

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

£500 for Braille

AN anonymous donor has given me £500 for the encouragement of braille reading amongst St. Dunstaners. I have given very careful thought to the use of this gift, and am going to set out a proposal in these notes for discussion and criticism. I shall be very pleased if St. Dunstaners of the new war, and of the old, would let me have their views, as the details of the scheme can be modified as the result of discussion.

My suggestion is as follows:—

Each year for the next five years we shall hold a championship competition, to find the champion braille reader. The championship will be held at a convenient place, and will be open to all St. Dunstaners, all expenses of the competitors being paid. There will be two classes: (a) New braille readers, that is to say, people who entered St. Dunstan's not more than four years before the date of the championship; (b) Open Championship. The prizes in each class will be: First prize, £12; Second prize, £7; Third prize, £5; Fourth prize, £3. No winner of a prize will be able to win the same prize in the succeeding year, but he will be able to win a superior prize. Thus a person who won the fourth prize this year might win the second prize next year, and the first prize the year after, but anyone who wins the championship in one year will not be able to win the same championship the next year. The winner of the beginners' championship one year, however, might go in for the open championship in a subsequent year. A framed certificate will be presented with each prize.

The prizes mentioned, and the expenses of the certificates and running the championship, will absorb the £500, and I express on behalf of St. Dunstan's our deep gratitude to the donor.

Extension of Prize for Advanced Test

At Church Stretton we have introduced an Advanced Braille Test. Roughly speaking, it consists in reading two pages of interpoint braille, such as the "World Digest," in twenty minutes. I suggest that every St. Dunstaner, old or new, should be eligible to go in for this test, and a prize of £3 and a certificate will be given to everyone who passes it. Arrangements will be made for the test to be passed at London Headquarters, Blackpool, Melplash, or Church Stretton, and for those who cannot attend at these places a local test will be arranged by a suitable person, who will be instructed how to conduct the test and will have to sign a certificate. A certain number of men of this war have already passed the Advanced Test at Church Stretton, and have received a prize of £1. They will receive an additional £2 to

bring their prize money up to the new level. The point of this Advanced Reading Test is to secure speed and understanding, and a sufficient degree of accuracy for all practical purposes.

When the final details of the scheme are arranged, a leaflet will be issued and will be sent to all who are interested.

I hope many St. Dunstaners will write in and say what they think about the championship and the Advanced Test proposal, and if there is a consensus of opinion about any modification which would be to the general interest, I shall be pleased to consider amending it before it is finally published.

The object of the anonymous donor, and of the Advanced Test proposals, is to encourage braille reading, because he believes that, once a sufficient speed is obtained, the blind man or woman has gained one of the most priceless gifts, namely, that of independent fluent reading.

I am sure that there must be many scores of old St. Dunstaners who will be able to brush up their braille during the next few months and go in for this test as soon as the final details are settled, and I think there are also a large number up at Church Stretton who will be able to do the same.

IAN FRASER.

Personal

Mr. W. McG. Eager, Secretary-General of the National Institute for the Blind, was awarded the C.B.E. in the New Year Honours List.

Major Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., and Lady Pearson, visited Church Stretton during the month and inspected the Training School and all the various houses. Lady Pearson renewed acquaintance with a number of St. Dunstaners whom she had met at the Hospital at Stoke Mandeville, where she is a regular visitor.

At a recent investiture at Buckingham Palace the King invested Lord Normanby with the M.B.E. in recognition of his work among blinded men in German prison camps. Lord Normanby is now a member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council.

South African St. Dunstaner Honoured

From newspapers which have now reached us, we learn that when Sapper Wessell Marais, the first South African St. Dunstaner to win the Military Medal in this war, attended at Government House, Pretoria, to receive his medal, he was given priority before generals and other senior officers. His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government said:

"I ask you all to stand as a mark of homage, admiration, and sympathy for a man who has sacrificed both eyes in the service of his country." Sapper Marais was escorted back to his seat by Lieut.-General A. J. Brink, who had sat beside him to receive his own decoration.

