

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 316—VOLUME XXIX [NEW SERIES]

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

Employment Preference for Ex-Servicemen

A MOST important issue affecting the future of ex-service men has been constantly pressed upon the Government by Sir Ian Fraser. It is the issue of preference for employment. The occasion may arise in the House of Commons shortly for a debate on this matter, for when the Ministry of Labour vote is taken, it will be debated on a milk and water motion put down by Sir George Schuster and others, which reads as follows:—

That this House is of the opinion that the Government's plans for the resettlement in civilian life of service personnel and war workers constitute a major national issue; that steps should be taken to ensure that such plans cover all sections of the community engaged on work of national importance connected with the war effort; and that the plans should receive further consideration at an early date.

Sir Ian Fraser thinks this is much too timid and vague, and has put down an Amendment as follows:—

At end add: "That in order to give an equal chance to those who have been away from home and civilian employment, and who have no rights under the Reinstatement and Civil Employment Act or the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, they shall be the first to be offered to employers for vacancies, and that a separate register of ex-servicemen and women shall be kept at every employment exchange."

Speaking at Leeds to a great audience at a British Legion meeting recently on the subject, Sir Ian said:—

"The signs are that the organised war with Germany will soon be over. We have got to beat thousands of swords into ploughshares, and in the process we have got to absorb into our economic life five and a half million men and women who have been out of it for years. They have been wanted by the nation and praised by the people. We must make sure they are wanted when they come back.

The Trades Unions have a great part to play. The majority of their members have been at home; it was essential that they should be, and their leaders and an overwhelming majority of their members have done a wonderful job. On the other hand, they have, in the main, been near to their own folk. With notable and brave exceptions they have worked in safe surroundings. They have retained their skill and are in touch with employment. They must go out of their way to help the return to "civvy street," and the absorption into their own body of the men and women who have been away.

Except where the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act positively requires—and rightly requires—that a man should give up his job to an ex-service man who left the same job to go to fight, the Trades Unionist and the others who have been at home cannot, and in my view should not be asked to go into unemployment to make jobs for returning men and women. But wherever vacancies occur, there should be a priority for those who have been away. Not an everlasting priority, and not an absolute priority which would prevent a man from getting a job for ever because he had not served in the Armed Forces, but a discretionary priority which would ensure that preference for all vacancies is first given to those who are out of touch, and who are at a disadvantage. I hope this issue can be agreed, but if it is not, it will have to be fought out on the floor of the House of Commons, if necessary by a challenge and a vote. If the House of Commons will not listen, it will have to be taken to the country and the election."

The Braille Competition

The £500 Braille Competition, announced in the February REVIEW, has been well received. Many St. Dunstaners have written in to say what they think of the competitions, and their criticisms and suggestions will be considered when the final rules for the Championship are drawn up. Extracts from some of the letters are printed below and, if space permits, a further selection will appear next month.

It is probable that the Championship Competitions will take place towards the end of the summer, possibly at Church Stretton, when we hope the war will be over, and travelling and other problems will be infinitely easier.

In the meantime, there seems to be general agreement about the arrangements proposed for the Advanced Braille Test, and we are accordingly going forward with our plans. Here are the rules:—

- 1.—Every St. Dunstaner, old and new, is eligible to enter for the Advanced Braille Test, which has already been introduced at Church Stretton.
- 2.—The Test shall be the reading of two pages of interpoint braille—58 full lines—in twenty minutes, "two pages" meaning pages 1 and 2 of one sheet.
- 3.—To ensure a "pass," the braille must be read with speed and understanding, and a sufficient degree of accuracy for all practical purposes.
- 4.—The prizes for each successful entrant will be £3 and a certificate.
- 5.—Those new war St. Dunstaners who passed the Test at Church Stretton and received the prize of £1 will now receive a further £2.
- 6.—Henceforward, every new St. Dunstaner will receive £3 on passing the Test, instead of £1 as in the past.
- 7.—The passing of the Advanced Braille Test will be a necessary qualification for entry in the Championship Competitions.

Arrangements are being made, in the first place, for the Test to be held in Church Stretton and London. Later, arrangements will be made for it to take place in Blackpool and other convenient centres.

