

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

OUR ship was delayed and so Lady Fraser and I flew back from South Africa in order to take up again without undue delay our many duties in connection with St. Dunstan's, Parliament, and business affairs. I am glad to say we arrived in time for Lady Fraser to attend the first of our post-war After-Care Reunions at Guildford and for us both to go to the big reunion at Brighton. I am very sorry we could not go to Hastings, and there are, I fear, a good many reunions that will take place during the summer months which we shall not be able to attend, for apart from anything else, my duties at St. Dunstan's Headquarters, dealing with matters of policy, and attendance in Parliament must necessarily keep me in London.

The revival of After-Care Reunions is a sign that our own little world—like the big world outside it—is coming back to normal. I have always attached very great importance to these meetings, for they bring St. Dunstan's staff into contact with St. Dunstaners and vice versa, and they offer an opportunity for St. Dunstaners to meet each other. They have always been and are, and will be in the future, an important part of St. Dunstan's machinery for keeping in touch with its men's views and maintaining what I may call the family connection.

I do not think I was claiming too much when I said in my speech to the meeting at Brighton that St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's itself had carried on in a remarkable way during the war years. Our men and their families had faced the difficulties and deprivations, the dangers and the anxieties of six years of war with fortitude, and St. Dunstan's itself, with its splendid staff at Headquarters, at Church Stretton and other establishments in the provinces and countryside, had maintained a remarkable service. Pressure we had brought to bear upon the Ministry of Pensions and our own financial arrangements had materially increased the incomes of a substantial number of our men, and the work we have been able to provide, though diminished by war, has been considerable.

I was particularly glad at this, the first of our big reunions, to welcome St. Dunstaners of the younger generation, and I was very gratified when a great cheer went up at my statement that old and young alike must work together for one public opinion, one loyalty, and one *esprit de corps* amongst the men of 1914 and 1939.

I was asked a question whether the Government would take St. Dunstan's over. I said I did not think so, for we were not part of the Health Service. My own view is that it would be a tragedy if an organisation, with its unique mission so well carried out as ours is, were to be merged into some general social service, or, worse still, into a government department. The success of St. Dunstan's has depended very largely upon its individuality,

personal contact, elasticity and freedom from red tape. The meeting seemed to agree with me overwhelmingly when I said that if any such attempt was made I felt sure that three thousand St. Dunstan's families of both wars, and a million members of the British Legion, would help us to resist any attack upon our freedom and our independence.

### Riding in the Basuto Mountains

Our visit to South Africa was chiefly in connection with family business affairs, but while in Basutoland we took a week away from Board Meetings and discussions to go for a riding trip up into the mountains, accompanied by Mr. Nolan, the deputy chairman of our Company, and his wife. We set off with twenty ponies and six Basuto horsemen under a head boy. The Basuto Nation, unlike many others in South Africa, breeds and trains horses, and a certain number of these are very good, sturdy animals, extremely sure-footed. The ponies we were riding kept on the mountain paths, but the pack-ponies and the spare ponies would wander off to find a bit of feed, or to stop to drink, and would climb from rock to rock in the most precipitous places like mountain goats. We would go in single file and my wife, in her anxiety, would shout to me to go a bit left or a bit right to keep on a narrow winding track up the side of a mountain as steep as the side of a house, until Mr. Nolan, with a gigantic voice and magnificent authority, would order her to be quiet lest I should obey her instructions and guide the pony this way or that. I might guide him too much and over a hundred foot precipice we would go. The only thing to do was to leave it to the pony; he knew when to turn, he would take me safely—and he did.

We arrived, after five hours' riding, to find a camp of many tents in a beautiful grass field with a mountain stream running by. That night we slept with three blankets below us and five or six around and I was still cold until I got up and put on some of my clothes.