Other News

E. Russell, new war St. Dunstaner, of Leeds, represented his branch of the British Legion at the Northern Area Conference at York, on February 19th.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Story, wife of our St. Dunstaner, E. Story, of Ashford, has been awarded a Certificate of Merit for her work in connection with the invasion preparations. She was the only woman from over two hundred at the Ordnance Stores to get the award.

★ ★ ★

W. J. Markwick, of North Moulsecombe, has been presented by the Moulsecombe and Falmer Branch of the British Legion with a Certificate of Life Membership for services rendered. He is one of its founder members, has served fourteen years' continuous service on the Benevolent Committee, ten years on the Branch Committee and is still serving.

★ ★ ★

The birth of a son is announced to the wife of Wing Commander D. V. G. Mawhood, who came to St. Dunstan's early in the war, but later recovered the sight of one eye. He is the son of Mary Clare, the actress.

★ ★ ★

A big feature of the Brighton *Argus* and its associated newspapers lately has been Sports Reminiscences. Their subject on successive weeks recently was "St. Dunstan's Sports and Sportsmen," when many of our great sporting events were recalled in an interview with G. Fallowfield, and were followed by a first-rate article on how St. Dunstaners take part in all sports.

From Mr. Ottaway

Dear St. Dunstaners,

Your farewell messages and gifts have given my wife and me much pleasure. Please accept our sincere thanks for them and for the numerous kindnesses you have generously shown to me over the years, in the workshops, during interviews, and at reunion meetings.

I remember, too, the cordial welcomes which you, your wives and children have given when I had the pleasure of visiting your homes. Many memories of you all will brighten my retirement.

In general, I shall have in mind your varied, capable, and happy lives, in spite of handicaps, and the courage you have consequently inspired in other people. This latter thought makes me sure that you will approve of the way I have decided to use the sum of money you have contributed as a farewell gift to me.

Each of you will remember the joy and confidence which came to you when you received your braille watch. There are many deaf-blind people who have no watch.

I am therefore asking our mutual friend, Mr. W. G. Askew, to purchase for me a fountain pen as a personal memento of you all, and to send the balance of the money to the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League, for the purchase of watches to be issued at their discretion.

May I express the hope that you will, perhaps each year, make further gifts for the same purpose. It would be splendid if, ultimately, all deaf-blind persons could have watches by the aid of the generosity and sympathetic efforts of the men and women of St. Dunstan's.

With best wishes for your happiness in 1945 and the years to come.

I am, Yours sincerely,

W. H. OTTAWAY.

We are sure that Mr. Ottaway's letter will meet with the complete approval of St. Dunstaners, who will wish their appreciation of his long service to take the form which will give him the greatest pleasure.

In support of the suggestion at the end of his letter, it is proposed that a permanent Fund should be established, to which subscriptions can be sent at any time. The proposal has Sir Ian Fraser's most cordial support, and Mr. Askew has consented to act as Treasurer, working in co-operation with the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

John Palmer (Poole), last Easter Monday, to Miss Barbara Coates.

Jean Forrester (Glasgow), W.A.A.F., on September 29th, to Sgt. G. Whitelaw.

Betty Butler (Distington), on December 26th, to Mr. Eric Stephenson.

Signalman A. J. Bennett (Dover), on December 9th, to Miss B. M. B. Wilson.

Joan Harding (Finsbury Park), on November 26th, to Sgt. Cyril Greenaway, Royal Corps of Signals.

Stanley Mussell (Charfield), on October 28th, to Miss Betty Harrison.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Taylor, of Colchester, on October 21st, to Miss I. Sharland.

Margaret Price (Enfield), on October 29th, to Driver Reginald Solomon, R.A.

Signalman A. J. Bennett (Dover), on December 9th, to Miss B. M. B. Wilson.

Dorothy Jean Corns (Kenton), on January 27th, to L/Cpl. Eric Pole, K.R.R.C.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Radford, Castle Cary, to Petty Officer Frank Lindsay, R.N., on September 14th.

Florence Ada Mills (Bloxwich), on December 11th, to Thomas Allerdice.

