

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

No. 293—VOLUME XXVII [NEW SERIES]

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

St. Dunstaners' Children

IN October last, when I talked to the new St. Dunstaners at Church Stretton, I told them of the new Children's Allowances, and a brief note of what I said was published in the St. Dunstan's REVIEW for November. For the sake of clearness I will go over the ground in some detail.

I said that the Council had given careful consideration to the question of St. Dunstaners' children allowances in view of the fact that we were now planning for a new generation of St. Dunstaners. We had decided that up to the age of sixteen the allowances made for the children of new St. Dunstaners should equal the same sum of money as the allowances that have always been given for the children of old St. Dunstaners, but that the way in which they were paid would be altered in the light of experience. In future, instead of the flat rate of 6s. per week for sixteen years, there would be an allowance on the following scale: Under five years of age, 4s. per week; five years and under seven, 5s. per week; seven and under ten, 6s. per week; ten and under twelve, 7s. per week; twelve and under sixteen, 8s. 6d. per week. It has now been decided that the alternative scale will also apply in the cases of the very few old St. Dunstaners to whom children are born after January 1st, 1943.

The reason for this change is very obvious, namely, that the child costs more as it grows older. I realise that the loss of a shilling or two shillings during the early years is a serious one, but I hope it will be generally agreed that the sacrifice is worth while in view of the much greater benefit during the later years, when the children cost so much more to feed and clothe.

It has been our practice for many years now to extend the children's allowance beyond the age of sixteen where a child continues at school or college, or is an indentured apprentice at a nominal wage. In these cases, as from January 1st, 1943, the allowances which have hitherto been paid at 6s. per week will be raised to 8s. 6d. per week.

The third change is that instead of the limitation of four in a family, children's allowances will be paid in respect of all eligible children.

Educational Grants

In the statement I made in the autumn, I also referred to Educational Grants, saying that our Council had decided to make educational grants to help pay for secondary or technical or advanced education in special cases where all the circumstances, including particularly the ability of the children, warranted it. We have now worked out basic scales for these educational grants, and I am publishing them here so that all St. Dunstaners may know of them. They are not intended to be sufficient in themselves to pay for the whole of secondary or advanced education. It is presumed that the parents, looking ahead in

their children's interest, will make what provision they can themselves, and that bright boys and girls will be encouraged to sit for and obtain scholarships or bursaries. The St. Dunstan's grants are intended to be over and above the provision the parents can make themselves, or the children can obtain from other sources, so as to make the education a little easier than it would otherwise be. In a quite exceptional case, special payments to help send a scholarship boy or girl to university may also be considered.

The following basic grants will be made, in addition to the ordinary Children's Fund allowances:

A grant for Clothing Outfit (a) on admission to a Secondary School, of £5; (b) on admission to a University or College for similar higher education, where the pupil has to live away from home, of £15.

Cash Allowances:—

From 12 to 14 years	...	£1 10s. per term	=	£4 10s. per annum.
" 14 " 16 "	...	£3 0s. "	=	£9 0s. " "
" 16 " 17 "	...	£6 0s. "	=	£18 0s. " "
" 17 " 18 "	...	£8 0s. "	=	£24 0s. " "
" 18 " 19 "	...	£10 0s. "	=	£30 0s. " "
" 19 " 20 "	...	£12 0s. "	=	£36 0s. " "
" 20 " 21 "	...	£14 0s. "	=	£42 0s. " "

Note.—The above grants to apply equally to children attending at day or boarding schools, and to be payable on receipt of each term's report.

The Area Superintendents will be writing to the parents concerned to tell them of these changes, and arrears will be sent as from January 1st, 1943. There may be cases in which children are at Secondary or other schools, and we are not aware of it. In such cases parents are asked to write immediately to their Area Superintendent.

