

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 Review in Braille

IT will rather surprise the layman to learn that the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW has been printed for over twenty-nine years but has not been put into braille. Why is this? I suppose in the earliest days it was a journal produced for the men in training in the first St. Dunstan's, and for the staff who were interested in their welfare, and that if it had been put into braille it could not have been read by more than a small percentage of those for whom it was intended. And so it appeared in typewriting at first, and then in print.

There were nearly three thousand soldiers, sailors and airmen blinded in the Great War of 1914-1918, but only a percentage of them, perhaps about a third, became good braille readers. Moreover, most of their wives were interested in the REVIEW, and so were a number of sighted people connected with St. Dunstan's.

I myself was no great braille reader, for I had sadly neglected this art. I had, of course, passed my tests in the old St. Dunstan's, but I had then become very busy, and had many people to read to me, and I just let it go. When this new war broke out I gave some very serious thought to this subject, and came to the conclusion that I had not been sufficiently well grounded in braille—I had not been urged and persuaded in my youth to go on with it until I reached the stage at which it would be so easy as to be a real pleasure—so I set myself the task of re-learning braille, and during the war years I have raised my speed of reading three or four times, and what an enormous benefit it has been to me! With my own experience to guide me I saw to it, with the full co-operation of Miss Pain, who had been Head of the Braille Room in the last war and was Head of the Braille Room at the beginning of this, that the new generation of blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen learn braille better than we did. This fact, together with the circumstance that general education is better now than it was in our day, has led to a position in which a very much larger percentage of the present St. Dunstaners read braille well. If you add them to the braille readers of the last war you have a fairly substantial number of people, and it now seems worth while trying to see if a braille edition of the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW would be sufficiently popular to justify its publication.

The only way to try this out is to publish it in braille and see what demand there is. So from January, 1945, the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW will appear in braille as well as in ink print. The braille edition will come out a week or ten days after the ink print edition, and it will be sent, in the first instance, free of charge to every St. Dunstaner who has a magazine or a braille book sent to him. If there are any who do not receive it, but who would like to have it, they have only to write to the Editor and ask for it. The braille

edition will be free, as is the ink print edition, and for the time being both will be sent. Later it may be a question as to whether we shall send only one rather than both.

The National Institute for the Blind was unable, in view of its many commitments, to undertake the publication of the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW in braille, so it is being produced for us by the Press of the Royal Blind School, Edinburgh, to whom we are indebted for full co-operation and ready help.

I shall be very pleased to hear from old St. Dunstaners of the last war, and from new St. Dunstaners of this war, what they think of the braille edition and whether they like it. If, of course, any St. Dunstaner finds he does not need the braille issue, he should let the Editor know at once.

Some Staff Changes

In Church Stretton Notes tribute is paid to Mr. Banks-Williams, who came to us three and a half years ago to direct our training and education. Mr. Banks-Williams was a Science Master at Harrow School, and had a distinguished scholastic record. He served as a gunner in the last war. Our loss at Church Stretton is the gain of Wellington School, Somerset, where he is going to be Headmaster.

Sister Goodey, our London Welfare Visitor, retires after 25 years' service, for reasons of health. We cannot have an After-Care Reunion at which to pay our tribute to her, so I gladly do it here, on behalf of many hundreds of London St. Dunstaners, to whom she has been a welcome visitor and a real friend. St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's owe more to our Welfare Visitors than I can say for their devoted work, which has been particularly arduous during the war years. We wish Sister Goodey the best of good luck, and hope she will enjoy her retirement.

Commander A. D. D. Smyth, D.S.O., has been released by the Admiralty to return to St. Dunstan's. Commander Smyth, who retired from the Navy some years before the war, came to us as Welfare Superintendent for the Northern half of Britain when, it will be remembered, Mr. Ottaway took charge of the Southern half. Commander Smyth will now take charge of Welfare throughout the whole country, with the help of his two assistants, Miss Wilson for the North and Mrs. Paul for the South. Although well in middle age, Commander Smyth went back to active war service in 1939 and has been afloat for the greater part of the war. I believe this is a record for a senior officer.