Next morning we were away early and rode for three hours over the same mountain country. There are no trees and no wild animals here, only grass and an occasional bush; wheat and vegetables, cattle and sheep. Even maize, or mealies as the maize plant is called in South Africa, does not grow up here and this staple food of the native has to be brought up from the Lowlands by men or animals. After a break for lunch, when I ate eggs and cold ham—more than a week's rations—and was still hungry, we rode for two hours to Simonkong, one of the most remote and lonely of Fraser's Trading Stations, where we were to stay the night. This little group of people come down to the Flats on ponies (for there is no other way) three or four times a year. They are visited occasionally by the inspector or the auditor, or a traveller, but they lead very lonely lives. There is a wind-motor which makes electricity for the wireless, there is a wind-pump for water, and they have a good house, a kitchen stove and even a three-quarter length iron bath. The house and the Store and its adjacent buildings are of local ironstone, well built by native labour, but many tons of furniture and equipment and stock, including the windmill itself and the bath, have been brought up the mountainside by donkeys and ponies and oxen.

We slept a night at Simonkong and the next day rode a few hours to the Malutsyane Waterfall. We got off our ponies and I crawled on my stomach to the edge of a gigantic crack in the earth's surface. The volume of water coming over this fall is disappointingly small, but it drops into a turbulent pool 630 feet below and this is the second highest waterfall in the world.

We came back to the roadhead the way we had gone. We had ridden one hundred miles in five days. The Inspectors of Fraser's Stations would have made the same journey in two days, cutting out the visit to the Falls. Mr. Nolan frequently rides great distances in the mountains to see the country, judge the crops and their prospects, and he is fifteen years older than I am. But to my wife and me, who have been leading a sedentary life in a war-stricken country, and have not had more than a couple of dozen rides in five years, it seemed a great expedition and perhaps what pleased us most, being middle-aged and soft-skinned in the relevant parts of the body, was that we were hardly sore and only a little stiff.

### The Flight Home

The following impressions which I jotted down after our arrival with regard to the flight home from Johannesburg to England may be of interest:—

It was a hard journey, but a remarkable one. We left Johannesburg aerodrome at 5 a.m. on Saturday morning, and after flying for nine hours, slept the night at Nairobi. While in Nairobi I made contact with an institution run by the Salvation Army, where there are a number of blinded African soldiers, to enquire about their welfare. We left Nairobi the next morning at six, and had lunch with the Governor General of the Sudan at Khartoum, flying on immediately afterwards to Cairo, where we bought half a dozen oranges and bananas and had six hours' sleep. We left Cairo at one in the morning, touched down at Patea Benito, in North Africa, to re-fuel, and arrived at Hurn Airport, near Bournemouth, at five o'clock on Easter Monday. Over 6,500 miles in two and a half days, with just under thirty hours' flying time. We were in one of the York planes, the transport version of the famous Lancaster. For middle-aged people this is a very hard trip, but without doubt, during the next year or two they will put bigger planes on the job and passengers will be able to sleep. Then, no doubt, the trip will become a twenty-four hour run, all in.

Not much could be seen from the aeroplane, for we flew very high to avoid bumps, and over Africa there are, in any event, only hundreds of miles of jungle and desert. But over the Cherbourg peninsula, it was possible to see some of the damage caused by the fighting which followed D-Day. It was a thrill and pleasure to touch down again in England on such a beautiful Spring day and smell the sweet fresh air, so different from the desert. Even South Africa is a country where—save on the coast—there is generally a smell of dust.

IAN FRASER.

### Reunions Again

#### GUILDFORD, HASTINGS and BRIGHTON

There was a very happy meeting of St. Dunstaners at Guildford, on May 2nd, when the first post-war Reunion was held at Ayers' Restaurant.

Lady Fraser received the guests, in the absence of Sir Ian. Commander Smyth and a number of other officials were there from London, with Miss E. M. Stevens, Social Visitor for the district, who was attending her first Reunion. Also present were Mr. Tom Perry, Chairman of the Guildford Branch of the British Legion, and such old friends as Miss Bamberger, Mrs. Giorgi, and Miss Hensley, and Miss Frances Lloyd.

Then it was the turn of Hastings, and there were merry scenes when some twenty St. Dunstaners, with their escorts, arrived for lunch at Addison's Cafe, St. Leonards, on May 8th.

