

# 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

### The Election and the New Government

AS we do not publish in August and this issue appears in the middle of September, it seems a long time since the Election. Nevertheless I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all those who wrote to me and congratulated me upon my return to the House of Commons. I think there are great difficulties ahead, financial and economic, for any Government in this country and that we should give the new Government a full and fair chance.

During the last Government we obtained many concessions as regards pensions and allowances, but there are still some anomalies and injustices which we want to see corrected. We shall raise these matters with the Government, both in the Ministry of Pensions itself and in the House of Commons, and we shall hope for a sympathetic hearing.

St. Dunstan's is not concerned with party politics, but we are concerned that the Government—any Government of any party—does the right thing by those who have been wounded in the nation's service, and we shall not rest until our pension claims have been fully considered. As St. Dunstaners know, we work in close contact with the British Legion, of which I have the honour to be the National Vice-Chairman, and we shall continue to press upon the Minister of Pensions our demands for redress of our grievances. They may be summarised as follows:—

1. The wives' and children's allowances should be payable to all seriously disabled soldiers, sailors and airmen, no matter when they marry or when their children are born.
2. The Attendant Allowance should be increased.
3. An alternative or supplementary pension should be granted for those who had a higher income before the war—irrespective of rank—and will suffer particular hardship on the basic rate.
4. The total income of those pensioners who have lost both eyes and hands, and who are unable to add to their income by any occupational work, should be raised until it approximates to good wages and provides for suitable attendance.

### A Scientific Committee

Under the Chairmanship of Professor E. D. Adrian, O.M., F.R.S., M.A., M.D., D.Sc., our

Council has recently set up a scientific committee to study the application of new inventions arising out of the war to the many problems of blindness. Radiolocation, direction finding, and blind flying were developed to a very high pitch during the war, as we all learned in that very interesting broadcast called "Radar," which some of us must have listened to in August. The committee consists of the most eminent scientists, some of whom have been engaged in this work, and it may be that the inventions of war may have their use in peace.

I should warn my readers that this is a long shot, and that no immediate solution of the problems of getting about when you do not see is likely to be found, but research seems worth doing nevertheless, and will be carried out thoroughly. We will set up a research department with scientists in charge of it, under this committee, and we have arranged to finance it for a period of years, so that it may be a thorough investigation.

### Horace Kerr

Horace Kerr was a private in the last war and was blinded in 1917 at Ypres, and became a telephone operator. In those early days, St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind worked together, and Kerr was their telephone operator and then ours. Soon after this war broke out, he was transferred to the Appeals Staff, where he has done most valuable work, representing us in the counties of Sussex, Hampshire, Kent and the Isle of Wight. He has now returned to the administrative side, and has been put in charge of similar work to that which he undertook before, with certain additions. All supplies to St. Dunstaners and to St. Dunstan's Homes of Talking Books, wireless sets, watches, typewriters, games, braille, as well as typewriting and watch repairs, are under his charge and all concerned should write to him.

Kerr's department is not only a Supply Department; he is also responsible for seeing that these services work satisfactorily and for advising us as to their progress, and I hope very much that he will make it his job now, as he did before the war, to encourage braille reading and writing amongst all our men of both wars. It is an old saying that "the customer is always right," and in the end I suppose he is, but the supplier can often guide him and advise him as to what he really wants, and can thus add very much to the pleasure of his use of the goods that he obtains.

### How to Listen to the Talking Book

Here is my own opinion, for what it's worth, as to how to listen to the Talking Book. Speech is made up of vowels and consonants, and it is the consonants that give it definition and clarity. Intelligibility depends on good consonants. This is partly a matter for the reader, but it is also partly a matter of electrical reproduction, and also partly a matter of the way in which you listen. Consonants are transmitted by higher frequencies, which are much more delicate and tenuous than the lower frequencies which transmit the vowels. Broadly speaking, the higher frequencies which transmit the consonants go in straight lines and do not turn corners so easily. It therefore follows that for the highest intelligibility you should listen to a Talking Book sitting straight in front of the loud-speaker, so that it sends its waves directly towards you. I get the greatest pleasure by listening close to the speaker, and with the volume low and the tone control towards high. In this condition you sometimes get a good deal of scratch, but you get used to this and the higher intelligibility makes for easier reading. On balance I prefer this to the boomy loud noise which so many people seem to use.