New Talking Book Machine

There are 80,000 registered blind persons in the United Kingdom. There are over 2,000 St. Dunstaners. There are about 1,600 members of the Talking Book Library for the Blind, of whom 554 are St. Dunstaners.

Of course, the civilian blind world includes a number of very old people and a number of children, and a number in homes, who would not be expected to use a Talking Book. But even so the number of those who enjoy its benefits are extremely small, in comparison with the blind population as a whole. Why is this? Primarily because the cost of the Talking Book is very great indeed, and because the promoters of it have had to limit its use. We have sold the Talking Book machine to the blind and have not given it to them free, except in cases where it was obviously a most valuable amenity and could not be afforded. The reason why we have sold it and not given it to all is that, if it were a free gift, dozens of machines would undoubtedly have been distributed all over the country, only a limited percentage of which would have been put to real use. So the policy of the National Institute for the Blind, and of St. Dunstan's, was to sell the Talking Book machine either at cost price or at slightly less than cost price, and to give the service of the provision of books free.

The provision of books is in itself extremely expensive, and anyone who likes reading aloud and joins the Talking Book Library receives a most valuable benefit.

Developments of sound recording have made great strides during the past fifteen years. It was expected that at any moment some new invention would put the old methods out of date, and the Committee, which is primarily a committee of the National Institute for the Blind, but which had the fullest possible co-operation of St. Dunstan's, and of which I have had the honour to be Chairman, thought it wise to allow the Library to develop

slowly, instead of committing ourselves to a system of recording which might soon prove out of date.

Although war is a time of intensive invention and development, I am of opinion, after taking the best technical advice that I can, that the disc method of recording is likely to continue for a very long time and that, subject to minor improvements, our present method is likely to be standardised for a considerable time. Up to the outbreak of war we had developed Talking Book machines of considerable quality and value, but we had never ordered them in large quantities. We ordered them from manufacturers in batches of fifty or a hundred, or sometimes two hundred, and they did not vary very much.

A year or so ago it occurred to me and my advisers that the time had come when we should try and obtain the best possible Talking Book machine, taking advantage of all modern developments, and put it thoroughly to the test in the field so that, if it proved a success, we could order it in large quantities after the war was over. After much experimental work we have now decided upon a model, of which we have ordered one hundred units. They are beginning to come into production at this moment, and a few will be available for distribution shortly. I had one of them in my house over the Christmas vacation and gave it a thorough testing. It came fully up to my expectations, and I was very pleased with it.

One of the problems of the Talking Book machine is the electric motor. By a compromise we managed to make a more or less standard pre-war motor operate at the very slow speed required for English records, the slightly higher speed for American records, and also the normal speed required for playing ordinary gramophone records. This was rather a strain upon the motor, and it frequently broke down and gave trouble. After very careful consideration, we came to the conclusion that it was better to cut out the high speed, so that the machine does not play ordinary gramophone records. Some will think that this reduces its general usefulness, and this is undoubtedly true, and there may be many amongst the younger members of the blind man's family who will regret the decision. But we thought that the Talking Book was essentially an instrument for the use of the blind person himself or herself, and not an instrument for the general use of the family. If, therefore, we could produce a better instrument, which only plays Talking Book records, it was worth while doing so, and the blind person may even be glad that the rest of the family will not be interested in his machine, so that it will remain for his own use, without being subjected to the wear and tear of playing ordinary gramophone records. We have had a great many damaged machines in the last few years, and in many cases this has been due to careless use by members of the family for ordinary gramophone purposes, and not for Talking Book purposes at all.

