

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

DURING the month of January I took part in two Debates in Parliament which will be of particular interest to ex-Service men as a whole and to St. Dunstaners in particular. They were the DISABLED PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) BILL and the REINSTATEMENT IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT BILL. The DISABLED PERSONS BILL has passed all its stages in the House of Commons and it may be assumed therefore that, subject to any minor amendments which may be introduced in the House of Lords, it will shortly become the law of the land. When this measure becomes an Act it will insist that every employer of more than twenty persons must employ a percentage of disabled people. A disabled person is defined as one who is unable on account of his handicap to obtain a job or retain a job without special training and special consideration. That is not an accurate definition, but is just putting the matter in ordinary plain words.

After the last war a very great many St. Dunstaners were taught home handicrafts and, with the assistance of St. Dunstan's After-Care Department, they have conducted these handicrafts for a quarter of a century. In the early days of this war, and with the experience of a generation behind us, we at St. Dunstan's came to the conclusion that this system of home handicrafts had many advantages and might have to be repeated for some who particularly wanted such work or who were very specially disabled, but that for the ordinary young blinded soldier, sailor or airman who was pretty fit in every respect save that of sight, it might be better if he could be absorbed into ordinary industry. We accordingly started an elaborate research and enquiry throughout British industry with a view to finding jobs which blinded men could do, and we were, within limits, very successful. By now more than a hundred of the men of the last war and nearly thirty men of this war have been placed in ordinary jobs in ordinary industry, under ordinary conditions and at ordinary wages.

We think there is great merit in this, for it is a good thing for a man to feel that he is able to take his place in ordinary life, and he gets some satisfaction out of being part of an industrial or commercial organisation and a good deal of social life from the ordinary day to day activities of the firm of which he is a part. The one doubt in our minds about this system was whether after the war, when industry and commerce became so much more competitive and perhaps employment was not so good, our men might not find themselves in some difficulty in keeping their jobs.

It is at this point that the DISABLED PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) BILL comes in to help with its powerful aid. A quota will be fixed—so much per cent., perhaps four or five per cent.—and every employer with over twenty workpeople will have to take a percentage of disabled persons into his employment. The percentage will be varied from time to time according to the number of the disabled, and so for the first time we have some guarantee that an organised State plan is to be put into force to ensure the employment in industry of the disabled.

I said in Parliament that I thought this was a milestone in our social history and that disabled persons would thank Parliament for such a generous and beneficent Act. I said that it was probably the greatest single Act that had ever been taken to give security and happiness to disabled persons.

The provisions of this Act are complementary to St. Dunstan's work in getting blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen settled in industry, and I rejoice that this degree of assurance has now been given to our men who are at present working in industry, and to those who may be going into industry shortly, that all their efforts of training and of adjustment will be rewarded by a greater certainty of employment during the rest of their lives.

No one will be so foolish as to imagine that an Act of Parliament can make a job for a man who is unsuitable for it, or who does not stick to it and do his best, and of course there are some disabilities which are so serious as to render employment impossible. But we in St. Dunstan's have shown that blindness in itself is not a bar to many useful activities and occupations, and I am hopeful that a large percentage of those now working in industry, or about to enter industry from our special training workshops at Brockhurst, will be able to hold down their jobs even if, when the change-over from war to peace comes, there is a good deal of dislocation of industry.

The other Bill of interest to ex-Service men and to St. Dunstaners is the REINSTATEMENT IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT BILL. This is not a measure to cure all our ills or to provide work for all, but is a simple Bill to define and clear up misunderstandings about the obligation of an employer to take back a young man who was called up for war service. The Bill says that any man who was called up under conscription or who volunteered for service shall have his job back provided that the job exists and that it is reasonable and practicable to give it to him. The Bill does not make work, but it guides and directs the methods whereby the promise to the young men who went out to serve that they would have their jobs back shall be kept.

This will be of more interest to the old St. Dunstaners in their capacities of fathers of young men and women now serving than to the St. Dunstaners themselves as blinded men.

