

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

Questions in Parliament

WHEN you raise a matter in Parliament you may have varying degrees of success. Sometimes you get what you want at once, sometimes there is much delay, sometimes you fail.

For some years I was much concerned with the difference between the pensions paid for this war and for the last war, and with the fact that the wives' and children's allowance was only paid when the disabled ex-service man was married, or the children were born, before he was disabled. These were tough nuts to crack and we took a long time and much organisation and many questions and debates, but last year we succeeded in getting the pensions made the same for both wars, and we succeeded partially over the wives' and children's allowance, by getting it made payable, together with a special allowance, for those who were unable to work. We welcome this partial success, but are still working away to get the wives' and children's allowance for all.

An example of a quicker result occurred recently. In July, in a Debate on War Pensions generally, amongst many other matters I referred to artificial limbs, and said:

"I have recently made a survey, in a small way, of some of the provisions made by the Ministry of Pensions for artificial limbs for disabled men. What I hear about artificial legs is that they are very good. But with artificial hands that is not the case. The hand is a wonderful instrument, with its flexibility and its capacity, hardly capable of being imitated in any material. Although some men use artificial hands for their jobs, and some wonderful successes are attained, there is 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.

A hand suitable for a one-handed man cannot be doubled for a man who has lost both hands—different considerations arise. Nor is it true that a hand suitable for men who can see is suitable for men who cannot see.

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 work.

The Ministry of Pensions should itself set up a research department, to find out what are the new materials and the new methods.

We want someone who is free from the manufacturing or the administrative embarrassment to give inventive research thought to this problem.

Where men have lost legs, arms or eyes—and sometimes more than one of these—no skill and thought is too much to give."

At the same time, I wrote to the Minister about cases of delay in supplying artificial limbs, and the Commandant, together with our Engineer, visited Roehampton to urge matters forward. The result came when the Minister of Pensions announced, in the House, that he was setting up a Committee to consider the design, development, and use of artificial limbs and appliances connected therewith. I am glad to note that a good friend

of St. Dunstan's, and of all ex-service men, namely, Major Sir Brunel Cohen, who lost both his legs in the Great War, has been made Chairman of this Committee. The Commandant and our Engineer are now preparing evidence to submit to this Committee.

The other day I met Mr. A. H. McIndoe, famous plastic surgeon, who has done such wonderful work, principally for Air Force cases. He told me what a bad effect it had upon a young member of an air crew, who had been gravely burnt and might require a year or two of reconstruction work for his damaged face and hands to be arbitrarily dismissed from the Service before his wounds had really healed. A day or two later I was in our Hospital Unit at Stoke Mandeville and learnt from two or three St. Dunstaners how upset they were that they were going to be turned out of the Service before their wounds had healed. I immediately put down a question to the Service Ministers, in the following terms:

"To ask the Secretary of State if he will lengthen substantially the time during which disabled officers and men may remain in the Service, so that they may enjoy the pay and status thus afforded, and continue to wear uniform, thus minimising the invidious distinction between serving men and discharged men, who are in the same hospital at the same time."

And emphasised it by a supplementary question to the Air Minister:

"Is my right hon. Friend aware that there are—particularly in his Service, but, of course, in all Services—a number of most grievously wounded men who have facial injuries and burns, and that it is not just sentimental to say that the act of putting them out of the Service in the middle of their recovery of health has a profound and undesirable psychological effect upon them? Will my right hon. Friend concert with other war Ministers to see whether they can extend this time to cover the majority of those cases, and thus help their recovery?"

I am glad to say that this matter is now being considered at high level by all three Services, and though they all warn me that it is regarded as a very difficult question, I hope we may get something from them. We shall certainly go on pressing for it.

Although this matter is not yet settled, the effect of my question in the House was immediate, for I learned within a day or two that word has gone to our Hospital to hold up the discharge of a certain St. Dunstaner, at any rate for the time being.

Sometimes Ministers dig their toes in, and progress is difficult, and you have to work very hard. Sometimes it is much easier. A lot depends on whether the concession you are asking for creates precedence or administrative difficulties; something depends on the Minister himself and your relations with him. If you are always making a nuisance of yourself and are unreasonable, Ministers become prejudiced against you, and you get very little. If, on the other hand, you are too sweet and reasonable, they ignore you. You must find the happy medium. My motto is "make sure your case is a good one, and then prepare the ground thoroughly, get as many allies as possible, and then attack as vigorously as you can and keep the pressure on until you succeed."