The new motor in the new machine only runs at two set speeds, namely, the correct speed for English records, 24 revolutions per minute, and the correct speed for American records, namely, 33 revolutions per minute. It can only run at exactly the right speed, and it cannot be varied. Some may have liked to vary the speed slightly up or down because they wanted faster or slower reading, and they may be disappointed to find that this machine runs only at a set speed. Over this last Christmas week-end I have listened to one or two Talking Books, and I have come to the conclusion that the fixed speed is a tremendous benefit; you always hear the reader's natural voice exactly as he recorded it. You do not have to fiddle with the speed control in order to get the correct speed, nor do you have to alter it from time to time on account of changes in the temperature of the motor. From the very moment when you switch on, until the last moment when you switch off, it always runs at the correct speed, and you get used to the pitch of the voice, and my experience is that it saves you a lot of trouble and gives you increased pleasure.

The new machine is made by His Master's Voice. It is a sturdy machine, well built, and of much better quality than anything we have previously produced. It cost us more than twice as much as pre-war machines, but we have subsidised its production for the first hundred models, so that the cost of the experiment falls largely upon special funds, instead of upon the individuals who have to buy the machines.

Further particulars and prices for St. Dunstaners may be had from the Secretary, Talking Book Department, St. Dunstan's Headquarters, 9-11 Park Crescent, London, W.1.

We do not know, until these hundred machines have been out in the field for some months, whether they will prove to be the very best that can be produced, but I think they

will, and therefore it appears that it is a very good bargain indeed to obtain one of these hundred before they have all gone. Apart from this note in the REVIEW, we shall write to all those who are on the waiting list, asking if they want a machine, and if they do not want to take them all up some will be available for owners of old machines, who may like to order the new type and trade in their old machine in part payment. We will give a fair price for old machines in order to be able to issue them to others.

There are many novel features about this new machine. For example, the needles that are used are not the old needles to which you have been accustomed, but small needles, about half the size, and they do not have to be screwed into the holder, but fit in magnetically. Nor does the needle have to be changed for every side of the record. Each needle will play many records, but full instructions will be sent with each machine. Nor do you have to adjust the speed, as I have already mentioned; it always runs at exactly the right speed. Nor does the motor ever get hot. It is a most efficient piece of apparatus.

I thoroughly recommend this machine, and hope that many new members of the Talking Book Library will get great pleasure from it.

IAN FRASER.

Raglan Street Stores Destroyed by Fire

St. Dunstan's Stores, at Raglan Street, Kentish Town, were gutted by fire which broke out at 2 a.m. on Boxing Day. The fire was not the result of enemy action, but was possibly due to an electrical defect.

It is ironical to look back over the years and observe the precautions which have been taken to avoid this very danger, and how we emerged, unscathed, from the 1940 "blitz," and later enemy air activities.

"Raglan Street" has been regarded as a good friend to nearly 1,000 of our craftsmen since the Works and Sales Department were transferred there from Regent's Park, together with the cocoa-fibre mat departments from Upper Charlton Street (now renamed Hanson Street) in 1928.

Fortunately it is not "total destruction." A very small section at the front and back of the building escaped the full force of the flames, and as a consequence some records in the Basket Office may be saved. At the back of the building, too, the mat shearing machines are, so far as we can see, still in good order. These are now being installed in the Crown Place premises, which are adjacent to Raglan Street, and were fortunately unaffected by the fire. In these premises we propose to carry on the work of the Mat and Basket Departments as complete units. Raw materials will be dispatched from there and finished goods received. The main centre, for the time being, however, will be part of our premises at 68 Hanson Street, with the office staff of some Departments at Headquarters in Park Crescent. All craftsmen will be notified as to where and when their finished goods

should be sent, and the correct address for correspondence.

Our men will realise that the service from the Stores has been maintained for over five years of war, in spite of the fact that raw materials have had to be restricted on account of growing shortages. Raglan Street housed a considerable amount of raw material, and this, of course, has been destroyed. But it is not a total disaster. We had prepared for emergencies such as this, and considerable stocks have been dispersed in other buildings in and out of London, and, of course, we are covered by insurance.

