

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 301—VOLUME XXVIII [NEW SERIES] NOVEMBER, 1943

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

HOME AT LAST

"I often wish that you could be with us to see our Branch of St. Dunstan's. I feel sure it would cause you some amusement, also some pleasure, for nowhere will you find a better group of men either in spirits or in loyalty to St. Dunstan's, and never will these men forget that they owe everything to St. Dunstan's, as indeed they do. St. Dunstan's will also, I hope, be infused by their especial spirit, which in the dark times of depression has not received the advantage of freedom and tuition which have helped their fellow St. Dunstaners at home."

Lieut. Lord Normanby wrote these words in a letter to Sir Ian Fraser a few months ago, while he was still a prisoner of war. As we have told in the REVIEW on previous occasions, Lord Normanby, himself an officer wounded severely in the feet, had organised a St. Dunstan's School in the heart of the enemy's country.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser met the returned prisoners of war at Liverpool, on Tuesday, October 26th. Those present were deeply touched as hundreds of men of all arms, broken in the war and having been held in captivity for so long, drew up on their hospital ship to the quayside, singing familiar songs, and cheering as they saw England for the first time for many years, or responding with whistles and shouts to cheers from the land.

There were about 5,000 in all, of whom 700 came to Liverpool in the hospital ship *Atlantis*, and it was this ship which brought the twenty-seven blinded soldiers and sailors home. A few may go to Newington House, three or four may turn out to have recovered useful sight, but on Thursday, October 28th, all were treated as St. Dunstaners and welcomed at Church Stretton.

Mr. Bankes-Williams, Matron Pain, and Matron Postlethwaite had gone to the reception hospital in the Midlands to which they had first been taken, to bring them home to Longmynd. Church Stretton was gay with flags and streamers, from the Fountain to Cunnery Road the street was lined with cheering crowds, and the band of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry played to welcome them. Everyone was at St. Dunstan's front gate and their new-found comrades led them from the cars to the Big Hut.

The Big Hut, which we use as a dance room, was packed. Practically every St. Dunstaner from all the houses, men and women, were there, and so were most of the staff. As the party entered they were greeted with a storm of cheering and applause, and when, at last, it died away we all sat down together for tea.

After tea, Sir Ian rose to welcome, in the name of St. Dunstan's, not only those who had returned that day, but the four who had arrived from Italy during the summer holiday, and are now with us in training. He said:

"You ex-prisoners of war are really old St. Dunstaners, not new, for you have adopted the St. Dunstan's spirit and have been wearing a St. Dunstan's badge for two or three years. I welcome you all, not merely as St. Dunstaners, but as men of all arms and of all the Empire

countries who have earned the Empire's gratitude by doing your duty to the last. You have served at sea, in the air, and stood your ground in many parts of Europe until you were blinded and taken prisoner. Thus you helped to save Britain. In your long period of captivity you have shown an example to all men (applause). Seven blinded men—five Britons, one Free French and one American, are still prisoners of war. They have missed the Italian repatriation, and I presume they are now prisoners in Germany. St. Dunstan's Braille School, which Lord Normanby founded and conducted in Germany, will continue its work for them and for others in the future."

In the absence, on duty, of the Chairman of Church Stretton Urban District Council, the Clerk of the Council, Mr. F. G. J. Sanders, had welcomed the men that day on behalf of his Council, saying "We are proud to have you amongst us," and Sir Ian thanked the people of Church Stretton, and the band, for their part in the welcome.

Sir Ian then spoke of the two men who had done such wonderful work for the prisoners during the three and a half years of captivity—Major Charters, the ophthalmic surgeon, through whose skill many had recovered whole or partial sight, and Lord Normanby, who had led them there that day, after acting with ability and devotion throughout those years as their representative, schoolmaster, guide, and comrade. Major Charters had stayed behind to care for prisoners of all nationalities, but here on the platform was Lord Normanby himself, who had done a wonderful pioneer work for St. Dunstan's, of which they were all extremely proud.

