

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

MY daily duties at St. Dunstan's Headquarters and in the House of Commons prevent my going to Church Stretton as often or for as long as I should like. But I spent about a week there towards the end of last term and a similar period at the opening of this term. I spoke to every individual officer and man, and to all men and staff, and to all St. Dunstaners by themselves. Here are one or two impressions written specially for old St. Dunstaners who may often wonder what the new St. Dunstan's is really like.

I am sure the first impression of an old St. Dunstaner would be to register familiar voices, such as that of Miss Pain, Matron at the Longmynd, which is the big central unit of our training establishment, and still head of the Braille Room; or of Tommy Rogers, so familiar a figure at Brighton and still a braille teacher; or of Miss Morris, one-time Sports Sister, then in charge of netting and rugs, and now Social Assistant at the Hospital; or of Chief Orderly Hawketts, still in his same job; or of Mrs. Irvine, one-time Sports Sister with a special flair for rowing, then organiser of our Manchester Club, now Matron of one of our houses. I have picked out these names for no other reason than that they recall so much of the history of St. Dunstan's, the early Braille Room in Regent's Park during the Great War, the sports in Regent's Park during the years between, the after-care reunions, and our old and new homes at Brighton.

A good many other old hands are on the staff, bringing their wisdom and experience, and they include in particular a number of last-war St. Dunstaners who teach braille, typewriting, shorthand, joinery and massage.

The old names, the old jokes about braille and bones and V.A.D.s and foolish strangers are all there. It seems that to a great extent the same triumphs and disasters, jokes and irritations are the common lot of all St. Dunstaners of two wars and two generations. The familiarity of the new with the old, the sense of one-ness, is nostalgic and brings a lump to the throat.

If you go to chapel you will find that the hymns are just the same and that the words are read out to help you remember them. The only difference is that the padre, Andrew Nugee, is a St. Dunstaner, so that instead of merely listening to the Lesson with that degree of sleepiness which is your custom, and becoming fully awake with a jerk at the end of it and wondering whether the noise of movement means that you should stand up or kneel down until the V.A.D. next to you gives you a poke in the back—instead of all this you are wide awake wondering how he reads the Lesson so fluently from braille without a hitch, without hesitation. This gives you a shock and you are a bit ashamed that your own braille reading is so bad.

If you go to the sports you will be disappointed in the rowing, for there isn't enough of it; the river at Shrewsbury is so far away by comparison with the close proximity of the

lake in Regent's Park to which we could go so easily. But the other sports are fine and varied, and in our own swimming bath at Brockhurst we have an advantage for there wasn't one at Regent's Park.

A name is called, a bell rings frantically, and a man sprints a course, seventy or eighty yards of level cricket field, hell for leather, as hard as he can go, and accomplishes the distance in nine or ten seconds. In Regent's Park we had a wire to guide us; at Church Stretton they run without a wire. This requires some courage.

If you wander round the Training Rooms and Workshops you will see much that is familiar and one or two things that are strange. The Wood-working (or Chippy Shop as it is called), is as busy as ever. Almost everyone does some woodwork, not as a career but as part of his education, to teach him to be handy and to feel his way around. A Meccano Shop has the same object and, in particular, to familiarise those who have not been accustomed to them with bolts and nuts, screwdrivers and spanners, levers, rods and gear wheels. This is a sign of something new which discloses itself fully when we go over to the new industrial hut by the side of the Brockhurst grounds. There is a beautiful machine tool called a capstan lathe. There also is a router, and an outfit for upholstery. Men are being trained on these machines and in this craft to fit them for employment in factories. Telephone operating, massage, basket-making, wool-rugmaking are all in active progress. There are classes for individual tuition in English, history, Latin, German. There are seven or eight young blinded girls who take the most active part in the life of the place generally, and in addition have their own domestic school, where they learn to cook and sew. I saw a most attractive frock made by one of the girls, and I had a marvellous tea party, where I ate six different kinds of cake or scones, one made specially for me by each of these new and charming St. Dunstaners.

