

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

St. Dunstan's Hospital Moves

ST. DUNSTAN'S Hospital Unit has moved from Church Stretton to Stoke Mandeville, near Aylesbury. As soon as war broke out we established at Brighton a Hospital Unit in the closest possible association with the Training Centre, so that newly-blinded men might come into contact with the St. Dunstan's atmosphere at the earliest possible moment. For nearly five years the Hospital Unit has rendered most valuable services, treating wounds of all kinds, but notably wounds of the eye, nose, throat and ear, and those requiring plastic surgery. Proximity to the Training Centre has been a great advantage, for the two bodies could help each other. By moving to Aylesbury we lose this advantage, but we will make up for it as best we can, and we gain some other advantages. Our Hospital Unit is now two or three or more Wards in a big one-thousand-bedded Hospital. Since the cases come to us at a very early stage, the multiple wounds which are present in many instances can be dealt with on the spot, for every kind of specialist treatment is available or near at hand. Incidentally, a consequence of the move is to provide much needed extra accommodation in Church Stretton itself, where facilities for larger numbers of men have already been prepared and are increasing.

The Wards at Stoke Mandeville will be called St. Dunstan's Wards, and the Unit as a whole, which includes all social and occupational service, will be called St. Dunstan's Unit. Mr. Walter G. Howarth, nose, throat and ear surgeon; Mr. T. Pomfret Kilner, plastic surgeon; and Mr. R. C. Davenport, ophthalmic surgeon, remain consultants to St. Dunstan's, and will undertake the work at Stoke Mandeville. At Church Stretton there will be a sick bay where minor operative treatment and the day to day ailments of the St. Dunstan's family can be dealt with, and Mr. Davenport will visit Church Stretton regularly every week to consult and undertake minor operative treatment and deal with the many ophthalmological matters that arise in our community.

I should like to express the gratitude of all St. Dunstaners to surgeons, nurses, orderlies, and social workers for the splendid tradition they have built up in St. Dunstan's Hospital, and the services they have rendered. In particular I would like to express the thanks of all who have passed through the Hospital and of the staff to Miss Postlethwaite, who retires from the Matronship of the Hospital. Hundreds of St. Dunstaners will remember with gratitude her professional skill, as well as the understanding help she gave them in their early days of blindness, and all will wish her good luck in her future sphere of activity.

IAN FRASER.

"Doodle-Bugs"

St. Dunstaners have not been immune from the flying bomb, and a great many of our men living in Southern England have suffered as a result of this new missile.

One of our principal functions since the war began has been to help St. Dunstaners whose houses are destroyed or damaged as a result of enemy air attacks, and over 40 St. Dunstaners have so far needed our assistance in the present series of raids. So far, not one case has been a total loss, although 18 St. Dunstaners have suffered fairly extensive damage to their property.

Immediately a case is reported to Headquarters, a member of the staff of the Estate Department visits the house to ascertain the extent of the damage. He at once gets in touch with the local Council to ensure that first-aid repairs are put in hand as quickly as possible, and then puts through the necessary claims for damage to property and furniture.

Meanwhile, the Welfare Department, through its Social Visitors, helps the St. Dunstaner and his family to find temporary accommodation with relatives or friends, or, if necessary, arranges for him to go to one of our Homes.

This new form of attack is extremely unpleasant, but St. Dunstaners, with the rest of London and Southern England, are refusing to let it bother them unduly. Heartened by the knowledge that this is a last desperate throw in a game which the enemy knows he has already lost, the watchword is still "Work as usual."

Masseurs and the National Health Service

On June 20th, in the House of Commons, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Minister of Health if he could give an assurance that in his proposed legislation on the National Health Service, he will not adversely affect existing private practices of masseurs and physio-therapists, or prejudice private practice in the future.

Mr. H. Willink:

The aid of masseurs and physio-therapists will be required in the new comprehensive service, and the total demand on their services is thus likely to be considerably increased. Whether private practice in these specialities will be diminished I cannot say, but I can assure my hon. and gallant Friend that there will be no interference with the right to give or receive private treatment.

Notes and News

V. Dale, of Midhurst, who, as reported last month, has been raffling a bicycle in aid of the Red Cross, eventually realised no less than £196—nearly double his target.