I am of the opinion that most people listen to the Talking Book, and, indeed, to wireless itself, at much too loud a volume, so that it is tiring and booming. Try sitting just in front of your Talking Book, placing it on a table at about the level of your ears when you are seated. Try and place yourself only a yard away. Raise the tone towards high, and put the volume low, and I think you will find that you get greater intelligibility and therefore better listening with less effort.

### Artificial Limbs

I am still very dissatisfied with the supply of artificial limbs. I had lunch with the Minister of Pensions the other day and told him of many delays in the supply of these limbs, and I followed up this interview by a letter in which I asked him to give a special priority to our men in view of their double handicap. Nor am I satisfied that we have yet got the best type for our men, but the Ministry has appointed a certain Dr. Craft, who is both a doctor and an engineer, to act as a Research Officer, and he has taken particular pains to go to Church Stretton and to our hospital, and to interview our men individually and see that their needs are met. We are very grateful to him, but we are not yet satisfied with the supply, and it may be necessary for us to raise in the House of Commons the question of the delay that occurs in these limb-making factories. We have made many complaints before about these delays and have always been told that the bottleneck is the supply of sufficient skilled labour for the factories. Now that the war is over there would seem to me to be no excuse for further delay and, if need be, we shall open up a campaign against the Minister of Labour, which I hope will have the effect of making him release sufficient skilled men for the purpose.

Our own Engineering Department, and the Commandant at Church Stretton himself, have done much to suggest and provide better gadgets and better types of artificial limbs, and we shall continue this work.

IAN FRASER.

### Another St. Dunstaner Decorated

Congratulations to Sergt. Leslie Constable, King's Royal Irish Hussars, now at St. Dunstan's, who has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry in North West Europe. Although he is only now twenty-six, he has served in the Army for ten years and is one of the original "Desert Rats."

By a striking example of courage and leadership in a tank action, says the citation, he did all in his power, even when twice wounded, to retain the initiative and close with the enemy.

### St. Dunstaner's Distinction

Councillor J. Swales, M.C., of Middlesbrough, a St. Dunstan's officer who was blinded in the last war, has had the distinction of being elected to full corporate membership of the Institute of Transport. Now in an important position with the London and North Eastern Railway Company, whom he joined in 1907, he holds first-class certificates in railway law, railway operation, and other allied subjects, all of which have been gained since he was blinded. In addition to serving on Middlesbrough County Borough Council, Councillor Swales takes an active part in other civic and social affairs and his offices include that of the President of the Cleveland and South Durham Institute for the Blind, and Chairman of the Board of Governors.

### Miss Lomax

Her many friends will be very glad indeed to learn that Miss Lomax, who was handicrafts instructor at Church Stretton, until illness forced her to give up early this year, is progressing favourably. She has not, however, recovered her health sufficiently to be able to continue with her work. Miss Lomax had been with St. Dunstan's for nine years, first at Ovingdean and Brighton and then, during the war years, at Church Stretton. Many St. Dunstaners whom she helped to take up handicraft work will look back with pleasure upon the happy hours they spent with her.

In a letter of appreciation to Miss Lomax, Sir Ian Fraser writes:

"Your devotion to your duties and to the many blinded men and women who came under your care was quite remarkable and contributed very largely to the happiness and material well-being of the St. Dunstaners. I know you realise how much they appreciated your friendship and your services and I am sure that I am speaking for all of them when I wish you very happy memories of your time at St. Dunstan's."

### "Reader's Digest"

Will all those who receive gift copies of *Reader's Digest* be very sure to forward to their Area Superintendent any notice they receive about renewals.