The men blinded in the desert or other theatres of war, and the men and women who have been blinded by accident at home in the course of their training or duty, are tough, independent, confident, ambitious. The old St. Dunstaner would, I think, share with me two thoughts about them. Thankfulness for the service they have rendered us, admiration of their present fighting spirit, and perhaps a special thought for the fellow who, through no fault of his own, was blown up in a training practice or on manoeuvres, without even the satisfaction of even coming to grips with the enemy. He, too, has served the country and Empire in time of need.

As you go about the grounds you hear the occasional tap of a stick on a wire, the snatch of a song, or a bit of a whistle. Most people think these are outbursts of good spirits and you know that that is true, but from your own experience you also know that they have another purpose far more prosaic but very important, to tell the other chap coming along the same wire that you are there, a kind of St. Dunstan's motor-horn business, to give a warning of your approach.

You would soon come to know many new members of the staff, and particularly the young V.A.D.s, most of them English, Scottish, Welsh, or Irish, but three of them Canadians newly arrived and bringing with them a breath of the New World.

You will probably come to the conclusion that we have learnt a few lessons from the past, that we do our braille and our typewriting even better than we did in the old war, that we have some new ideas which we are working out, that we make just as many mistakes as we always did, but that the spirit of St. Dunstan's is just what it always was.

This is as the older St. Dunstaner all over the world would wish.

IAN FRASER.

St. Dunstaner Robbed

F. ("Jock") Reid, a new war St. Dunstaner, has been the victim of a mean theft. A sailor with whom he travelled from Aberdeen, offered to get him a taxi when they arrived at King's Cross. He did not come back, but took with him Jock's case containing clothes and ration books.

Chicken Feed

Sir Walter Womersley, Minister of Pensions, received two letters recently. One said: "I am sick and tired of the Ministry's poultry allowances," and the other, from a woman, said that if the Ministry did not give her more money she would be forced to lead "an immortal life."

St. Dunstaner in the R.A.F.

From the "Star," August 27th, 1943—

Sportsmen in the South, particularly those interested in boxing, will be pleased to hear of the promotion of Flight-Lieutenant W. T. Curtis-Willson to be Squadron-Leader in the R.A.F. training branch.

Squadron-Leader Curtis-Willson is the only blinded officer on the active list of the R.A.F.

He has commanded the Brighton Wing of the A.T.C. since its inception, and has taken an active part in promoting the A.T.C. Boxing Association. He is one of the few Squadron-Leaders appointed to the A.T.C.

The Dr. Bridges' Prize Fund

On the occasion of Dr. Chittenden Bridges' resignation from the position of Medical Officer to St. Dunstan's, which he had held for nearly thirty years, the Council of St. Dunstan's wished to make him a presentation, and the Chairman wrote to him accordingly. Dr. Bridges replied, thanking Sir Ian and the Council very much for this token of appreciation of his services, but asking them if, instead of making a presentation to him, the Council would institute some permanent addition to the amenities of St. Dunstan's, to bear his name.

It has been decided that as Dr. Bridges was always so keenly interested in St. Dunstaners' sports, a Dr. Bridges Prize Fund should be established, and a special prize, or prizes, should be given from this fund for some sports event each year.

This year it took the form of a prize for the man putting up the best all-round performance at the Summer Sports Meeting at Church Stretton.

Sir Ian Fraser a Druid

Sir Ian Fraser was admitted to membership of the Ancient Order of Druids at a recent meeting of the Philharmonic Lodge, No. 581, held at the King's Head, Wandsworth High Street. Bro. S. C. Tarry presided, supported by Bro. Stanley Duncan in the Vice-Chair.

Bro. H. R. Selley, M.P., who is also a member of the Order, was present.

In a subsequent interview, Sir Ian said he was glad to join this noble and ancient Order, and particularly glad that two of his brother St. Dunstaners should preside at the meeting.

Braille Magazines

Our attention was called recently to a case where a St. Dunstaner did not read the braille magazine which he received because it did not interest him.

We are anxious that all St. Dunstaners should have the use of a reasonable amount of braille, but we are also anxious that there should be no waste. Would any St. Dunstaner who is not using his braille magazines kindly notify us.

Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. F. Marsden, of Blackburn, who celebrated their golden wedding on September 2nd.