It will be noted that, as from January 1st, 1943, we have applied the new Children's Fund rates to all St. Dunstaners, new and old, and that the higher rate above sixteen also benefits all St. Dunstaners, new and old. Old St. Dunstaners may feel some regret that this system and the educational grants were not in operation during the past twenty years. I sympathise with them, but they will realise that in the early days of St. Dunstan's we had not built up the strong position which we now have, and we could not embark upon costly developments which may involve very great sums of money without assurance as to the future.

I am sure all old St. Dunstaners, even if they have some personal regrets, will nevertheless be glad to know of these valuable developments, which show that St. Dunstan's has a progressive outlook.

The magnificent services now being rendered by so many hundreds of St. Dunstaners' boys and girls in the Armed Forces and in other forms of National Service shows that, even if in some cases their education was shorter than could have been wished, they are a splendid body of young people of whom we can all be proud.

Reading Braille

I read braille with my right forefinger and my speed is a page of interpoint in five minutes. It has remained stationary at this figure for some years. From time to time I have met blind people who read braille very much more quickly, some with one hand, some with two. I should like to increase my speed and would welcome the advice of any St. Dunstaner on this point.

I also want to collect evidence as to what is the best way to read braille. It may be there is no golden rule, and that each must suit himself. Some read with the left hand, some with the right, some with both. Would any St. Dunstaner who reads braille pretty well write to me and tell me the answer to the following questions in his particular case:

1. Do you read braille with your left hand, or your right hand, or both?
2. What is your speed for reading a page of interpoint braille?
3. If you read with both hands, were you taught to do this, or did you teach yourself, and did it materially increase your speed?

This information will be a help to us in the training of new men.

Factory Jobs

Over a hundred St. Dunstaners, including many from this war, are now working in factories. Some of the older men find the long hours tiring, but most enjoy the regular work and the regular wage. Owing to housing difficulties we cannot move men from their homes, and those who go in for this kind of work must be fit and well and strong, and not too old.

Bearing these limitations in mind, I should much like to hear if there are any St. Dunstaners whose names have not yet been considered, who would like us to see if we can get them a job near their home.

IAN FRASER.

St. Dunstaners to Broadcast from South Africa

Listen in on Saturday, March 20th

The B.B.C. have arranged with the South African broadcasting authorities to broadcast messages of greeting from blinded men of this war, now at St. Dunstan's Home, Wynberg, Cape Town, to relatives and friends in this country. The broadcast will take place on Saturday, March 20th, from 1.50 to 2.10 p.m., on the Home Service programme.

As the REVIEW generally appears at the end of the third week in the month, the March number will probably not be in your hands before March 20th. We are therefore giving notice of the broadcast this month. We are sure St. Dunstaners will agree that it is worth making a special note of this date.

There are about thirty-five St. Dunstaners in our Home at Cape Town or in hospital in South Africa, and it will be of great interest to St. Dunstaners in this country to hear what they have to say. We look forward to hearing their voices.

The idea of the broadcast arose out of a cable sent to Sir Ian Fraser by Mrs. Bates, asking if it could be arranged. The Chairman thereupon fixed it up with the B.B.C.

Notes and News

R. J. Vine, of West Ealing, has been awarded the first prize (twenty-five dollars) in the 1942 Literary Competition (Poetry Section), organised by the *Jewish Braille Review*, with the further award of the Helen Keller Medal for literary excellence. The poem which he submitted was "The Middle Watch," which appeared in the October issue of the REVIEW.

A. G. Wise, of Fakenham, was the sender of a question answered by the Brains Trust on February 16th. He asked "Why is our flag called the Union Jack?"

★ ★ ★

E. D. Evans, of Carmarthen, has been presented with a Certificate of Merit by the Ministry of Agriculture for the excellent appearance of his allotment and the splendid results he has obtained.

★ ★ ★

J. Garbutt, of Stockton-on-Tees, preached the sermon on Armistice Day in the Parish Church, the first layman to preach from that pulpit. Over 2,500 people were present.