Applications for the Advanced Braille Test only (not the Championship) should be sent in to the Editor as soon as possible. In the case of Londoners, we will then arrange for an examiner to be present at Headquarters on certain dates. Those sitting locally may have to wait a little while until suitable arrangements are made.

Here are extracts from some of the letters we have received:—

It is with a sense of gratitude towards the anonymous donor that I read of his generous gift for the encouragement of braille, and it was with equal satisfaction that I considered your very excellent proposal of reading competitions. May I ask you to consider that braille writing might be included as part of the competition. I have an idea that this side of braille is neglected by many and its uses are not fully appreciated.

W. GIRLING, Reading.

There are probably a certain number of St. Dunstaners who have learnt to read with both hands, which would give them an advantage over those who only read with one. I think they should be placed in different categories in the forthcoming Championship.

W. ROBINSON, Welby, near Grantham.

If competitors are only to be divided into two classes, A and B, then I am prepared to lay substantial odds that most, if not all the prize-winners, will be found amongst those whose occupations admit of them preserving a keen sense of touch. Handicraft workers, in my opinion, will stand little or no chance because the nature of their work is such that their sense of touch is being constantly blunted. I speak from experience as I have at one time or another belonged to both groups. I suggest, therefore, that competitors should be divided into two classes according to their occupation, say, manual and non-manual.

A. CALDWELL, Anglesey.

May I, in the first instance, murmur a mild criticism to the effect that such contests are more likely to subsidise those who have a flair for elocution than to encourage perseverance in those who find braille difficult. I must admit, however, that anything which induces us to practise reading aloud is all to the good, for the ability to read fluently to one's friends is a real social acquisition.

C. MCINTOSH, Dumfries.

I suggest that there might be two classes, viz., manual and non-manual St. Dunstaners, with particular reference to old-war men. When working at my old office I was reading shorthand all day, and my speed in reading ordinary braille was quite fast. Since 1934, however, I have been engaged with poultry, and my hands have become rough, tough, and cracked. My speed when reading has been reduced to about one-half of what it used to be in office days.

W. HEUSHAW, Colchester.

Yorkshire Gatherings

Speaking at small St. Dunstan's parties in Leeds and Sheffield during a recent tour in the West Riding of Yorkshire, Sir Ian Fraser foreshadowed that, if all went well, St. Dunstan's would have its Holiday Home at Brighton next year, and also a full series of re-unions on the pre-war scale. He knew it would be a great pleasure to all St. Dunstaners to revive these contacts, which they had missed so much during the war. Sheffield St. Dunstaners of both wars, were present at a tea party, and a similar gathering took place for luncheon in Leeds. The meetings applauded the hearty welcome the Chairman gave to Commander Smyth, D.S.O., who had returned from war service to take up his duties as head of the Welfare Department once again.

At Leeds, G. H. Heeley (last war shorthand typist), proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Ian, which was seconded by Ernest Russell, a telephonist of this war.

Among the guests at the Leeds luncheon were Col. R. Grimshaw, Member of the National Executive Council and Chairman of the West Riding Group of the British Legion, and Col. A. Butler, Chairman of the Leeds Group; Mrs. Swaby, Honorary Organiser for St. Dunstan's in Leeds, and the Chief Constable, Mr. Frank Swaby.

At Sheffield, the Lord Mayor presided over a well attended public meeting, at which a cheque for £6,110 0s. 9d. was presented to Sir Ian by Captain Clement Roberts, M.B.E., Chief Warden. Sir Ian Fraser said this was the third big cheque they had received from Sheffield, which had been most generous to St. Dunstan's. The Chairman expressed his gratitude and warm thanks to the organiser for the Yorkshire area, W. J. Hopper, himself an old St. Dunstaner.

Church Stretton Visitors

Early in March representatives of the Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs paid a visit to our Training Centre. As a result a long article appeared in *Vrij Nederland*, describing our work. It concluded: "The representatives of the Ministry left the Centre with the hope that the experiences gained at this wonderful institute will, to a great extent, help the blind in the Netherlands who may, in future, take advantage of this admirable example which is being given in England."