These two Acts taken together represent an earnest attempt on the part of the Government and of Parliament to begin to plan for the post-war period, and to keep some of the promises that have been made to ex-Service men and women. None of us who speak for ex-Service men and women are satisfied yet that all has been done that should be done, either in the matter of pensions or of the guarantee of employment, but I am bound to say that it is a good sign that at this critical period of the war Parliament and the Government should give so much time and thought to planning for the after-the-war period.

It looks as if we are determined not to see a repetition this time of the muddle and bad organisation which took place at the end of the last war.

The British Legion has played a very active part, not only in the last few months, but during the past twenty years, in advocating such reforms as a compulsory quota for the employment of disabled persons, and in thanking Parliament for their action on behalf of disabled men and women we must not neglect to thank the British Legion for their constant and able advocacy of our cause.

Mr. Harry Day

Mr. Harry Day, who has been with St. Dunstan's for nearly twenty-five years, has been forced to retire, owing to ill-health. His resignation has been accepted with great regret, more particularly because of its reason. Mr. Day came to us in August, 1919, and has given loyal and devoted service, which included many years as Settlement Representative and, for a period at the beginning of the present war, as Welfare Superintendent, Southern Area. He has been a very good friend to St. Dunstaners and there will be many who will regret that his kind and friendly advice and help are not available to them any longer. They, and his colleagues on the staff, will join with me in sending him the very best of good wishes for the future.

IAN FRASER.

"Back to Work"

St. Dunstan's has an important place in the "Back to Work" Exhibition, which has just opened at the Royal Academy, London. The aim of the exhibition is to demonstrate to the general public the wide range of jobs which can be expertly done by men and women who have lost their sight or limbs, and how they are contributing to the war effort.

Representing St. Dunstan's is J. Dale, who operates a multi-tool lathe; P. Saywell, a capstan lathe; T. Brougham, a router machine; J. P. Hancock, a plastic press; and L. Cook, a telephone switchboard. All lost their sight in this war and Dale has also lost his left lower arm. Cook was a prisoner of war in Germany for three and a half years and has been at St. Dunstan's only four months.

St. Dunstaners' Part in "Music While You Work"

Many thousands of workers in industrial concerns up and down the country, including our own men in aircraft and munition factories, will be interested to learn that the control of quality and volume of "Music While You Work" and other radio transmissions is regulated by two St. Dunstaners. They are Eddie Quinn, of Offaly, a new war St. Dunstaner, and Lot Clark, who was blinded as a result of the last war. Quinn has also lost his left hand, but despite this further handicap is most dexterous and resourceful.

The work requires very accurate manipulation of switches and levers and sensitive hearing to secure a perfect transmission. Our men work in shifts throughout the day and night with another technician.

Reception comes from two sources—one direct from the B.B.C. and, two, *via* the general B.B.C. transmitters. The programmes are then sent out by telephone line to about forty different stations in the Metropolitan area and in the provinces. From these points the programmes are again relayed to private houses and industrial firms, where they operate loud-speakers. There are between 50,000 and 60,000 subscribers in the service; and it is the job of "Control" to regulate the transmissions and to tune in to the desired programmes.

Honours

Congratulations to a Great War St. Dunstaner—Merrill Robinson, of Vancouver—who was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in a recent Honours List. The honour was conferred upon him for valuable war-time public services, and for his official activities as Superintendent of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in British Columbia.

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Congratulations also to Lance Sergeant James Ernest Blackwell, Hampshire Regt., now at St. Dunstan's, Church Stretton, who has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his bravery while in action in Italy. "Lance Sergeant Blackwell," said the citation, "behaved with great coolness and enterprise under fire and showed complete disregard for danger." As a result of his action, he and two other men killed several of the enemy and captured two officers and fifty-five men, with a quantity of weapons.

Blind Leads the Blind

A. C. Evans, of Newport, Mon., was waiting outside the Head Post Office for his friend, who had gone inside to transact a bit of business. Presently, he felt a touch, and, taking the proffered arm, proceeded across the road, which is in one of the busiest parts of this sizeable provincial town. Arriving on the other side the second man, to the surprise of our St. Dunstaner, said "Thanks. "Thanks?" said Evans, "for what?" The stranger, puzzled, said "You brought me across the street, didn't you?" "Why," said our St. Dunstaner, "can't you see?" "No," was the reply. "Well, well! Neither can I!"