A Tribute to St. Dunstaners

*Whereas I was blind
Now I plainly see
The courage and the faith
Of all the men like thee,
Who fought for us and lost
The precious gift of sight,
Then wrestled with the dark,
And won an inner light.*

*Whereas I was blind
Now I plainly see
The greatness of these men—
The littleness of me,
Who can never find my way
Though I see the path ahead,
While they walk their chosen road
With unhesitating tread.*

*Whereas I was blind
Now I plainly see
That they must be my guides,
And show the way to me:
The way of dauntless courage:
The way of pain and strife:
The way of long endurance:
But the only way to Life.*

DORIS M. MARTIN,

January, 1943.

Church Stretton Notes

Restricted though we may be by war-time regulations from travelling far afield, we never stagnate, and there is a constant re-shuffle of the human pawns on the St. Dunstan's chessboard. Last month the V.A.D.s moved over to Longmynd to make room at Belmont for the St. Dunstanettes who will study Domestic Economy on up-to-date lines, not only doing practical housework, but wrestling with rations, points, and other shopping and house-keeping problems.

We returned from our Christmas holiday to find snow on the ground; this had been preceded by iced roads, so we made preparations for the Esquimaux life we have led for the first few months of the past two years, and the Entertainments Committee arranged a series of fortnightly talks and debates to keep our brains fallow.

Mr. Banks-Williams' talk on "The Trend of Modern Education" made us envy the rising generation, for, speaking with authority, he envisaged an era of common-sense education, in which science, religion, and history take first place, and mathematics are no longer a necessary qualification in every examination; and even examination results will not play such an important part as hitherto. This talk was so interesting that several of the audience hurried through their supper to listen to one of the series of lectures which is being given on this subject by the B.B.C.* and then continued the discussion until bedtime.

Next evening there was a Brains Trust meeting in the village, in aid of the Red Cross. Questions had been sent in beforehand (about forty were received, of which 50 per cent. came from Longmynd), and we turned up in full force and came away congratulating ourselves that the two St. Dunstan's representatives—our Director of Training and "Grandpa" Beaufoy—had been among the brightest lights on the platform.

On the 28th, Miss McAndrew opened a discussion on "Domination," ingeniously tracing that formidable word in its development from "domus," a home, to its dire significance in world politics to-day.

Since the Chairman wrote in last month's REVIEW, members of the P.O.W. Correspondence Circle have received several letters from our fellow St. Dunstaners in Germany,

*Home Service, Mondays, 7.35 to 8 p.m.

and we read extracts from them to the men in the Lounge. Bertram Bright says that he is writing his Memoirs of a Blinded Prisoner of War, and that the Stainby Wayne Braille Writer is known among them as "Stainless Stephen."

Cribbage has caught on so strongly that a Tournament was arranged, for which forty entered, including the whole of Battlefield. After a struggle lasting a fortnight, the finals were played off in the Braille Room, with a ringside attendance of twenty-five, when Harry White, of Longmynd, in a last stiff fight, floored his opponent, J. Hodges, of Battlefield.

Never a week passes without some invitation to Shrewsbury or Ludlow. No sooner had we returned from the holiday than some new friends of ours at Pontesbury invited us to sup and dance.

On the 26th, Mr. Lewis invited us to his Dance Hall in Shrewsbury, and on the 21st we had another of those pleasant evenings organised by the Ludlow ladies.

It was some time since the Croft Hermits had come over from Shrewsbury, and a full house awaited them on the 25th, when, in contrast to their usual thriller, they gave us a light comedy, entitled "Flat to Let."

The following are to be congratulated on passing their tests:—

Typing.—C. Piper, W. Grimwood, E. Grainger, E. Ward.

Braille Reading (Interline).—A. Hedger, H. White, G. Cock.

Braille Writing.—R. Fullard, S. Blackmore, S. Barton.

Admitted to Hospital.—Cpl. B. Bell, R.A., A.T.S. (21), Oakley, Yorks; A/Sgt. J. Riley, Manchester Regt. (25), Middlesbrough, Yorks; F/Sgt. R. G. Gregory, R.A.F. (27), Birmingham; L/Cpl. G. H. Pollard, R.E. (40), Kettering, Northants.