Thoughts this Christmas-time

There is hardly a town or village in England, and scarcely one in the Dominions, where Lady Fraser and I have not a St. Dunstan's friend. We have to travel a good deal during this war, and often as we pass through a town or village we think of old so-and-so—perhaps I rowed with him on the Thames twenty-five years ago, or perhaps my wife told him very confidentially what his girl friend looked like, or turned his glass eyes the right way up, for they have a way of getting upside down.

We have travelled a good deal in the Empire, too, and there is hardly a town, and certainly not a major city, where St. Dunstaners could not give you a party. As I pass by, I often wish I could look in and have a word, more particularly since we have had to give up our After-Care Reunions. But in these strenuous times the thought must be taken for the deed, and we must look forward to the days of peace, when the old associations can be revived and friendships renewed.

This war has brought many new aspects of St. Dunstan's work. "Tembani," near Cape Town, in South Africa, was the first substantial St. Dunstan's Training Centre outside of Britain. The Commander in Chief, South Atlantic Fleet, has paid me the compliment of sending, quite unofficially and I am sure quite irregularly, on one of His Majesty's ships, a braille copy of the *Tembani Times*, bringing Christmas greetings to St. Dunstaners everywhere, and I was glad to hear of my many friends in what used to be my childhood home.

At the other end of the continent of Africa—St. Dunstan's Committee in Cairo, through whose gentle and skilful hands many Middle East casualties have passed. Further east—Dehra Dun, in India, where both European and Indian St. Dunstaners carry on our tradition. At the other side of the world, in each of the States of Australia and in New Zealand, St. Dunstaners of the last war share with Repatriation Departments and Governments the task of welcoming, re-training and settling blinded service men. And in New Zealand is a special hostel for the blinded service men, which they call "little St. Dunstan's." All are near to us in thought, but perhaps Canada is nearer to us in experience, for it so happens that large numbers of Canadian forces have fought in Europe, and there were consequently many casualties. A considerable number of Canadians have come to St. Dunstan's, some are there still, others have gone on to Toronto to finish their training. Our Allies, too, American, French, Dutch, Poles, all have been welcomed. I like to think of them all as St. Dunstaners, and that they will carry the St. Dunstan's story back to their own countries. And there are our prisoners-of-war—not so many now, since the Allies are advancing, but a brave little company in the heart of Germany. They too are St. Dunstaners, and wear our badge and belong to our brotherhood.

Nearly 500 men and women altogether make up the younger generation of St. Dunstan's. The newest are still in hospital, fresh from the battlefield; others are in training, others again have started out in the world. We think of you all, new and old, this Christmastide, we congratulate you on the splendid example you have set, of misfortune overcome, difficulties conquered, a place in the world assured. We think especially of your hundreds of children, splendid boys and girls serving in the Armed Forces all over the world. We wish you as happy a Christmas as war-time conditions will allow—a family reunion as soon as may be—and Peace and Goodwill in the New Year.

IAN FRASER.

Result of Grand Christmas Draw

To say that our Grand Christmas Draw was a success is an understatement. Applications poured in from the day it was first announced until the closing date.

The result of the Draw, made at 12 Park Crescent on December 14th, by St. Dunstaners Barbara Bell and M. Delaney (massage students), in the presence of Matron Walker, Sister Morrah, Miss Wilson, Messrs. A. Mace and G. Payne, and the Editor of the REVIEW, was as follows:—

Tablecloth—W. Raine, Tiptree (1249).

Sheets—C. Dennison, York (569).

Games—C. T. Kirk, Lancing (2202).

CONSOLATION PRIZES

Pullover—W. T. Curtis-Willson, Brighton (965).

Table game—J. C. Brown, Wellington (2204).

Soft elephant—A. Taylor, Lye (886).