St. Dunstaner Enlists

From the "Cape Times"

A South African soldier totally blinded in the last war has again joined the South African Army. He is probably the only blind soldier on active service in the world.

He is Staff Sergeant James Crawford, a skilled physio-therapist, St. Dunstan's trained, who has been blind since 1916, when he was seriously injured while fighting with the South African Scottish at La Bassee.

To-day he is a member of the South African Medical Corps, and is on the staff of a military hospital in the Cape Peninsula.

Church Stretton Notes

Although last month's Notes recorded our "Christmas" dinners, concerts, etc., only the "Tigers" were here on December 25th. Padre came up at 7.15 for Holy Communion, and again at 10 o'clock for a short, happy Service in the Lounge, with Miss Bartholomew at the piano. Later, needless to say, "special diet" was the general prescription.

Birthday.—Many happy returns of the day to Belmont, our first annexe, now one year old—or young? (Note the final "e" here, stressing the feminine gender.) This lively infant is so fully a part of our life now—however did we get on before without those fireside chats, the popular homely parties and delectable home-made teas? The anniversary was suitably celebrated with a jolly walk and Chelmick tea.

Another party was of such intimate enjoyment and importance to a section of our family that even we others are glad to think of it.

Lord Normanby had been invited to dinner at the "Lion," Shrewsbury, to meet all his old friends here, former co-prisoners of war. They presented him with a silver cigarette box bearing the St. Dunstan's badge and all their names. Such an occasion, with that background, could not be described. Enough that the journey to Church Stretton is pronounced "quite easy" by this most welcome friend.

Active preparations for the Essex House development include a royal pathway down the field, replacing—well, former adventures and uncertainties! Regular users rejoice.

Another party at Brockhurst, organised by the trainees. Games, "turns," fun (partly impromptu)—and nourishment made a good evening. (Why don't animals' throats get sore making their noises like ours do?)

Keen regrets had been felt when the kind, hospitable British Aluminium Co. departed. But Toc H has now appeared, more than fulfilling the high hopes connected with their name; their monthly fixtures are red-letter days.

The Army Units stationed near are true friends to us in countless ways—Free tickets for their dances, dance bands playing for us at the Institute each Monday, the Pioneer Band coming from Bridgenorth to Brockhurst, etc., and etc. We are most grateful.

The Musical Circle's monthly fixture was a concert of gramophone records, in the selection of which Mr. and Mrs. Jock Steel spare no pains for our delight. Bob Bridger gave helpful introductions to the items and their composers.

Miss Weston, of Shrewsbury, tried friend to St. Dunstaners, has "thrown" another of her famous dances—memorable for the announcement that she will be coming right into our circle. Congratulations to her and Johnny Lee.

The Croft Hermits Repertory Co. are always welcome; their excellent acting of the comedy, "Yes and No" was much enjoyed.

Our faithful friends, the Ludlow Ladies, again asked everyone to one of their enjoyable evenings: their dances are always popular.

If Ensa Concerts, Granada Cinema tickets, and a Shrewsbury Technical College invitation to a Moiseiwitz Concert are also recorded, it must be added that steady, daily work is not supposed to be "news"; but time-tables are just as full, trainees just as eager and teachers just as fierce as ever!

Brockhurst.—Miss Pain was with us at the beginning of the new term, pending Miss Powell taking over the duties of Matron. All the trainees welcomed Matron Pain and enjoyed the opportunity of working with her again. During this period Miss Powell was able to meet most of the men, and when she officially took over the "reins of office" on the 18th it was not a group of strange people whom she was meeting for the first time, but "friends" who already admired and respected her.

On the 16th the staff presented to the trainees an admirable reading of the play "George and Margaret." The excellent impersonation of the characters and realistic "sound effects" provided an evening's enjoyment which, it is hoped, will be repeated with similar well-known plays.