Lord Normanby, who was received with prolonged cheers, said how difficult it was for those who had been prisoners of war for so long, and had become unaccustomed to such a rousing reception, adequately to express thanks on an occasion like this. However, on behalf of the St. Dunstaners from Haina Kloster, he wished to express their very sincere gratitude. He went on to describe how the idea of the Braille School started in April, 1941, when there were four blinded soldiers, and how it gradually grew until there were over twenty members. They had known nothing at all about braille, and by chance discovered a braille alphabet in one of the camp books. He and the men proceeded to learn it laboriously and pricked out words by means of glass-headed pins on cardboard. Eventually, when text books from England began to arrive, they realised what a task it was. They sought a quiet corner for their studies and considered themselves fortunate when he, as their self-appointed tutor, could instal himself in the "dental" chair, whilst they sat around on the floor. The result was well worth while. Most of them had passed tests in Interpoint and Interline Reading, and had not failed to transcribe "Nice Queen" faultlessly. The typewriters bore up wonderfully. There were P.T. classes, lessons in various subjects, lectures and debates. They produced short plays to entertain the camp. Their first play was acted by the four early St. Dunstaners. They managed to invent and produce a number of properties, and after much trouble found a substitute for a bowl of porridge. Just at the crucial moment the "cook" accidentally lost hold of his ladle, and sent it hurtling through the air to plaster Lord Normanby (who was prompting) with its contents. There were many difficulties to be overcome, such as shortage of space in the camp for adequate teaching quarters, shortage of apparatus, etc., but the men stuck to it and persevered with the various things they had set themselves to learn. Then, at about Christmas-time, the band instruments arrived, and much more hard work was undertaken, both by the St. Dunstaners and their sighted helpers.

Lord Normanby paid a great tribute to the help sent by the British and International Red Cross Societies and the Y.M.C.A., under the inspiration of St. Dunstan's, and continued:—

"I cannot speak too highly of Major Charters' work for us. He volunteered to stay in the camp. He is the only British eye specialist in Germany. He was quite right, and we send him our very best wishes. He did a great deal for the St. Dunstaners, not only with eyes but in advice and help.

"Finally, I would just once more say how very grateful we are to you, not only just for to-day—and it has been a wonderful one—but we are grateful to you for the help in the past, a rather dreary, long past, which without St. Dunstan's help and without your backing, would not have brought the results which the St. Dunstaners have brought home with them to-day. The success of the Braille School is entirely because of their absolute persistence

to come home useful citizens. As has been mentioned, St. Dunstan's is made up of everybody's efforts in different directions and different places, and I do know that these men have not let St. Dunstan's down."

As Lord Normanby sat down, he and the men who had returned were cheered to the echo, and lustily we sang, "For they are jolly good fellows."

The Chairman announced that the Council of St. Dunstan's, which had met only the previous week, had authorised him to invite Lord Normanby to become a Member, and he was glad to say that Lord Normanby had accepted the invitation.

Sir Ian Fraser at Brighton

Speaking at the Remembrance Sunday Service arranged by the Brighton Branch of the British Legion at the Countess of Huntingdon's Church, Brighton, on Sunday, November 7th, Lieut.-Col. Sir Ian Fraser, National Vice-Chairman of the Legion, said:—

There are three duties for the British Legion, and I put them in the following order—

1. *Spiritual*.—To enshrine in the hearts of men the virtues of steadfastness, loyalty, and the spirit of sacrifice. These virtues are called forth by war, but must not evaporate in the testing time of peace.

2. *Political*.—Not for Party, but for All. The Legion must mobilise and inspire all ex-Service men and women to fight discreetly and constitutionally, but firmly, for a proper place in the better Britain of the future for the men and women who have served, and for special consideration for those who have suffered.

