

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

Well Done, Music Department!

TWO excellent audiences gave a tremendous reception to the St. Dunstan's Music Department's first performance on the afternoon and evening of Saturday, October 14th. The concert or revue was in aid of the Shropshire Red Cross, and it afforded St. Dunstan's an opportunity of expressing its thanks to the town of Shrewsbury, as well as to the Red Cross itself for many kindnesses.

The St. Dunstan's community at Church Stretton of two or three hundred men and staff is a limited one in which to find talent, for musical talent is relatively rare. It was a gratifying surprise, therefore, to see how much could be made out of so little, and the whole show went with a swing from beginning to end. Claud Bampton, the Director of Music, who was ably helped by John Toner and others, received the well-merited congratulations and thanks of all concerned, for the show reflected not only the painstaking and careful teaching of many individuals, but also a high degree of art and artfulness in matching artists to their jobs or making jobs to suit the artists.

The items that moved me most were those performed by St. Dunstaners who had the double handicap of blindness and the loss of their hands. David Bell's trombone solo, Bert Baldwin's vibraphone solo, Freddie Higgs' performance on the xylophone, and Jimmie Ellis's splendid effort with so few fingers on the trumpet were the high spots of the evening. Once or twice artists were accompanied a little too loudly, but Tommy Gaygan put this right with his big drum when we came to God Save the King at the end. Although all the players and solo artists and chorus, numbering perhaps fifty in all, were accompanied by the orchestra, two pianos, the rumba band and the audience, Tommy's solo on the big drum stood out defiantly. He was not going to be drowned, and he wasn't! I felt sorry for the drum, or for anyone else who got in Tommy's way, and I thought this demonstration typified the unconquerable spirit. It brought a lump to my throat and I couldn't sing.

There was a very attractive costume item in which Beryl Sleight was accompanied by Jock Steel, Bridget Downer and Zillah Jones. In this and other items, Beryl Sleight sang delightfully and gave us all great pleasure, and the audience insisted upon an encore. Extracts from "Carmen" and "Chu Chin Chow," beautifully presented and dressed, gave an opportunity to many artists, and Gwennie Obern, singing the lead in "Carmen," charmed us all. For the special benefit of her husband and mother, who were there to hear her, Gwennie sang as an encore "These You Have Loved," which was very moving.

There were so many good things that it is impossible to remember them all, but Sidney Kitson's "Old Man River," Joe Weeks' West Country song, and a bit of fun provided by "Nick" Carter and Freddie Freeland, Ken Revis, and Desmond Coupe remain in my memory. Amongst the concerted items I thought the squeeze box band took a very high place, and it owed a lot to Violet Formstone's leadership. She handled with great dash and rhythm a squeeze box nearly as big as herself, but not bigger than her spirit.

Well done, St. Dunstaners all; I look forward to hearing you again.

The Government's National Insurance Scheme

Many St. Dunstaners have asked me how the Government's new Social Insurance proposals affect them. We had a big debate in Parliament about this during the month, and I took the opportunity of speaking and said that the Government should make clear exactly how disabled soldiers, sailors and airmen stood. The Government's White Paper expresses some doubt whether the social security benefits will apply to those who are in receipt of disability pensions and to their dependents or not. Personally I am in no doubt about what would be fair in this connection, namely, that he who pays a full contribution should receive the full benefit. If this principle is accepted then it would mean that every St. Dunstaner who is employed or who is working fully on his own account in, for example, a massage practice or a small shop or a poultry farm, would have to pay the full premium appropriate to his category, and would receive the full benefits if he was ill or unemployed, or when he retired.

I do not think a disability pension should be taken into account in any way, for it has nothing whatever to do with this social insurance scheme. At any rate, this is the principle which we shall continue to press for in the House of Commons, and we will not be satisfied with anything less. Meantime, Mr. Askew has set up a small staff committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Rice, who has legal training and experience, to consider the implications of the Social Insurance Scheme from St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners' point of view. The work of this committee will enable us to be thoroughly informed about every detail so that later on, when we come to the appropriate stage in legislation, we shall know how to deal with the various points that will arise. It should be remembered that the Government's White Paper is a preliminary step laying down the principles, and that it will not be until legislation follows that we shall get down to the final proposals and to detailed action.