Commander Smyth presided, and attending her first Reunion too was Miss M. T. H. Jones, Social Visitor. Again one of the pleasures of the afternoon was in meeting old friends. Miss Rayson was there; so was Miss Gough, who happened to be on holiday in the neighbourhood, and Mrs. Hake, the two Miss Bretts, Sister Innes, and Mr. West, formerly an orderly on our staff.

As was to be expected, the Brighton Reunion, on May 10th, was the highlight of an eventful week. More than one hundred St. Dunstaners of both wars, with their escorts, filled the Royal Pavilion almost

to overflowing, where Lady (Arthur) Pearson, D.B.E., President of St. Dunstan's, waited with Sir Ian and Lady Fraser to receive the guests.

It was indeed a Grand Reunion of many old friends. Matron Pain was there once again to welcome her Brighton "boys"; so was Miss Morris, now attached to West House. Matron Ouseley, Commander Paul, and Air Commodore Dacre were present, meeting old friends and making many new ones. When Commander Smyth had read out the names of all St. Dunstaners present, Sir Ian introduced the many friends of St. Dunstan's who were there that afternoon, and continuous applause followed as name after name was read out. To mention only a few—Miss Hesketh Jones, Social Visitor, Miss Bamberger, Mrs. Giorgi, Miss Frances Lloyd, Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. Kirkwood, Mrs. Hughes, Miss Jacob, Miss Morley, Miss Rayson, Miss Spear, Miss Cecil Wood, Miss Whittome, Canon James, and, to a welcome which was especially warm, Mr. Ottaway.

### More Reunions

Since the announcement of Reunions last month, the following meetings have also been arranged:—

- May 21—Bournemouth.
- „ 28—Cardiff.
- June 20—Oxford.
- „ 27—Winchester.
- Aug. 13—Leeds.
- „ 14—Sheffield.

## Church Stretton Notes

### Red Cross Collections

Since June, 1945, £321 19s. 9d. has been collected in the Penny a Week Fund, and £98 8s. 1d. for the Shropshire Branch, making a total of £420 7s. 10d.

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We have now come to the "parting of the ways" and some of us will start the new term at Ovingdean while some remain at Church Stretton. The St. Dunstan's "Fol de Rols" gave a splendid show for the end of term concert. Three performances were given to very enthusiastic audiences. We were glad to have Beryl, Gwennie, Violet, and David Bell to sing and play to us again. It was a happy thought to have the sketches of the three girls on the souvenir programme. A great deal of hard work was needed for such an excellent production, which was a pleasing mixture of old and new.

At the concert the Commandant, Air Commodore G. B. Dacre, was presented by the trainees with a tray, made in the carpentry shop, in which had been incorporated the autographs of some seventy theatrical artists who from time to time had visited Church Stretton and entertained us.

After the concert the canteen staff provided a supper for about eighty performers and staff. This was the occasion for the presentation of gifts from the "boys" to Mr. Bampton. These included a handsome pigskin zip-bag and an autographed cigarette box. Mr. Bampton expressed his pleasure in receiving the gifts and his great regret that his work at Church Stretton had come to an end. Matron Pain was then presented with the original photographs contained in the souvenir programme, for which she made a charming little speech of thanks.

We should like to take this opportunity to say "goodbye and thank you" to Claude Bampton, Joe Viner, Edgar Harrison, Jack Bull, Miss Jones, Mrs. Bergström and Joan Walch.

On Sunday, the 14th, an excellent Tea Dance was held at the Centre. Music was provided by Billy Forrest's Band from Birmingham. Philip Garston-Jones, from the B.B.C. (Birmingham), brought the following artists for a cabaret show, which was much enjoyed: Ethel Williams, soprano, Dick Lawder, comedian, and Bill Scrivener, accordionist.

At the beginning of the dance, Mrs. Dalgleish wheeled into the hall an enormous iced cake, cleverly decorated with St. Dunstan's badges, a staff badge, and little St. Dunstan's flags. The chefs from all the houses had clubbed together to make the cake, which was cut by Matron Pain, and everyone present had a slice.

We wish good luck to those who have finished their training, and we hope that those who are going to Ovingdean will soon settle down and enjoy their new surroundings by the sea, while the "rear-guard" hopes to link up with the "advance-guard" for a happy conclusion to "Operation Seaside."