★ ★ ★

During "Salute the Soldier" week in Marple, G. Fletcher's hen laid an egg weighing four and a half ounces. He put it in a shop window with this notice: "This hen has done her bit; see that you do yours."

★ ★ ★

E. H. Carpenter, of King's Langley, with an American poultry farmer now in the U.S. Army, and a Dutch poultry farmer, took part in a brains trust held by Acton Poultry and Rabbit Club recently.

★ ★ ★

E. Williams, of Shipley, has several times been a blood donor.

★ ★ ★

A tray made by F. A. Cole, of Acocks Green, realised £30 during the local Salute the Soldier Week.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following, who are celebrating silver wedding anniversaries:—

Mr. and Mrs. E. Fearn, East Kirkby, June 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Stracey, Bury St. Edmunds, July 6th; Mr. and Mrs. J. Broadley, Felixstowe, July 14th; Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Bryer, Yate, Gloucester, July 19th; Mr. and Mrs. R. Young, Tweedmouth, Berwick-on-Tweed, July 26th.

Marriages

ELLIS—RAWSON—On April 1st, Ronald Ellis (new war repatriated prisoner), to Mabel Rawson, at St. James's Church, Gloucester.

LEE—WESTON.—At the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Shrewsbury, on June 12th, John Arthur Lee (new war St. Dunstaner) to Audrey Weston.

WEBBER—HALLAM.—On July 8th, Leslie Webber, of Barneburst (new war St. Dunstaner) to Dorothy Hallam, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Hallam, of Edgware (last war St. Dunstaner).

KENEFICK—CHALK.—On August 1st, T. E. Kenefick, of Bradford, to Miss Chalk, for many years an escort at St. Dunstan's Brighton Home.

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As in previous years, there will be no REVIEW published in August.

Double Handicap

The Chairman has asked us to publish the letter below, from a well-known one-handed St. Dunstaner, because he thinks there is much in it that will be of interest.

There is only one experimental model of the one-handed machine to which our correspondent refers. Sir Ian Fraser is making a full investigation of braille machines generally, having in mind also the needs of doubly handicapped men.

With regard to the last paragraph, about the 20s. a week which a man is allowed to earn without impairing his supplementary pension, Mr. Askew advises that the right interpretation of the regulation is that the earnings in any one week must not exceed 20s. If a man had earned 10s. a week for six months and then began to earn 30s. a week, the "Unemployable" Supplement would cease from the date of the higher earnings although the average over the year might be £52.

DEAR SIR IAN,

While it is sad to learn that men with a double handicap are now arriving at St. Dunstan's in greater proportion than was the case during the last war, it is very satisfactory to know, from your Notes in the last number of our magazine, that such careful consideration is being given to the special requirements of these men. This subject has an especial interest for me, as you will probably recall that I have completely lost the use of my right arm, in addition to being totally blind.

With regard to pastimes, I thought you would be interested to know that quite a big selection of pieces has been written for one-handed piano playing, including works by such famous composers as Saint-Saens and Scriabin, as well as one-handed arrangements of tunes by other writers of classical music. This music was not, of course, written for one-handed players, and as far as I know it is all intended to be played with the left hand. I was fortunate enough to receive tuition, and memorised a lot of these left-hand pieces during the first five years after I left St. Dunstan's, and I have found it quite easy, as a result of learning something of the necessary technique, to arrange popular songs and pieces. There may be some pianists, or would-be pianists, amongst those who are and will become St. Dunstaners who will rejoice to find that they may still pursue the study of the piano, despite the loss of a hand. I have not got my music with me here, and so I cannot offer to supply you with a list of left-hand music at the moment in full detail. Some of it is already published in braille notation, I think. One-handed piano playing has one drawback which it shares partly with two-handed playing—it is only possible to obtain the maximum effectiveness when the piano is a good overstrung, in good order, which will enable the player to obtain the desired balance of tone as between melody and accompaniment, and to sustain certain notes whilst others are being added, whereas nine pianos out of ten, in my experience, fall very short of this ideal prerequisite.