Leading W/M. Jack Shread (King's Lynn), on October 25th, to Miss Freda Hornigold.

Kenneth Martin (Wolverhampton), on August 19th, to Miss Freda Felton.

L.A.C.W. Joan Warin, Fencehouses, on November 18th, to Sergt. Ernest Carter, R.A.F.

Promotions

Leslie Straughton (Workington) to the rank of Sub-Lieutenant in the Fleet Air Arm.

Frank Swindell (Lenton, Notts.) has received his commission in the Royal Navy.

Arthur Weedall (Liverpool) has passed the examination for his Second Radio Officer Certificate in the Merchant Navy.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Johns, Exeter, to the rank of Lieutenant, as from D-Day.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. North, Taunton, to the rank of Sergeant, R.A.F.

Hamilton Isaac (Glasgow) to the rank of Sergeant, R.A.F. (regular). He is now home from India after four years' absence.

Flight Sergeant T. L. Salter, D.F.M., son of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Salter, to the rank of Warrant Officer.

A St. Dunstan's for Deaf and Limbless

Speaking to the Council of the Metropolitan Area of the British Legion, on Saturday, February 3rd, Sir Ian Fraser, the National Vice-Chairman, said:—

"I should like to see the Legion set aside a large sum of money, to be spent forthwith on the establishment of a training college for the deaf, the limbless, and the paralysed, where they can learn how to overcome their disability in daily life, just as at St. Dunstan's we teach men and women how to be blind. Such a training college or colleges would be better run by the British Legion, under voluntary auspices, than by the State, though we could, of course, make use of the Ministry of Labour's provisions for industrial training and placement. If you are disabled you have a lot to learn besides your trade. You have to learn how to make friends, how to carry on social contacts, how to be at ease with your fellows, and to have confidence in yourself.

The colleges would be residential, and the men and, if necessary, women, too, would go there for a relatively short period, say two to four months. Research work should be conducted to provide apparatus to help the handicapped in their daily lives. St. Dunstan's has proved that a proper system of training and placement can fit blinded people for many walks of life, and all the other war-disabled and, as times goes on, *all* the disabled, should have the same inspiration and help."

Artificial Limbs

It was noted in last month's REVIEW that the Chairman had criticised the Ministry of Pensions supply of artificial limbs, and had called for research in this matter. The result was the setting up of a Committee, of which Sir Brunel Cohen is Chairman.

St. Dunstan's evidence was given by Air Commodore Dacre and Mr. Nye at a recent meeting, when they emphasised the need for research.

On February 1st the Minister of Pensions, in a written reply to the House of Commons, announced that he had accepted both the recommendations made in an interim report from the Departmental Committee on artificial limbs. Dr. A. W. J. Craft had been selected for the research post suggested and would take up his new duties soon.

The recommendations, submitted unanimously by the Committee, are:—

(1) The formation at an early date of an experimental department—which, in the Committee's view, would be most suitably located at Roehampton—to be under the direction of a whole-time officer of suitable status, possessing both medical and technical qualifications.

(2) The appointment of a small standing committee to supervise and develop research and advise on improvements in artificial limbs; this advisory committee, membership of which should not be limited to Ministry of Pensions staff, to work closely with the proposed experimental department.

The Committee also state that they attach importance to giving encouragement to members of the public to send in ideas and suggestions, and consider that it should be one of the functions of the research committee to receive and study such suggestions.

Pearson's Fresh Air Fund

By a further donation of £5 from Padre Nugee the contributions to Pearson's Fresh Air Fund from Church Stretton now total about £60.

We have just received the fifty-third Annual Report of the Fund from Mr. Ernest Kessell, C.B.E., who was closely associated with Sir Arthur Pearson when he founded the F.A.F., and, later, St. Dunstan's.

In spite of the many difficulties brought about by the war, the Fund was able last year to give happy holidays, ranging from a day to a fortnight, to more than six thousand children of the big towns, who would otherwise have not had a holiday. The Fresh Air Fund was Sir Arthur Pearson's own charity. It perpetuates Sir Arthur's desire to give happiness to children, just as St. Dunstan's will always remain a symbol of his great understanding of the world of the blind.