The following are congratulated on passing tests in April:—

**Braille Interpoint.**—J. Harris.

**Braille Writing.**—M. MacLaren, R. C. Jones, E. King, J. Mudge, N. Hopkins.

**Braille Interline.**—E. Ashby, W. Moon, Z. Stepek, W. Veness, R. Gadsby, F. Collingwood, T. Taylor, D. Bridges, P. Stubbs, D. Lorenz and H. Hocking.

**Typing.**—C. Shallcross, J. Proctor, D. McCarthy, T. Chappell, H. Pollitt, G. Bickley, G. Bilcliff, P. Owens, J. Beattie, G. Brereton.

## Young St. Dunstaners

### Marriages

Eileen Ada Rowe (Burslem), on September 8th, to George Barnard Shaw.

Cecilia Murphy (Glasgow), on November 23rd, to Samuel Cooper.

Bridie Crowley (Southall), to Mr. A. Wilson, at Hayes Catholic Church.

Jack Featherstone (North Ferriby), returned prisoner of war, on November 30th, to Miss P. M. Owston.

Elsie May Belcher (Hampton), on November 24th, to Flt. Lieut. Thomas Dimond.

L.A.C. E. A. Stevenson (Brighton), on November 24th, to L.A.C.W. May Allcott.

Gwen Maclean (Brimpton), on January 10th, to Mr. Frank Barham.

### Advanced Braille Reading Test

Congratulations to the following, who have recently passed their Advanced Braille Reading Test, and have been sent the special prize of £3:

J. L. Brooke, Sheffield; S. J. Jordan, Luston, near Leominster; J. J. Hiscock, Swindon; J. R. Brown, Nuneaton; A. Caldwell, Anglesey; J. A. Bruce, Huntingdon.

## Reminder

The closing date of the Derby Sweepstake (open only to St. Dunstaners), is Monday, May 27th.

The draw will take place on Thursday, May 30th, and those drawing a horse will be notified the following day.

Applications for tickets, which are half a crown each, should be sent at once to the Editor at Park Crescent.

## Camp

The Fleet Air Arm has invited us to Camp at Seafeld Park, Hillhead, Stubbington, near Fareham—Saturday, July 13th, to Saturday, July 20th. We are limited to 40 beds. Please send your entries as soon as possible to Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Titchfield, Fareham. A camp fee of £1 payable in Camp.

Fares over 15s. will be paid.

## From Mrs. Spurway

DEAR CAMPERS,

I had such an exciting surprise the other day, a perfectly charming cigarette box from you all and 200 cigarettes. Thank you all so much. I am delighted with it. I hear that the box was made by Billy Birchall. I am writing this with the fountain pen you gave me at Gaddesden in 1925! I love it because you gave it me, and it reminds me of our first camp at Gaddesden. I am awfully proud of my cigarette box and am always handing round cigarettes to show it off! It was such a nice thought. Thank you all very much.

AVIS SPURWAY.

## A Link with Sir Arthur Pearson

Mr. Robert Holmes, who has just retired after fifty-three and a half years' service with C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., joined Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, as Sir Arthur then was, in 1892, as a messenger boy. This was eight years before Sir Arthur founded the *Daily Express*.

## R.A.O.B.

On Friday, March 22nd, Bro. W. Shayler was installed in the second degree of the R.A.O.B. at the "Areio" Lodge, having passed the examining council, "C.H." There were a good number of brethren present and Bro. Shayler, C.P., was installed in the chair amid great acclamation from the brethren.

## Brighton Notes

For us at Brighton the month opened with a swing. Our old friends of the Butchers' Association invited us to a Grand Fancy Dress Ball! After several hectic days of planning, borrowing and sewing, forty-three of us set off for what proved to be a very enjoyable evening. Jimmy Fay, in his wheel chair, carried off first prize in his character of "Baby" and Cyril Moreton as "The Wool Shop" came a close second. All the costumes were much admired and each St. Dunstaner received a consolation prize of 10s.