With regard to one-handed braille writing, I have used the ordinary two-handed machine, and still do, regularly, but I have always found it very tiring, especially to the thumb, with which I have to hold down a key in the left-hand column to prevent the

carriage moving on before dots of the right-hand column are added. I understand, however, that the National Institute, just before the war, had designed a braille writing machine for one-handed working—I think it was intended for use by blind copyists, who could thereby read their braille copy with the right hand and write with the other. I do not know whether supplies of this machine have ever been available, but I can easily imagine that such a machine would be a boon to the keen braille writer possessing only one hand; you do not mention in your Notes that one-handed students are being taught on such a machine.

While there are sure to be numerous devices and gadgets which can make life easier for the one-handed St. Dunstaner, these things need careful consideration—I recall one man, I think it was Griffin, who was supplied with a typewriter whose keyboard had been rearranged so as to bring the most frequently used letters in a convenient group handy for one-handed typing; but this had its drawback, for when he was on holiday at Brighton he could not write his own letters on the standard keyboard machine, just at a time when he would have been glad to do so.

I wish all success to those who are investigating the possibilities of finding fresh occupations and pastimes for the doubly handicapped St. Dunstaner, and we of the last war will admire and wish all good fortune to those of this war who venture forth to demonstrate what they can do in face of additional difficulties. Whilst on the subject of remunerative occupations, both for the two-handed St. Dunstaners and for those doubly handicapped, and in reference to the additions to pension made last year in the form of a wife's allowance and supplementation, I shall be glad if you will obtain a ruling; these additions to pension are, as you know, subject to the proviso that the recipient's earnings may not exceed 20s. per week. The point is—is that proviso to be interpreted literally as 20s. per week, that is, never more than 20s. in any one week? Or may it be interpreted as not more than £52 in any one year, such as in the case of a casual job lasting for a comparatively short period but bringing in more than 20s. in one particular week?

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS FLOYD.

Broadway, Wores.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

Celia Frances Meader (Barnet) to Douglas William Manning, on June 26th.

Sapper Derrick William Austin (Higham Ferrers) to Doris Kathleen Vandy, on June 10th.

Muriel Pannifer (Cleveleys) to L-Cpl. John Douglas Currey, on January 10th.

Capt. J. M. Law (Gotherington) to Sister Elizabeth Napier, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., at Meerut, India, on April 9th.

Gladys Cox (Felling-on-Tyne) to Cpl. Joe Stephenson, on June 24th.

Church Stretton Notes

Church Stretton "Salute the Soldier" week was from June 10th—17th, and St. Dunstan's Fête on Wednesday, the 14th, was the outstanding event of the month—survived and even enjoyed. Only one hour's work was sacrificed, and everyone gladly gave up the half-holiday to make the Fête the bumper success it was; the financial results are given in detail below. Warm congratulations are due to the Committee, composed of staff and trainees, for the perfect running arrangements.

At 2.30 p.m., Major Dunlop, Senior Canadian officer at Battlefield, opened the proceedings with a charming speech, marvelling, with pleasure, that for once the British custom he had noticed, of always praising everyone else and belittling ourselves was broken, and we were now "Saluting the Soldier." Bob Kitt's winning slogan, "Your Life's Savings can be Life-Saving," made a large appeal to all users of Sandford Avenue. They rolled up in hundreds with open pockets, ready to enjoy everything; and to see the happy, skilful workers at the different crafts was an education to the public. Besides the usual hilarious sideshows, one innovation was to have the large globe (2ft. in diameter, with lands and mountains in relief) on show, with expert demonstrations by a trainee, Jock Reagan. But when the public competed—"Travel anywhere for sixpence"—what *blind* fingers sighted folk have! Seeking Paris (blindfold), they would go three times round the world, ending up in China!