3. *Benevolent*.—To express through Poppy Day and the Benevolent Committees of the Legion the desire of our people that personal service and financial help, over and above that properly afforded by the State, shall be given to those who need it. And to give this help gracefully.

The Legion Parade was over a thousand strong, and the congregation included a considerable number of St. Dunstaners and their wives who live in Brighton and the surrounding districts.

"For a St. Dunstaner like myself," continued Sir Ian, "it is like coming home to come to Brighton. For nearly thirty years we have enjoyed your Front, your sunshine, your bracing air and, above all, the companionship of your girls. We had to go to the Welsh border so that young men and women gravely wounded and shattered by their war service could recover in a district where they would not be so

disturbed by the enemy as you are. But we count the days when we shall come back to Brighton."

Sir Ian congratulated the officers and committee of the Brighton Branch upon their splendid organisation, and thanked Canon James, who had done so much for St. Dunstan's and for ex-Servicemen in Brighton, for inspiring and conducting the service.

Armistice Day, 1943

On the morning of November 11th, Sir Ian Fraser, who was accompanied by Lady Fraser, led a deputation of St. Dunstaners to the Cenotaph, where he placed a wreath on behalf of St. Dunstan's men throughout the Empire. Those accompanying him were Barbara Bell, Geoffrey Cock, and Donald Baker, representing present-war St. Dunstaners, and Horace Kerr, representing St. Dunstaners of 1914-1918. Cpl. Major J. H. Dawkins acted as escort. The wreath was of poppies, forming the St. Dunstan's badge.

Tandems

If any St. Dunstaner no longer needs his tandem cycle, we should be very glad to hear from him.

We have had an offer of a gift of a tandem tricycle, which would be useful for a sighted person to take out a blinded man. If any St. Dunstaner of the last war would like to have it, will he please let us know.

Sir Arthur Pearson Anniversary

It has been customary for a number of old St. Dunstaners to subscribe each year for a wreath, to be placed on Sir Arthur's grave in Hampstead Cemetery, on December 9th. As usual, the subscription is limited to one shilling, and should be sent to Mr. Askew, who acts as Honorary Treasurer. It should be sent to him at Tyttenhanger Park.

Church Stretton News

The great event of the month—we might well call it the greatest event since we first set foot in Longmynd—has been the home-coming of our prisoners of war from Germany. After the bitter disappointment of two years ago, when they were turned back at the eleventh hour, we hardly dared to hope—but the great day came, and they arrived. A full description of the scenes which greeted their arrival is given on the front page.

Other News in Brief

On the 22nd, Mr. Burn, ex-Manager of Railways in the Central Provinces of India, spoke on "Some Indian Problems," and promised to come again and tell further tales of the Indians, amongst whom he had worked.

On the 28th, our old friends, the Croft Hermit Players, from Shrewsbury, gave a highly successful rendering of "Eden End," a comedy by J. B. Priestley, recalling the days immediately before the Great War, when the motor-car was still a phenomenon in the village, and the Suffragettes were yet demanding "Votes for Women" in no uncertain tone.

Congratulations to the following, who have passed their tests in:—

Typing.—D. Bain, C. Beaumont-Edwards, A. Hurley, R. Shaw, B. Henderson, G. O'Bern.

Braille Writing.—B. Bentley, B. Bell, W. Phillips, V. Formstone.

Braille Reading (Interpoint).—G. Vincent, W. Perry, B. Bell.

Braille Reading (Interline).—B. Purcell, T. Meredith, W. Robinson, B. Pownall, M. Barstow, R. Vowles.

Moon Reading.—G. Pollard.

Admitted to Hospital.—Pte. W. R. Kitt, Home Guard (27), New Barking, Essex; L-Cpl. H. Capon, Home Guard (28), Ightham, Kent; Pte. E. M. Kingsnorth, Home Guard (33), Sidley, Sussex; Cpl. D. C. MacQueen, U.S. Army (28), New Jersey, U.S.A.; Pte. J. H. Griffiths, Welch Regt. (27), Pembroke, S. Wales; A.C.1 A. A. Vout, R.A.F. (36), Choppington, Northumberland.