### Sir Ian in Parliament Again

Parliamentary writers in newspapers throughout the country and in some of the Dominions noted with pleasure Sir Ian Fraser's return to the House of Commons. One leader writer commented:

"So far as Lonsdale is concerned, there was no shock, but the defeated Labour candidate, Pte. S. W. Grundy, has the satisfaction of knowing that in Sir Ian Fraser he was up against one of the strongest candidates in the country. As a matter of fact, Sir Ian's majority of 5,135 was 1,134 more than the Conservative candidate in Lonsdale obtained over his Labour and Liberal opponents in the 1935 election.

"After all, it is just a fitting tribute to the great work which Sir Ian has done, not only for Lonsdale, but for the cause of Service and ex-Service men and women.

"Westminster will certainly be the richer for his return, whilst Pte. Grundy will return to his ambulance duties in Germany with the satisfaction of having put up a good and clean fight against a redoubtable opponent."

Many of Sir Ian's friends, however, received a shock when the B.B.C. six o'clock news told that he was amongst prominent Conservatives who had been defeated. Sir Ian learned afterwards that the mistake was made in the B.B.C. news room, just a human error in the rush. It is paradoxical that the only mistake made by the B.B.C. should have been made in relation to one of their own Governors. Our Chairman was in his car proceeding from his constituency to St. Dunstan's when he himself heard the mistake. He was very tired and half asleep but was listening with one ear to the lists being read out. "I woke up with a shock," he said, "and remarked to my wife who was driving, 'I suppose we are really in.'"

Many St. Dunstaners commented on the mistake in their letters of congratulation. The following extract is typical:

"The method of announcement of your success on counting day (that is to say, you lost during the first 6 p.m. news and then it was announced that you had won at the end of the news) was most dramatic and created much more elation in our house than if presented in the normal way."

### Recording the Vote

Since 1933 the Blind Voters Act, introduced by Sir Ian Fraser, has been law, and, generally speaking, the presiding officers have carried out their new instructions satisfactorily. Nevertheless, there have been isolated instances where the presiding officer has not known the law and has refused to allow a relative or friend of the blind voter to mark the ballot paper for him.

Two such cases were brought to Sir Ian's notice after the General Election on July 5th.

When A. Sneddon, of St. Leonard's-on-sea, went with his wife to record his vote, Mrs. Sneddon was told firmly by the presiding officer to leave the building while her husband voted in his charge. At the previous election, the matter was queried not at all.

W. J. Harris, of Farcham, also reported that he too was refused the right to have his vote recorded for him by a friend. After producing the "St. Dunstan's Review," in which the new rules were plainly set out, the presiding officer told Harris that there were not many of the necessary forms, and suggested that he should follow a method which he had used for a number of other blind persons. He put Harris's forefinger on one name and his thumb on the other, telling him who they were, and then Harris marked his own paper. But, as he says, unless the paper was examined who could say whether he had a valid paper or a spoiled one, and what would happen with more than two candidates?

The fact remains that the presiding officers were wrong in both cases, and Sir Ian has written explaining the new laws to them.

### Reversi—A New Game

Several months ago, a few sample sets of the game of Reversi were sent out on trial by the National Institute for the Blind. Improvements have been made and the game is now on sale and should prove a useful addition to the various games sold by the National Institute. The list price is 8s., but the special price to blind persons in the British Empire (if for their own personal use), is 5s. 9d. The game can be obtained from the National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, W.1, and the catalogue number is 9434.

### Church Stretton Notes

"... Japan surrendered!" Blessed words broadcast just as "Notes" are posted. Although we do not celebrate together at Church Stretton, the rejoicing will be as widespread and united. The Evil Thing bested, prisoners released, and men at last relieved of superhuman tasks. Te Deum.