Then "St. Dunstan's Entertains," at 4 p.m. and 5.15 p.m. in the Central Hall to large, delighted audiences—each item a big success. Our old favourites, Gwen, Les White, "Killie," Joe Walch, Head Orderly Fraser, and Freddie Freeland, all in tremendous form, and much new talent; Desmond Coupe as five-year-old "Christopher"; Ron Ettridge as fearsome Sergeant Major arranging for "Wife, one"; Gwen's charming replies ("Lips, two, Sergeant, for the use of"); "Shy" Joe Weekes; while those superb orientally-garbed "Chu Chin Chows" produced such fun in front of the stage, on it, and behind, as at times to endanger their choruses. Instrumental recruits also performed wonders, considering their very short time for practice. Jimmy Ellis on the trumpet, Johnny Ince on

the saxophone, and the team of six piano-acordionists. Well done, all! But far more moving than any high level of performance or the fun was the triumph over disability; that opening fanfare of trumpets in harmony, the two players with but four good fingers between them; Drummer Gaygen looking so happy; and David Bell's trombone solo, just as if he had two good hands. Each achieving the impossible again.

In the Mock Auction, auctioneers Tom Hart and Ron Ettridge were very able. The tit-bit was a 9lb. cake, made by Belmont, which fetched nearly £100 (no wonder, with whisky in it!), and was pronounced by everyone to be so delectable.

The huge prize lottery was organised entirely by Bob Black and Reg. Theobald, and the record sum all extorted by trainees from their friends; a good piece of work. On top of all, the evening dance, where St. Dunstan's Band took turns with the K.S.L.I. Band.

Result of Fete

	£	s.	d.
Fête Figure	306	2	10
Mock Auction	4097	0	0
Investments made at Auction	149	12	6
	£4552	15	4

It was a sad wrench to part with the "Tigers," who now have Wards in the Stoke Mandeville Hospital, two miles from Aylesbury. Not only do we miss seeing Miss Morris and her cheery bodyguard, but—well, it's no good regretting that we now lose the contacts of newcomers' early days, since the change had to be made.

We have also bid Godspeed to Jack Simmons, left to continue training agriculturally, under a last war officer in Reading; F. Madgewick, who left to continue training with another old war officer, also near Reading; to Ken Trehearne, who has finished the preliminary training he came for; to Paddy Campbell, again starting out, after more intensive training; and to Major E. Dunlop, Miss Tupper, and Captain Miles, repatriated to Canada. All the best to each one.

We welcome back Ben Bentley, as temporary Assistant Basket Instructor.

Since we began holding our own Chapel Services, in November, 1942, a sum of £141 has been given in collection at the services.

Parliament Debates War Pensions

War Pensions were debated again in the House of Commons on July 7th. In his opening remarks the Minister of Pensions (Sir Walter Womersley) referred to the issue of the White Paper in July last as "a landmark in war pensions history," and he went on: "An improvement which I find was received with great approval was the unemployable supplement for seriously disabled men. When I was speaking on the White Paper, I pointed out the difference between a man who was absolutely unemployable by reason of disability and a man who, while perhaps drawing 100 per cent. pension, could, at any rate, do some work. The hon. and gallant Member for Lonsdale (Sir Ian Fraser) brought to the notice of the House the conditions of many of these men who are absolutely unemployable. I thought he made out a good case, and I thought they ought to receive pensions. The House approved, and we got to work."

Later in his speech Sir Walter paid a tribute to organisations which had been of great assistance to him. "To the British Legion, not for the criticisms they pass upon the Minister—which I expect them to do, it is their job—but for their work on behalf of ex-Service men and women," and he continued: "May I also express my thanks to my hon. and gallant Friend, the Member for Lonsdale (Sir I. Fraser) for the work being done for the blind at St. Dunstan's in showing them how they can overcome their disabilities."

A condensation of Sir Ian Fraser's speech in the debate follows:—

"There are in many mental hospitals a number of ex-Servicemen with mental illness which is not recognised by the Government as being attributable to, or aggravated by war service, and consequently they are being treated as ordinary civilian cases. It is disagreeable to public opinion to think of men who have been soldiers or Servicemen, and who have perhaps given distinguished overseas service, being treated in ordinary asylums as ordinary civil cases. Some special recognition should be given to them.

There is a partnership in the care of disabled men between the State, represented by the Ministry of Pensions, and to some small extent by other Ministries, and the many voluntary agencies, such as the

The following amounts, in round figures, have already been distributed: British Red Cross and St. John, £8; R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, £7; King George's Fund for Sailors, £7; Indian Famine Relief, £3 10s.; Royal Salop Infirmary, £2 19s.; British Legion, £4; Sir Arthur Pearson's Fresh Air Fund, £32; Deaf Blind Helpers' League, £39.