During the month we have enjoyed several good Concerts. The Brighton and Hove Musical Club set the ball rolling on the 2nd; on the 16th we had a visit from the Brighton and Hove Musical Fraternity. The S.E.F.A. Concert Party came along on the 23rd, and Mrs. Docking's Concert Party was much appreciated on the 30th.

During the month our friend, Mr. Fitzjohn, invited a team of St. Dunstaners to compete in a "Fives and Threes" Domino Match, at his Club.

The weekly Darts Matches are continued and our skill at dart throwing is ever increasing! Several teams have visited us during the month and the games usually are keenly contested.

Easter week-end found us with a "full house." The London boys visited us in full force and there were many reunions of friends who had not met since before the war.

On Good Friday a small party heard a grand rendering, by the Brighton Harmonic Society, of Handel's "Messiah," at the Dome. On both Saturday and Easter Monday, parties attended the race meeting at Plumpton, accompanied by Commander Paul, Sister Pepper and Sister Ashford, and the week-end was rounded off by a dance and party in the Lounge. The main feature of that evening was a "Grand Hat Parade," in which R. Coles, as a "Nun," and H. Costigan as "The Gainsborough Lady," were judged, by Mrs. Paul and Mr. and Mrs. Lale, to be the most outstanding of a really attractive selection. The prizes for the creation of these winning models went to Sister Mayall and Diana Carter.

Throughout the Easter week-end the weather was bright and sunny, and the sea looked so inviting that Bob Young

(Tweedmouth) was lured into the icy water, but so far as we know, suffered no ill effects!

As a grand finale to the month, forty-five of us were invited by the Sussex Hospitals Thanksgiving Appeal to a Concert at the Grand Theatre, in which Max Miller and Stanley Holloway gave us enough jokes to laugh about for many a day.

*Footnote.*—West House, Brighton, has recently gained a reputation as a house for gourmets! Even snails appear on the menu, at the special request of a certain well-known St. Dunstaner—late of the Merchant Navy!

### On Re-visiting West House, Brighton, Easter, 1946

I looked about me with critically interested eyes for changes in this house I knew so well. What new order had emerged, what new system had established itself, fashioned in the furnaces of total war? How would the men react after their long separation from St. Dunstan's and each other?

My immediate impression was of new life pervading the old house, smoothly affecting every inmate; activity, movement; a feeling of something doing; hidden impulses at work, not entirely due to the holiday atmosphere or to the fulfilment of long-awaited reunions. Certainly there was a new spirit at work, vibrant, impulsive; but I began to wonder how this blithe spirit would affect the quiet lives of those who required rest and recovery. I did not wonder long; for there came periods of quietude, intervals of refreshing silence; times for intimate talk and undisturbed reflection; times when men's voices told their inmost thoughts with easy confidence and unassuming pride. I had known such times before.

There was only a sprinkling of familiar faces among the staff; nevertheless, outstanding in both old and new was the ever-present, always helpful spirit of co-operation and service. How well I remembered.

But what of this new generation of young women, who so capably look after the welfare of such an assorted congregation of men? On them has fallen the mantle of a very noble company. How do they acquit themselves under the responsibility? Are they fundamentally different? I think not. Modern, certainly; high-spirited and active; virile and competent; reading the racing

news with the delightful enthusiasm of a confirmed race-goer and in the next instant, touching the tired head with the tender fingers of sympathetic understanding. My thoughts reverted in contemplative comparison to the early days of 1916 to 1938. Yes, undoubtedly they were worthy successors to such a devoted and talented band of friends. And now, what of the men? Had they altered in any way from the pre-war standards set up by themselves? No, indeed. The spirit of St. Dunstan's lives on in them, shining with a clearer, more refined, more resolute radiance than ever it shone. In the swift passage of these latter years, I find them wiser, more generous, more tolerant. I find them true to the brave ideals implanted in their hearts by sagacious counsellors of former years. They have emerged from the gruelling strain of the war years with sympathies widened, mellowed by time and circumstance. Outwardly, as one might expect, changed a little, yet by a kindly hand; unaltered in spirit, that gay fortitude which carries them over many a rough place. For the flame of high endeavour burns steadily; the effort of accomplishment and true duty is as unsparing as ever; and there is a wistful remembrance of friends who are no longer with them.