It was the queerest end-of-term, owing to the threatened railway strike. The authorities were advised to disperse our community before Bank Holiday, rather than risk waiting till August 8th, as planned. By devoted efforts on the part of Matrons, Mrs. Hart and Mr. Banks—interviewing, wiring, telephoning all day and most of the night—alternative arrangements were made for all but about twenty trainees to depart on the Thursday, complete with escorts, rations, laundry and pensions—some achievement! Those remaining till the original date could not cancel previous plans and were collected at "Tiger." Frans Oosthoek expected instructions any minute for his promised flit to Holland. Miss Lloyd, undaunted as ever, re-arranged time-tables, and Mr. Stanners attracted everyone in his morning discussions. (To this first period, by the way, during term, we have been delighted to welcome visitors on three occasions: Mr. Furniss, from Warrington, a real helpful friend to St. Dunstan's; Dr. Weir, a "live wire," who had spent ten years in Czechoslovakia, and Mr. Marden, whose brains we could pick *re* to G.E.C. We are lucky to get such contacts with experts in the outside world.) An evening supper, a sing-song (members beginning with the Commandant, called on for surprise items, which were *recorded*!) and dance, gave that hilarious family holiday feeling—characteristic of St. Dunstan's fellowship.

Workshops continue developing. The Plastic Moulding Press is going well. Messrs. Moulded Products, Birmingham, have given a contract for 4,800 bakelite switch covers, completed by J. Carney, of Dunstable, who was previously a rubber moulder. He took no longer than a sighted person would, although he had not previously operated this type of press (Daniels 50-75 ton, Downstroke), nor moulded plastic materials.

Three additional capstan lathes are being installed (a Ward No. 2A, a Herbert 4

Senior, and a Herbert 2D); these will widen the range of training, as they are advanced type machines.

An additional Upholstery Instructor, Mr. Thatcher, is welcomed, being very keen and capable and interested in our special training.

A guard has been fitted on the Drilling Machine, which permits its use by our trainees; in fact, all the bakelite mouldings were drilled by our men and passed fit by the factory concerned.

The St. Dunstan's Fol-de-Rols gave another excellent show one evening to us, and another to the troops—a generous programme of good things. "That's not done at St. D's, chaps" (trio, J. Newton, F. Freeland and L. White—composed, Freeland-Bampton), and the chorus, "A Happy Snappy Song" (Bampton-Druce), call for special mention. Bob Bridger is to be congratulated on composing this St. Dunstan's anthem, sung first by the chorus, then by the audience:—

"Light the Torch and hold it high,  
Pointing upwards to the sky,  
On to find what life has in store,  
Joys we have known and many more.  
O'er the world this flame shall burn,  
Towards its light we'll ever turn,  
Friends together, onward stride,  
Hand in hand we'll reach the goal,  
And fill our hearts with pride.  
St. Dunstan's and the Torch shall be  
our guide."

Saturday, July 28th, was a grand Sports Meeting at Brockhurst, where competitors again achieved wonders, despite lack of training beforehand, owing to unsettled weather. A perfect summer day in that lovely setting, excellent organisation of events, loyal help again from the Army, and over five hundred spectators invited to tea! Viv. Kennard is to be congratulated on winning the most individual points. It was very jolly having the Croxley Green students up to make another team, and well they acquitted themselves, even after travelling all night. The thrill of the afternoon was the Relay Race—St. Dunstan's team versus the Army members, which the home team won on time by 1.2-5th seconds. The list of winners is appended.

The Braille Reading Competition Finals took place on Friday, July 13th, before an interested audience. Harold Swain was

first, Gordon Smith second, and Tom Daborn third, did well in interline—especially considering how recently all had learnt. Walter Thornton and Bert Downward tied first for the interpoint, with Despond Coupe a good second. Lady Buckmaster, the Rev. A. Nugee, and Mr. Stanners were judges, giving points for speed, accuracy, and intelligibility.

In addition, with play readings ("Gaslight" and "A Cuckoo in the Nest"), Dances, a C.E.M.A. concert, an invitation to Wolverhampton Theatre ("Poison Pen"), followed by dinner at the Forces Club, visiting bands and lunch-time shows—the last month of term certainly wasn't dull!