Each Thursday evening St. Dunstan's Band undertakes the dance in the Central Hall, to everyone's satisfaction. Other dance fixtures enjoyed: In the Hall, Jack White's Collegians; R.A.F. Band, twice; T.I.C. Band. At Morris's Ballroom, Shrewsbury, invitations from Toc H and the Caledonian Society, besides others from Condover, at Douglas Surre Memorial Hall, Longden, at Lewis's Hall, Shrewsbury, at Meole Brace, and the Hospital at Cophthorne.

Teddy Foster and his Band, with Jacques Brown, Irene Hinsley, and Harry Hemsley, child imitator, ran a *the dansant* in our Hall, which was much appreciated. Vic Oliver and his three colleagues were very welcome mid-day visitors for an hour's laughter.

The Croft Hermits were again up to form with "Lover's Leap." They *are* good to us, and always say they like our audience!

The Musical Circle arranged another enjoyable evening, with Miss Margery Lee, soprano; Mr. Toner, "flying fingered" pianist; and Private Marchant, 'cellist from the Pioneers, specially welcome again after his previous visit.

We regret that last month's Braille and typing results did not appear in the REVIEW, and we now congratulate the following, who passed in May or June:—

In Typing.—L. Watkinson, J. Franklin, H. Gardner, Nurse Quinn, A. Bice, H. Strudwick, D. Slee, E. Palmer, W. Shea, O. Smith, H. Pratt, D. Coupe, F. Cinq-Mars, I. Humphrey, A. Vout, F. Koenig, R. J. Goding, P. Bagwell, A. J. Edmunds.

Braille Reading (Interline).—J. Blackwell, I. Darling, M. Kingsnorth, F. Madgewick, K. Revis, R. Kitt, E. Foster, H. Petty, R. Theobald.

Braille Writing.—T. Meredith, R. Ettridge, B. Henderson, J. Innes, J. Blackwell, A. Vickers, C. Halloway, J. Weeks.

Braille Reading (Interpoint).—J. Innes, J. Simmonds.

British Legion, the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, or in its own sphere, St. Dunstan's, and, thirdly, with the many thousands of individual people, such as the employer who takes special trouble to find a job for a disabled man, the trade union official who waives a rule for him, his parents or wife who welcome him back home, and do everything that lies in their power to make his disability seem as light as possible. They all join together in contributing to the well being and rehabilitation of the man who has been seriously wounded.

The psychological condition of the man who has lost limbs, eyes, or health is a tender thing that wants special study. Men grieve at first for their loss. Some go through a stage of depression, which is followed by the beginnings of recovery—the beginning of ambition, and of determination to make the best of things. Some are courageously light-hearted. It is a tremendous desire for normality and recovery. The man wants very badly to show and feel that he is not so badly disabled after all. If, at that moment, he is given the impression that officials are going to take advantage of that, and are going to do less for him because he is able to do so much for himself, his confidence is lost, and the Ministry becomes his enemy, instead of his friend. The Minister should err on the side of generosity in his early dealings with him, so that he may feel that the nation really means to do everything possible for him, and does not mean to cut him by too strict an application of regulations. The British Legion, under the very able and devoted guidance of Brigadier General Fitzpatrick, its national chairman, has three functions, all of which are closely allied to the work of the Ministry of Pensions. One is that of benevolence. It takes up the odd cases, fills in the gaps, meets the anomalies, which no Government system can wholly fulfil, and brings a personal interest which no Government Department can so effectively give. It co-operates with the Minister in the day-to-day adjustment of cases. The Legion is a powerful fighting force, not intending to bring undue political pressure on anyone, but certainly intending to voice powerfully, in all the constituencies throughout the land, and here in Parliament, the view that this people intend to do rightly and justly and generously by the serving men and women when they come back.