Mr. Ottaway's Fund for the Deaf-Blind

Mr. Ottaway's generous action in asking for the major portion of his leaving present to be used for the purchase of watches for the deaf-blind has enabled Mr. Askew to send seven watches to the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League, whose Hon. Secretary writes: "How splendid of Mr. Ottaway to wish to share his farewell gift. He knows the happiness it will give to many of those suffering the double handicap."

Mr. Ottaway's suggestion of a permanent Fund for the Deaf-Blind is also being carried out, and the Chairman has had great pleasure in allocating a gift of £10 to it from a special fund which he is holding.

Mr. C. W. Balkwill

It is with deep regret that we have heard of the death of Mr. C. W. Balkwill, for many years one of St. Dunstan's Poultry Instructors. Although his health had forced him to give up his work with us a year or so ago—he suffered greatly as a result of gas received in the last war—his interests were always with St. Dunstan's poultry-farmers. C. T. Condon, of Basingstoke, writes: "He was my instructor for over twenty years, and I found him most helpful, kind and courteous, and through years of great suffering, carried on so nobly. A real friend to all St. Dunstaners who came under him, and to quote my son's words:

'One of nature's gentlemen.'

Reported Killed, Now Home

We have heard the good news that Gerald Fearn, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Fearn, of East Kirby, who had been reported "Killed in Action," is safe and well and has arrived home. He was one of the recently liberated prisoners of war.

Promotions

W/O. T. L. Salter, D.F.M. (Battersea), is now Pilot Officer.

Joan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Beckham, Kenton, has been promoted Third Officer, W.R.N.S., now in Ceylon.

In Brief

The Marquess of Normanby, M.B.E., has been appointed Lord in Waiting to His Majesty the King.

Lieut.-Col. Eric Ball is now a J.P.

R. Coupland, of Hull, has been mentioned in despatches.

Church Stretton Notes

Seeing our Hall on Thursday evening, March 15th, you would have been convinced that a parachute had dropped you into the Mansion House, London, at the Lord Mayor's Fancy Dress Ball in pre-war days! A galaxy of gay disguises (some wearers were never identified); and a host of admirers attending as "themselves." Picture Commandant's embarrassment when an unknown Chinaman—pig-tailed and moustachio-ed, but with female voice—"kow-towed" before him; or Anne Boleyn's coy encouragement of her burly Royal Suitor; or the reception accorded to Hitler, Mussolini, and toothy Jap; a medley of one hundred and twelve school-girls, sheiks, boy scouts, new, tall V.A.D.s (with suspiciously short skirts and deep voices—but fetching curls!), nigger minstrels, nuns, attractive peasants, and Lord Nelson himself. How could the harassed judges, Lady Buckmaster and Messrs. Cheesman and Plant, award the prizes? To everyone's satisfaction, Jim Laffey was placed first, as the most vagabond of tramps (no shaving for the previous week); Ted Caswall second, as the Fairy Godmother; Miss Grotian (V.A.D., Longmynd) well-deserved lady's first as a truly extravagant Squander Bug; Miss Preedy, second, unrecognisable as a dignified Mandarin, with Miss Heap, a fearsome Pirate, as runner-up (please show these Notes to anyone who thinks we mope here!)

Thursday, March 22nd, was the Boys' own "Easter Egg" Concert, where, after real hard rehearsing, they surpassed themselves—and that is saying a good deal! The 21st had been invitation night for Church Stretton, but there was still a queue of hopeful gate-crashers on the Thursday! Flattering invitations to tour have naturally to be declined. How can one select from twelve excellent items in each half of the programme—many in costume! The Post-Horn Gallop on piano-accordions, with Joe Walsh on the horn, was most exciting (despite the penetration of previous practisings!) The triologues, "The Colonel, the Major and the Sub.," and the amended version of "The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God," were well worked up. Lord Nelson (complete with Lady Hamilton) gave us some unwritten history, viz., the work of the *Stokers* at Trafalgar! A

high-light was the Hawaiian scene, colourful, glamorous, musical, portraying most attractively the land "where 'tis always afternoon." Beryl and Gwen at their best in solos and duets; and the finale, "The Old School Tie," with masters and boys, closed touchingly with the Belmont farewell; for apparently we shall soon have to carry on—somehow—without "trainees-esses." Picture them as school-girls—gym. tunics, long plaits, etc.—the authorities in caps and gowns, singing to the tune of "Daisy"—"Belmont, Belmont, often we'll think of you. We're half crazy wondering what we'll do." Well, no one can take from us all our happy memories of Belmont.