Whilst we intend to send materials out for February work at the usual time, there may be a little delay in a few types of materials, and if this should happen we are sure that the delay will be met with patience and understanding. It will be realised, too, that our staff, already reduced, will be called upon to work under difficult conditions for some time to come, but their determination is unanimous that "the work shall go on."

The co-operation of our craftsmen will be gratefully appreciated, and if the information asked for in all letters is given fully and speedily, it will assist in a quick return to reasonably efficient and workable conditions. All will regret the fire, but it has strengthened our determination to ensure for St. Dunstan's craftsmen a happy year of continued work in 1945.

London Bus Passes

Will St. Dunstaners please note that all London Transport Board bus passes are valid until the end of 1945, and need not, therefore, be returned for renewal, although they are marked "valid to end of 1944."

St. Dunstaners and the Home Guard

D. J. M. Stephens, of Carmarthen, a Canadian officer who came to St. Dunstan's following his blinding at Festubert, in September, 1915, is one of the many Home Guards who were "stood down" on December 3rd with real regret.

This St. Dunstaner took the Chair at the first local meeting for the then L.D.V, and was responsible for organising guards for reservoirs, etc. When, as he said, "things were more or less ship-shape," he turned over a narrow valley at the back of the house as a shooting range, which was recognised and subsequently used by the War Office, whose inspector said it was the best range he had seen. With the "standing down" of the Home Guard, he has now turned the range over to the Cadets for summer camps.

His own rank in the Home Guard was Private, and he has now received the King's Certificate in recognition of his services.

Our thanks and congratulations are extended to our St. Dunstaner for the fine work he has done, and to all St. Dunstaner Home Guards who have continued to serve their country in this way. We should be interested to hear of other men who have served and have now received the King's Certificate.

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We have heard with regret from G. Rhees, of Brighton, of the death of Jimmy Hunter, of the Brighton Follies, at the early age of 53. He was a good friend of St. Dunstaners and many will recall his kindness to them on the Palace Pier.

News in Brief

Duncan Maclean, of Brimpton, read the Scripture passage from a braille Bible at the mass meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which was held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on December 9th.

J. G. Rose, of North Berwick, a one-armed St. Dunstaner, has made a small shopping pram, with a base broader than the picnic basket, and wooden wheels, for Lady Montgomery.

F. (Jock) Reid, new war St. Dunstaner, who lost a leg at Dunkirk, has arrived in South Africa, where he has taken over a massage appointment in Durban.

A new war man, Stanley Heys, of Manchester, is a keen stamp collector, and he would be glad to know if there are other

St. Dunstaners interested in this hobby. Stanley, who has also lost an arm, is now a lift attendant at a bank.

Melplash News

Christmas Day at Melplash was a happy day. Each man received in the morning a stocking containing an orange, apple, cigarettes, matches and socks.

At noon, Matron, Staff and Boys sat down to a splendid lunch, after which telegrams were read from our many friends, both here and overseas.

Tea was served in the Lounge, with a beautiful iced cake and various others, all home-made, from which to choose. Most of our Good Companions were able to join the boys for tea.

In the evening, Mr. and Mrs. Hounsell very kindly invited all who were able to go to supper and a drink at "The Half Moon." Seventeen were able to go and a very pleasant evening was spent.

Matron, Staff and Boys wish you all a happy and victorious New Year.

Sister Goodey Retires

Men of the London Area and the Home Counties will hear, with the greatest regret, that Sister Goodey is retiring from the service of St. Dunstan's for reasons of health. She has worked untiringly for us over a period of twenty-five years, first as Dispensary Sister and then, for the next twenty years, as After-Care Visitor for part of the London Area and Home Counties.

Miss Cecil Wood has been appointed in Sister Goodey's place, and has already taken up her duties with us. Miss Wood has a very good knowledge of braille, wool-rug making, and netting, and our work will not come strange to her, for she was for some time at the Hostel at Reading where our aircraft workers live.

We welcome Miss Wood to our staff.