Silver Weddings

Our congratulations to the following:

Mr. and Mrs. W. Stedman, Hayes, July 19th; Mr. and Mrs. H. Gunson, Batley, July 22nd; Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Evans, Llansamlet, July 28th; Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Edwards, Hackney, July 30th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Wardle, East Haddon, August 5th; Mr. and Mrs. J. Attrell, Polegate, August 17th; Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Creasey, Lancing, September 14th.

The Fresh Air Fund

Mr. Ernest Kessell, C.B.E., whom many old friends of St. Dunstan's will remember with affection, writes to our Chairman saying how grateful he and the Committee of the Fresh Air Fund are to the Rev. A. C. Nugee and all those at St. Dunstan's, Church Stretton, for their continued interest in the Fresh Air Fund. Since the beginning of the year, the Church Collections at Church Stretton have resulted in £25 16s. 8d. being sent to Mr. Kessell for the Fund.

Marriages

BEAUFOY—PERRY.—On Wednesday, August 4th, at the Parish Church, Church Stretton, Charles E. Beaufoy, ex-Mayor of Dover and formerly Chief Constable, Dover Special Constabulary, to Miss Kathleen M. Perry.

COWING—TAYLOR.—On September 18th, at St. John's Church, Woodley, near Reading, W. H. Cowing to Miss Dorothy Taylor.

HEREN—O'BRIEN.—On July 24th, L. Heren, of Stepney, to Miss M. O'Brien.

MELLING—STIFF.—On July 31st, D. Melling, of Coggeshall, to Mrs. Stiff.

O'CONNELL—PLUMMER.—On August 18th, at Tredegar, S. O'Connell, of Tredegar, to Miss Plummer.

Church Stretton Notes

As we shall be on holiday when these notes go to press at the beginning of the month, and there was no August REVIEW, our news will probably have lost its first freshness and may almost have acquired vintage!

On July 19th, some classes opened at Brockhurst, where Miss Preedy and Mr. Killingback have started Braille and Moon lessons. Miss Lovett gives typing lessons in the mornings and Harold Thomson presides over the Joiners. The whole Massage section, under J. Steel, has been moved from Longmynd, and "Clarence" was transferred with due ceremony to his new resting-place: he must have moved as often as Akhnaton and other celebrated mummies.

At the suggestion of J. Vincent, a Brockhurst staff Derby was run, with the inevitable sweepstake on the result: practically all the V.A.D. staff of Brockhurst were entered, and the course was from Longmynd entrance *via* the Drive, Cunnery Road, down the woodland path, across the Hereford-Ludlow Road, and up the drive to Brockhurst. The entries were started off at intervals of five minutes' each having been blindfolded, her record and backing read over, was sent on her way; some went carefully and timorously. . . . The Matron took the wrong turning at the Woodland gate, set off down Cunnery Hill, where, having collided with the big beech tree, she made a dash for the upper slopes, and might have gone up the 97 steps had she not been rescued and persuaded into a car. Some literally ran most of the way. Those who realise the distance, diversity, and hilliness of the course will agree that Miss Bowyer the winner, did remarkably well in setting up the record of 11½ minutes.

On July 2nd we had our first C.E.M.A. Concert. We have also had two E.N.S.A. parties; and the Musical Society, which has a membership of sixty odd, wound up its season with a Piano-Song Recital by Mrs. Steel and Mr. Kitson. Their reputation as performers at St. Dunstan's is too well known to need any further commendation here.

It is some time since we had a wedding at Church Stretton, so we looked forward to August 4th (Der Tag of 1914), when Grandpa (less well known as C. E. Beaufoy,

here at any rate) was married to Miss Kathleen Perry. As once before it sounds like a game of Consequences—"The ex-Mayor of Dover met Miss Perry in the Food Office, where, as he explained in a delightful little speech at the reception, he went to ask for a permit for honey for his bees. According to him, she led him up the garden path to see those bees, and . . . at any rate—whatever the truth—it all ends the same way . . . and the Consequence was . . . and the World said . . ."

As may be supposed, there was a large gathering at St. Lawrence's Church, both ecclesiastical and lay, the former including a Bishop and two Archdeacons. The Rev. T. Beaufoy acted as best man to his father. The Reception was held in the garden at Battlefield.

The Tandem Club now has eight machines and meets for a picnic every Saturday afternoon. The Guides have such a reputation for skill in riding that several who had not ridden for twenty years, and some even who had never ridden before, have entrusted their lives to them and come back unscathed and asking for more.