One point is very much in our minds, namely, that we must preserve for the older St. Dunstaners any rights they have attained under previous legislation, such as the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Pensions Act, to which so many of our men are voluntary contributors.

Dog Licences and the Blind

Some time ago, a St. Dunstaner wrote to me asking whether a blind person is entitled to keep a dog without a licence. Following a complaint about his dog—not a guide dog—a policeman had asked to see his licence. My correspondent had thought, like many other blind people, that a licence was not necessary, and so he could not produce one. In order to get an authoritative ruling upon the matter, I wrote to Mr. V. W. G. Ranger, who is St. Dunstan's legal adviser, and I think it worth while to give his reply. This is what he said:

"The obligation to take out a dog licence was imposed by the Dog Licences Act, 1867 An exception in favour of blind persons was made by Section 21 of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1878, which reads as follows:—

"21. *Provision as to dogs used by blind persons.* Nothing in the Dog Licences Act, 1867, or in this part of the Act, shall render a licence necessary in the case of a dog kept and used solely by a blind person for his or her guidance, or render such person liable to any penalty in respect of a dog so kept and used.

"You will see that the exception is only in favour of a dog 'kept and used solely by a blind person for his or her guidance.' It would not, therefore, apply to any dog, but only to what your correspondent refers to in his letter as a guide dog."

Wireless Licences

New St. Dunstaners may be interested to have exact particulars of the scheme of wireless licences for the blind. The Wireless Telegraphy (Blind Persons Facilities) Act, 1926, to give it its full name, was the result of a Bill which I introduced in the House of Commons, and it provides that every blind person in this country shall have a free wireless licence. Application for these licences is made by St. Dunstan's on behalf of all its men.

Dilsed?

An amateur brailist who is a friend of mine wrote an exercise for his instructor. He made one or two mistakes, and when these were pointed out to him he told me jokingly that he felt thoroughly dilsed—spelled D-I-L-S-E-D. Has my friend coined a new word for the St. Dunstan's dictionary? What does it mean? And where did he get it from?

IAN FRASER.

Grand Christmas Draw

A generous friend of St. Dunstan's, living in America, has sent us a consignment of articles, including some splendid toys, which he wished us to dispose of for the benefit of St. Dunstaners. In the ordinary way, the gifts would be sold in aid of our funds, but in view especially of the great shortage of good toys, the Chairman has decided to give St. Dunstaners the opportunity of obtaining one by means of a Grand Christmas Draw. Tickets will be one shilling each, and the proceeds, after expenses have been deducted, will be given to the Comforts Fund. Thus the gift will serve a double purpose. It will give St. Dunstan's men a chance of obtaining a valuable and useful article, and their sons in the Services will benefit by the contribution to our Comforts Fund.

First Prize—A White Damask Tablecloth, 10ft. by 5ft.

Second Prize—A Pair of Single-bed Sheets

Third Prize—A Chest of Four Games

and there are other prizes of a man's long-sleeved pullover, a fine table-game "Pollyanna," a soft elephant, and eighteen lovely dolls, each one opening and closing its eyes.

We want to make this Draw a big success, so send along your application at once to the Editor at 9-11 Park Crescent, enclosing a postal order, made payable to St. Dunstan's, and crossed, to cover the amount of your entries.

Only St. Dunstaners are allowed to take part in this Draw, and prizes will on no account be handed over to anyone else.

The closing date is December 12th, the Draw will be made by a St. Dunstaner on December 14th, and all prizes will be despatched in good time for Christmas.

Twenty-five years in the City

Many congratulations to W. H. Harding, of Finsbury Park, who, on November 11th, attained his "silver anniversary" at his job. He is a telephonist in the City, and he has the additional handicap of the loss of a leg and three fingers. His friends will join with us in sending him our good wishes, and echo the Chairman's words: "With this serious extra disability, to have stuck it through the war years with their dangers and hazards, particularly the dangers which have surrounded everyone working in the City of London, is a very remarkable feat."

New War St. Dunstaner's Legion Appointment

Congratulations to Captain R. W. Slatter, now an Army Welfare Officer, upon his election to the Committee of the Durdham Down Branch of the British Legion. He has also been elected as one of the two members representing the Branch to sit on a Services Committee for investigating hardship cases and awarding assistance. He was also nominated to sit on the County Committee, an honour which he had to decline.

