.

The family mourners were Colonel Harold Boyd-Rochfort, D.S.O., M.C., Captain Cecil Boyd-Rochfort (brothers), Mrs. E. V. Malone (sister), also representing her mother, Miss M. O'Reilly and Miss V.

O'Reilly (nieces), and Mrs. Kennard and Mrs. Barton (cousins).

Lady (Arthur) Pearson, D.B.E., President of St. Dunstan's, Captain Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, Lieut.-Col. Eric Ball, Miss D. A. Pain, Miss B. Vaughan Davies, Sister Bradley, and Mr. W. G. Askew represented St. Dunstan's.

Among others present were Dr. E. L. Fyffe, Medical Officer, St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean; Mr. J. Boyd, representing St. Dunstan's Appeals Department; Mr. T. H. Panton, representing St. Dunstan's Technical Staff; Mr. G. Smith, representing orderlies at St. Dunstan's Headquarters; the Rev. H. M. Harries, Rector of Telscombe; Councillor C. J. M. Whittaker, M.C.; Mr. W. Yeoman, Hon. Secretary of the St. Dunstan's Grocers' Entertainment Committee; Miss Morley, representing Brighton Grocers' Association; and Mr. J. F. Miller.

There were many beautiful flowers. They included wreaths from Lady (Arthur) Pearson, Sir Neville Pearson, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, Colonel Eric Ball, Miss Hamar Greenwood, "All the Men of St. Dunstan's," the Staff at Church Stretton, the Men at Church Stretton, St. Dunstan's Massage Advisory Committee, "The Padre" and Mrs. Raper, Dr. E. Chittenden Bridges, Dr. and Mrs. E. L. Fyffe, Commander and Mrs. Paul, her Old Boys and Staff at Melplash, Men and Staff at Blackpool, and Office Staff, Blackpool, Norman Macauley "and all her boys in her own Emerald Isle," Staff at St. Dunstan's Headquarters and Stores, Orderlies and Staff, St. Dunstan's, Staff of Port Hall, and Inmates of "Still Waters."

The Chairman and others at St. Dunstan's have all received very charming letters from so many of the men and others interested in St. Dunstan's. There is not space to quote from them all, but readers may be interested to read the following letter from the Bishop of Chichester:—

"MY DEAR SIR IAN,

I do indeed grieve with you and all at St. Dunstan's at the great sorrow which has come to you in the death of Miss Boyd-Rochfort. What a wonderful life to have lived, and what wonderful work to have done. It makes one thankful—as well as sad—to know how full of blessing for others her whole character and service were. With deep sympathy,

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE CICESTR."

The following are but a few extracts from the many other letters received:—

"My wife and I feel, as all who knew her must feel, that we have lost a very dear friend. There is no one who has met her who does not feel so much better for having known her."

"It was her cheery 'Good morning,' and the simple grace at mealtime that made us think that we were one large family, cared for by one mother. To-day we mourn the loss of the greatest-loved Matron St. Dunstan's has ever had."

News of St. Dunstaners

Our sympathy to J. Macpherson, of Windsor, who was one of a number of shop-keepers who were victims of a miserable trick played upon them by a man claiming to sell confectionery. Macpherson bought three gross of chocolate macaroons, which were apparently all right when he bought them. The next day, however, they smelt so badly that he called in the police. A police chemist said they were cones filled with mashed potato paste, flavoured with cocoa and coated with desiccated cocoanut. They were mouldy. The man—H. H. Lowe—who admitted that he knew nothing about making confectionery, was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

F. L. Green, of Gosport, who was married to Miss Margerie Barnes, on January 1st, has had the misfortune to have his house bombed. He now lives at Stubbington, near Fareham.

Our sympathy to W. H. Bedford, J. T. Briggs, E. Bradford, J. J. Brooke, T. Aden, J. Gillibrand, W. T. Harris, C. Greaves, J. Hornsby, C. R. Houghton, B. Inman, A. Jenkinson, J. T. Lath, T. McDonough, A. Oldfield, W. J. S. Pearce, G. Strutt, J. Roughley, F. J. Shepherd, E. Shillito, and J. W. Savory, who have been unlucky in the recent "blitzes." All are safe, and only one, B. Inman, suffered any injury. He was slightly burnt about the face.

H. Smy is doing his bit by helping on a Government farm for a few weeks, ditching.

In the item, "Command Performance," on the Forces programme on Sunday, February 9th, was a request from W. Ward, of St. Leonards, who asked for the march of the 2nd East Surreys. "As a St. Dunstaner," wrote Ward, "I can't take a very active part in this war, but I can keep cheery." The announcer quoted from this letter and thanked our St. Dunstaner for the calendar he had enclosed.

Killed in Action

We have heard with deep regret that Corporal A. J. Hornsby, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Hornsby, of Sheffield, has been killed in action. He was twenty-seven years of age, and had served with the Colours for nine years.

"Many of us would never have met such devoted and unselfish women had we not come to St. Dunstan's. Knowing them has been a great blessing, and their passing is irreparable loss. I venture to say that we shall always be grateful for having been allowed to know them."

"Matron was a wonderful lady."

"Her life was surely devoted to the men of St. Dunstan's, and we knew, and appreciated this."

"I have thought much about her. . . . I had such happy times in her company."

"She was a symbol of all that was best and dearest in her untiring spirit of devotion to us fellows. Her memory will shine throughout the years."