We have had two talks—one on war conditions in Holland, by Mr. Jansen, himself a refugee in this country; the other on "Life in Italian P.O.W. Camps," by the Rev. E. Broomhead, an Australian padre who joined the R.A.A.M.C. and had been taken prisoner by the Germans in North Africa. After passing through various P.O.W. camps under German control, he, with many other British prisoners who had been too exhausted by the hardships they had undergone to do any more gruelling work, were handed over to the Italians. The Italians took them to Sicily, and thence drafted them to various camps on the Italian mainland. Here he fell in with J. Jolly—the Chairman for the evening, J. Lee and I. Darling, St. Dunstaners who were repatriated to this country at Easter of this year.

The value of the Rev. Broomhead's friendship to our three men was apparent in the enthusiastic greeting they gave him when he visited Church Stretton. R. Ettridge voiced a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker.

The Summer Sports meeting was held on August 10th, at Brockhurst. We have now two prizes for annual competition—the Raven Cup, awarded last year to

N. Cook, has now passed on to J. Vincent; and the Bridges' Prize—so named after Dr. Bridges—awarded for the man putting up the best all-round show. This went to J. Philips, who gained 18½ points out of a possible 20.

There were large entries for most of the events; the results will be found below. Tea was served in the Braille Room, and those who chose picnicked on the slope above. At 5.30 p.m. we moved up to the swimming pool for the Water Sports. For some reason the greasy pole was not forthcoming—has it been sacrificed for the national effort, or was there not enough grease to spare? Anyhow, the Jockey Race was a good substitute: here each competitor was mounted on the shoulders of another blind man, and after shaking hands ceremoniously in mid-stream, tried to unhorse his opponent. Another novelty was Underwater Swimming: here several competitors surprised us by the length of time they were able to stay submerged, and we grew quite anxious about Bill Robinson, who held out for 57 seconds. Diving for Plates was again a popular event. Altogether we on the sunny slope felt grateful to those "shiverers" who gave us such a good show.

The prizes were to have been presented ceremoniously in the Braille Room, but they were brought to the slope overlooking the pool, where Lady Fraser distributed them, often scrambling up the bank—which she described as "like the side of a house," and reaching the winner before he had time to get to his feet! Votes of thanks were passed—to Lady Fraser, to Miss Canti and the Sports Committee and their helpers, to Mrs. Dudley Phillips and those from Brockhurst and Longmynd, who fed us so well and comfortably, and last but not least to those competitors who had given us such an enjoyable afternoon.

Prize List

- 1. Running 70 yds.** (slightly sighted).—1, T. Brougham; 2, F. Madgwick.
- Running 70 yds.** (blinded men).—1, J. Philips; 2, M. Delaney.
- 2. Throwing Cricket Ball.**—1, C. Cooper; 2, S. Tutton; 3, F. Mills.
- 3. Throwing Football.**—1, L. Cadman; 2, S. Blackmore; 3, W. Cottam.

- 4. Three-legged Race.**—1, J. Simmons and Miss Eabry; 2, W. Robinson and Miss Brooke.
 - 5. Single Long Jump.**—1, M. Delaney; 2, L. Thompson; 3, W. Robinson.
 - 6. Treble Jump.**—1, J. Vincent; 2, B. Purcell; 3, T. Watts.
 - 7. Ladies' Race (Trainees).**—1, Miss E. Aldred; 2, Miss S. Black; 3, Miss B. Henderson.
 - 8. Ladies' Race (Staff and Visitors).**—1, Miss Strachan; 2, Miss E. Watson.
 - 9. Throwing Medicine Ball.**—1, F. Morgan; 2, B. Briggs.
 - 10. Sack Race.**—1, F. Morgan and Pte. Siddell; 2, R. Bridger and Miss Eabry.
 - 11. Men's Race (Staff and Visitors).**—1, L.A.C. Foster; 2, Pte. Siddell.
 - 12. Tug-of-War.**—Winning Team: T. Brougham, C. Cooper, F. Morgan, L. Cadman, T. Roden, F. Madgwick, R. Bridger, F. Mills.
- The Raven Cup** (Winner of most events, with handicapping)—J. Vincent.
- Dr. Bridges' Prize** (Winner of most events, without handicapping).—J. Philips.