Discharged from Hospital, later to return to Training.—Pte. W. R. Kitt, Spr. W. W. Bowerman, Cpl. J. H. Nicol, Pte. W. D. Faulkner, Dvr. C. Chadwick, Sgt. G. Miller.

Hospital Transfer.—Pte. R. Default.

Discharged from Hospital, later for Newington House.—L-Sgt. C. McNaught.

Sons and Daughters in the Services

BIGGS, Pte. W. J. (Leicester), R.A.O.C.
 BATES, L.A.C. A. (Salop), Royal Air Force.
 BENSON, Gunner G. (Boroughbridge), Royal Artillery.
 BREWER, A.C.1 L. (Bristol), Royal Air Force.
 BROWN, Marine L. H. (Cricklewood), Royal Marines.
 DEARDEN, Cpl. Norman, Royal Corps of Signals.
 FISHWICK, Pte. W., Parachute Battalion.
 FISHWICK, Seaman H., Royal Navy.
 HALL, Q/Sea. A. H. D. (Chilcot), Royal Navy.
 JACKSON, Driver P. (Patcham), R.A.S.C.
 JENNINGS, L/Cpl. Hilda (Bradford), A.T.S.
 HOLLAND, A/Swd. G. E. (Heswell), Royal Navy.
 HOWES, A.C.2 H. J. (Montrose), Royal Air Force.
 LOVELL, Pte. H. (Hereford), D.C.L.I.
 MOORE, A/T., A.T.C.
 MORGAN, C/Sea. Bryan P. (Wantage), Royal Navy.
 PARKER, O.S. R. G. (Sea and Garter), Royal Navy.
 PEACH, A.B. Frederick (Croydon), Merchant Navy.
 PEACEY, A.C. R. M. G. (New Southgate), Royal Air Force.
 PORTER, A.C.2 A. H. (Kingston), Royal Air Force.
 POWER, O.T.W.M. Jim (Merthyr Tydfil), Royal Navy.
 RICHARDS, Pte. I. W. (Manchester), A.T.S.
 RIDLEY, Fus. J. (East Finchley), R.S.F.
 ROBINSON, A.B. William (Grimsby), Royal Navy.
 ROBINSON, Cpl. Charles (Grimsby), West Yorks. Regt.
 ROBINSON, Driver C. W. (Grimsby), K.O.Y.L.I.
 SALTER, Sergt. T. L., Royal Air Force.
 SHEPHERD, Trooper G. (Sheffield), Army Tank Brigade.
 SHERIDAN, Gnr. Anthony (Glasgow), Royal Artillery.
 SHINNERS, Signm. R. W., Air Formation Signals.
 SIMPSON, Pte. J. (Leeds), R.A.O.C.
 SIMPSON, L.A.C. J. W. (Leeds), Royal Air Force.
 SMITH, Jean (Bolsover), A.T.S.
 SMITH, A.B. Jack (Nottingham), Royal Navy.
 STEVENS, O.C. H. W. (Winnersby), Royal Navy.
 SPIERLING, Cpl. A. J., R.A.M.C.
 STIBBLES, Dorothy, W.L.A.
 TARTLTON, 4th Engineer G. H., Merchant Navy.
 TAYLOR, A.C.2 A. G. (Lye), Royal Air Force.
 TAYLOR, A.C.1 H. D. (Lye), Royal Air Force.
 TEBBUTT, O.S. K., Royal Navy.
 THOMPSON, Pte. (Bolton), Border Regt.
 THORPE, Driver R. (Chelmsford), R.A.S.C.
 TRENDELL, Trooper I. A., Fife and Forfar Yeomanry.
 TRIGGS, O.S. V. G. (Ashford), Royal Navy.
 TURRELL, Cadet W. C., Royal Air Force.
 WEBSTER, C/Tel. W. (Bradford), Royal Navy.
 WHITE, Sylvia (Wembley), W.L.A.
 WHITHAM, A.C.W.2 Evelyn, Intelligence Section, Royal Air Force.
 WHITELAM, Signm. J., Royal Corps Signals.
 WILLIAMSON, A.B. W. W. (Chorlton-cum-Hardy), Royal Navy.
 WOOD, Driver Ralph (Rugby), R.A.S.C.
 WORGAN, O.Tel. G. A., Royal Navy.
 WORLIDGE, Driver J. A., R.A.S.C.
 YATES, Peggy (Southwick), A.T.S.