Admitted to Training.—Tem./Sgt. M. Delaney (Irish Forces), (24), Co. Wicklow; Cpl. S. McNamara (Irish Forces), (22), Co. Tipperary; Tem./Cpl. E. Ward (Irish Forces), (29), Dublin; R. J. Vowles, R.N. (31), Portsmouth.

Discharged from Hospital and returned to Unit.—Cpl. C. Brinkley Reid.

Discharged from Hospital, hoping to take up Civilian Employment.—C/AC. F. Pestell.

Discharged from Hospital for repatriation to America.—Tec./Sgt. T. Coburn,

Rupert Graves

We cannot close without a word in appreciation of our old friend, Rupert Graves, who passed away at Tiger Hall on January 18th. The morning service on the following Sunday was to his memory, and the Director gave a simple and impressive account of "The Professor's" life and character.

As a teacher, Rupert Graves had two great qualities; he knew his subject perfectly, and more than that he knew how to teach. He studied his pupil, led him gently or firmly as he needed, and left him with a real confidence in his command of shorthand. As a man his own diffidence made him difficult to know, but those who were lucky will remember always his uncomplaining courage, his absolute fairness, and his sense of humour.

Few bridge players of his ability can have it said of them that, however stupid his partner's mistakes, he never showed a sign of ill humour or criticism. There are many St. Dunstan's telephonists who own, and are proud to own, much of their success to the Professor.

The secret of married life, which was a joy to watch, was perhaps that he and his wife always put the other first, and Mrs. Graves and her daughters may feel some consolation in the knowledge that we who knew him are happier and better because we met him.

We are glad that Mrs. Graves has decided to stay among us in Church Stretton.

Sir Ian Fraser's Book

A copy of Sir Ian Fraser's book *Whereas I was Blind*, has been sent to each St. Dunstan. It is understood that a few copies in braille are available in the National Library for the Blind, and that the Panda Braille Edition may be reprinted if there is sufficient demand to justify it. If any reader wants a copy in braille, and cannot get one from the library, the Editor will be glad to see if arrangements can be made to lend him one.

"The Dotty Mag"

The first number of a prisoner of war monthly magazine written in braille has been produced by war-blinded men at Stalag IX A/H. It is called "The Dotty Mag" and is edited by Private "Doug" Parmenter, of Catford, who lost both eyes in France in May, 1940.

South African Notes

Since sending the last Notes for the REVIEW we have had several newcomers:

Dvr. F. Watkinson, Field Regt., R.A.
Cpl. H. Pownall, C.M.P., Northern Area

Provost Co.

Tpr. P. Clark, The Queen's Bays.

L-Bdr. A. T. Vickers, Field Regt., R.A.

Spr. W. E. Cunningham, Field Co., R.E.

Spr. J. P. Hancock, Well Boring Co., R.E.

and are daily expecting Dvr. M. Burns, R.A.S.C.

We have also heard of three more arrivals in hospitals, including one South African.

We are delighted to know that five more, including one officer, who were expected to come to us, have been returned home, having recovered useful sight.

Several of our St. Dunstaners have passed their Braille Reading Tests, and one—Jack Vincent—has sat for his Writing Test. The result is not yet known. Many have passed their Typewriting Tests, the one securing the highest marks—89 per cent.—being Sgt. D. P. Pretorius.

We close down the classrooms and workshops for our summer holiday on December 11th, re-opening on January 5th. The Home will not be closed, as the majority of the men will be with us for Christmas, though some are going away to friends for a couple of weeks or so.

E. M. CHADWICK BATES.

The following has been written by Cpl. Jimmie Ellis:—

My Visit to Johannesburg

The time had come for me to be fitted up with an artificial hand, and this necessitated a trip to the artificial limb factory at Johannesburg. Unlike other train journeys I had done since I have been blind, I could face this one with absolute confidence, because in the intervening time I had spent three months' intensive training at St. Dunstan's in South Africa. Quite a large party assembled to wish me "Bon Voyage," and the Matron and Mrs. Bates, having satisfied themselves that I was comfortably installed, gave the orderly implicit instructions concerning my welfare, and after much hand shaking and good wishes the train pulled out.