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, at 9-11 Park Crescent, London. W.1.

At Buckingham Palace

Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Salter, of Battersea, went to Buckingham Palace on November 14th, when the King decorated their son, Tom, a Flight Sergeant in the R.A.F., with the Distinguished Flying Medal.

Church Stretton Notes

Saturday, October 14th, was a big day for St. Dunstan's. Many weeks of hard work by the musical trainees and staff resulted in two performances—afternoon and evening—of an excellent Variety Show at the Walker Hall, Shrewsbury, in aid of the Red Cross, and under the patronage of the Mayor and Mayoress. The crowded audiences were most appreciative, and no wonder! Result, with auction in the interval: £250 for the Red Cross. Heartly congratulations to Messrs. Bampton and Toner and all the others who worked with them.

Previously, at another informal Concert in our Central Hall, by trainees, F/O. Tommy Round, from Conover, was a most welcome guest; the audiences kept demanding more of his lovely tenor songs.

Poor weather has greatly restricted outdoor sports, but there have been some other innovations. A class for Indian Clubs meets weekly at Longmynd, coached by an Army Instructor; eight members, led by Tommy Rogers, enjoy the novelty and exercise. Invitations to the Wolverhampton Football Club have been gladly accepted, when Mr. Carter gives a running commentary on the matches. Riding has also become very popular, under Miss Canti's escort.

One evening Longmynd gave a lovely party for over two hundred guests; dancing, a wonderful supper and entertainment by six members from the American Red Cross—a big success awarding our kind hosts' organisation and work. Two play-readings at Denehurst by the staff made popular evenings, "The Frightened Lady" and "Love from a Stranger."

The Musical Circle's monthly concert, with Kathleen Coxon (soprano), Mrs. Steele and Mr. Toner (at the pianos), and Mr. Kitson (vocalist) gave another good evening's programme.

A lunch-time Concert brought us "Hutch," with Connor and Drake, from the Dudley Hippodrome; and there have been two Sunday afternoon Concerts, one with light music, Vernon Adcock and Orchestra, Sylvia Wood (vocalist), and Tarrent Bailey (banjo); the other when our faithful Mr. Jaques Brown, from Birmingham, brought the B.B.C. Midland Light Orchestra, conductor, Rae Jenkins, and Victor Newbury and Margery Westbury, soloists.

Dance invitations have been enjoyed from Toc H, at Morris's Ballroom, Shrewsbury; the Welshpool Welfare Workers, under Col. Lewis; Conover; Cophorne; and Shawbury; and a Caledonian Dance at Morris's Ballroom. At our own Hall the month's visitors include the Monkmoor R.A.C. Band, the Nesscliffe Concert Party and Band, R.A.F. High Ercall Band and Cabaret, and K.S.L.I. Band.

Another evening by the Crofts Hermits Repertory Co., with the farce, "Springtime for Henry," as usual drew—and much amused—a large audience.

Those leaving us this month include George Allen, of Hull, to take up an appointment as upholsterer at Messrs. Armstrongs (Hull) Ltd.; H. I. Morris-Jones, after a short stay, returning to his home at Birkenhead; W. Burnett, to work a No. 2 Ward Capstan Lathe, at Messrs. Armstrong-Whitworth, Gateshead; Ronny Ellis, as telephonist to Messrs. Charlesworth Bodies, Ltd., Gloucester; P. Spring, to join the successful boot-repairing depot at Chessington; and Jimmy Ellis, to go on St. Dunstan's Publicity Staff, at which work he has already been doing well. (Incidentally he sped off by the night train, after taking part in the Shrewsbury Red Cross Concert, to be in time for a St. Dunstan's Week at Kendal.) Good luck to each and all.

Congratulations to the following, who have passed tests:—

Typing.—B. Baldwin, J. Wells, C. D. Parker, H. Appleyard, G. Goodwin, S. Spence, G. Wood, J. Koehorst, C. Christensen, E. Brown, J. D. White, P. Baker, W. Rayton, G. Preston, J. B. Windsor, H. Simcocks.

Braille Interpoint Reading.—R. Theobald, A. Evanno (French Abrégé).