St. Dunstan's Story in India

By Clutha Mackenzie

(Major Sir Clutha Mackenzie, blinded soldier of the last war, has been appointed by St. Dunstan's to establish a Centre for Indian blinded soldiers, of whom there are now twenty).

Blindness, alas, has always been only too well known in the life of India—the outcome of bad luck or of a misspent life in a previous incarnation and accepted with fatalism. A few of the blind contributed something to old Indian society, finding employment in reciting passages from the sacred works or singing in temples and mosques perhaps, but by far the greater number were regarded as being quite useless, and most had to turn to begging.

And to the Indian blinded soldier there has been, until now, but one fate for him—to return to his village to sit and do nothing for the rest of his days, drawing his pension and living among his people. He is incredulous at the suggestion that there is an alternative. There are those in India who say "But that is all he wants. He's got no desire to do anything else, and it is a waste of time to try. They crumple up, too, under such a heavy physical blow—you won't find it easy."

True, we will not find it easy. But neither is the blinded soldier's lot, living on his pension and doing nothing, as easy and as happy an existence as it might sound. Dalip's report, for instance, has this passage: "This man is at present in a morose and depressed condition. He feels very handicapped by the loss of sight, and is very self-conscious about his disability."

Then there is Yanket, a fit young man of 25, back in his own village where he grew up and must know every brick, every pale, every little compound around the village well. Nevertheless, his report reads: "He cannot move about without somebody's help, and cannot do anything for himself. He is not cheerful and feels helpless."

Blindness has affected poor Mohan Singh in a different way. His report records: "When his wife saw him in hospital, she returned home, regarding his tragedy as a good reason for divorcing him."

India has been generous in its support of St. Dunstan's, and so the least we can do is to try, despite the Jonahs, to give them all the St. Dunstan's service we can.

But difficulties are not over in deciding to give training—these men are shy of the

unknown; and, even though they themselves may be willing to come, their women folk have many convincing reasons why they should not, the most effective of which is that it is a ruse by the Government to make the poor fellow work and then to take his pension away. A number of the men have already been discharged, and it is no easy task to make contact with them, and especially at long range and in the face of language barriers, to give them assurances and confidence in our good intentions. It would be easier, as St. Dunstan's was forced by circumstances to do in the last war, to hand a lump sum over to the Indian Soldiers Board, which, in exchange, paid and still pays a special allowance, additional to pension, of five rupees a month to every war-blinded man for life; but in this war we do mean to master the difficulties, and to give our Indian comrades as good opportunities as we are giving to the others of the Empire war-blinded.

The Army authorities have given us quarters at Dehra Dun, a pleasant wooded valley, lying between the jungle-covered Swalik Hills and the sharply rising ramparts of the outer Himalayas. Our compound of five acres sprawls irregularly over two natural terraces falling to a dry, stony riverbed. We have become heir to three bungalows and some dozen nondescript buildings in varying degrees of repair, labelled on a blue-print "B.R.R.s," "I.O.R.s," "Latrines," "Guard Room," and "Servant Godowns." The stone wall on the boundary has two strands of barbed wire along its top, for these quarters were lately the abode of Italian Generals, "Electric Whiskers" and all.