From the Staff, Miss Watson's leaving Belmont makes a gap everyone will feel in a very special way. Lady Buckmaster will also be much missed after years of devoted service, both to Braille and the Tandems. We must hope that it is only "au revoir" in each case.

We have welcomed eighty-one new trainees during the term. Among those leaving are S. Spence, to Stoke Mandeville for a three months' course of treatment, then to the Officers' Home at Angmering-on-sea; M. Norman to Hertfordshire Institute of Agriculture, St. Albans; W. Thornton as Welfare Officer at Cadburys', Bournville; T. Horsfield to the University of Cambridge for further tuition; P. Matthews to join his old firm as Surveyor in Plymouth; M. McLaren with a view to farming in the future; G. Durrant, to Wall & Co., S.E. 5—Inspection; A. Franklin to Benjamin Electric Co., N. 17, Inspection; W. Bowerman, N.W. 10, to do woodwork at home; T. Jones to Joseph Sankey & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Salop (capstan); J. Yorke to Messrs. Hollis Bros., Hull, as router; F. Bentley to B.S.A., Ltd., Birmingham, as capstan; J. Ince to St. Dunstan's Boot Depot, Leicester, as boot repairer; R. Britton, Blackpool, at home to await settlement as shop-keeper; D. Beattie to await repatriation to Australia; N. Dugdale to I.C.I., Manchester, as telephonist; E. Pratt, to Davey & United, Sheffield, as telephonist. Good luck to them all!

#### Results of Sports

##### 70 Yards T.B.—

V. Kennard (D), 8.3-5th secs.

##### 70 Yards S.S.—

A. Simpson (D), 8.4-5th secs.

##### Cricket Ball—

A. Simpson (D), 216ft. 8in.

##### House Relay—

Denehurst, 37 secs.

##### Standing Long Jump—

V. Kennard (D), 8ft. 6in.

##### Discus—

T. Horsfield (B), 70ft.

##### Weight—

C. Williamson (L), 33ft. 1in.

##### Medicine Ball—

T. Horsfield (B), 31ft. 7in.

##### Walk—

W. Morris (Croxley Green).

##### Open Relay—

St. Dunstan's, 37 secs.; Welch Regt., 38.2 secs.

##### Tug-o'-War—

Croxley Green, from Longmynd House.

##### Egg and Spoon—

Belmont, G. Obern.

##### Sack Race—

A. Hobson.

##### Veterans—

W. Abrahams, Denehurst chef, 1st; Commandant, 2nd.

##### Three-legged Race—

P. Humphreys.

Congratulations to the following, who have passed tests:—

**Braille Interline.**—E. Cookson, W. Resch, F. Hawse, C. Williamson, D. Donnelly.

**Braille Interpoint.**—C. Stevens, G. M. Jordan, S. A. Chambers, W. Hildick, S. Tutton, N. Dugdale, W. Shakspeare.

**Braille Writing.**—J. Laffey, T. Daborn, F. Howe, P. Dent, H. Swain, F. Baugh, G. Smith, R. Phillips, L. Robinson, J. Slec, P. Matthews.

**Typing.**—F. Hawse, H. Windley, J. Bolenback, K. McIntyre, C. Powell, D. Beddoes, N. Hopkins, H. King, E. Cooper, H. Newall, T. Burge, G. Mortimer, E. Earnshaw, R. A. Jones, G. Fone, F. Oosthoek, J. Fenny, F. Howe, P. Blackmore, H. Goodhead, A. Beavan, A. G. Bradley.