The last Saturday was the Breaking-up Party at the Central Hall, our R.A.O.C. Band taking turns with our own. A good "Elimination Dance" finale excluded, first, any married ladies; then any gentleman who didn't wish to turn up his left trouser-leg; ladies with pink undies; gentlemen with long woollen pants; and the final couple had to polka up the room wearing one another's shoes!

A really beautiful innovation of a very different nature was a Musical Service in the Parish Church on the last Friday evening, organised by the Church Stretton Ladies' Choir (enthusiastically trained by Mr. Bradford) and St. Dunstan's. It was a perfect hour, with Gwen and Beryl's duet, "I waited for the Lord"; Sidney Kitson's aria, "A New Commandment"; St. Dunstan's double quartet, "God so loved the World"; and finally Gwen's lovely rendering of "Light of the World, be Thou our Guide," to Handel's "Largo"—a most moving St. Dunstan's memory.

St. Dunstan's 9.45 Sunday Services in the Parish Church are much enjoyed, both by our own community and by members of the Forces. Offertories from them since mid-December have been sent to:

	£	s.	d.
The Churchwardens	6	18	9
Pearson's Fresh Air Fund ...	5	17	1
Duke of Gloucester's Fund ...	6	0	0
King George's Fund for Sailors	6	0	0
The Deaf-Blind Helpers' League	6	0	0
	£30	15	10

St. Dunstan's Brains Trust has been much in demand, accepting fifteen invitations this term, fourteen of which were to

A.T.S. Sample questions readers may like to tackle were: "Which contributes most to success, personality or brains?" "Will the cinema eventually kill the theatre?" "What is good music?" etc.

It is so good of noted professional artists to give us their services, notably Henry Hall and his Band, perfectly rehearsed, and bringing a very clever 16-year-old impersonator; a Celtic Male Concert Party from Swansea; Robb Wilton, Stanelli, Jewel and Warriss; Joe Binks in a sporting talk, and others, all fully appreciated. But undoubtedly there is a growing demand for quieter, more "homely" recreations, like quizzes, play-readings, inter-house parties, and the Belmont readings, as a change from usual Variety Concerts. Play-readings increase in popularity. "Someone at the Door" has been given at Longmynd and "Laburnum Grove" at Denehurst.

A successful Cribbage Tournament at Longmynd attracted thirty-six entries, the cup going to Joe Walch, with Roy Brown as runner-up.

Two outings to football matches—England v. Scotland, at Villa Park, Birmingham, and Wolverhampton v. Stoke, at Wolverhampton, were much enjoyed, with the help of Mr. Carter's loud-speaker.

Our Darts team, challenging the V.R.D.s, lost the match away but won the home one. Well done!

At the Musical Circle's monthly fixture, Miss Vera Henderson, pianist, was the guest artist. We are indeed indebted to that Committee for enjoyable music of a higher standard.

An excellent Ensa Dramatic Company has given us "Hobson's Choice." Our faithful friends, the Croft Hermits Repertory Company, delighted us with "The Good Young Man." They were at their very best.

One innovation in the Longmynd Huts has been the erection of divisions to form two bed cubicles; each bed is provided with ear-phones, so that radio-philics can revel without annoying radio-phobes!

Tiger Hall, now a Trainees' House (apart from the Sick Bay), remained open during the Easter holiday; several, the safety and quiet of whose home areas were still threatened, availing themselves of the welcome hospitality.

No less than seventy-four new entrants

have come to us this term. Among those leaving are:

F. Watkinson, of Hessle, to take up joinery as a home occupation; L. Withington, of Wigan, to Messrs. Walker & Co., as a blue print machine operator; C. Chadwick, of Manchester, to take up baskets, pending shop settlement; C. Hobbs, of London, N.W.9, as telephonist at the Midland Bank; R. Jones, of Swansea, whose final details of settlement will be arranged shortly; L. Kibbler, of Birmingham, as a capstan lathe operator and inspector with M.C.L. and Repetition, Ltd., Birmingham; H. Appleyard, of Normanton, to do baskets at home; A. Morgan, of York, to Messrs. Rowntree's, Ltd.; D. Bell, of Edinburgh, to his home, pending shop settlement; L. Stent, of Liverpool (re-trainee), to do baskets at home; C. Womack, of Sheffield, to his home, eventually to go to the Northern Boot Depot; Sergt. S. Daniels and Sapper R. Rose, both Canadians, to await repatriation at a Canadian General Hospital; Miss M. Stanway, of Macclesfield, to go to her home; Mrs. G. Obern, of Aberdare, to her home and to receive singing tuition in Cardiff; Miss B. Sleight, of London, S.W.7, who has been staying at Belmont, to London.