And these, our less fortunate comrades, the sick, aged and infirm, what of them? They are still the same brave, patient, unconquerable souls that ever they were. Cheerful, talkative, interested in life, even to the remote veteran who assured me that there were no cigarettes in the army in '86. They, and their unswerving, faithful attendants are perfect examples of heroism and devotion.

Yes, the long, wasting years of war have yet dealt kindly with the spirit of St. Dunstan's. It gleams brighter in the hearts of these men, suffusing their lives with the radiance of congeniality and forbearance. For they themselves are its spirit and power; and there can be no doubt that the sons of such men as these will prove worthy companions in the adventurous days that lie ahead for us, and for them, our newly blinded comrades. For the spirit of an organisation lives and flourishes in its members, in each individual component, young or old, active or infirm; and there is no change, no diminution, no retrogression in the spirit of St. Dunstan's.

R. J. VINE.

### Ex-Servicemen's Hansard

(From Our Parliamentary Correspondent)

The chief matter affecting ex-Servicemen which came up in Parliament last month was Mr. Justice Denning's judgment on April 1st regarding the interpretation of the Royal Warrant and an ex-Serviceman's right to a pension.

Mr. Wilfred Paling, the Minister of Pensions (Wentworth, Lab.), was closely questioned on this matter and his answers call for careful examination.

Mr. T. Macpherson (Romford, Lab.) and others asked Mr. Paling if he had considered the recent judgment given by Mr. Justice Denning in favour of an ex-Serviceman on the grounds of "fit for Service, fit for Pension," and if he was now prepared to review similar cases which had been refused by his Department.

Mr. Paling gave the following reply, which deserves to be recorded here in full and thus made widely available:—

"In the judgment referred to, the learned Judge expressed the view that the interpretation to be placed on Article 4 of the Royal Warrant was that if a man is accepted for service in a certain medical category there is a presumption that at the time of his acceptance he was fit for the kind of service demanded of a man in that category; and that in the event of his discharge subsequently on medical grounds due to deterioration in his health there is a presumption that the deterioration was due to his service.

"He added that the presumption is not a compelling presumption but a provisional one. In order, however, to defeat the man's claim, the evidence had to show a real preponderance of probability that his condition was not aggravated by war service. In the case before him the learned Judge held that there was no such evidence and that the tribunal could not properly come to a conclusion in favour of the Ministry.

"While there may at times be a difference of opinion as to what constitutes a real preponderance of probability, I do not think that the general line of approach laid down by the learned Judge differs materially from that followed by my Department."

This subject was also raised in the House of Lords during April, when Lord De L'Isle and Dudley initiated a debate on war pensions, particularly regarding the alterations in the recent White Paper.

Lord Teviot had given notice that he would ask the Government whether they would set up a Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament to go into the question of the grievances which were continually arising regarding pensions for men and women disabled by war service, and those who, through war service, had been bereaved.

Both he and the Earl of Cork and Orrery urged more generous action by the Government.

Lord Nathan, Under-Secretary of State for War, replying for the Government, suggested that considerable improvements had recently been made in the matter of war pensions and he outlined some of them in detail.

He suggested that there really was not as much dissatisfaction with the operation of the Pensions Warrant as some people seemed to think, and urged that the recent White Paper should be "given a run" to see whether the position improved.

On this note the debate ended.

Sir Ian Fraser was present in the House on May 3rd to take part in the Debate on Unemployment. Enquiring what was being done to help ex-Service men to get on to the land, he said: "I have not seen any evidence that there is any active scheme, and I have been told that a delay of many months, possibly a year or two, will occur before many hundreds of thousands of these men can get agricultural education. If that be so it is a shocking neglect.

"I understand that there are nearly 15,000 men, of whom 2,400 odd are seriously disabled, who are waiting for places in Government training establishments, and many of them have been waiting for many months. This is a very small problem in comparison with the planning to which we have been accustomed for major enterprises in war.

"Let me emphasise that more than 2,000 disabled men are waiting for jobs. We understood the disabled were to have a preference in this matter and I should like to know what has happened.