The first dance of the term, held at Brockhurst, was on Friday, the 28th, and provided another enjoyable evening for a large crowd of people. Music was by the Band of the Pioneer Corps and was well appreciated. Careful organisation on the part of the "Quartermaster" enabled welcome refreshments to be available at the interval.

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

Blackpool Notes

Christmas seems so much in the past that one wonders did it ever happen? It both sounds and seems long ago.

Our Christmas dinner brought a special message, not only to the troops who were with us for Christmas, 1942, and those who were with us for 1943, but to all St. Dunstaners, old and new, wherever they may be. After the wonderful meal was over we read the many greetings by Christmas cards, letters and telegrams from all our old friends. Each of these raised many cheers and much applause, but certainly the most impressive message of all was meant to be anonymous. The name was not given, but many of us remembered the visit of the R.A.F. Sergeant, who sent us this message. He had called in towards the end of our Christmas dinner in 1942, and after quite five attempts to speak (the din and excitement was terrific) he invited everybody to the Sergeants' Mess for a drink and a song. We all accepted this offer. This is what he wrote:

R.A.F. Sergeants' Mess,
Somewhere in England.

DEAR MEN OF ST. DUNSTAN'S—This time last year I was just one of the boys from nearby. On Christmas Day, just after your Christmas dinner, I was with you for a few minutes. Just a few minutes—but in that short time your wonderful spirit and cheerfulness left an impression on my mind which I shall never forget.

I would like here to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a better New Year.—Sincerely yours, "ONE OF COASTAL COMMAND."

During the few seconds' complete silence which followed, we sent our prayers and hopes that this lad of the R.A.F. and his comrades should have a safe and speedy return. E.D.

Sons and Daughters in the Services

BELL, A.C.2 R. (Sandymount), Royal Air Force.
BOYTER, Sergt. P., Royal Air Force.
COLEMAN, L.A.C. P. (Northampton), Royal Air Force.
FISHWICK, Pte. W., Parachute Battalion.
GUISELEY, W.-M. E., Royal Navy.
HULME, Sergt. H. (Oldham), Royal Air Force.
HURRELL, L/Cpl. L., Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.
HURRELL, Act.-Telegraphist A. V., Royal Navy.
MITCHELL, Thompson (Edinburgh), Boom Defence Depot.
PALMER, John, Merchant Navy.
POWELL, A.C.1 George (Stretton), Royal Air Force.
WILKIE, Pte. J. (Burton-on-Trent), R.A.S.C.

Typing.—J. Nicol, F. Woodcock, H. Bishop, M. Kingsnorth, C. Hobbs.

Braille Reading (Interline).—B. Henderson, W. Morris.

Braille Reading (Interpoint).—A. Numan.

Braille Writing.—J. Lee, T. Callaghan, H. Pownall, H. Purcell.

Admitted to Hospital.—Lieut. K. C. Revis, M.B.E., R.E., Sleaford, Lincs.; Fus. E. F. Blackmore, Royal Fusiliers (31), Keighley, Yorks; L/Bdr. G. W. Mendham, R.A. (24), Wallsend-In-Tyne; L/Bdr. W. G. Richardson, R.A. (30), Leatherhead, Surrey; W/O. H. Macrae, R.A.F. (22), Repatriated P.O.W., Peckham, London; Pte. A. D. Williams, Australian Imperial Force (24), Repatriated P.O.W., Lismore, N.S.W.; Pte. F. Welch, Dorsetshire Regt. (21), Dudley, Worcs.; Gnr. D. Parker, R.A. (30), Repatriated P.O.W., Burnley, Lancs.; Sigm. R. H. Stevens, R.C.S. (21), Farnborough, Hants.; L/Cpl. R. J. Goding, Royal Fusiliers (27), Newcastle-on-Tyne; Pte. F. T. Swilper, U.S. Army (35), Detroit, U.S.A.

Hospital Transfers.—Gnr. F. W. Oxenham and Spr. C. Roberts.