Braille Interline Reading.—C. Chadwick, R. Goding, E. Jensen, A. Reagan, J. B. Windsor, A. J. Edmonds, F. Wareham.

Wounded

We have heard with regret that Dick Doyle, son of Mr. and Mrs. "Mickey" Doyle, of London, W., has lost a foot through the explosion of a mine in Italy.

★ ★ ★
The youngest son of our late St. Dunstan, R. A. Newton, has been wounded in action but is now convalescent.

At Arnhem

Geoffrey Stanners, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Stanners, of High Wycombe, has been reported missing at Arnhem. He was a member of a Field Ambulance attached to the First Airborne Division, and it is our hope that he may have volunteered to remain behind to look after the wounded.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Fishwick, who was also reported missing at Arnhem, is now known to be a prisoner-of-war.

Sons and Daughters in the Services

ARNOLD, Bdr. R., Field Regt.
ARNOLD, Capt. J. A., R.A.O.C.
ARNOLD, Cpl. Betty, W.A.A.F.
AVEY, Gnr. D. P., Royal Artillery.
BARLEY, Pte. James W., Lincolnshire Regt.
BISHOP, Cpl. A., Royal Air Force.
BOOTHMAN, Fireman S., Royal Navy.
BURLEY, Pte. L. H. (Cornwall), S. Staffordshire Regt.
CASHMORE, Marine N. A., Royal Marines.
CLAY, A.M.2 R. (Nottingham), Royal Air Force.
COLEMAN, L.A.C. P. (Northampton), Royal Air Force.
COPLAND, A.C.2 J. R., Royal Air Force.
DAVIES, L.A.C. R. (Blockley), Royal Canadian Air Force.
DAVIES, L.A.C. S. (Blockley), Royal Air Force.
DIMOND, Pte. S., Training Bn.
DYER, O/S. Dennis, Royal Navy.
EDWARDS, A/M. S. J. (Tottenham), Royal Air Force.
FOWLER, Pte. F. (York), Pioneer Corps.
GOBURN, 2nd Lieut. P. C. C., Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.
GREAVES, S/Leader D. W. (Oldham), Royal Marines.
HERMON, Leading Wren Alma, W.R.N.S.
HURST, Pte. F. (Derbyshire), P.T.W.
JEROME, Trooper Keith, R.A.C.
LATH, Pte. A., I.T.C.
LATH, A.C.1 S., Royal Air Force.
LEONARD, Capt. R. (Brighton), South Staffordshire Regt.
MCFARLANE, Gnr. R. (Dundee), Training Battery, School of Survey.
MOELLER, Dvt. C. W., Royal Army Service Corps.
OVERILL, Dvt. A. C., Royal Air Force.
PARKER, Raymond (Marston), Royal Navy.
PORTER, Cadet A. H. S. W. (Kingston), Royal Navy.
PORTER, Sergt. E. F. O. W. (Kingston), Royal Air Force.
PRICE, L/Cpl. W. A. (Enfield), 1st Seaforth Highlanders.
PRIEST, R. (Birmingham), Royal Navy.
ROBERTS, Pte. A. (Dukinfield), P.T.C.
RODGERS, A.C.2 W. R. (Barrow-in-Furness), Royal Air Force.
SAMWORTH, Stoker A. T., Royal Navy.
SAMWORTH, Stoker T. E., Royal Navy.
SCALLY, Marine John, Royal Marines.
SCOTT, L.A.C. Leslie (Langley), Royal Air Force.
SHURROCK, Pte. S. V. S., C.M.P. (T.C.)
STEVENS, A.B. H. W. (Wokingham), Royal Navy.
STRAW, Pilot Officer Bernard (Nottingham), Royal Air Force.
TRIGGS, Pte. L. J. (Ashford), The Buffs.

Promotions

Robert Black, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Black, Newcastle, to Flight Sergeant.

Walter Turrell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Turrell, of Leeds, to the rank of Pilot Officer.

Arthur Weedall to the rank of Third Wireless Officer of a Naval Transport.

Bernard Straw, son of our late St. Dunstan, Lewis Straw, and Mrs. Straw, to Pilot Officer.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Henderson, of Becontree, to the rank of Captain, R.A.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages:

Dorothy Stibbles (Pitlochry), on October 19th, to Jan Mohlmann, of the Royal Netherlands Navy.