The minimum pension payable to a disabled soldier who is unemployable is now £2 10s., an improvement of 10s. over the original flat rate of £2. We do not feel that is enough. We feel that the minimum rate should go to £3 10s. We ask for an economic supplement to the flat-rate pension, which will be made without regard to the rank of the soldier, sailor or airman, whether he is an officer, n.c.o., or private, this economic supplement to be related to his pre-war earnings, so that there may not be so big a gap between the standard of living he had before the war and the standard to which he has to settle down after the war.

Wives and children only receive allowances or pensions if the man was married at the time of his disability, and the children were born within an appropriate time thereafter. This is an anomaly that the only men left out, so far as wives and children are concerned, are those who married afterwards, or whose children were born afterwards, and who are in jobs earning money. The reason they are left out is because they are earning money. That brings us to a point which I made earlier, that it is very important not to put a premium on idleness, not to encourage men to go out of employability, and thereby get wives' and children's allowances. For that reason, and many others, which we have expressed before, and which I do not want to repeat, I urge the Minister to take a full and proper view of this matter, and give wives' and children's allowances to all on the simple test, "Is that your wife?" "Are those your children?" Not, "When did you marry?" or "When were they born?"

If a man is unemployable, his wife gets an allowance and thereby qualifies, should he die of this pensionable disability, for a soldier's widow's pension, but if the man has not qualified for a supplementary pension, what happens? His wife does not get the allowance. Worse than that, when he dies, even if he dies of his pensionable disability, she does not qualify for a soldier's widow's pension. She may have given him all the help in the world to enable him to stay at work so long. That is an anomaly which, I think, must be looked into.

I hope the Government will make a concession, more particularly with regard to children. Consider these anomalies: The allowance for the child of a serving soldier

is 12s. 6d.; for the child of a deceased soldier it is 11s.; and for the child of a soldier disabled in the highest degree it is 7s. 6d. The time will come when these anomalies will have to be put right. I ask the Government to look at them now. A child costs the same to feed, whether the father is living or dead. When the father is killed seems the time to increase, rather than to reduce, the help—at any rate, it is not the time to reduce it.

There is a very strong case for the State paying a pension to a parent when a man was, in fact, making an allotment to the parent.

I am not satisfied with the way artificial eyes are made and provided. The artificial eye has a certain medical importance, but its main importance is appearance. It ought, therefore, to be perfect, a work of art. In fact, the method of providing artificial eyes is to send a trayful to a hospital, where the surgeon will pick one which he likes the look of, and it will be ordered, by a code number, from a central store. The pieces will be sent down and they will be more or less right. But "more or less right" is not enough. Artificial eyes ought not to come off the peg; they ought to be made just right. In some countries technicians, of a high degree of art and skill, go around the hospitals, see the individual men, and make the eyes. In some cases they make them while you wait.

What I hear about artificial legs is that they are very good. They are easy things to substitute, because they have a simple function to perform, and they work very well. But with artificial hands that is not the case. The human hand is a wonderful instrument, with its flexibility and its capacity, hardly capable of being imitated in wood, iron, or any other material. Although some men use artificial hands for their jobs, and some wonderful successes are attained, there are a large number of cases in which an elaborate and expensive piece of apparatus is provided, to be hung on the back of a door unless there is a party on. That is the truth, and it is better that we should not bluff ourselves about it. The Minister should hear the facts. In other countries there are new materials and designs, not hitherto incorporated in the hands that are made here. Nor can a hand suitable for a one-handed man be doubled for a man who has lost both hands —

different considerations arise. Nor is it true that a hand suitable for man who can see is suitable for men who cannot see. I have eight or nine men who have lost both their hands and their eyes—and in the last war, when there were five times the casualties we have had so far in this war, we had only one such case.

The Ministry have tried to help; they have hurried up Roehampton, and have done their best; but a new view is wanted. What is done at Roehampton I must praise. There is kindness and good fitting by the surgeons, and quick and good work by the manufacturers. But there are two things that we want. We want a more ready ear on the part of the Ministry of Labour, to help the Ministry of Pensions limb-fitting agencies, and to provide skilled technicians to enable St. Dunstan's to do its special work. The Ministry of Pensions should itself set up a research department, to find out what are the new materials and the new methods. Where men have lost legs, arms, or eyes—and sometimes more than one of these—no skill and thought is too much to give.