Discharged from Hospital, later for Training.—Fus. J. Gardner, Cpl. L. Davies, Rfmn. R. Theobald, Sgt. C. Nicolson, L/Sgt. J. Blackwell, D.C.M., L/Sgt. J. Inness.

Discharged from Hospital, hoping to obtain Civilian Employment.—Gnr. A. Roebuck and Sgt. A. Delmar.

Discharged from Hospital for Repatriation.—Lieut. F. Woodcock and Pte. G. Buchanan (Canada); Cpl. D. MacQueen, Pte. R. Blewett, and Pte. O. Huttunen (U.S.A.).

Discharged from Hospital, later to Newington House.—L/Cpl. D. Bain.

News in Brief

Congratulations to A. G. Peto, of Exeter, who has been appointed a member of the Committee of the Devon County Association for the Blind.

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V. Alderson, of Baildon, raised £2 10s. for the Comforts Fund.

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W. A. Underwood, of Alton, has had a number of contributions accepted by "Woman's Pictorial"; the first has just appeared. A photograph of Michael John, his son, was published with it.

St. Dunstan's, India

January 13th, 1944.

It is just six months since our first men arrived, in those hot July days just before the monsoon broke. In those two rainy months that followed it can hardly be said that a good time was had by all. The skies, through which the sun never broke, obliged us with some hundred inches in sixty days, opening the season with eight inches between nightfall and dawn, with thunder and lightning effects to scale. Every kind of reptile and insect which creeps, crawls, hops, bites, buzzes or stings came to life. Cobras, kraits, scorpions and some unidentified brethren scored some near misses, but got sunk themselves. Walls, shoes, clothes, typewriter cases and books grew every known variety of blue, black, purple and green moulds and mildews. Nothing was dry—matches declined to strike and cigarettes smouldered and smelt like the burning of wet garden weeds. Every roof leaked, but in no room did the average run above one leak per square yard. The air was sodden with muggy humidity. Clothes declined to dry. The "dhobis" hung their laundry in stuffy godowns over charcoal braziers; and it came back to us dank and smelly. Servants, wet and miserable, and every second one down with fever, moped, drenched, from building to building, hoping for some shelter from leaky umbrellas.

Our Indian St. Dunstaners maintained an irrepressible cheerfulness throughout; and mid-September brought still, cloudless days as dry as the others were wet. Now there is a touch of frost in the night air; and it is good to gather round the fire.

Twenty men have been here altogether, of whom seventeen remain to-day. The first to go was Company Hivaldar Harkabhadur Thapa, a grand, smart little Gurkha N.C.O., whose head wound was too bad for him to continue training; so we sent him and his pretty little wife off with an escort to their distant mountain home in Nepal. In due course a receipt, like a parcel's receipt, came back from the village headman as a record that Haka had been safely delivered into his hands. Just before Christmas Geoff. Preston left us at a few hours' notice to join a hospital ship for England, and perhaps Church Stretton will see him soon. Though he was heavily handicapped by not having the use of either

hand, he was always full of jokes, and ready for banter or argument. He is a wizard at cross-word puzzles.

Our seventeen are made up of two Tamils from the far south; five Mahrattas from the Bombay Presidency; three Rajputs; two Punjabis; a Dogra from the northern mountains; three Gurkhas from Nepal; and a Burman Karen. They represent about six separate language groups, but most of them have a greater or lesser smattering of Urdu as a *lingua franca*. Margo Bundu, one of the Tamils, knows only his mother tongue, but is voluble in spite of the fact that no one can understand him. At the other end of the scale is Saw Jacky, reared in a Baptist Mission, whose three languages are his own Karen, Burman, and a little English.

Work stopped for six days at Christmas—a quiet time on the whole. Two of the men went home, and after Christmas about ten went off for a couple of days to Hardwar, thirty miles from here, where the holy Ganges emerges from its Himalayan gorges, a spot most sacred to Hindus. There they bathed in the chilly waters; but, though cholera and epidemic diseases in general flourish in such pilgrim places, they returned none the worse. On Christmas day we had a Christmas tree for the men and their families in our recreation room. When it comes to religious festivals in India we are all warmly tolerant. At Id our Mohammedan men and servants garland us and give us sweets and gifts; at Dussehra the Hindus do the honours; and at Christmas it is, of course, the Christians' turn. It all went off well.