The winners of the dolls were:—

M. J. Shinnars, Greenford (1109).

F. Hemsworth, Bentley (1821).

A. S. Henderson, Becontree (1998).

E. Batt, Bath (1521).

H. A. T. Pearce, Leighton Buzzard (1981).

W. G. Cox, Oxford (372).

G. A. Brown, Cricklewood (13).

A. Taylor, Lye (890).

R. H. Cook, Wallasey (1628).

G. Dawson, Newmarket (409).

J. Morgan, Bristol (2013).

W. Harris, Oxford (2064).

F. Ashworth, Burnley (109).

W. Reed, Barry (484).

G. Southen, Folkestone (2091).

J. E. Bell, Canvey Island (870).

N. Perry, Massage Hostel (33).

J. Woodhouse, Hulland (1110).

In addition to the prizes announced last month, Matron Pain sent us a doll and a woollen dog, which had been presented to her for the Comforts Fund, and these were afterwards drawn for.

The doll was won by D. Munro, East Coker (680) and the woollen dog went to W. Raine, Tiptree (1250).

2,270 tickets were sold at one shilling each. After deducting £7 10s. for printing and postage expenses, the magnificent sum of £106 has been sent to Matron Pain, for the Comforts Fund.

It only remains to express our thanks to all who so sportingly took part, and to say to our generous American friend, who made such a magnificent draw possible: "Thanks a lot."

All prizes were despatched in good time for Christmas. Congratulations to all the lucky winners.

Church Stretton Notes

Last month's Notes should have mentioned an innovation at Denehurst; their darts and dominoes teams have challenged teams from the "Plough," the "Pound" Inn, the "Green Dragon," the "Buck's Head," and the officers at All Stretton. Out of seven matches, only one was lost—bravo!

November 30th. St. Andrew's was well and truly kept by all St. Dunstan's Scotties—thanks to Capt. Stuart Spence's hospitable organising. Day broke with the skirl of pipes, and again they accompanied dinner, up and down the verandah and on to the roof; while in the evening the haggis (from Scotland) was played in with traditional ceremony, then the toasts, the reels . . . well, as spirits rose, somehow no one could give a very clear account by next morning! Anyway, it was a "gran' nicht"!

A Brains Trust at Longmynd gave a really good evening. Capt. Scrivens, Educational Officer, Welsh Border H.Q., brought a strong "Trust"—two A.T.S. Officers, a U.S.A. Doctor, Warrant Officer Pilgrim, and Earl Beauchamp (all in khaki) to deal impromptu with our questions. The thoughtful, well-expressed answers from such different points of view made us hope for another such evening; the questions, too, were good, ranging from the treatment of Germany, desirable virtues in a wife, the meaning of civilisation, to "If a clock will go for eight days without winding, how long will it go if wound?" Answered in four words!

A Repertory Company, spending some weeks in Church Stretton, very kindly offered us one night in our own Hall; it was clear how the audience enjoyed "Blithe Spirit." Many thanks to the "Earl Armstrongs."

Play-readings make popular diversions; staffs have given "While Parents Sleep," at Denehurst, and at Longmynd, "The Dover Road."

Another informal Concert by trainees and staff filled the Hall one evening. Tommy Rogers and Wally Such gave an excellent Indian Clubs display; Joe and Joan Walsh in duets; Mr. and Mrs. Steel and Miss Downer with 'cello, violin and piano; Beryl Sleigh, Joe Weeks, and other favourites, including our old friend, Mr. Edwards, with always popular interludes by Mr. Carter and Freddie Freeland.

Lunch-time Concerts have been given by Suzette Tarry and Rae Jenkins, also by Henry Hall and his company; this latter gave an opportunity for him to hear our own band first—an honour for them to play with him! Two Sunday afternoon Concerts were arranged by Mr. Jaques Brown, and the Borough Police and Civil Defence and the Condoover R.A.F. have given evening Concerts.

A visit from Dr. Thorne, from the U.S.A. opposite number to St. Dunstan's in Connecticut, should strengthen the link between the two places with the same aim.

There have been dances by invitation of Toc H at Morris' Ballroom, Shrewsbury; at Harlescott; at Lewis' Ballroom; and at Montford Bridge. Visiting Bands—Pioneer, R.A.F. and R.A.O.C., for the Monday dances.