A Wheeled Stick

A correspondent has passed on to us the suggestion that a blind man, or more particularly a blind-deaf man, should try having a stick with a three-inch wheel fitted to it. The use of such a stick, he says, conveys through the vibrations, a mental picture of the ground ahead.

Letters to the Editor

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

DEAR SIR,

I was very interested to read the article on the future of talking books. I should like to make some observations.

A talking book, like certain types of food, is an acquired taste. Readers vary tremendously, and the quality of the records also varies very considerable. To me it seems that sufficient care is not taken at the Talking Book Library to ensure that only records of, at any rate, moderate use, are sent out. I have a radio-gram talking book, much to my regret. One profits by experience, and I would not advise the further production of this type of machine. The main reason is the heaviness and bulk of the machine, which make it very difficult, if not impossible, to switch from one room to another.

As regards the two different speeds for British and American recordings, very often the preamble is so worn and distorted that the listener does not know who the reader is, or whether it is British or American recording, until he comes to the end of the story.

Regarding the selection of books, I do not suggest or advise readers to pick out the books they fancy. I go through the list of titles numerically. I have read every Talking Book up to 228 or thereabouts, including books of the Bible and "Alice in Wonderland," and thoroughly enjoyed them. A book comes along, the title has as much meaning to one as a flea on an elephant. You put it on, hoping and wondering. It may be a real thriller, or a work of wisdom—the sort that gives one food for thought; in either case you have had a lucky dip.

Before the 1914-1918 war I was in Canada. I was very young and prone to talk about the "English" this, and the "English" that. One day I was going "all English" in the presence of some Scots and Irish, and they said: "Say, guy, not to much of the — English. It's the 'British' Army and the 'British' Navy." Perhaps there might be more devotees of the Talking Book if they were recorded by the "British," and not the "English," etc., etc.

Yours sincerely,

Exeter.

FRANK A. RHODES.

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

DEAR SIR,

Whenever I have been in contact with the last war St. Dunstaners I have been struck by the inevitable conversation regarding amusing incidents which occurred during their own period of training. Many of these would be well worth printing, and because of this I feel prompted to ask you whether it would be possible to run a short column of interesting happenings that took place during their stay at the training establishment, either during this war or the last.

Yours sincerely,

London, W.1.

E. R. ETRIDGE.

(This is an excellent idea and contributions will be welcomed.—ED.)

The "Tembani Times"

The Grand Christmas Number of the "Tembani Times," which has just reached us (a special braille edition was sent to the Chairman in time for Christmas), contains messages from Field Marshal the Rt. Hon. J. C. Smuts and Mrs. Smuts. The Field Marshal's message ran as follows:—

"I send this line of Christmas Greeting and warm good wishes to all our friends at the Tembani Training Home. May 1945 be a good year for them and blessings attend them all their days." J. C. SMUTS.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following, who are celebrating silver wedding anniversaries: Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Thomas, Rawden, near Leeds, December 24th; Mr. and Mrs. T. Callaghan, Blackpool, December 24th; Mr. and Mrs. J. Roughley, Northwich, December 27th; Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Madieson, Brighton, January 1st; Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Ballard, Nottingham, January 3rd.

Marriages

BENTLEY—FARMER.—On January 27th, F. Bentley, of Birmingham (now in training) to Miss Elizabeth Farmer, at the Registry Office, Ludlow.

DANIELS—SHELDON.—On February 7th, Arthur Daniels, of Canada (now in training) to Nurse Sheldon, of Tiger Hall, at St. Lawrence's Church, Church Stretton.

BLACKMAN—STEEDON.—On February 3rd, at Blackpool, T. Blackman, of Market Harborough, to Miss Steedon. Matron Vaughan-Davies gave the bride away.

Church Stretton Notes

Since the whole country has been gripped by real winter this month, those who know Church Stretton will not have pictured us—sunbathing! Still, despite icy roads, snow drifts, AND slush, everyone has escaped broken limbs and frost bite—just!