Wounded

We have heard with regret from Mrs. McCluskey, of Crewe, widow of our late St. Dunstaner, that their youngest son Anthony, serving with H.M. Commandos in Italy, has been seriously wounded as a result of the explosion of a mine or booby trap.

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Alan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Heushaw, Alresford, has gained the Higher National Certificate of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, and is now "G.I.Mech.E."

Church Stretton Notes

The "breaking up" for the Christmas vacation is, by custom, associated with a round of entertainment and festivity, and the close of the last term at Church Stretton will not readily be forgotten.

The festivities may be said to have begun a week before the dispersal of the trainees to their homes on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 19th and 20th.

On Wednesday, December 13th, there was a party at the Central Hall; on Thursday a full dress programme of music and fun (the audience being composed of parties of officers and men of military and auxiliary units who have been hosts of our trainees; on Friday there was a repeat performance of the Concert, the audience on this occasion being the trainees themselves, the staff, and personal friends; on Saturday there was a party at Belmont, the Girls' Hostel; on Sunday, a *Thé Dansant* at the Central Hall, and on Monday evening, House dinners, followed by a Dance at the Central Hall. We had the pleasure at most of the events of the presence of Sir Ian and Lady Fraser; at all of them Air Commodore Dacre, Matron Pain, and members of the staff joined in the revelry wholeheartedly.

The *piece de resistance* was the concert at the Central Hall on Friday evening. The programme was an excellent one, varied and entertaining in character. Not the least successful of the items was *The Bar Dot One Ranch*, given by St. Dunstan's Hill-Billies, with Ernie Cookson as the Sheriff. The fun reached its height when the Sheriff induced Padre Nugee, the Commandant, and Mr. Bankes-Williams to join the party on the stage. These "supers" proved themselves no amateurs in song and dance, and their unrehearsed appearance was one of the highlights of the evening. Schoolmaster Hay (Cecil, not Will) proved a veritable humorist with his poetical essays introducing well-known personalities. The Commandant, for instance:—

"The Commandant is an active man,

His versatile agility

Comes second only to his great
Executive ability."

The high regard felt for "B-W" was plainly demonstrated when Schoolmaster "Hay," in his final lines, said:

"And there the interview doth end,
So I shall no more trouble you,

Except to wish the best of luck
To the D.O.E.—'B-W.'"

This was a reference to the resignation of Mr. Bankes-Williams, whose appointment as Headmaster of Wellington School, Somerset, will leave a very big gap in the life of the Training Centre, after three and a half years' service.

Twenty-four numbers comprised the Concert, all of which represented the greatest skill and talent. There were individual efforts by David Bell, Sydney Kitson, Gwen Obern, Freddie Higgs, and Beryl Sleigh; "The Ladies of Belmont" "were really exclusive!" Violet Formstone led her admirable team of accordion players; Freddie Higgs and Stan Southall, Freddie Freeland and Nick Carter, and John Mudge, with Freddie Freeland gave double turns and sketches, which the audience received delightedly. Tommie Rogers, the veteran, and Wally Such of this war, were splendid in their Indian Club Display. A Medley by our own Dance Band; extracts from "Lilac Time," given by Beryl Sleigh, Gwen Obern, Anne Hooper, Jimmy White, Albert Vout, and the St. Dunstan's Chorus; and a Scots' Scena, with Jock Steel as the Laird, David Bell as the Bairn, and Beryl Sleigh, Bridget Downer, and Zillah Jones the Ladies—are numbers which will be recalled with pleasure and appreciation.

At Belmont, on Saturday, the girls were joined by Lady Fraser, and among the guests were three Belmont girls who had left during the year, but were delighted to be able to join their colleagues at this Christmas time.