We have had quite a number of cheerful parties visiting us to join in informal social gatherings round the fire. Three or four Gurkha parties have been along; others have come from the Indian Military Academy, the Forest School, the Royal Indian Military College, the Indian Ladies' Club, and a Sikh Regiment in the neighbourhood. Everyone sits cross-legged on the floor, except the sahibs, who find it too uncomfortable; very sweet tea is served, Indian sweetmeats are passed round (if you are British you must be careful to avoid those cooked with too much rancid butter, a bit too cocoanutty or otherwise peculiar to our taste), and many cigarettes are smoked. Music wails in discordant minor key, we sing and joke and everyone is happy.

Dehra Dun.

CLUTHA MACKENZIE.

Preference for Ex-Service Men and Women of all Wars

Bevin Meets Legion Demand

On Thursday, January 27th, the Disabled Persons (Employment) Bill passed the Committee Stage in the House of Commons and the British Legion secured a great victory. An amendment in the name of Mr. Bevin, Minister of Labour, to secure a preference in training and employment for ex-Service men and women of all wars was agreed to. The policy of preference for jobs for ex-Service men and women has been consistently advocated since the formation of the Legion, and has been intensified in recent months.

The Debate started on an amendment put down by Major R. E. Manningham-Buller (C., Daventry) to secure a preference for ex-Service men and women in training centres, and it soon became apparent that the Government was not going to have an easy time. "If there is to be a queue in the future for admission to these courses, the war-disabled should be at the right end of the queue and not at the wrong end," said Major Manningham-Buller. Sir Ian Fraser, National Vice-Chairman of the Legion, had organised a body of opinion in the House which was determined to secure this preference, and he had written to all the Members of the House of Commons Branch of the Legion asking for their support. Forty or fifty Members swiftly responded and put their names on the relevant amendments, which stood in the names of Sir Ian Fraser and Major Geoffrey Hutchinson (C., Ilford).

During the Debate, Conservative and Liberal speakers supported the preference for ex-Service men; Labour speakers opposed. Sir Ian Fraser recalled Mr. Bevin's promise in another debate that the ex-Service man and the war-disabled would get first choice. Mr. Bevin interrupted to agree warmly, and to say that he hoped that would be the policy of the Ministry of Labour at all times. Then, said Sir Ian, the Bill must be altered to guarantee the priority. Lady Apsley, Chairman of the Women's Section of the Legion, exclaimed that from the days of Agincourt, Blenheim, Waterloo, and Passchendaele, right until to-day, people had short memories of the war-disabled when the war was over.

Mr. Bevin and Mr. Tomlinson tried to placate the House, but the pressure was kept up and a Division was threatened. Finally, Mr. Bevin gave way and agreed to put the preference in the Bill.

Other amendments which Sir Ian Fraser had put down sought to have the Register marked so that ex-Service men could be picked out for preferential employment, and also to guarantee that factories for the disabled, like the Poppy Factory, might be reserved for ex-Service men and women. Mr. Bevin accepted these suggestions.

Killed on Active Service

We have heard with deep regret that F/O. Charles Watt, youngest son of our late St. Dunstaner, W. Watt, of Montrose, has lost his life while on active service. Our deep sympathy is extended to his mother.

Wounded

Tony Jordan, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Jordan, of Rhymney, has been wounded in the left arm.

Prisoner-of-War

Mr. and Mrs. G. Payne, of New Orwell, near Royston, have heard from their son that he is a prisoner-of-war in Japanese hands. This is the first news they have had of him since the fall of Singapore.

Decoration

A.B. Michael Cooney, Royal Navy, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Cooney, of Worthing, has been awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal for bravery at sea.

Promotions

Arthur Summers (Eastleigh) to the rank of Flight-Lieutenant.