A big event of the month was a visit and talk from Admiral Sir Edward Evans (Evans of the *Broke*), on his Antarctic experiences—a rare treat. So unassuming a manner, clear, simple delivery, with touches of joyous humour, not only did he hold us breathless with his hair-raising exploits—but one felt what strength of will, character, and leadership lay behind it all. No wonder his autograph was in such demand afterwards.

A new St. Dunstan's activity is to help in the instruction of A.T.S.! Capt. Scriven, Army Education Officer for the Welsh Border District, after bringing us a Brains Trust (as recorded last autumn), invited a return visit from a St. Dunstan's team to answer A.T.S. questions (impromptu). This team was received so favourably that we now have a standing B.T. Committee—Mr. Carter, T. Milligan, and Roy Brown—to deal with other such invitations and arrange teams from a panel of our "Brains." Questions vary from the usual ones about Germany's future, equal pay for the sexes, nationalisation, etc., to what is the greatest invention of the modern age? Why do women "nag" more than men, or don't they? Why is Scotland Yard so called? Why is the best man at a wedding so called? Can a man be rich and still be a Christian? Should educational courses in the Services be compulsory? etc. The first team was Ted Barton, Tom Claxton, Walter Thornton, Roy Brown, Tom Niccol, and Vincent Docton; the second, Padre, T. Milligan, Roy Brown, Bob Bridger, and Peter Mathews. Mr. Carter was question master on each occasion.

Play-reading remains popular, "Hay Fever" and "Fresh Fields" being rendered with spirit at Denehurst, and the "Dover Road" and "Murder on the Second Floor" at Longmynd.

The Indian Clubs Class, under Sgt. Adams, is growing—practices once a week.

Another innovation is the Gym. Hut, now fitted up by Mr. Jarrold (ex R.A.F. Gym. and P.T. Instructor). Beginning with one pupil, the number you might find in

contortions on the mattress there is steadily growing—a good augury for general fitness and for further physical activities, including sports, when the weather is finer.

Miss Kennedy's dancing classes, three evenings a week in the Central Hut, are much enjoyed, and we are lucky to have so enthusiastic, popular and knowledgeable a teacher.

Spelling Bees have continued buzzing and inter-house competitions have been arranged. Those out to produce their own fun will find it, even in ransacking a dictionary! There have also been informal social evenings and guest nights at the different houses. The prize for a dominoes tournament, fives and threes, at Longmynd, was won by Ernie Jensen, from thirty-five other trainee entrants.

Mr. Bampton arranged another informal concert at the Central Hall, at which several trainees and staff made their debut. Again, icy roads did not deter the appreciative audience.

Our good friends, the Croft Hermits Repertory Company, were welcomed again, this time with Priestley's "Dangerous Corner"—always popular.

The Musical Circle arranged a C.E.M.A. Concert, with Harry Isaacs (pianist), Norina Semino (cellist), and Muriel Gale (contralto). The number that braved the snow-drifts showed how this Committee's efforts are appreciated.

The Wolverhampton Forces Social Club have given lovely invitations to Pantomimes and Christmas Dinners on two occasions, as thirty was the maximum number possible at one time. "Mother Goose" at the Hippodrome and "Little Miss Muffet" at the Grand Theatre, with Connor and Drake. Our Gwen gave a solo at the sing-song afterwards, when cigars, cigarettes and chocolate abounded.

Dance invitations have been accepted from P.O. Telephones, Shrewsbury, in Belmont Hall, and the R.A.O.C. Depot. Visiting Dance Bands from the R.A.F., the K.S.L.I., and the R.A.O.C. Also a Variety Show, "Stars in Battledress," "D+6," and a Variety Concert by R.A.O.C. M.O.B. Centre, Garrison Theatre Show, both in our own Hall; adding some fixtures cancelled on account of bad weather, verily we do not mope!

An influx of over forty new trainees has meant big calls on all staff; may St. Dun-

stan's mean as much to each of them as it has to thousands of "Old Boys."