Beatrice (Nelly) Robinson (Welby), on October 28th,

The son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Barley, Scunthorpe, on August 17th, to Miss Evelyn Ward.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Lamb, Hull, on October 28th, to Pte. Charles Paton, of the Liverpool Scottish Regt.

L/Cpl. Jean Smith (Bolsover), on August 24th, to Petty Officer Donald I. Haynes.

Queen Mary and a Young St. Dunstaner

The son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Brampton, of Hornsey, sent his parents some interesting news recently. He wrote:

Queen Mary gave me a lift in her car on Saturday evening. I was making for Chippenham, and they put me out right in the crowded main market street. After having saluted her, I went to move away, when she opened the door and called out, "Don't go. Don't go just for a minute. I'd like you to accept this little medallion." I saluted once again, and as I moved away I heard the people saying: "It's the Queen Mother, and she's given him a medal."

It started like this. Another fellow and myself had just started on the road to Chippenham. I recognised the royal car and so I stood to attention and saluted. It pulled up just by the side of me, and the attendant, addressing me, said they could give one of us a lift (there were already two ladies, a fellow in a top hat, as well as Queen Mary in the back). I said to the other fellow, "You go, Harry," but he said, "No, you go, Charlie," so Charlie jumped in.

Armistice Day, 1944

On the morning of November 11th, Sir Ian Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser and a party of St. Dunstaners, laid a wreath on the Cenotaph, on behalf of St. Dunstan's men throughout the Empire. Sergt. Major Norman Perry and Jack Vincent, at present undergoing massage training in London, represented the men of this war, and Drummer Downs represented the men of the 1914-1918 war. Orderlies Watson and Gibbon escorted the party.

On the evening of November 11th, a party of St. Dunstaners in training at Church Stretton were the guests of the British Legion at the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall. The party included nine Canadians: Capt. J. B. Windsor, Sergt. R. J. Radcliffe, Sergt. A. E. Daniel, Cpl. G. Bertrand, Sergt. F. Koenig, Pte. T. O. Smith, Gunner W. H. Simmons, Pte. S. C. Henry, and Pte. G. V. Deveau; an American soldier, Sergt. R. Robinson; and six men from our own Forces: Sergt. J. White, Ordinary Seaman D. Tickner, Sapper E. Cookson, Pte. S. Mitchell, Pte. B. Josey, and Sergt. G. Miller. The overseas party was escorted by Air Commodore Dacre, Matron Pain, Miss Sey, and Mrs. Osler (Canadian V.A.D.s) and Orderly J. Geoglin, also of Canada. Miss Berry and Miss Strachan, V.A.D.s, and Orderly Wilkins, escorted the second party.

During the proceedings the Chairman took Lord Woolton, who was the principal guest of the Legion, to visit our party in their boxes, and he had a greeting and a personal word for everyone there.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,

I see from the Chairman's notes in last month's magazine that we are likely to be returning to Brighton. As far as West House is concerned I hope the Chairman will give this priority treatment, as us men who have stuck our jobs and stayed put, as the Government told us, are beginning to feel we would like to smell the sea again.

As far as radio-location is concerned, it sounds very complicated to me, but I hope I will be spared to attend the first telephonist dinner, when we all arrive on a beam and a prayer.

About the rifle range. I don't think I would like to be near some of my old

colleagues if they had a rifle in their hands, but there may be something in it.

I think the young men at Church Stretton are asking for trouble if they try to go about without a stick. I know the white stick has its advantages, because I've tried it, but I am sure the Chairman will be glad to hear that I am now carrying an ordinary stick.

In all my 27 years at St. Dunstan's I have never heard of anyone carrying a stick indoors.

Yours sincerely,

JOCK MACFARLANE.

Queen's Park, W.10.

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,

Re the Chairman's remarks in the last REVIEW about walking sticks, perhaps the following items may be of use to some St. Dunstaners. I have a fairly long walking stick, with a hook which can be hooked over if strap hanging in a bus. For walking about country roads by myself, or along fields, I have a thumb stick. It is cut so that when using it one's forearm is at right angles to the elbow. My thumb is in the fork, three fingers are around the stick, and the little finger on the inside. I can then swing the stick most naturally by manipulating the little finger, and keep in touch with hedge, wall, fence, etc., without displaying any signs of awkwardness or having to tap. My dog has a little bell on his collar, runs loose when in fields, but when going along the road I have a long lead, and he keeps dead straight in front of me, swerving round any obstacle.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN STEPHENS.