We have been here a week, and have a small army of sweepers and coolies at work on the jungly compound and in the neglected buildings, making war on the haunts of spiders, bandicoots, lizards, scorpions, snakes, bats and rats. Soon the monsoon will break, but just now the thermometer climbs daily to 105 or 108, the sun glares down through the high dust haze; the brain-fever bird does his best, from the shady branches of the eucalyptus trees, to drive us crazy, the crows squawk as they steal liches in our orchard; and the copper-smith bird goes on unendingly.

To get a training centre equipped in India in the days of peace would take time. Now

that there are rations, control permits, and shortages ever ready to justify delay we don't take too seriously the breezy assurances that this, that and the other thing will be completed, delivered or installed to-day, to-morrow, or next week. Somewhere in India, tradition says, is the grave of a young I.C.S. man, the stone bearing the epitaph: "He tried to bustle the East." But we can point to one grand sign of progress. This morning a large Army truck emerged from the mangoes, guns, and date palms bowering our drive. It carried four men, two lengths of "four by two," and a notice board, six feet by one. Before an admiring audience of babus, hawkers, coolies, children, buffaloes, goats and a brahmini bull, we supervised its erection at our gate, to be certain it was not put upside down. It bears the brief but potent words "St. DUNSTAN'S."

Next day. Yes, and to-day there is another very definite sign of headway. Returning from telephoning at a neighbouring bungalow, we found two orderlies and a blinded soldier. Havildar Abdul Karim has arrived, our first trainee: so we really have started, this tenth day of June, 1943.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages:

Dennis Lucoq (Llandaff), June 19th.
 Wilfred Collyer (Kingsbury), to Miss Rose Fox, June 20th.
 Cissie Story (Ashford), to Cpl. Leach, June 21st.
 Charles Knights (Romford), to Miss Betty Nora Chester, June 27th.
 Frederick Peach, Merchant Navy, to Miss Kathleen Joan Eastman, June 27th.
 B/C. A. H. Harries (Catford) to Miss A. Mathieson, of Jerusalem, on May 8th, in Jerusalem.

Promotions

Harry Randolph Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Nelson, Durham, has been commissioned with the Post Office Royal Engineers.
 Arthur Bailey, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Bailey, Ramsgate, has got his commission in the R.A.
 The son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Boothman, Salford, is now a Navigator with the R.A.F.
 The son of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Briggs, Norwich, to the rank of sergeant.

Victoria (Australia) Blinded Soldiers' Association Serving Sons and Daughters

BANNON, Pte. J., Army.
 BANNON, A.C.I P. J., R.A.A.F.
 DAVIES, Tpr. C. G., Army.
 FANKHAUSER, Lieut. F., Army.
 FRENCHAM, Pte. A., Army.
 FRENCHAM, Pte. C., Army.
 GIBSON, L.A.C. H., R.A.A.F.
 JONES, Pte. K., Army.
 KILBY, Pte. R., Army.
 MCCONNELL, Corp. G. F., Army.
 MCCONNELL, Sgt. R. A., R.A.A.F.
 MCCONNELL, Sergt. R. A. (Australia), P.D.R.C.
 MELBOURNE, A.C.2 A., R.A.A.F.
 MELBOURNE, Pte. L., Army.
 MOURITZ, Pte. J., Army.
 MOURITZ, O.D. P., R.A.N.
 NEVLAND, Corp. J., Army.
 PRENTICE, Dvt. A., Army.
 PRENTICE, C.P.O. M., R.A.N.
 SMART, Pte. E. (P.O.W.), Army.
 THOM, Pte. June, Australian Women's Army Service.

Melplash News

You do not hear a lot about Melplash in the REVIEW, but we are still here and doing very well; all happy and in good spirit.

Dominoes, especially tournament nights, are very keenly contested.

We were all very pleased to have Sir Ian and Lady Fraser stay with us for a couple of days. Those who have been in Melplash on such visits will understand what it means, a visit to mine host, Mr. E. Houndsell.