A specially good C.E.M.A. Concert was arranged by the Musical Circle, including a Handel group of songs by Kenneth Ellis (bass), the Bees' Wedding, and Liszt Polonaise piano solos, and a Mozart trio and the Gipsy Rondo by Haydn.

The time has come for the Senior Massage Class to finish their course in London, staying at Croxley Green; we wish them all—Bob Kitt, Eric Foster, Bob Evans, Joe Weeks, Jock Inness, T. Vickers, Bill Morris, and Micky Burns—the best of luck.

Others leaving us to take up jobs are: Stan Tutton as assembler with British Overseas Airways Corporation; Alphonse Evanno as telephonist in Kensington; J. W. McConnell to start as shop-keeper in a St. Dunstan's shop in Salisbury at the New Year; and E. H. North should have been mentioned before as going to his home at Taunton to look after his garden and make wool rugs.

Our best wishes go with them all.

A resident doctor has now been added to the Church Stretton staff: Dr. Newsom, formerly resident in Rhodesia, will be welcomed by all—especially the Matrons and Nurses; we hope he won't have too many patients!

We congratulate the following, who have passed their tests:—

Typing.—W. G. Evans, S. Henry, J. Laffey, E. H. Daniel, E. Deaville, E. Cookson, L. Withington, T. Gaygen, A. Morgan.

Braille (Interline Reading).—W. Thornton, L. Northwood, W. Such, Tom Barton, A. Hobson.

Braille (Interpoint Reading).—V. Kenard, L. Rosenberg.

Writing.—R. Theobald, J. Franklin, W. Shea, H. Devenport, H. Briggs, E. Pratt, J. Humphrey.

Blackpool Notes

Hello, everybody—or, as one of the wee boys used to say many years ago—"Hello, all the bodies."

We are often told that the Blackpool Home is seldom mentioned in the REVIEW. Nevertheless we are very much in the running. Great concern is being felt at the moment owing to the exceptionally high tide, which is preventing the tram cars running down this end of the track. In fact, we are rather worried, as a few of our "star turns" have not yet been able to "romp home." However, if the storm abates the tapes will go up at "Squires gate," the tick-tack will be given to a passing taximan, the starters will reach the fish stakes, and very soon will finish the course. Elbow is given as a good tip—and we hope Barrel is still running. After all this, it is obvious that "Forty Winks" is the "nap of the day," and will win by a short, if sleepy, head.

On December 1st the Staff of Messrs. Marks & Spencer, Ltd., invited twelve of the troops to a very excellent party. Many of this war's wounded were also there, and all voted the evening a very great success. A hearty meal was provided, a good concert given, and a "Christmas parcel," containing many useful gifts, presented to each man. But it cannot be said that the parcel was "matchless," as each one contained a box of lucifers. Transport was provided both ways.

On November 17th we had a very jolly party in the house, our guests being the Mayor and Mayoress, who brought along with them the well-known Esmond Knight and his co-star at the Grand that week, Miss Evelyn Laye. They stayed nearly one and a half hours, and it was only when the tea gong went that we realised how the time had flown.

On Armistice Day, which is so definitely "the Old Boys' day," we had the usual short Service in the Lounge. After the

Service we went to the Cenotaph, where the wreath was placed by W. Biggs, of Leicester. Always on Armistice Day our thoughts return to the happy days at Portland Place, and the friends we have missed, but not really lost.

In the evening a party went to a Polish concert, where Jan Lasowski was so warmly welcomed by his own countrymen. Jan was asked to make a short speech about the work of St. Dunstan's, and although we could not tell a word he said, it was obvious from the faces and applause of his audience that he had told them something which inspired them. Practically all the programme was in Polish, of course, but three members of the Air Force sang a few songs in English, and the way they rendered "Polly Wolly Doodle" was a very clever and amusing item on the programme.

A short time ago a comic orchestra was formed and christened "Alfy Bright's Discoveries." They were well trained, and in a very short time were so clever on the different instruments that J. J. paid them the very great compliment of offering to lend them his drum outfit, so from two tin hats fastened together with elastoplast, a pair of castinets, the dinner gong muffled for a drum, and two tins of pills from the dispensary, not to mention little Alf's "bones," emerged the present gay little band. We dare not mention names for fear of being asked to perform on or over the radio, but still remain "Alfy Bright's Discoveries."