"At the moment there are jobs, but the men we want to see in them are not in them. How can we get them into them? We can only do so by putting them at the head of the queue."

### Promotions

Richard Henry Tanner, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Tanner, of St. Ives, and now serving in Bangalore, has been granted a commission as 2nd Lieut., and takes up duties with the D.C.L.I., attached to the Royal Gharwal Rifles.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lam-bourne, of Bletchley, has been granted a commission in the Royal Air Force as Pilot Officer.

### Dr. E. Chittenden Bridges

All St. Dunstaners will grieve to learn of the death of Dr. E. Chittenden Bridges on April 17th, after a long illness.

Dr. Bridges' close association with St. Dunstan's began shortly after the outbreak of the Great War. Although health reasons compelled him to resign his position of Medical Officer in April, 1943, St. Dunstan's was never far from his thoughts, and it was typical of him that when the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's wished to make him a presentation upon his resignation he asked that it should take the form of a gift to the men of St. Dunstan's, to bear his name. His great interest in St. Dunstan's sports inspired the suggestion that a Dr. Bridges' Prize Fund should be established, and to this Dr. Bridges agreed with obvious pleasure.

Dr. Bridges was 77 years of age and leaves a widow, to whom we offer our very sincere sympathy.

Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral, which took place at Golders Green Crematorium on April 20th.

### Mrs. E. Hope Atkinson

St. Dunstaners will also hear with the deepest regret of the sudden death of Mrs. Atkinson, widow of Mr. E. Hope Atkinson, who joined St. Dunstan's in 1915 as our first joinery instructor.

Hundreds of St. Dunstaners will have happy memories of Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson's friendship and help over the years, and Mrs. Atkinson will long be remembered with affection by the many friends with whom she has kept in touch since her husband's death.

### Births

ANDROLIA.—On April 9th, to the wife of L. M. Androlia, of Walsall (new war), a son.

GREASLEY.—In April, to the wife of H. E. Greasley, of Coventry (new war), a daughter.

MILLER.—On February 21st, to the wife of J. Miller, of Glasgow (new war), a daughter.

PETTY.—On April 2nd, to the wife of H. Petty, of Leeds (new war), a son.

WHITE.—On April 11th, to the wife of J. D. White, of Cardiff (new war), a daughter—Pamela April.

### Marriages

COONEY—CONNOLLY.—On May 18th, J. Cooney, of Worthing, to Miss Agnes Connolly, of Cork.

REYNOLDS—PARKER.—On April 30th, A. R. Reynolds, of Shrewsbury (new war), to Miss Dorothy Parker.

SIMPSON—HARVEY.—On April 22nd, A. Simpson, of Wrexham (new war) to Miss Kathleen Elizabeth Harvey.

### Deaths

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

BARBER.—To R. Barber, of Abbey Wood, whose wife died after a short illness on March 6th.

MORRIS—JONES.—To H. I. Morris-Jones, of Birkenhead (new war) whose wife passed away on Easter Sunday. She had been ill for a long while.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon silver wedding anniversaries:—

Mr. and Mrs. S. Burdis, Burnley, September 4th, 1943 (we have only just been informed of this); Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Jordan, Rhymney, April 20th; Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Carter, Haughton-le-Skerne, May 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. J. Stubbs, Huyton, near Liverpool, May 11th.

### New War Placings

A. Bradley as telephonist at Barclay's Bank, Piccadilly Circus; J. H. Banks, Cricklewood, with Messrs. Hoover, Ltd., Perivale, on hydraulic press work; V. Kennard, Battle, as a specialised shorthand typist with the *News of the World*; L. Fensom, Smethwick, with Messrs. C. Bryon & Sons, on assembly work; W. P. Kelly, Workington, with Messrs. C. Corner & Co., Ltd., on power press and capstan lathe work; W. F. Kennedy, Upper Tooting, as a packer in the photoprinting section at the War Office; J. J. Morgan, Southall, on loud-speaker testing with Messrs. Philco, Perivale; and P. Blackmore, Cardiff, as capstan operator with the Cardiff Foundry.

### Holiday Apartments

C. Ray, 79 York Road, Southend-on-Sea, would welcome visitors to his boarding-house.