Congratulations to the following, who have passed tests, during March:

Braille Writing.—C. Cooper, W. G. Evans, M. Norman.

Braille Reading (Interpoint).—T. R. Horsfield, J. Windsor, H. Downward, W. Thornton, W. Such.

Braille Reading (Interline).—P. Bagwell, J. Laffey, T. Niccol, R. Robinson (American), E. Griffiths, G. Smith, H. Swain, H. Bosley, J. Slee.

Typing.—W. Resch (Canadian), M. Norman, P. Sheehan, J. H. Todd, G. Coxon, D. McGoohan, B. Green, F. Whyte, M. Clements, F. Palfrey, W. R. Freeman, L. Robinson, D. Groves, P. R. Spencer, M. B. McLaren, W. Bond, L. Ellaway, J. Burnham, E. Higgs, G. Taylor, C. Williams, R. Britton.

Missing

We hear with regret that Duncan Alexander, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Alexander, of Kirkcudbright, has been reported missing in Germany.

Letters to the Editor

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

Keeping in Touch

DEAR SIR,

A few days before the February issue of the REVIEW appeared, I also received a letter from Ron Ettridge, one of the "New Brigade" of St. Dunstaners, in which he asked me, as an "Old Timer," to start the ball rolling under the above heading.

All my life I have tried to keep out of print and off platforms—with considerable success, I might add—but this time I see no way of escape.

I am now groping frantically in a fear-clouded mind for a story!

The name, "Cock-a-doodle-quack" will make the surviving few of our very "Old Brigade" sit up and smile wistfully. Poor old Cock-a-doodle-quack was born in our first little poultry-farm in the grounds of St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, in 1915.

Our poultry trainees said Cock-a-doodle-quack was a cross between one of their cockerels and a duck; that he had one web-and one claw-foot; and that he entertained them during idle moments down at the farm by running round the pond with the web-foot in the water and the claw-foot on the land.

Distinguished visitors to our farm always received more detailed descriptions of Cock-a-doodle-quack, but when they asked if they might see him, the answer invariably was that he had just taken to the air for his morning, or afternoon, flight!

When that little farm, with its imaginative trainees, was transferred to King's Langley, Cock-a-doodle-quack disappeared from my ken. Perhaps Billy Hallam or Jerry Jerome had him stuffed!

Yours sincerely,

Church Stretton. T. D. MILLIGAN.

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

DEAR SIR,

(This is a Mild One)

I arrived at St. Dunstan's College (which, before we took it over was a Church College) in the summer of 1917, and was unfortunately put in No. 18 Ward, with a bunch of brother Scots. After a little talk about where and when you lost your sight, I enquired my way to the lounge, where I dropped into the first chair. A few minutes after, a gentleman came up to me—at least, I thought he was a gentleman at

the time—and he said "Good morning," to which I replied "Good morning, Sir," in real regimental style. The gentleman asked "Would you like to join the choir and come to my Service on Sunday?" I enquired what the Service was. He said "C. of E." to which I replied, "I'm sorry, but I am a Presbyterian." This continued at intervals of ten minutes for four days, and on the fourth day a St. Dunstan's friend of mine arrived from Leicester, who luckily could see a little. He came up to me and asked me how I liked the place, and I told him I hated it as it was full of — parsons. He said it might be the boys pulling my leg, so I replied "Wait till the next one comes."

My friend went to get ready to take me out and a few seconds later up came another parson.

"Good morning. You are a new boy."

"Yes, sir."

"What regiment were you in?"

"Scaforth Highlanders."

"Splendid regiment. Would you like to join the choir and come to my Service on Sunday?"