We have been pleased to welcome some of the sons and daughters of our St. Dunstaners from all parts of the British Isles, but it is hardly kind of them to appear as "marrieds—and parents" when we try to forget how the years are flying by.

All are sorry to lose our very excellent and ever kindly Orderly Addley, who, owing to ill-health, has had to be transferred to a warmer and kinder climate. However, our loss is the gain of some of the present-war men, and we hope he will be happy with them.

All at the Blackpool Home send greetings to all for Christmas and the New Year, and may 1945 re-unite your families and bring happiness and health. B. V-D.

The Editor regrets that many other items have unavoidably had to be left over until next month.

Parliament

Speaking in the Debate on the King's Speech in the House of Commons on December 1st, 1944, Sir Ian Fraser said:

There is no reference to ex-Servicemen in the King's Speech, not one word about the men who are serving and about the problems which will arise when the war is over and they come back. This is the last Session of this Parliament, and it may be that, by November next, we shall have concluded victoriously the German war, and may have had an election, or may be in the process of having an election. Therefore, this King's Speech in Parliament, the Grand Inquest of the Nation as it has been termed, seems to be the occasion for making up our minds what this Parliament will do to ensure that the men who come back from the war, and who will begin to come back, we hope, during next year, are adequately and properly cared for.

When the men do come home, what will they want? First, I think, they will want a home—a simple home, not a palace, somewhere where they can either revive the old home which has been broken up, or found a new home with a new wife, somewhere where they can have a little space for their children. They will want a home, and they will want furniture and pots and pans to put into it. Have we adequate assurance that these things are going to be provided? I do not believe that it is possible to provide homes for all, or pots and pans for all in a short time. The facts about the war damage and about the maximum capacity of our building trade in peace-time make it clear that there will be a demand for houses for some considerable time to come. If that is so, we shall have to take certain steps, if we are determined to see that, as far as possible, the men who return from the Armed Forces get a home. We cannot promise them all a home immediately, but, seeing that they have all been away for four or five years, living a hard life, divorced from their own home surroundings and their familiar sights and sounds, and their own folk, they must be made to feel that, if there are not enough for all, and not even enough for half, at least they shall have some priority in the allocation of homes, of furniture, and of pots and pans.

When a house or a home has been found for the returned man, what next? A job. I believe it is the honest intention of the Minister of Labour, whose work in this connection I admire, to try to get the utmost possible amount of employment for all at the earliest possible moment. I realise the point he frequently makes, that goodwill between the trades unionists and the returning ex-Service men is essential. It therefore follows that the ex-Service men must be wise in their own time and on their own side, and not ask too much by way of preference or priority, lest they lose some of the goodwill which the trades union movement is showing them.

If there is unemployment in a town, and there are ten men out of work and there are nine places, will anything be done to see that the ex-Serviceman is not the one to be left out? This is a plain question which the Minister of Labour cannot avoid, and about which it has to make up its mind. My own view is that where the man has been in the Armed Forces and where, in very many cases, he has been away from home, out of touch, unable to look after himself, when he comes back he must be given

some kind of priority. The Government do not have this in mind. They do not put it into the King's Speech. I believe that they do not intend to do it if the Minister of Labour can prevent it.

I say to the House that there must be a challenge on this matter. Unless the Government are prepared to say that, where there is a scarcity of employment in any place, perhaps for a limited time, preference is to be given to the men who come back after the war, they will have to be challenged in this House, or in the country when the election comes. I do not believe the nation will be satisfied to see that this preference is not given. A separate register will have to be kept in the Employment Exchanges, otherwise it will not be known who are the men and who are not. Under the pressure of this House the Minister of Labour did it in the Disabled Persons Act, when he set up a separate register of those who were ex-Servicemen, and he did take powers. Indeed, it was imposed upon him as a duty, where there were not enough places in the training establishments or in the factories, to give a preference to the ex-Servicemen. The House must ask the Government to extend that to fit returning men as well, and among them I include the men of the Merchant Navy, too often left out.