I would sum up by saying that between last year and this the Ministry of Pensions have, in my opinion, done better. Let us thank them and the Government, and do not let us forget the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who had a good deal to do with the more generous arrangements made last year. But let us tell them that we shall not be satisfied until they do much better still."

Melplash News

Seventeen members of the R.A.O.B. Duke of York Lodge, Beaminster, and Miss Doris Britton, a member of the Women's Land Army, visited Melplash on June 20th and gave St. Dunstaners a wonderful evening with a programme of choruses, songs and recitations. One item, a song, "I'll Walk Beside You," was given by Bro. S. Loram, our St. Dunstaner.

Free cigarettes and a bottle of beer for each man was another kindly thought which was much appreciated, and, like the concert, greatly enjoyed.

R.A.O.B. News

Congratulations to J. Jackson, of Patcham, who was raised to the Third Degree (K.O.M.) at the Queen Alexandra Lodge, Brighton, on June 18th.

" In Memory "

Rifleman John Bertie Wheeler, *Royal Irish Rifles*

With deep regret we record the death of J. B. Wheeler, of Birmingham.

He served with the Royal Irish Rifles from July, 1917, until May, 1919. From the outset he was a very sick man, having contracted sleeping sickness while on service, but in his quiet way he was able to carry on a little while with netting, taught to him after he came to St. Dunstan's in 1929.

While on a visit to the Blackpool Home he was taken seriously ill and later he returned home, but he died very shortly afterwards in hospital.

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

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, who had nursed him devotedly for so many years, and to his son.

Mrs. M. Moore

It is with deepest regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Margaret Moore, Telephony Instructress and Placement Officer at St. Dunstan's since 1917.

Mrs. Moore was taken ill at St. Dunstan's Headquarters on Friday, July 7th. For some days, although her condition was serious, it was hoped she would rally, but she passed away on Friday, July 14th, without recovering full consciousness.

Mrs. Moore came to us in 1917, from the National Telephone Exchange, where she had been a supervisor, to undertake the training of St. Dunstaners in what was then a new profession. To her sympathetic and skilful training is greatly due the amazing success our telephonists of the last war have achieved in all parts of the country. But not for this alone will she be remembered by St. Dunstaners. They will recall also her kindness and understanding, her intense interest in her "boys" and their families, not only during their training but throughout their lives; and her unsparing service at all times to ensure their success in the profession of which she was so proud. "We shall miss her cheery word, her inspiring influence, and kindly help in a hundred ways," said one of her men, and this will be echoed by St. Dunstan's last war telephonists in all parts of the country.

Mr. W. H. Ottaway represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral, which took place at Enfield Crematorium on July 18th.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Miss Goodship, her sister, who is also so well known to our telephonists, and to the other members of her family in their sad loss.

Wounded

The son of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Barnard, of Wanstead, was wounded in action in Normandy in the early days of the invasion, and is now in hospital.

Birth

SINGLETON.—To the wife of A. H. Singleton, of Castle Bytham, on June 28th, a daughter.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to the following:—

KEMPE.—To S. Kempe, of Redruth, whose wife passed away on July 13th, after a long illness.

MARSDEN.—To Mr. and Mrs. E. Marsden, of Pendleton, whose daughter, Rosie, died on July 17th.

ROGERS.—To Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Rogers, of Biggleswade, whose son died on June 22nd as the result of a motor accident.

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

On Saturday, April 15th, Messrs. Lyons, of Cadby Hall, brought along a team to oppose us in our first duplicate match of the season; it was an excellent one and resulted in a win for us. On the first Saturday in June our friend, J. Callow, brought along a team from the Post Office, and this match ended in a win for the visitors. On June 17th, another of our friends, J. Waller, came along with a team from the Civil Service, and we recorded our second win.

Our first Bridge Drive took place on Saturday, May 20th, when A. Waite and his partner, and F. Winter and his partner were the prize-winners.

Many League matches have been played during the past few months, and also much friendly rubber bridge; and we look forward, ere the season closes, to more excellent Bridge and pleasant companionship.

May I extend the good wishes of the Club to our Captain and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. H. Gover, upon their silver wedding, and to express the hope that good health and good Bridge may be theirs for the future.

R.P.C.