A train journey can be so terribly monotonous, especially for a blind man,

But this one, although it lasted 36 hours, did not have a dull moment. I made friends and much of the time I spent chatting to my fellow passengers, learning more interesting facts about South Africa.

We arrived at Johannesburg station at about 7 a.m. Two orderlies of the S.A.M.C. were there to meet us, and after saying au revoir to St. Dunstan's orderly, I was duly handed over. Before I climbed into the ambulance, one of the Springboks suggested a cup of tea. Being an Englishman I, of course, would not hear of this, so we stopped at the Services Club and consumed a gallon between us.

We resumed our journey and finally entered the gates of Baragwanath Military Hospital, which is about seven miles out of Johannesburg. This hospital is one of the finest in the Union; it is a British hospital, having been paid for by British money, but it is staffed by South African and Canadian nurses and South African doctors. This was to be my temporary residence for the next five weeks; I say temporary with full meaning, as you will probably gather later on. The first thing that struck me about the hospital that morning was that the whole place (accommodating 2,000 patients) was absolutely glittering with much more than its fair share of that proverbial spit and polish. I simply could not believe that all this extra radiance was because I had arrived. However, I was soon informed that I had been fortunate enough to arrive at Baragwanath on a very auspicious occasion. As stated in Mrs. Bates' last Notes, that same afternoon the hospital was being officially opened by the foremost man in South Africa, none other than the great Field Marshal Smuts.

That he spoke to and shook hands with me is a great event in my life, and I am still telling people that I have shaken hands with the great Field Marshal.

Well, here I was in hospital once more, but this time I was perfectly fit and well, just there to be on call for the limb factory. When the excitement of the Smuts visit had died down, I began to feel a bit browned off, but this was only natural. I was a stranger, and these people were not used to dealing with a St. Dunstaner. I believe that in those first few days everybody was feeling very sorry for me; they insisted on handling me gingerly, like a piece of delicate china. They soon learned differ-

ently, however, when I began taking jaunts on my own, having made myself familiar with the various landmarks in the ward. They had many surprises to come. For instance, I was the centre of interest when I brought out one of John Buchan's books, written in braille, and began reading. They had another little shock when I requested the loan of an ordinary typewriter, in order to keep up with my correspondence.

My first visitor was Mrs. Cade, a member of St. Dunstan's Committee. We became friends right away, and from the very first day St. Dunstan's gave me every assistance to make my stay in hospital a pleasant one. Mrs. Cade was the first of the many charming and very hospitable friends I made in Johannesburg. Soon after this I met Mrs. Marshall, the very energetic Hon. Secretary. Her first job was to see my doctor; the result was that I was allowed out every day. Next was the question of conveyance into town, made difficult due to petrol rationing. This was soon overcome. An escort to the bus, a phone call to the office before I left, and an escort waiting at the other end; everything worked perfectly and my trips into town were frequent.

After a few days I met Mrs. Vincent and Mrs. Lothrop, who are known to all St. Dunstaners. These two good ladies have the priceless knack of being able to twist army rules and regulations to suit the special needs of St. Dunstaners, e.g., my first week-end with them should have terminated on Sunday night; they took me back on Tuesday morning because it was too wet on Sunday night. My next week-end lasted a brief ten days. Among my unusual experiences was an elephant ride at the Zoo.

Another great thrill I had was a ten-mile horseback ride, across the open veldt, with Mr. Marks, whose wife is also a committee member.

The purpose of my trip to Johannesburg was to be fitted up with an artificial hand. Well, when they sent for me I duly presented myself at the Government official limb factory. As soon as I entered the building I was given tea, sandwiches and cigarettes. This canteen was provided by the "Moths," an ex-Servicemen's organisation that has been in existence since the last war. Mr. Cheyne, the arm specialist, then took me away for a consultation. He is a bright and cheery man who dispenses with formalities. I was measured and eventually fitted with a

hand which is quite light, comfortable, and useful.