"So and so, you and your — Service!"

Unfortunately for me this was the real parson. It was three months after, when I had won the Double Sculls with Marrison, that I had a chance to explain to the Padre what had happened, and he advised me not to use such strong language in future.

Yours sincerely,

JOCK MACFARLANE.

Queen's Park, W.10.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

Peggy Yates (Southwick) on March 13th, to Gunner H. J. Price, R.C.A.

Veronica King (Bradford) on March 23rd, to Leading Seaman Jack Smith.

Dorothy Margaret adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Tremble, Knaresborough, on March 10th, to Cpl. Neville Brown.

Emmanuel Tatton (Gloucester), R.N., on March 31st, to L.A.C. W. Cynthia Lowe.

Nancy Gimber (Desborough) on February 17th, to L.A.C. Yeomans.

Megan Williams (Cardiff) on February 20th, to L.A.C. John Hamer.

★ ★ ★
We have heard with regret that the husband of Ivy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Shepherd, Leighton Buzzard, has been killed in action on the Western Front.

Mr. Taylor writes:—

DEAR ST. DUNSTAN'S SHOPKEEPERS,

I want to thank you all most sincerely for the splendid present you have so generously given me on the occasion of my leaving St. Dunstan's to take up other work. It is more than kind of you to have thought of me in this way, and I appreciate to the full what it means.

I hope it will meet with your approval if I pay the money subscribed by you into the Bank. Then later on, when prices are not so terrifying, I shall buy something for my home, which, while being useful, will be a continual reminder of you, my very good friends of long standing.

I need scarcely tell you that you will often be in my thoughts, and it is my sincere hope that you will all continue to progress in the good old St. Dunstan's Shopkeepers' way.

Yours very sincerely,

A. E. TAYLOR.

Pity the Blind

Please "Pity the blind." I'm blind. Pity me.
But wait, though it's true that I cannot see,
It's luminous rays I do not perceive.
Think you, for this, I should pity receive?
I say "No; although to me day and night
Are the same if one sees only daylight."
I may see beauty, I see with my mind.
I may see people, some selfish, some kind.
I see in a voice a friend or a fake,
A liar, a cheat, a vice-sodden rake.
I see a voice smile, and eyes gleam with joy,
I see in a shout a rosy-cheeked boy.
I see what I hear, what I feel and smell.
A few things I see are ugly as hell.
I look at them briefly, try passing by,
Unfed by attention, most of them die.
I look for the good, for good can be found
Most places, sometime, if one looks around.
So "Pity the blind" but don't pity me,
"Pity the blind" who have eyes but don't see.
I see what I look for, beautiful things.
I live in a realm, the envy of kings.
I live in my mind and I realize
It's there I shall have what I visualize.

J. FRANCIS SMITH.*

*Dr. J. Francis Smith served with the Canadian Army in the last war and was blinded in France. He studied massage at St. Dunstan's and osteopathy in the United States. He is now a neurologist on the staff of the Osteopathic Hospital in Philadelphia, and also has a flourishing private practice there.

Births

COLLINS.—To the wife of G. Collins, of Oakleigh Park, N. (new war), on March 24th, a daughter—Frances.

LEE.—To the wife of J. A. Lee, of Leeds (new war), on March 29th, a daughter—Patricia Mary.

Deaths

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

AUBREY.—To F. Aubrey, of Bristol, whose wife passed away on March 22nd, after a long illness.

BROCKIE.—To E. M. Brockie, of Torphins, Aberdeenshire, who lost his wife on March 16th.

GOODISON.—To J. Goodison, of Dublin, whose mother, with whom he lived, has passed away.

On Active Service

We have heard with deep regret of the death of Sergt. William Byrd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Byrd, of Bridgwater, as the result of an accident while serving with the B.L.A.

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We have also heard with deep regret that the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Tebbutt, of Nottingham, has died as a result of wounds received in action.

Marriages

COLE—STIMSON.—On March 24th, at St. Stephen's Church, Bexhill-on-Sea, A. G. Cole to Mrs. Evelyn Stimson, widow of the late Lieut. S. Stimson, St. Dunstaner.