On Friday, October 22nd, a dance was held at Melplash Parish Hall, in aid of St. Dunstan's. Unfortunately, the weather was very bad, but during the interval Head Orderly Mitchell accepted the sum of £6 18s. 6d. He thanked those who had assisted, and also spoke of the work of St. Dunstan's. A very pleasant evening.

"The Western Brothers" send good wishes to all. J.M.M.

South African News

Frank Watkinson, of Beverley, and Sgt. Leslie Northwood, were old Army friends, divided by many campaigns. Both, unknown to each other, were blinded. Now they have met again at Tembani. Gunner Watkinson has just married Nurse Schwarz, and the best man was Leslie Northwood.

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Our sympathy to H. H. Burnett, whose house was damaged by shrapnel in one raid recently and blasted by a bomb a few weeks later. Mrs. Burnett was blown from her bed but fortunately was unhurt.

A St. Dunstan's for Australia

MELBOURNE, October 28th.

From "The Times," October 29th, 1943—

At a dinner given to Sir Neville Pearson by the Blinded Soldiers' Association, it was announced that it had been decided to establish in Australia an institute similar to St. Dunstan's, and that the Lord Mayor of Melbourne would appeal early next year for £20,000 for it.

Disabled Men in Ford Works

Miss Lloyd has sent us a most interesting article, taken from the "Ford Times," the magazine of the Ford Motor Company.

It reports that about ten per cent. of the men employed in the River Rouge (United States) plant of the Company are handicapped in some manner. Six hundred and eighty-seven are sightless. In addition, there are more than 100 who are deaf and dumb.

Altogether, 11,662 men in various stages of disability are receiving full pay. Each of these workers is expected to give, and does give, full value for his wages.

The engagement of handicapped people was not an outgrowth of the war-time demand for man-power, but is the result of a survey made by Mr. Henry Ford some twenty years ago. He decreed that if one out of every 6,000 persons was blind, then one out of every 6,000 Ford workers must be a blind man. If one in 1,000 was deaf, then one out of every 1,000 Ford workers should be deaf. These instructions have been carefully observed.

Typewriter Ribbons

Once again we must draw attention to the urgent need for saving the metal spools from old typewriter ribbons. They should be handed to the After-Care Visitor, who will return them to the Stationery Department, 58 Albany Street, N.W.1. It is absolutely essential for us to return to the manufacturers one old spool for each new one ordered.

This is a Government order to save steel.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following:—

Mr. and Mrs. P. Johns, Exeter, September 22nd; Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Matthews, Haydock, October 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Rodgers, Barrow-in-Furness, October 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Dawson, Bishop Auckland, November 4th; Mr. and Mrs. H. Taylor, Bournemouth, November 17th.

The Bridge Clubs Ends a Pleasant Season

We have just concluded one of the most pleasant and successful seasons since the commencement of the Club. There has not been a vacant Saturday. Perhaps the chief item has been the Bridge League. There has been good and friendly competition. The result was in doubt until Saturday, October 23rd, when Roden and Douglas opposed Wiltshire and Coles. This match almost resembled a final, as the winners would prove the champions of the League. Space does not permit me to give any details of the match, sufficient to say that the famous "double and re-double" did not come off. Eventually Wiltshire and Coles became winners of the League. And their opponents in this match are accordingly runners-up. With great humility I should mention that the winners played 7 matches, won 5, and drew 2. All agree a good record. This League has given quite an interest to all the members, and it is certain to be continued in future seasons.

Since my last notes we have played two matches. On Saturday, October 16th, Dr. Paul Stern brought along a team of eight to oppose us. It was a most pleasant game, but we were beaten and we should have gathered information from these excellent opponents. Our final match of the season was played on the last Saturday in October, when we played the return match with Messrs. Lyons, at Cadby Hall. Our hosts gave us an excellent tea, and I am glad to say we won the match. We all look forward to further matches there.

This season we have played 9 matches, lost 6 and won 3. May we go steadily forward and reverse the position next year.