The Water Sports

- 1. "Horse and Jockey" Competition.**—1, J. Vincent and J. Philips; 2, T. Brougham and R. Fullard.
- 2. Diving for Plates.**—1, J. Philips.
- 3. Long Plunge.**—1, W. Robinson; 2, T. Roden.

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Congratulations to the following, who have passed tests:—

Typing.—G. Buchanan, J. Phillips, J. Lee, W. Robinson, J. Jolly, W. Cunningham, E. Watt, J. Simmons, T. Callaghan, W. Cottam, A. Reynolds.

Braille Reading (Interline).—J. Jolly, G. Collins, T. Dudley, B. Bentley, V. Formstone, A. Naumann.

Braille Reading (Interpoint).—J. Delaney.

Admitted to Hospital.—T-Capt. J. Teuton, R.A. (33), Larne, Co. Antrim; Gnr. H. Greenhalgh, R.H.A. (20), Bolton; Pte. E. Stent, Hampshire Regt. (32),

Liverpool; Spr. C. Hale, R.E. (28), Clevedon, Som.; Tpr. R. Shaw, R.A.C. (31), Fleetwood; Pte. P. Spring, The Buffs (30), Walthamstow, London; Cpl. R. Vost, Home Guard (18), Flixton, Manchester; L.A.C. R. Evans, R.A.F. (29), Maes-y-coed, Pontypridd; Spr. H. Holland, R.E. (35), Cambuslang, by Glasgow; Tpr. T. Gaygan, Recce. Corps (22), Vauxhall, London; L-Cpl. D. Bain, R.A.S.C. (25), Innerleithen, Peebleshire; Dvr. C. Chadwick, R.A. (27), Urmston, Manchester; L-Sergt. E. Foster, R.E. (23), Barnsley, Yorks; Pte. O. Huttunen, U.S. Army Air Force (re-admitted).

Hospital Transfer to await Repatriation to Canada.—Gnr. C. Dion.

Hospital Discharge, hoping to take up Civilian Employment.—Spr. C. Hale.

Hospital Discharge, later to take up training.—Tpr. R. Shaw, Gnr. J. Smith, Pte. E. Stent.

St. Dunstaners Remain Young

Many of you old timers must know Dick Edwards, boot repairer, of Twickenham. Years ago as a trainee he was known for his ability as a sculler. Now, like many other older St. Dunstaners, he has entered their ranks as a Peter Pan, for he has once again taken up tandem riding.

On Sunday, August 22nd, he had his first ride. At first it was undecided whether to drop his saddle down or pack the pedals up, for Dick's legs are rather short. Dick and his friend started off and, of course, very conveniently ran into a village out Oxshott way just at opening time. The two of them went into one of "the locals" for a reviver and there met many other cyclists. Suddenly there was a bang outside; a tyre had exploded. Dick and his friend sat back laughing, for they had new tyres on their tandem. The other cyclists all looking rather worried, went out to inspect their wheels and slowly drifted back without saying a word. Eventually Dick and his friend went out and, to their consternation, found that it was their tyre that had blown up. All his friends maintain that it was the extra weight of Passchendale mud that they say he still has on his knees that caused the tyre to explode. Anyway, he is game to try again, and says that next time he even intends to do a little pedalling.

RON ETTRIDGE.

On Active Service

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Williams, of Haywards Heath, whose son, John, has been killed while serving as a Sergeant Pilot with the R.A.F.V.R., and to Mr. and Mrs. Gillibrand, of Pendleton, Salford, whose adopted son, Willie, has been killed in the Central Mediterranean.

Missing

We have heard with regret that Terence, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Davidson, of Bradford, Manchester, has been missing since the fall of Singapore. He was married shortly before he arrived there.

Prisoners of War

After a silence of nineteen months, Mr. and Mrs. Rowe, of Burslem, have heard that their son, Geoffrey, is a prisoner of war in Japanese hands.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. T. McGuire, of Drogheda, who has been missing since Singapore, is a prisoner in Japan.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. A. Muller, of Mafeking, South Africa, is a prisoner of war in Italy.