Those leaving include three Canadians, to be repatriated; and Bill Phillips, going as upholsterer to Messrs. Beresford and Hicks, Shoreditch, but living at his father's home in Peckham. Good luck to them all. Congratulations to the following, who have passed tests:—

Typing.—L. Kibbler, E. Roberts, E. King, J. Walker, N. Crane, J. Lynch, J. Hamilton, H. Downward, H. Simmons, A. H. Bosley, R. Rose, T. Niccol, T. Jones, Alf. Waters, F. Higgs, R. J. Radcliffe, J. Mudge, D. G. Tickner.

Braille (Interline Reading).—P. Baker, H. Downward, W. Evans, J. Read, B. Josey, J. Koehorst, T. Bice.

Braille (Interpoint Reading).—T. Edmonds, L. Cadman.

Writing.—C. Chadwick, T. Barton, E. Jensen, W. Such, D. Coupe, A. Hobson, J. Koehorst, T. Edmonds, A. Reagan, H. Strudwick, H. Briggs, K. Revis, N. Dugdale.

French Integrale Reading.—J. Cuadrado.

Moon, Grade II, Reading.—H. Gardner, W. Bowerman.

Admitted to Hospital in December and January—

Lieut. George Ferris, R.T.R. (Wickham Bishop); Pte. Frank Palfrey (Enfield), Suffolk Regt.; Mrs. Mary Harrison, Maesteg, munition worker; Fus. Angus Macintyre (Kilwinning), Royal Scots Fusiliers; Cpl. John Edward Cooper (Wallasey), King's Liverpool Regt.; R.S.M. George Jenrick (Walworth), K.R.R. Corps; Pte. Dennis Beddoes (Birmingham), Royal Warwickshire Regt.; W/Sgt. J. F. Proctor (Preston), Royal Engineers; L.A.C. Walter Lethbridge (Oldham), Royal Air Force; Marine J. Summerson (Gateshead), Royal Marine Engineer Commando; L/Cpl. C. G. Paddick (Bridgwater), Rifle Brigade; Gnr. W. G. Stanley (Fulham), Royal Artillery; Pte. Robert Neale (Sheffield), Duke of Wellington's Regt.; Pte. John Fenny (Great Lunley), Pioneer Corps; L/Sgt. H. Frost (Rochdale), Royal Engineers; Pte. J. Lynch (Harlesden), Cameronians; Pte. Bert Green (Wimbledon), Middlesex Regt.; Lieut. M. B. MacLaren (London), Gordon Highlanders; Lieut. D. P. H. J. Matthews (Crownhill, Devon), Royal Engineers; Sapper C. T.

Allwright (Dartford), Royal Engineers; L/Cpl. W. Bedford (London, N.), Royal Engineers; Pte. M. Stanway (Macclesfield), A.T.S.; Pte. H. McCartney (Belfast), Pioneer Corps.

Admitted to Training Centre—

Rifleman J. F. Robertson, Regina Rifles (Toronto, Canada); Fusilier Patrick Sutton, Inniskilling Fusiliers (Bray, Co. Wicklow); Pte. N. Russell, R.A.S.C. (Isleworth); Sapper H. Windley, Royal Engineers (Hull); Gunner H. Newall, Royal Artillery (Manchester).

Admitted to Benefits—

Stoker D. Jennings, Royal Navy (Chiswick); P/O. W. H. Rutland, Royal Navy (Princes Risborough).

Death

RAYTON.—On January 21st, W. H. Rayton, of Middleton, Leeds, in the Royal Hospital Annexe, Sheffield.

St. Dunstaners' Party for Evacuees

The trainees at Church Stretton handsomely subscribed, just before Christmas, to give the children of Croydon Nursery, who were then evacuated to Church Stretton, a grand Christmas Party. A report of the party has now been received from Nurse Crelling, on behalf of the Matron, and she writes: "A large Christmas tree stood in the hall, gaily decorated with glistening ornaments and trimmings, and on it hung a toy for each child. The children were in high glee and full of excitement at the sight of all the good things which had been provided for them.