Carmarthen.

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,

Sir Ian's notes in the REVIEW on radio-location greatly interested me.

When chatting once with the late Mr. Atkinson, he spoke of the difficulty of the deaf when doing a job that required finding a solid spot. To drive a nail into a stud and plaster wall, for instance, one must tap the wall and find a stud in which to drive the nail. Now this is not hearing, but feeling, and the feeling is the result of vibration.

In the case of vibration, I have found soil plays a great part. Will soil play a part in the

identification of objects? I once wrote a letter to the *Daily Sketch* and asked the question: "Does vibration travel quicker than sound?" The letter was published, and later a Professor Low replied that vibration did travel quicker than sound.

My whole object has been to find a way and means of guiding the deaf-blind by means of vibration, but I must admit I find the whole subject very complicated. Sir Ian Fraser said "ideas come in battalions." I also think two ideas can work together, and that one is often no use without the other. I feel that sound would be no use unless vibration was also included, for it strikes me that there can be no sound without some vibration.

Yours sincerely,

Southwick.

G. FALLOWFIELD.

From India to New Zealand by Air

Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who has been responsible for the establishment of a St. Dunstan's in India, recently left for a well-deserved leave. He completed the journey from Delhi to Auckland, New Zealand, by air, and he writes:

"We came down through a storm of clouds on to Auckland Harbour and in a few moments I was with the family. The journey was most interesting, especially the big hop by Liberator from Ceylon to Australia, 19 hours 23 minutes non stop. I have since been sent a certificate by the Air Service conferring on me the unofficial title of Member of the Elevated Order of the Longest Hop in the World. The improvised accommodation was not particularly comfortable, but our cheery party enjoyed itself, remote and alone in that vast space of ocean, cloud and stars."

Shortly before Sir Clutha left, Major Ivor Gibb, son of our late St. Dunstaner, the Rev. Harold Gibb, was a welcome visitor at the Indian St. Dunstan's. He took the greatest interest in the Home, and on leaving made a generous gift, to be spent on training. It has been decided to spend it on musical instruments for the doubly-disabled Indians—a memorial to his father.

David Strachan, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Strachan, of Motherwell, has been accepted as medical student in Glasgow University. There were 160 places and 800 applications.

Braille*

Persistent as the knights of old

Who sought the Holy Grail,

My fingers sought solution

To that dot-scarred sheet of Braille;

I knew not what I was reading,

It was all so strange to me,

And the dots danced under my fingers

Like corks on a troubled sea.

Dizzy my brain was growing

But I tackled them all again,

The Commas and Semis and Colons,

Those fruits of a fertile brain.

Quotations, Full-stops and Contractions

Of these, of course, there were lots.

But to me they held no meaning;

Just a bunch of wandering dots.

Quotations, Contractions, Asterisks—

Bad actors, but I rode 'em, all three,

With a Question-mark holding the spotlight

And setting the pace for me.

The spasm that followed was reading,

And I knew in my soul that at last

Retribution had caught up and was dealing

Full justice for the sins of the past

For I struck one word that held me,

Like a strap holds the luckless fawn.

From dusk on a Saturday evening

Till the break of Sunday's dawn:

Then, still in marching order,

I lay tossing on my bed,

With the wandering dots of Monsieur Braille

Changing pickets, in my head.

Then a Comma, big and burly,

Seemed to call to me "Who's there?"

And the Semis and the Colons

Did gymnastics on the stair;

The ceiling danced with question marks

Quotations climbed the wall,

And Asterisks fell from the dancing roof

Like leaves in early fall.

Then a girl in white came gliding in

Full in the moonlight's shine,

To gather up those wandering dots,

Saying softly, "These are mine."

Then the ghost of Monsieur Braille appeared,

And as my wits grew keener,

I heard him praise the girl in white,

And the name he used was "Tena."