Promotions

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Skelly's son, Benny, to the rank of full lieutenant.

Yvonne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Girling, who is now in Durban, to the rank of Leading Wren.

William Irvine, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Irvine, Glasgow, now serving with the Fleet Air Arm, to the rank of Petty Officer.

Joan Condon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Condon, Basingstoke, to the rank of Company Sergeant Major, A.T.S.

Albert Tebbutt, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Tebbutt, of Nottingham, to the rank of Sergeant, Royal Artillery.

Brief Notes

When Sir Stafford Cripps visited a factory in the North of England recently he shook hands with H. Hotson, who is employed there.

W. Stedman, of Hayes, gave a wool rug to be raffled in a recent Wings for Victory Week, which realised £22 16s. 3d.

For Sale

PIANOLA. Mahogany case, iron frame. In excellent condition and tuned very recently. Nice tone. Made by Hickie and Hickie, Reading. Thirty rolls to go with it. Price £70, or near offer.

Young St. Dunstaners Marriages

Kathleen Payne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Payne, Royston, to Staff Sergt. William Carl Murphree, American Army, May 1st.

Vera Durrant, daughter of the late S. Durrant and Mrs. Allen, Wimborne, to Pte. James Blackall, May 28th.

L.A.C.W. May Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Williams, Chepstow, to Gunner B. K. Tidley, May 29th.

David Blake Finch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Finch, Upper Gornal, to Miss Lilian Wright, June 12th.

Clifford Bond, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bond, Bath, to Miss Helen Collins, June 10th.

Terrence Samworth, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Samworth, Edgware, to Miss Elsie Mary Collinson, June 12th.

The Bridge Club Strides Many Bridges

During the past few months the Bridge Club has been extremely active. Our first match since my previous notes was on June 19th, when a team of four, representing the Civil Service, opposed us; we lost.

Then followed our second visit to Harrogate, on July 3rd, and we spent a grand and glorious week. We played four matches and won one. The hospitality of our friends in this Yorkshire town was all that could be desired. The visit also included several Bridge Drives, and we also took part in the Yorkshire "Evening Post" Championship.

The final gathering was on Friday, July 9th, when our Bridge Club were the donors of the prizes for the Bridge Drive. At the conclusion, Messrs. A. Field and J. Morrison expressed the pleasure of all present on the second visit of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club, and the hope that we would continue our visits. Our Captain, H. Gover, was in excellent form in a happy little speech, and said that the St. Dunstan's Club was extremely grateful to all who had contributed to make the visit such a grand success.

On Saturday, July 17th, C. F. Thompson and N. Downs captained teams of four in a Club duplicate match, the former being the winner. On this day we were delighted to receive a visit from Dr. and Mrs. P.

Stern. For some years we have endeavoured to play the Stern system, and we were glad to have the presence of the creator of the system.

On Saturday, August 21st, we played our first match against Messrs. Lyons. I am pleased to record that we won our first home match of the season. The "Official Coach" may put the win down to the fact of his inclusion in the team.

The Bridge League goes along steadily, with T. Roden and L. Douglas leading, but A. Wiltshire and R. Coles are not far behind. Our thanks are due to the ladies on these special Saturdays for the excellent teas they have provided. It has been a grand summer for playing on the lawn, but I feel there must be others amongst our colleagues who could come along and share our enjoyment. We shall be happy to welcome anyone, whether new or old.

R.P.C.

Births

BARSTOW.—On July 26th, to the wife of Michael Barstow, now at Battlefield, Church Stretton, a daughter.

BARTON.—To the wife of S. Barton (new war St. Dunstaner) on September 9th, twin daughters.

BRAY.—To the wife of H. Bray, Wythen-shawe, Manchester—a son.

BUCKLEY.—To the wife of Robin Buckley, G.M., of Ovingdean (new war St. Dunstaner, on September 14th—a son and a daughter.

COOPER.—To the wife of V. Cooper, of Brighton, a second daughter—Sally.

Deaths

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

ASHWELL.—To Mr. and Mrs. R. Ashwell, of Cheadle Hulme, who have lost their only son after an illness of several months.

MURPHY.—To T. W. Murphy, of Bedlington, whose wife passed away on September 11th.