ELLIS—MULLINS.—Oh April 7th, at the Church of Our Lady Immaculate, Shadwell, J. Ellis, of Shadwell (new war St. Dunstaner) to Miss Laura Mullins, late V.A.D. at "Tembani," South Africa.

LYNCH—SMALES.—On March 31st, Trooper David Lynch, of Manitoba, Canada, now at St. Dunstan's Hospital Unit, Stoke Mandeville, to Miss Betty Smales, W.L.A.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following, who have celebrated anniversaries: Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bamber, Hassocks, December 8th, 1944; Mr. and Mrs. S. Sephton, St. Helen's, March 24th; Mr. and Mrs. W. McCarthy, Stretford, March 27th; Mr. and Mrs. H. Miller, East Ham, April 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Kerr, Beckenham, April 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. S. Duncan, Carshalton, April 10th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Wells, Finedon, April 17th.

‘ In Memory ’

Sergeant John Mullen, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Mullen, of Blaydon-on-Tyne, who served with the R.A.M.C. as a regular soldier for many years. He was a very sick man when he came to us in 1925, and on account of his health was not able to do a great deal of work. For a very long time he had been an invalid, and he passed away in his sleep on January 28th.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family, who had cared for him since the death of his wife in 1920.

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

Private A. Altoft, *1/19th London Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. Altoft, of Leeds.

He did not come to us until June, 1930, when his sight and health were badly affected as a result of gas in 1917. Although not very fit, he derived pleasure in keeping a little poultry and, when able, a little rug-making. He had not been well for some time before his death and he passed away on February 2nd.

Our sympathy goes out to his widow. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades was amongst the flowers.

Private F. A. Cole, *Berkshire Labour Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of F. A. Cole, of Acocks Green, Birmingham, who came to us in 1929, when his sight and health were affected as a result of gassing in 1916. He was trained as a basket-maker and carried on with this occupation for a number of years. He died as the result of a stroke on February 3rd.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow and family.

Rifleman Hugh McAteer, *2nd Royal Irish Rifles*

With deep regret we record the death of H. McAteer, of Belfast.

He lost his sight as a result of his service in France, when he also received such other severe leg wounds that his leg had to be amputated. Originally having a small business, he of late years gave most of his time to basket-making. He became ill towards the end of 1944 and he passed away at his home on February 3rd.

He will long be remembered for his cheery spirit, despite his double handicap, and for his music. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow.

Mr. N. Macauley represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral, which took place at Carnmoney Cemetery, a wreath being sent from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

Lance-Corporal James Moore, *Royal Engineers*

We record with deep regret the death of another of our Irish St. Dunstaners, J. Moore, of Limerick.

He was blinded as the result of an accident, while serving in December, 1917, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until October, 1926. Although then quite elderly, he trained as a basket-maker, dividing his time between England and Ireland. After a long period of ill-health, he died in Ireland on February 19th. His wife, also in hospital, died only a fortnight before him.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to their four children, particularly Mrs. Aylmer, his daughter, with whom he had made his home. A wreath from St. Dunstan's was sent, through Mr. Macauley, from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades.

Private John Jerrard, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of J. Jerrard, of Lancing.

He was trained as a boot-repairer and netter after coming to St. Dunstan's in September, 1921, but was forced to give up these occupations, owing to ill-health.

He was admitted to our Blackpool Home last December for the Christmas holiday, but was taken ill early in January, and he was removed to the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, where he died on March 20th. The funeral took place at Carleton Cemetery, Blackpool, St. Dunstan's being represented by Matron Davies, Sister Berry, and St. Dunstaners Paddy McDonough and J. Rickaby. Among the wreaths was one from the Blackpool Home and another from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family.

Chief Engineer Artificer John Patrick Farrell, *Royal Navy*

With deep regret we record the death of J. P. Farrell, of Hastings.

Joining the Navy as far back as December, 1899, he served on a torpedo boat destroyer during the last war. He was discharged in 1917 and came to us soon after. He was trained as a poultry farmer, but after a few years was forced to give this up.

He was taken suddenly ill last month and was admitted to hospital, where he died on March 19th. The funeral took place at Hastings Cemetery, and was preceded by Requiem Mass at the Catholic Church, Hollington. W. Ward, St. Dunstaner, attended the funeral, and among the flowers was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his other comrades.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and family.