The important psychological point which I want to ask the House to consider is that the King's Speech contains no reference whatever to the anxieties of men now serving in the Forces, who are so soon to come back. They will feel that for five years they were wanted by the nation, and when the war has ended are they to come back and wonder whether they are wanted any more? It is not enough to say that our policy is one of full employment, and that our policy is to build houses, and they must have their share. The facts of the case in regard to them make it necessary for the Government, and if the Government are unwilling, for the House, to say that there must be a preference for them in these matters. The Government must undertake to set up a Select Committee to review the whole of our war pensions system. There are many principles and details in it which do not meet with universal approval, and if not before the election, then immediately after it, it seems to me there must be a Select Committee to review the whole matter, and place Parliament and the country in the position of knowing all the facts, and of hearing evidence from all and sundry.

Letter to the Editor

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

DEAR SIR,

In regard to the possible derivation of the word "dilsed," one would obtain this if, in writing it in braille, dots 1, 2 and 3 were used instead of 4, 5, 5 immediately before the letter "s." That is to say, if one slipped up in writing "dispirited," one would write this new word "dilsed."

Yours sincerely,

J. D. CALDER.

Coventry.

Editor's Note.—This is the right answer and the only one so far received.

Births

ASH.—To the wife of Maxwell Ash, of Burnham-on-Sea (new war St. Dunstaner), on December 7th, a daughter—Hilary Mary.

KIRSTEIN.—To the wife of A. D. Kirstein, of South Africa, on November 10th, a son.

Sir Arthur Pearson Anniversary

St. Dunstaners in all our Homes, and in all parts of the Empire, paid tribute to the memory of our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, on the anniversary of his death, Saturday, December 9th. Where possible, special services were held and the St. Dunstaners' own wreath was placed on Sir Arthur's grave in Hampstead Cemetery by the Chairman, during the morning of the 9th.

Blinded—But Still a Policeman

Alfred Lang, of Carstairs, Lanarkshire, was a policeman before he joined the Scots Guards. Near the end of the North African campaign he struck a mine and was blinded and wounded. He went to St. Dunstan's, South Africa, and was trained in massage, but he still wanted to be a policeman. He came back to Great Britain, received radio tuition at Linburn, the rehabilitation centre which is run by the Scottish National Institution (Newington House), and is now at work in Lanarkshire Constabulary's radio station, receiving and transmitting messages. He has been officially reinstated by the Home Office as a policeman—probably the only blind one in the country.

St. Dunstaner Broadcasts

Capt. W. J. Voss, an Australian St. Dunstaner, who now lives in Yeovil, Somerset, has had a series of short talks in French accepted by the B.B.C. for broadcasting in their Belgian programme. Some he has recorded himself for transmission; others have been read by an announcer.

Honour

From a cable from Mrs. Chadwick Bates we learn that on November 24th, at an Investiture at Government House, Pretoria, Sapper Marais received the Military Medal, the first new war South African St. Dunstaner to be awarded this honour.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following, who are celebrating anniversaries: Mr. and Mrs. A. Taylor, Stanway, near Colchester, October 22nd; Mr. and Mrs. H. Birley, Salford, November 29th; Mr. and Mrs. C. Van Niekerk, Brighton, December 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. W. Howarth, Alton, December 11th; Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Walch, Church Stretton, December 13th; Mr. and Mrs. H. Bridgman, Derby, December 25th.

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

The German High Command have made many attempts to disrupt the activities of the Bridge Club, but every effort has woefully failed. As I write these few notes, 1944 is rapidly passing and the Club is as alive and alert to-day as ever. Armistice Day, 1944, was the only Saturday throughout the whole year when there was no play.

It is most gratifying to note that the Club has had a most successful season, and has played more matches than ever, eleven in all. I have to report that we had a record number of wins, with six successes. Meeting a team from Hampstead was our last successful encounter.

The League, perhaps, has not gone forward quite so well, but a great spurt is being put on at the moment.

A great deal of friendly Bridge has been thoroughly enjoyed, and we were all glad to welcome Bill Taylor back to the fold again. For my part, I consider that the Bridge Club has been of inestimable value to its members during the past five years, as life has been very limited during these difficult times, and each Saturday has been looked forward to with pleasurable anticipation in consequence. With good companionship and good Bridge, what more could one wish for?