#### Royal Visitor at St. Dunstan's

Princess Eugenie of Greece (Princess Radziwill) who was for some time a V.A.D., at Tembani, St. Dunstan's Home in South Africa, recently paid a visit to St. Dunstan's Headquarters in Park Crescent, where she met again six of the St. Dunstaners whom she knew when they were in training in South Africa. They were J. Ellis, M. Burns, J. Weeks, J. Inniss, A. Vickers and C. Nicholson. The Princess stayed for more than two hours, chatting and exchanging reminiscences. Two of the St. Dunstaners, J. Ellis and J. Weeks, have married since their return, and their wives, both of whom came from South Africa, were also present at the reunion.

#### British Legion Officials Honoured

Two names in the recent Birthday Honours List will be of special interest to St. Dunstaners. They are those of Mr. J. R. Griffin, General Secretary of the British Legion, who becomes an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, and Mr. John W. Gard, Secretary of the Devon Branch of the Legion, who receives the M.B.E.

The "British Legion Journal" writes: "There is no better-known figure in the ex-Service movement, or anyone who has been more closely associated with it at every stage. Earl Haig, who appreciated good staff work, knew his value. We all know and appreciate his buoyant personality."

Mr. Gard has worked for the Legion in the West Country for the last twenty-five years, and has always taken a particular interest in St. Dunstan's and has attended our Reunions. He himself is a disabled soldier with badly damaged sight.

#### Two Fine Records

Congratulations to H. G. Manning, of Upper Holloway, who on July 18th, celebrated twenty-four years' service as a telephone operator with the London Hospital and—happy coincidence—was that day presented to Queen Mary who happened to be visiting the Hospital.

The *Empire News* on Sunday, August 26th, recalled the splendid record of another of our telephonists, Bill Harding, who last November completed twenty-five years with his firm, Messrs. Pawsons and Leafs, Ltd., by a long article and a picture of him at his board.

#### Points from Letters

"In the braille shorthand system, the dots 4, 5 and 6, represent the words "spirit" "several" and "small." Having regard to this fact some measure of confusion arises. The following sentence is an example:—"The linoleum, when collected, was found to have been cut into several pieces." The shorthand writer could make this sentence read—. . . was found to have been cut into small pieces."

"I have not had time to wade through the whole braille shorthand system but it would be interesting to learn whether any of my contemporary scribes have experienced similar difficulties with any other signs." P. J. CONLIN, London, W.9.

#### Advanced Braille Reading Test

Congratulations to the following St. Dunstaners who have been successful in passing the Advanced Braille Reading Test during the past month:

G. M. Jordan, Rhymney; W. H. Hildick, Shrewsbury; S. V. Tutton, Rhondda; W. Shakspeare, Birmingham; S. A. Chambers, Birmingham; P. S. Sumner, Worcester; W. Robinson, London, N.4; W. H. Taylor, St. John's Wood; P. Nuyens, London, N.W.; S. Webster, Horley; F. E. Parker, Luton; A. Abram, Stockport; J. Power, Birkenhead; W. P. Nolan, Pontefract; J. G. Healy, Blackpool; M. Burran, London, W.1; P. Martin, Thornton Heath; R. J. Williams, Blackpool; Tap Rhys, Bangor; T. Kent, Chelmsford; P. Johns, Chesterfield; E. Mills, Walsall; W. Robinson, Grantham; V. A. Clay, Nottingham.

#### To a St. Dunstan's Nurse

*Dear God, I cannot see but I can hear  
And feel the presence of an Angel near  
To guide my footsteps, wheresoe'er I tread,  
That far away from danger I'll be led,  
Her voice is like sweet music to my ear,  
Bidding me hope anew and never fear,  
That by Thy mercy once again I'll see  
The glorious works of Thy great Majesty.*

*Dear God, I cannot see but I can hear,  
Knowing that by her presence Thou art near  
And watching o'er me with Thy loving care,  
Bestowing gifts of love and virtues rare.  
I feel the joy of happiness betide  
And pray she will be always at my side.  
Dear God, when darkness lifts and shadows flee,  
I'll see my Angel in Eternity.* G. S. WHITE.