Now I am back in Capetown. I am glad to be back, naturally so, because I regard "Tem bani" as my home. But I had a really marvellous time in Johannesburg, thanks to the hospitality of the South African people, and the staff of Baragwanath.

Young St. Dunstaner Honoured

Our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Summers, of Eastleigh, whose airman son, Flight Sergeant A. W. Summers, has been awarded the D.F.M. He has made many flights over Germany.

Reported Missing—Now Safe

We are very glad indeed to learn that Mr. and Mrs. C. Wilshaw, of Worthing, have heard, through the Red Cross, that their son, who had been posted as missing in the Middle East, has now rejoined his unit.

Marriages

Kathleen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Butler, Distington, to Mr. Reggie Mead, September 7th.
Maude, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Morgan, Tredegar, to Mr. Arthur Davis, September 5th.
Stanley, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Eden, Sidmouth, to Miss Mary Ann Flynn, October 24th.
Frank, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Durkin, Blackpool, to Miss Anne Elsie Parker, October 31st.
Jack, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Loram, Brixham, to Miss Patricia Murrum, October 31st.

Sons and Daughters in the Services

BOLTON, Rifleman R. D. F. (Newbury), Rifle Brigade.
BROOKES, Gang Leader Jean (Southampton), Women's Land Army.
BROOKES, O/Coder Alan (Southampton), Royal Navy.
CASS, Dorothy, A.T.S.
CHAMPNISS, S/S D., Royal Navy.
DAVIES, L.A.C. S. (Blockley), R.A.F.
DAVIES, A.C.2 R. (Blockley), R.A.F.
DAVIES, Sergt. (Blockley), R.A.F.
HENDERSON, Cpl. R. J. (Dagenham), K.R.R.C.
HOWELL, Peter (Haywards Heath), Royal Navy.
MEADER, Gunner J. N. W., Royal Artillery.
MCCLUSKEY, Gunner A. (Crewe), Royal Artillery.
NOLAN, Sapper B. H., Royal Engineers.
PALMER, Ronald (Thornton Heath), Small Arms School.
TAYLOR, Leading Seaman C. A. (Colchester), Royal Navy.
WEEKS, Pte. J. F. (Bristol), I.T.C.
WILLIAMS, Cpl. B. (Hampton), W.A.A.F.
WILLIAMSON, Petty Officer H. (Chorlton-cum-Hardy), Royal Navy.

Marriage

CAMPBELL—BAILIE.—On February 3rd, at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Shrewsbury, Patrick (Paddy) Francis Campbell, new war St. Dunstaner, to Miss Dorothy Maud Bailie.

Letters to the Editor

"Keep him Warm"

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,

I have read with interest the remarks with reference to war pensions; I entirely agree with them.

I certainly think that we have not been given a square deal, as although we have had no increase in pension for over twenty-three years, we pay the same cigarette, beer, and purchase tax as others who have had wages advanced accordingly.

We hear a great deal about the cost of living only having gone up so much, but it does not seem to work out that way by us; it is very hard on us who have to depend for our livelihood on the pension, as we are not all fit enough to earn extras. We are often told of the interest taken by the Government in doing their best for everybody. Well, I certainly think they have forgotten us. I wish Sir Ian Fraser good luck when he again brings the matter up with the Minister of Pensions. Keep him warm.

Yours sincerely,

Salford.

J. W. BOOTHMAN.

Care of Watches

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,

Relevant to your note in the December issue.

I think it safe to say that very few of us trouble to act upon the knowledge that a watch is a piece of mechanism, and, as such, must be cleaned and oiled occasionally. We realize this necessity in larger objects, from a locomotive to a sewing machine, but with regard to watches (and clocks) we most of us ignore the fact entirely. Replacement of badly-worn parts is next to impossible at present. A reliable watch-maker told me that a watch requires looking over and oiling every eighteen months or so, and it should be thoroughly cleaned and oiled every three years. This sounds reasonable.