James Moore (Folkestone) to Petty Officer.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Smith, of Leicester, to L.A.C.W. in the W.A.A.F.

Arthur Brown (Nuneaton) to the rank of Sergeant.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages—

Barbara Tomkinson (Brighton) to Flight Sergt. Observer R. Jungwhistle, Royal Australian Air Force, on September 18th.

Ann Francis Driscoll (Cork) to Michael J. McCarthy, a member of the staff at Raglan Street, on St. Stephen's Day.

Eileen Butler, A.T.S. (Waterford), on November 23rd, to Pte. James Greenslade.

"In Memory"

A.B. Arthur Ernest Trigg, *Royal Navy*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. E. Trigg, of Patcham.

He had been with the Royal Navy since 1900 and in 1917 he injured his head by a fall; a few months afterwards his sight began to fail and he came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1920. He took up poultry-keeping and mat-making as his occupations, but gave up the former occupation in 1928.

His health began to weaken in 1941, when he had two strokes following each other. He was admitted to hospital on August 14th last year, but they were unable to do anything for him and he returned home in September.

He died on December 20th, after being knocked down by a bus. He and his wife were on their way to visit friends; he started on his own and his wife followed shortly afterwards, but when she caught him up the accident had already happened.

He was buried in the Brighton Borough Cemetery and the service was attended by many of his comrades from St. Dunstan's. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the many flowers received.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Trigg in her sad loss.

Private Harry John Fleming, *29th Middlesex—Labour Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of H. J. Fleming, of Dagenham.

He was a very sick man when he came to St. Dunstan's in 1925, but he was trained in basket-making, braille and typing.

In 1929 he was one of the men chosen to represent St. Dunstan's at the Ideal Home Exhibition, and during that time he demonstrated his work to the present King and Queen—then Duke and Duchess of York.

His wife died in June, 1940, and this was a great shock to him.

His daughter then looked after him. He recently obtained a light job in a factory, but after a few months collapsed at work. He would not give in, however, and after a few weeks' rest returned to work, but shortly afterwards was admitted to Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, where he died on December 25th.

The funeral took place at the Becontree Cemetery, and St. Dunstan's was represented by J. G. Moeller, of Dagenham. A wreath was sent from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his son and daughter in their sad bereavement.

2nd Private Samuel Pullon *Royal Flying Corps*

We have to record, with deep regret, the death of S. Pullon, of Hull, who served with the Royal Flying Corps from December, 1914, until June, 1918, when he was blinded as the result of an accident. He was trained in mat-making and, later, wool-rug work, but for many years, on account of bad health, he was not able to do much in this regard.

He passed away in hospital on November 15th, after being admitted from his home a few days before.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his sister, Mrs. Chamberlain, who has cared for him for so long.

Birth

VINCENT.—To the wife of Ronald Vincent, of Cricklewood, a daughter.

Marriage

CULSHAW—DICKIE.—On January 29th, at the Congregational Church, Lewes Road, Brighton, J. Culshaw, of Moulsecomb, to Miss Rose May Dickie.

REID—LAWSON.—On February 19th, at St. George's Church, Catford, F. ("Jock") Reid to Miss Olive Irene Lawson.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. D. Marshall, Market Drayton, November 27th; Mr. and Mrs. G. Payne, New Orwell, December 25th; Mr. and Mrs. R. Usher, Sunderland, December 26th; Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Gattrell, Putney, February 20th.

Deaths

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the following:—

COSTELLO.—To M. Costello, of Tidcombe, whose wife passed away on February 11th after a long and painful illness.

HOUSDON.—To J. L. Housdon, of Whitchurch, Salop, whose mother, with whom he lived, has recently died.

WELLAND.—To A. Welland, of Stoughton, Guildford, who has just lost his father, at the age of 85. His mother died last February at the age of 82.

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G. Fallowfield's letter in last month's REVIEW was quoted as saying, "Our deaf in St. Dunstan's have been deaf from fourteen to sixteen years." This should, of course, be "from fourteen to twenty-six years." Fallowfield himself has been deaf for twenty-six years, longer, it is believed, than any other ex-Service man.