APPRECIATION

While it is impossible to place on record an adequate acknowledgment of the truly great and most faithful services which our late beloved Matron has rendered to St. Dunstaners during her twenty-one years' service, what every St. Dunstaner can do, however, and that with absolute certainty, is to testify to the loving, kind, and ever-thoughtful qualities which Miss Winifred Boyd-Rochfort so constantly and so very naturally displayed.

During the whole of her twenty-one years' service, each and every one of us shared alike all that this most kind and gentle lady had to offer; none served us better, none more equally.

By her consistent efforts of trying to pour all the happiness she could into our lives, she won the love, admiration and respect of us all.

All had hoped that by the New Year her condition would have improved sufficiently to enable her to attend Buckingham Palace, where the well-earned O.B.E. was to be bestowed upon her by His Majesty. Unfortunately this was not to be. It is gratifying, however, to know that she lived long enough to see the Jewel which was taken to her.

Thus did this most radiant character pass on after achieving the most worth-while thing any one can do by leaving this world better than she found it.

Like her beloved friend, Matron Thellusson, and the many others who have served us so well in the past, as well as those who still are serving us so admirably—all have beneficially influenced our lives and assisted greatly in forming our character by their noble examples of unselfishness and service to others.

TERRY RODEN.

Sons and Daughters in the Services

BUCHANAN, A.C.2 H. E. (Matlock), Royal Air Force.
 DAVIES, Arthur (Middlesbrough), Green Howards.
 GIBB, Ivor Dennis, Royal Berkshire Regt. (Young Soldiers' Battn.)
 GIBB, Mary Ryland, F.A.N.Y.
 JEROME, Edna J., W.A.A.F.
 JEROME, Clare, Women's Land Army.
 SMITH, A.C.W.2 Brenda (Leicester), W.A.A.F.
 STANLEY, A.C. W. A. (Stony Stratford), Royal Air Force.
 HERITAGE, Godfrey, Royal Air Force.

“ In Memory ”

CORPORAL GEORGE COLBECK
(Royal Field Artillery)

WE very much regret to record the death of G. Colbeck, of Louth.

Colbeck enlisted in March, 1914, and was wounded in France by the explosion of a gas shell. As a result his sight was seriously damaged, and he was discharged from the Army in March, 1918.

He was trained at St. Dunstan's as a basket-maker, at which trade he continued to work until within a very short time of his death, which took place unexpectedly at his home in Louth on December 31st.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was among the many flowers. Colbeck leaves a widow and four children, to whom we extend sincerest sympathy.

PRIVATE GEORGE HARRIS
(Royal Army Service Corps)

WE record, with deep regret, the death of G. Harris, of Leeds, at his home on January 16th.

Harris enlisted in April, 1915, and although discharged from the Army, having lost his sight as a result of an accident in 1917, he did not come under St. Dunstan's care until 1922. An elderly man then, he only learnt netting, and for the last few years of his life, not being a fit man, he took things quietly and easily.

Harris had no relatives other than his wife, but the many flowers at the funeral bore tribute to the affection and respect in which he was held in his district. A wreath from Sir Ian and comrades was sent.

Mrs. Duffy, wife of our St. Dunstaner, G. Duffy, attended the funeral. Duffy himself was unable to be present owing to illness.

We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. Harris in her great loss.

Deaths

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

HALE.—To H. W. Hale, of Croydon, whose wife died on February 11th, after a long illness, most cheerfully borne.

MCCOLLESTER.—To J. T. McCollester, of Rossendale, whose mother, with whom he lived, passed away on January 20th.

MURRAY.—To J. Murray, of Brighton, who lost his wife on January 18th.

SHAKESPEARE.—To W. Shakespeare, of Birmingham, whose wife died on February 9th, at Stratford-on-Avon.

* * *

Mrs. Barnett, widow of our St. Dunstaner, J. Barnett, of Stoke-on-Trent, died on December 30th. She survived her husband only by a few months.

Marriage

GREEN—BARNES.—On January 1st, at Gosport, F. L. Green, of Gosport, to Miss Margerie Barnes, of Woodlands, near Southampton.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Bateman, of Birmingham, who celebrated their silver wedding on January 15th; to the Rev. and Mrs. Harold Gibb, whose anniversary falls on February 16th; and to Mr. and Mrs. H. Mortimer, who celebrated theirs on February 7th.

Competition Corner

Sammy Webster, of Horley, is the winner of last month's competition, and 10s. 6d. is being sent to him. The solution was:—

8	1	6
3	5	7
4	9	2

This Month's Competition

How many words can you find that can be written by two letters of the alphabet; example: ICY—IC. Send your words and letters on a postcard, mark the number of words found, and send them to the Editor at Regent's Park not later than March 6th. 10s. 6d. to the sender of the best list.

From the "Evening Standard."

A South African newspaper has been comparing the war with the first innings of a cricket Test Match. Scores of the various countries are indicated by the number of days they officially held out against the enemy attack.

Following is the score to date:—

P.O. Land, c Stalin, b Hitler ...	10
C. Slovakia, c and b Hitler ...	0
A.U. Stria, run out ...	0
D. Enmark, run out ...	0
N. Orway, c Quisling, b Hitler ...	62
H. Olland, retired hurt ...	3
B. Elgium, st Leopold, b Hitler ...	17
F. Rance, c Musso, b Hitler ...	294

G. Britain and D. O. Minions are not out; America has still to bat.