I think it probable that a St. Dunstaner's watch collects dust more quickly than an ordinary watch, and as a consequence needs careful attention even more frequently.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN McELLIOTT.

“ In Memory ”

PRIVATE RUPERT J. D. GRAVES
(3rd Canadian Expeditionary Force)

WITH deep regret we have to record the death of Rupert Graves.

In Canada at the outbreak of the last war, he joined the Canadian Forces, with which he was serving when he was wounded at Givenchy, in June, 1915. As a result he was totally blinded.

He entered St. Dunstan's in September of that year, and after training, secured a post in a commercial office, but subsequently retrained as a masseur, and carried on with this profession for a number of years. Eventually he had to give up on account of ill-health, and of late years will be well remembered by many St. Dunstaners as a teacher of braille shorthand at Headquarters. After the outbreak of war he joined the staff at Church Stretton, teaching braille to the new war men, and he continued this work up to within a few days of his death. He died at Tiger Hall on January 18th, and was buried at Church Stretton.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and two daughters, the youngest of whom is serving in the A.T.S.

(An appreciation appears in *Church Stretton Notes*, p. 5).

PRIVATE JOHN THOMAS LATH
(1st Devon Regiment)

WITH deep regret we have to record the death of J. T. Lath, of Sheffield.

Enlisting at the very outset of the last war, he was blinded at Langwyn as early as October, 1914. He came to St. Dunstan's, where he was trained as a boot-repairer and mat-maker, and he carried on with one of these occupations for a considerable period; of late years, however, he was only occupied with light rug-work.

His death took place in hospital on January 27th; he had been taken ill only a few days before. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was among the many flowers, which also included one from the Old Contemptibles' Association, who were represented at the funeral. A Union Jack covered the coffin.

We extend our deep sympathy to the widow and large family, who are left to mourn his loss. All members of the family were able to be present at the funeral, with the exception of one son, Samuel, who is in the Middle East.

PETTY OFFICER JAMES D. ADAMSON
(Royal Navy)

WITH deep regret we record the death of J. D. Adamson, of Chatham.

A serving sailor when the last war broke out—he enlisted at the age of 18—he came to St. Dunstan's in 1921, but did not take up training until 1935. He had been in indifferent health for many years, so that his death, on January 2nd, was not entirely unexpected.

The funeral took place at Chatham Old Cemetery. The coffin, which was draped with the Union Jack, was born to its resting place by naval men. Among the many flowers was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow in her loss.

PRIVATE CHARLES OPPER
(6th South Wales Borderers)

IT is with deep regret that we record the death of C. Oppery, of Bristol.

Wounded at Ploegstraat in March, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1918, and he took up training in mat-making and basket work. He followed these occupations until 1926, when poor health forced him to give up work. Later he took up wool rug work. He had been subject to fits since 1930, and although at first he recovered from them rapidly, as time went on they became more frequent; his health, as a result, grew considerably worse, and he died suddenly on January 13th.

The funeral took place at the local cemetery; the coffin was covered with the Union Jack and a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was placed upon it. St. Dunstan A. Tucker attended the ceremony.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his sister, Mrs. Fussell, who has looked after him all the years we have known him.

Births

HOMAN.—To the wife of D. Homan, of Cork, on January 20th—a son, Daniel Alphonsus.

UNDERWOOD.—To the wife of W. A. Underwood, of Alton, on February 2nd—a son, their first child.

VARLEY.—To the wife of E. Varley, of Erdington, Birmingham, on February 1st, a son—Graham Ernest.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to the following:—

MCLEOD.—To S. McLeod, of Crickland, whose wife died on January 31st, after a long illness.

MILLEN.—To G. A. Millen, late of Birchington, and now of Cirencester, who has lost his mother and his aunt as a result of enemy action.