O'CALLAGHAN.—To P. O'Callaghan, of Cork, who has recently suffered the loss of his wife.

PIKE.—To Mrs. Pike, widow of our late St. Dunstaner, passed away at Blackpool on July 26th.

PUDDEFOOT.—To E. Puddefoot, of Finchley, whose wife passed away on August 13th.

“ In Memory ”

CORPORAL ROBERT ASPINALL (*Royal Defence Corps*)

WITH deep regret we record the death of R. Aspinall, of Barry Dock.

He served from February, 1915, until December, 1916, and for twelve years prior to the Great War had been a regular soldier, seeing service in India and South Africa. His sight was seriously damaged, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1936, when he was over sixty years of age. His very poor health, coupled with his age, prevented him undertaking any training, and he lived a quiet life. His death occurred in hospital on July 26th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow and eight children, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

SERGEANT ALBERT GRIBBEN (*6th Royal Irish Rifles*)

WE record with deep regret the death of A. Gribben, of Belfast.

Enlisting immediately after the outbreak of war in 1914, he was discharged from the Army early in 1918, his sight having failed as a result of malaria. He came to us very soon afterwards and was trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker. He and his wife carried on a small business for a period, but of late years he had not been very fit. His health did not improve and on August 8th he passed away at his home.

He was buried at Dromore, Co. Down, after a service in Dromore Cathedral. St. Dunstaners J. Brockerton, W. J. Berry, and H. McAteer, with Mr. Macauley, represented St. Dunstan's.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was amongst the many flowers.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife and family in their loss.

PRIVATE CHARLES HUTCHINSON (*16th West Yorkshire Regiment*)

IT is with deep regret we record the death of C. Hutchinson, of Bradford.

“ Hutch ” was discharged from the Army in March, 1916, with damaged sight and a disabled right hand, but he did not come to us until October, 1918, when he was trained as a boot-repairer and clog-maker. After some years, however, his health made it necessary for him to give this up and he contented himself with a little wool-rug work.

His death was very sudden. He was visiting Blackpool to fetch a niece from hospital and had arranged to stay at our Home for one night. After visiting the Hospital he was taken ill and died within a few hours at our Home. His body was taken to Bradford for burial. Among the many flowers was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family in their loss.

PRIVATE PETER CAIRNS PRATT (*11th East Yorkshire Regiment*)

WE record with deep regret the death of P. C. Pratt, of Durham.

He served from November, 1914, until October, 1918, when he was discharged as a result of the wounds he received at Arras, in November, 1917, and he came under our care immediately. He was very keen and energetic, and trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker. For some years he concentrated only on boot-repairing, but in recent years, failing health had caused him to give this up too. His death was the result of an accident, and took place on August 2nd.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers. Our deep sympathy is extended to his daughter. His wife died some years ago.

SERGEANT INSTRUCTOR ARTHUR WILLIAM STEVENS (*Royal Air Force*)

IT is with deep regret that we announce the death of a new war St. Dunstaner, A. W. Stevens, of Bridport.

Joining the R.A.F. when only 15½ years of age, he saw service in Iraq and India, returning to England in 1939. He first came to our notice in November, 1941, when there was much publicity and representation in Parliament concerning his pension. He was subsequently granted one in December, 1942. Since we first knew him he had been entirely helpless.

His death took place on August 8th. Among the many flowers was a wreath from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's. Among those present at the funeral were St. Dunstaners H. Crane, N. Downs, and M. Sheridan. A Union Jack covered the coffin and members of Chidcock Home Guard acted as pall bearers. The British Legion was represented by Col. Castle-Smith.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow, to whom he had been married only 3½ years.

PRIVATE FRANCIS WALTER TARRY (*3rd Essex Regiment*)

WITH deep regret we record the death of F. W. Tarry, of Hastings.

He came to us in May, 1921, and was trained as a joiner, at which occupation he continued right to the end. He had always had indifferent health, but his death on August 2nd came as a shock to us all. He collapsed whilst out walking, and was only ill for a few days.

The funeral was attended by many St. Dunstaners, including W. Ward, T. McDonough, A. Sneddon, W. Nash, their wives and escorts, and many friends. Many beautiful flowers were received, including a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow and her two children in their sad bereavement.