There were dinners at Longmynd, Battlefield, Tiger Hall, and Denehurst on Monday evening, December 18th. At the Longmynd, the Commandant, Air Commodore G. B. Dacre, proposed the toast, "Mr. and Mrs. Bankes-Williams." "Mr. Bankes-Williams," he said, "is leaving, to the regret of all at St. Dunstan's. I personally regret his going, because we have worked together in one object—the welfare of St. Dunstan's. Mr. Bankes-Williams has laid the foundation of a system of training here, and the trainees who have passed through St. Dunstan's feel they owe him a debt of gratitude." When the cheers had died down, Mr. Bankes-Williams replied: He had been very happy at St. Dunstan's, and he hoped, when they were at their typewriters, they would give him a thought and a letter

sometimes. His experience at St. Dunstan's had taught him that men may hold different views on matters concerning themselves, but that it was possible to live together and agree to differ, without in any way destroying their friendship.

Sir Ian Fraser then proposed the toast, "St. Dunstan's all over the World." This was our fifth Christmas at Church Stretton, and he briefly sketched the growth of our organisation. At the end of last year the number of men and women, as a result of this war on our roll was 394. This year the total was 656, to which must be added that great family of St. Dunstaners of the last war, whose original number was 3,000, of whom about 1,750 still survived. At the end of 1943, 48 trainees had left to take up jobs; the number this year was 125. This was a very substantial increase. He could not himself imagine a more complicated or difficult school than St. Dunstan's to conduct, where the trainees and students were of almost every age, ranging from young men of 18 to the veteran ex-Mayor of Dover, who was 75. They were of many races and nationalities—as varied a group of people as could possibly be imagined.

Sir Ian mentioned that St. Dunstan's had been invited to supply a trained V.A.D., who could teach braille, for work among the blinded men in Italian hospitals who could not return home immediately on account of their injuries.

Referring to the departure of Mr. Bankes-Williams from St. Dunstan's, Sir Ian said that his valuable help in guiding, directing, and helping the trainees would leave a lasting impression on many St. Dunstaners. They all wished him—and Mrs. Bankes-Williams—every happiness and success in his new appointment.

The Chairman, Lady Fraser, the Commandant, and Matron Pain, and Mr. and Mrs. Bankes-Williams, then left for Denehurst, where similar toasts were proposed, Sir Ian adding his special congratulations to the men, and Matron and her staff, for having started Denehurst so successfully that term. Then they joined the combined parties at the Dance at the Central Hall, where an enjoyable round of events was brought to an end with "Auld Lang Syne."

Founders' Day Memories were included in the morning service on Sunday, December 24th, when "Let us now praise famous men" was read.

And now here we are back in our places after scattering to greet our friends during swiftly-spiced leave.

We bid a last farewell to Miss Hodge, as such, but heartily welcomed her back as Mrs. Hart; both she and Tom are warmly to be congratulated. Wedding bells have also rung for Miss Elwell (V.A.D.) and Duggie Parmenter; for Les. Cadman and Mrs. Hughes, of Shrewsbury; and for Mr. and Mrs. Bill Phillips. All of us will wish each couple every happiness.

In our own Hall the High Ercall Band with Cabaret, the Pioneer Band, and the North Staffordshire Military Band and concert party have been welcomed. Also Teddy Foster's Band, with "Gert and Daisy," and a lunch-time concert, with Flanagan and Allen and Gwen Catley.

The following trainees have left us: Harry Gardner, to go to his home at Wallasey, Cheshire, where he will make wool rugs; F. Wareham, to live with his sister at Wimborne, Dorset, and make baskets; Freddie Higgs goes to his home at Southfields, Wimbledon, awaiting settlement as a lift operator in the middle of March; Tom Barton, of Scaldy, Scarborough, is going with his wife to the Bellmeads Kennels, Ltd., Haslemere, Surrey, to take up training in dog breeding; E. Palmer as assembler near his home, with Messrs. Humphries, Parkstone, Dorset; T. Bice will go to a Government Training Centre; Bob Shaw returns to his previous occupation as foreman fish packer at Fleetwood, Lancs.; Les. Copeland to Avimo, Ltd., Taunton, as telephonist; and Marion Elias returns to her home in Aberdare to make baskets.