As the compass is through darkened seas

To the Master-mariner's mind,

As the wireless brings to the Northland wastes

The news of all mankind,

Just as "His Word" came through all the years,

By print and word of mouth,

Bringing comfort to the East and West,

The Northland and the South,

So did the wandering dots of Braille

To those who learn and read,

Bring comfort to the darkened eyes

Of every class and creed;

And, in His Name and Will Divine,

That will that never fails,

The truth and light can yet be found

In those wonderful dots of Braille's.

TED FLETCHER (Winnipeg).

*We are indebted to Captain William Appleby for these verses, which appeared in a recent issue of an ex-servicemen's magazine.

"In Memory"

Private Jack Yare, 1/10th King's Liverpool Scottish Regt.

We have to record with deep regret the death of J. Yare, of Liverpool.

Enlisting in March, 1917, he was wounded at Festubert, as a result of which he was blinded, receiving also very severe facial wounds. He came to us in August of the following year. For a while he had a small business, but in late years he was only able to carry on with wool-rug making.

His death occurred at the home of his sister-in-law, who has cared for him since the death of his wife in the Liverpool raids in March, 1941. His own death was accelerated by the same incident.

He was buried at Ford Cemetery, and his father, who is 81, was able to attend the funeral. Unfortunately his son, in the R.A.F., arrived after his father had died, but he had been allowed compassionate leave during his last illness.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was among the flowers. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his son and daughter, and to Mrs. Malone.

Ernest Edward Deller, 1st Bedfordshire Regt.

With deep regret we record the death of E. E. Deller, of Luton.

Blinded in the battle of the Somme, in 1916, he came to St. Dunstan's a year later and was trained as a mat-maker. He carried on with this occupation until he was taken ill at the beginning of September. He passed away on October 4th, at the age of sixty-one.

The funeral took place at Luton Church Cemetery, and St. Dunstan's was represented by Mr. T. H. Panton, and St. Dunstaners E. W. Emerton and J. Colley. Mrs. Emerton and Mrs. Colley were also present. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, daughter and son-in-law.

L/Cpl. Percy Moncrieff Austin, 7th Northants Regt.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of P. M. Austin, of Austin Ferrers.

He was wounded in France in March, 1916, when he was blinded and also received damage to his right foot. He trained as a mat-maker and basket-maker. At the latter he particularly excelled, and he carried on with a little work right up to the time of his last illness. His death took place at his home on October 15th.

He was cremated, and the wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was later placed in the Garden of Remembrance at Kettering Crematorium.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife and son.

Birth

GREEN.—To the wife of S. Green, of Gosport, on October 24th, a daughter—Sarah Linda.

Marriages

BATES—HEATH.—On October 8th, E. Bates, of Rhyl (late of Leatherhead), to Miss H. Heath.

BLACKWELL—HOLLINGSWORTH.—On August 12th, at St. Luke's Church, Charlton, London, Sergt. James Blackwell, D.C.M. (new war St. Dunstaner), to Miss Gladys Hollingsworth.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following, who are celebrating anniversaries:—

Mr. and Mrs. J. Kempster, Berkhamstead, May 1st; Mr. and Mrs. H. Kidger, Bridgnorth, October 20th; Mr. and Mrs. S. Batten, Bridgewater, December 17th.

Wanted

CLOCKWORK or ELECTRIC TRAIN and rails, also any accessories. Must be in good condition. State price.—Chapple, Rockshaw Lodge, Rockshaw Road, Merstham, Surrey.

Braille Letters from Prisoners of War

Mr. H. G. M. Strutt, of the British Red Cross (Invalid Comforts Section), who has done such splendid work for our own blinded prisoners of war, tells us that he has recently started a service whereby sighted prisoners of war can send letters to a blind relative, which Mr. Strutt will put into braille and send on.

For all members of the Forces other than prisoners of war, this is done by the National Institute for the Blind.

Mr. Strutt writes: "I think that there are St. Dunstaners who can read braille and who have sons who are prisoners of war. If so, they can avail themselves of this new service of letters from sighted prisoners to blind relatives. Such letters can be sent to me, and should clearly show the name and address of the intended recipient, and be marked: "For brailing."

For those St. Dunstaners who would like their prisoner of war sons to take advantage of Mr. Strutt's kind offer, his address is: Wimbourne House, Arlington Street, London, S.W.1.