There is a side line of the Bridge Club which is worth mentioning, with the Editor's permission. It is what I would describe as an unofficial Discussion Group. This takes place prior to and during lunch at the "local," where many of us meet before our matches commence, and I think it would be worth the B.B.C.'s taking a recording and then transmitting it to the listening public. Many very vital problems are raised and discussed, the discussions being unique, for rarely do two members of the Club agree, and I can assure readers that it is all most refreshing, entertaining, and amusing.

Truly, then, our Club has progressed twofold; in the great game of Bridge, and also in good companionship, and with such a combination I look forward to 1945 with great hopes and anticipate a more successful season than we are now closing. R.P.C.

From Melplash come greetings to all St. Dunstaners for as happy a Christmas as possible and peace in the New Year.

"In Memory"

Private J. H. W. Porter, Royal Defence Corps and Middlesex Regt.

With deep regret we have to record the death of J. H. W. Porter, of Bury St. Edmunds.

He was discharged from the Army in 1917, but did not come under St. Dunstan's care until 1920, when he was in a business as a stationer and bookseller. He was keenly interested in the Legion of Frontiersmen, in which he held the rank of Captain. For a number of years, too, before his death, in addition to a little basket work, he was actively engaged in lecturing, both for St. Dunstan's and other associations. It was obvious, during the past year or two, however, that his health was rapidly failing, and he died at his home on November 12th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was amongst the many flowers at the funeral. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, upon which rested his sword and cap.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his relatives and friends. One of his sons has recently lost his life while serving overseas.

Bombardier Alfred Reginald Clark, Royal Artillery

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of one of our St. Dunstaners of this war, A. R. Clark, of Bristol.

A member of the Territorial Army, he was called up at the outbreak of war. During his training in England, his vision began to deteriorate and, as a result, he was discharged from the Army early in 1942. He returned to his pre-enlistment employment with his old firm in Bristol and carried on until 1943, when he had to give up work altogether.

He came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1944, and started a course of training last May, but his bad health prevented him undertaking this on a very serious scale. Eventually he was admitted to hospital, and he passed away there on November 14th. Although he did not enjoy good health, he was always cheerful with both St. Dunstaners and staff and he will be missed.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and two children.

Deaths

We extend our very sincere sympathy to the following:—

GROVES.—To A. F. Groves, of Kingsnorth, Ashford, whose little girl, Evelyn, aged twelve, died with tragic suddenness on September 3rd.

QUIGLEY.—To Bernard Quigley, of South Shields, whose wife passed away on December 1st, in hospital, after a very long illness.

Dr. E. L. Fyffe

It is with deep regret that we have heard of the death of Dr. E. L. Fyffe, so well known to St. Dunstaners living in the Brighton district, and to all those who have stayed at our Brighton and Ovingdean Homes.

Dr. Fyffe was St. Dunstan's Medical Officer during the years that we were at Brighton, and the severance of our association with him was one of the saddest aspects of our move to Church Stretton in 1940, an association, however, which would have been fully revived when we return to Brighton after the war.

All those St. Dunstaners who benefited by his wise and kindly advice over so many years will deeply regret the loss of our old friend.

The funeral took place at Downs Crematorium, Brighton, on December 7th, St. Dunstan's being represented by Messrs. J. Boyd, A. J. Smith, and G. Richardson.

Mr. E. Le Breton Martin

St. Dunstaners will also hear with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. E. Le Breton Martin. Associated for many years with Sir Arthur Pearson and his firm, "Bret" carried that association to St. Dunstan's. He edited the St. Dunstan's own braille magazine, "Nuggets," when it was first issued in the last war, and resumed when it was decided to re-issue it several years ago. Since then his name will have become familiar with many other St. Dunstaners for his reading of a number of Talking Books. He himself had established a reputation in the years following the last war as a popular writer of boys' books.

"Bret" had a delightful personality; his charm of manner endeared him to all those who knew him, and they will deeply regret his passing.

The funeral took place on December 11th, at Golders Green Crematorium, when Mr. L. S. Pinder, Talking Book Department, represented St. Dunstan's.

Missing—Believed Killed

We have heard with deep regret that Sergeant Peter Boyter, R.A.F., son of Mr. and Mrs. Boyter, of Pittenweem, has been reported missing, believed killed in action. Peter had been apprenticed as a jockey.