Best wishes for the happiest New Year possible to all St. Dunstaners from those at Church Stretton—carrying on the Peace and Goodwill of Christmas.

St. Dunstan's Comforts Fund

Owing to the great success of the Christmas Draw for the Comforts Fund, a large sum of money (£106) has been collected, and we are hoping to send a specially large number of gifts to the serving sons of St. Dunstaners. Will all parents, therefore, who have not recently sent in to Matron Pain, Church Stretton, the latest addresses of their sons, please do so without delay, so that all may benefit by this welcome addition to the Fund.

"In Memory"

Private William John Boardman, 4th King's Liverpools

With deep regret we record the death of W. J. Boardman, of Liverpool.

He served with his regiment from March, 1915, until March, 1917, and came to us in the following November. From the outset he was a very sick man, and was only able to attempt light occupational work.

Following the Liverpool air raids, his ill-health increased and he stayed at Melplash for a considerable time, but about twelve months ago he returned home, and he passed away there on November 12th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades was among the flowers. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and children.

Private William E. Edmond, 1st Royal Scots

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. E. Edmond, of Dunbar, who served with the Royal Scots Regiment from April, 1908, as a regular soldier, and was wounded in France in February, 1915. He came to us in the following November, and trained as a mat-maker and boot-repairer, but for a number of years before his death he had only been able to take an interest in a little poultry. His health was not good, but his death took place very unexpectedly at his sister's home, where he had been living for a long time. The cause was pneumonia.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a wreath from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's. We offer our sincere sympathy to his sister and brother-in-law—Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie—who had given him such care.

Births

ALLEN.—To the wife of George Allen, of Hull (new war), on December 24th, a son, John Robert.

BROUGHAM.—To the wife of T. Brougham, of Liverpool (new war), on December 31st, a daughter.

RAYTON.—To the wife of William Rayton, of Middleton, Leeds (new war), on December 28th, a daughter.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy is extended this month to the following:—

ALBERTELLA.—To M. H. Albertella, of Old Coulsdon, who has received news from his brother, who has lived in France for many years, that his mother and a brother were killed in the German bombardment in 1940. There is still no news of either of his sisters.

BUTLER.—To Mr. and Mrs. Butler, of Waterford, whose daughter, Margaret, died on Christmas Eve.

DAY.—To H. Day, of Luton, whose wife passed away on December 27th.

SEYMOUR.—To Mr. and Mrs. R. Seymour, of Salterforth, whose daughter died on December 11th, as the result of an illness contracted while serving with the Women's Forces.

On Active Service

Our deep sympathy is extended to A. Waite, of Chelsea, whose son, Wilfred, a Flight Sergeant in the Royal Air Force, has been killed on active service.

Missing, Now a Prisoner

Geoffrey Stanners, Airborne Division, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Stanners, of High Wycombe, who was reported missing at Arnhem, is now known to be a prisoner of war.

Church Stretton Marriages

W. Phillips, on November 25th, to Miss Anne Wood.

L. Cadman, on December 6th, to Mrs. Hughes.

D. Faulkner, on December 16th, to Miss C. R. Gardner.

T. Hart, on December 22nd, to Miss E. M. Hodge.

C. D. Parker, on December 27th, to Miss Vera Smith.

D. Parmenter, on January 20th, to Miss Elwell.

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

The Annual General Meeting of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club will be held on Saturday, February 24th, at 9-11 Park Crescent, at 2 o'clock, when the chair will be taken by Sir Ian Fraser.

All St. Dunstan's bridge players, whether good, indifferent, or just "triers"—in fact, anyone who is interested in bridge—will be heartily welcomed.

The Club also has post-war problems to discuss!

Dominoes Wanted

There is a great shortage of domino sets, and it is thought that there may be one or two old St. Dunstaners who have sets and never use them. If this is so, we would be very grateful if they could be sent to Headquarters. We do not, however, wish men who still use them, if only occasionally, to give up their sets. The need is not great enough for that, but unused sets would be most welcome.