There are so many whom I would like to thank for the splendid help they have given us, ladies and gentlemen all, providing the teas, scoring, etc., and in innumerable ways giving their help. Please accept our best thanks, for we do remember. It is expected that the annual meeting will take place next February. I hope to let all interested know the correct date in January's REVIEW.

R.P.C.

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W. Stedman, of Hayes, raffled a fibre mat with the "V" sign and code worked in it, in aid of St. Dunstan's, during a local St. Dunstan's week. It brought in £22 16s. 3d.

“ In Memory ”

Private Thomas Bloomfield, *King's Liverpool Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of T. Bloomfield, of Liverpool.

Serving first with the King's Liverpools, and later with the Training Reserve, he enlisted in August, 1914, and was discharged in January, 1918, with severely damaged sight. He did not, however, come to St. Dunstan's until 1929, when he was trained as a joiner and he carried on with this for a number of years. He had been ill for a long time and he passed away on October 25th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers at the funeral. We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and son.

Private Samuel Rowley, *Durham Light Infantry*

With deep regret we have to record the death of S. Rowley, of Hunwick, Co. Durham, which occurred in hospital on September 16th. Enlisting in 1914, he served until 1919, when he was discharged with very defective vision. He did not, however, come to St. Dunstan's until 1926, when he was a sick man. In spite of this, however, he learned mat making and continued with this occupation for a considerable number of years. Although he had been going downhill for some months, his death was very sudden and a great shock to his wife, who herself has been in hospital for many months. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was amongst the flowers sent for the funeral. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

Sapper Alfred Welton, *Royal Engineers*

We have, with deep regret, to record the death of A. Welton, of Cleethorpes, who served with the Royal Engineers from 1914 until 1919, as a result of which his health and sight were very severely affected. He did not, however, come under St. Dunstan's care until 1928, when he was a very sick man and, consequently, unable to train. For many years he had been forced to lead a very quiet life, spending much of his time in bed, but he always made the best of things and kept his cheery spirit. His death on October 25th, 1943, at his home, was unexpected, although he had been very ill and felt very severely the loss of his son who, serving in the Merchant Navy, was reported missing early in the year. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was amongst the flowers sent.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, who has nursed him devotedly for many years, and his surviving son—Kenneth—who is serving with the Forces.

Death of Brigadier General Tanner

Last month we recorded the death of Mr. Charles Vintcent, of South Africa. A few days later we heard with deep regret that another good friend of St. Dunstan's in the Union, Brigadier General W. E. C. Tanner, had passed away. General Tanner had for many years acted as Chairman of St. Dunstan's South African Committee, and his death is our great loss.

The following cable was sent to Mrs. Bates:

Deeply regret hear of deaths of General Tanner and Mr. Vintcent. Please express to your South African Committee our sincere sympathy on the death of their Chairman. Please arrange wreaths.

FRASER.

On the same day the following cable was sent to Mrs. Tanner from the Chairman:

Lady Fraser and I are deeply grieved to hear of your husband's death, and send you and your family our most sincere sympathy. We valued General Tanner's friendship and his wise and devoted guidance of St. Dunstan's interests in South Africa.

IAN FRASER.

Birth

BARRETT.—On September 14th, to the wife of M. E. Barrett, of South Africa (new war St. Dunstaner), a daughter—Helen Rae.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to the following:

STRUTT.—To G. L. Strutt, of Parsons Cross, Sheffield, whose wife passed away on October 23rd.

COLLEY.—To J. Colley, of Luton, whose mother has died. She was seventy-six.

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St. Dunstaners in the West Country will hear with regret that Mr. C. F. Isaacs, of Devizes, who has often visited them at Miss Oliphant's request when she could not be in the district herself, has recently died. Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Isaacs in her loss.

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We have heard with regret of the death of Mrs. E. A. Rushforth, widow of our St. Dunstaner, E. G. Rushforth, who died in 1925.