### Births

- BARTON.—On August 18th, to the wife of S. Barton, of Bootle (new war), a son.  
 BRERETON.—On July 19th, to the wife of G. Brereton, of Derby (new war), a daughter—Carole Maureen.  
 WARD.—On July 27th, to the wife of E. P. Ward, of Dublin (new war), a son, Joseph Andrew.

### Deaths

- We extend our very sincere sympathy this month to the following:  
 HAMILTON.—To Jo. Hamilton, of Belfast (new war), whose mother passed away on July 30th.  
 JENNINGS.—To Mr. and Mrs. S. Jennings, of Bradford, whose eldest daughter died on July 27th. She leaves five small children.  
 MATTHEWS.—To H. N. Matthews, of Wolverhampton, whose mother, with whom he lived, passed away on August 2nd.  
 NOBLE.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Noble, of St. Albans, whose daughter died on July 22nd, after a long illness.  
 SYMONDS.—To J. Symonds, of Hunstanton, who lost his wife on July 15th.

### Marriages

- QUIGLEY—SMITH.—On August 25th. Bernard Quigley, of South Shields, to Miss Rose Anne Smith.  
 RUSSELL—TAYLOR.—On August 18th, Ernest Russell, of Leeds (new war), to Miss Rosita Taylor.  
 SHILLITO.—On September 8th, E. S. Shillito, of Dronfield, to Mrs. Henson.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon their anniversaries: Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Rose, North Berwick, April 7th; Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Sumner, Worcester, July 15th; Mr. and Mrs. E. Williams, Windhill, near Shipley, July 24th; Squadron Leader W. T. Curtis-Willson and Mrs. Curtis-Willson, Brighton, July 31st; Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Prince, Newcastle-on-Tyne, August 2nd; Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hildick, Crowmoor, Salop, August 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Douglas, Osterley, August 7th; Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Jones, Faversham, September 11th.

### Meccano Wanted

The Editor will be glad to hear from anyone who has a Meccano set to sell.

### Young St. Dunstaners

Congratulations to David Strachan, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Strachan, of Motherwell, who has secured a pass in Botany at Glasgow University for the degree of M.B., Ch.B.

In the Northern Regional Children's Hour on August 7th, John Harvey Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, of Bolsover, represented the children in the North. Before the contest, Harvey, who has a lovely soprano voice, sang two songs. He had six correct answers out of seven in the Quiz questions in which all the other stations were linked, enabling the North to win the round for the first time. Uncle Mac in London was Question Master.

### Marriages

- Peggy Diana Collinson (Blandford), on July 26th, to S.Sgt. B. F. Yarosz, United States Army.  
 On July 12th, Audrey May Blakeley, Okehampton, to Cpl. Shirley Henry Hayes, Dragoon Guards.  
 Petty Officer S. R. Back (Teignmouth), on August 8th, to Miss Freda Alice Drew.  
 Captain Dick Leonard (Brighton), on July 21st, to Miss Ellen Phillips.  
 Marion Mitchell (Leith), on March 7th, to Mr. Frederick Sidgwick.  
 Rifleman George Thomas Jones (Greenwich), on July 21st, to Miss Doris Violet Hardy.

### Honour

Captain Bernard Winsley Wright, Corps of Royal Engineers, son of R. F. Wright, of Crawley Down, Sussex, has been awarded the Military Cross for his bravery following the attack on the Gothic Line. With complete disregard for danger, he carried out a series of reconnaissances which were of vital importance, and, to quote the official citation, "set an example of devotion to duty and fearlessness of a high order which played a vital part in the forward moves of the armour."

### New War Placings

M. G. Durrant, with Messrs. E. R. Watts, of Camberwell, as a machine shop store-keeper; F. Bentley, of Birmingham, with the B.S.A. Ltd., as a capstan operator; Eric Pratt, of Sheffield, as telephone operator, to Davy and United, Ltd.; A. Burnham, of Oxford, in the Inspection Department of Morris Motors, Ltd.; T. Jones, of Wellington, as a capstan operator, with Messrs. Joseph Sankey, Ltd.