"Members of the Children's Homes' Committee were present, and also some members of a Rescue Squad, who, on our return from Church Stretton, helped to unload the furniture. After the party, each child was given a toy from the tree and then went to bed thoroughly happy.

"Matron wishes me to thank you all very much for the kind thought which prompted you to give this treat to the children; we all wish you a very happy New Year, and extend the same greeting to your Matron and the Sisters under whose care you are."

Comforts Fund Addresses

Matron Pain thanks all those who sent new addresses of their serving sons, and is delighted to have news of so many old friends.

"In Memory"

Sapper William Henry Rayton, *Royal Engineers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. H. Rayton, of Leeds, a new war St. Dunstan. Enlisting in April, 1939, he was wounded by shrapnel at El Alamein, but on his return to this country it was found that his sight was rapidly failing. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in June, 1944, and began his training three months later, but in December his head wound made it necessary for him to be admitted to hospital. An operation followed and he rallied, but after a brave fight he passed away on January 21st. Bill was popular with men and staff and his loss was a sad blow to all.

Our very sincere sympathy is extended to his young widow, to whom their first baby, a daughter, had been born on December 28th.

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

Private Richard Davies, *Manchester Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of R. Davies, of Sweffling, Suffolk.

He served from June, 1915 and was gassed in France in September, 1916, as a result of which his sight was severely damaged. He came to St. Dunstan's two years later, where he trained as a poultry farmer and netter. For some considerable time before his death, however, he had done only light work on account of his failing health. After a visit to Blackpool, when he was very ill, he gradually grew worse, and he died at his home on December 4th.

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

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Rifleman Claude Grattidge, *King's Royal Rifles*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. Grattidge, of Tyseley Birmingham.

He was wounded on July 30th, 1915, as a result of which his face was severely injured and he lost his sight. He originally took over a business, but of late years he had only been able to carry on with wool-rug work. For some time he has not been fit, and a second attack of pneumonia within a short time caused his death on December 6th, after his removal to hospital a few hours before.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a wreath in the form of St. Dunstan's badge, from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and five young children.

Alexander Neil Grant, *New Zealand Forces*

We have heard with deep regret from Donald McPhee, of the New Zealand Institute for the Blind, of the death of our New Zealander, A. N. Grant, of Remuera, who came on to our books January 15th, 1936.

He leaves a widow and four children, to whom we extend our very sincere sympathy.

Private J. Walker, *New Zealand Expeditionary Force*

We have also heard from Donald McPhee of the death of J. Walker, of Ponsonby, Auckland, who served from 1915 to 1918 and was made a St. Dunstanian as from October 16th, 1936. He was unmarried.

Private John Batchelor, *3rd Royal Sussex Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Batchelor, of Earlsfield, who was the first blinded soldier of the last war to come to St. Dunstan's.

When war broke out in 1914 he had already served six years. He went to France and was wounded at Ypres in October, 1914, and he came to St. Dunstan's on February 10th, 1915.

He was trained as a mat-maker and continued with this work until 1940, when his health forced him to give it up. For many years he had not been very fit, and he was admitted to hospital in October, 1944, where he passed away on January 11th, at the age of 53.

The funeral took place at Streatham Cemetery, and among the flowers was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Births

CARLTON.—To the wife of W. C. Carlton, of Wakefield, on January 18th, a daughter.

PURCELL.—On January 13th, to the wife of J. B. Purcell, of Urmston, Manchester, a son—Christopher John.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy this month to the following:—

MACDONALD.—To J. H. MacDonald, of Stockport, whose wife died suddenly on January 23rd.

BELL.—To J. E. Bell, of Canvey Island, whose wife passed away on February 2nd.

On Active Service

We have heard with deep regret that Gerald Fearn, of the Monmouthshire Regiment, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Fearn, of East Kirkby, has been killed in action on the Western Front.

We have also heard with deep regret of the death, in a British hospital on the Western Front, of Jack, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Woodrow, of Alderbury.

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A. Waite would like to thank all those kind friends who have sent him letters of sympathy upon his son's death.