

# 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

THIS has been a very busy summer for St. Dunstaners and for St. Dunstan's. All St. Dunstaners in their homes—in common with the whole community—have been faced with new shortages and increased difficulties which are disappointing more than a year after the end of the war in the west and just a year, as I write, after the collapse of Japan. Sons and daughters who have been demobilised have been welcomed home but housing them, whether in their parents' homes or as they try to set up on their own account, presents very real difficulties.

New St. Dunstaners having completed their training have the same problems to solve, though St. Dunstan's Housing Department has been able to do much to help. Poultry farmers are to be deprived of some of the feeding stuffs for their flocks which have been so well maintained during the war years. All, I fear, look to the coming winter with anxiety and those are wise who have put aside and will keep on one side, a little coal for the cold months. My letter to all St. Dunstaners on this subject will be going out about the same time as the issue of this "Review."

But there are brighter signs too. In some cases, such as basket-making, mat-making and joinery, more materials have become available and our stores have been able to increase the quotas supplied to our craftsmen. A considerable number of older St. Dunstaners who went into industry are still holding down their jobs and any substantial unemployment amongst them which I feared might arise has not done so. Many of the younger generation have been settled in a variety of industrial and commercial occupations, jobs having been found, settlements effected, houses obtained, and all in spite of the most severe difficulties at every turn. After-Care Reunions on a pre-war scale have been arranged and have been well attended.

Amongst the St. Dunstaners of the second war, the Summer Term was one of serious and good work both at Brighton and at Church Stretton. There has been a good deal of entertainment, too, and I had the pleasure of attending end-of-term concerts at both places, which did credit to organisers and performers alike. West House, Brighton, has been full and so has St. Dunstan's, Blackpool, and a very large number have enjoyed—as in the old days—periods of rest and convalescence in these two homes.

Phase One of the transfer from Church Stretton to Brighton took place at Easter. Phase Two is taking place as I write. So that when these words are read, Brighton will have become our main training centre and Stretton will have closed down. I offer my congratulations and thanks to men and staff alike at both places for their co-operation and goodwill to make the first term at Brighton and the last term at Stretton memorable.

Since the last shot was fired, a considerable number of men have entered St. Dunstan's and next term will probably prove to be the peak term for numbers in training. Indeed,

we have had to take an extra house with twenty or so beds and have had to reserve a few beds at West House and at Blackpool for extra cases and odd cases, so that by a little bit of transfer and juggling, we may fit all newcomers in without undue delay. The reserve beds at West House and Blackpool will not afford training facilities but will be used in certain cases where men can do with a brief period of convalescence and at the same time vacate an Ovingdean bed for a fit trainee. The flow of St. Dunstaners from all over the world as the battles came to an end and the hospitals were cleared, was seriously aggravated by the return from the Far East of a number of ex-prisoners of war. I met many of these men at Brighton recently and considering the very hard times they have been through, thought they were a fine lot of fellows who will do well at St. Dunstan's.

The closing of Church Stretton evokes many memories. The starting up under Miss Pain as Commandant-Matron with a small group of men and staff in 1940; the years under Mr. Bankes-Williams; the advent of Mr. Nugee as our Chaplain; the last two and a half years under Air Commodore Dacre, the present Commandant, the Bursar, Squadron-Leader Bartlett, and Mr. Stanners, Education Officer. I have mentioned only these names because space does not allow of my placing on record our indebtedness to all, in whatever post of responsibility of service, who helped to make the period at Church Stretton a notable chapter in St. Dunstan's history. Many of the staff have gone to or will go to Brighton, but many also are leaving, including Mr. Stanners, Squadron-Leader Bartlett and the Reverend Nugee. The Padre goes back to his work as a Parish Priest, for he has been appointed Vicar of Crowthorne. I am glad to say, however, that he will remain an Honorary Chaplain to St. Dunstan's, giving his occasional service as opportunity offers. Mr. Stanners returns to Cambridge, the University having granted him fifteen months' leave to bring his wide educational knowledge to St. Dunstan's.

#### Our Trades and Professions

The other day, during a period of reflection, I found myself counting up the number of different gainful occupations or serious careers undertaken by St. Dunstaners of both wars. Without reference to any records, I counted forty-five. Obviously, as the list was made up out of my head and without any references, it is not complete, but for what it's worth as a matter of interest, I set them down in the following list:—Doctor; masseur; osteopath; parson; solicitor; barrister; director of companies; poultry farmer; boot-repairer; joiner; handicrafts; public affairs; shop-keeper; merchant; secretary; labour officer; actor; welfare officer; author; journalist; newspaper proprietor; telephonist; social service; research chemist; research worker; upholsterer; salesman; insurance; blind welfare; schoolmaster; lecturer; lecturer in law; Members of Parliaments; bookmaker; fisherman; chartered accountant; transport executive; surveyor; dog-breeder; baker; missionary; singer; boarding-house keeper; engineering; farmer and horse-breeder.

IAN FRASER.

#### St. Dunstaners Greet Two Queens

When Her Majesty the Queen and Queen Mary visited the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, in connection with the recent Regency Festival, a number of St. Dunstaners of both wars were given a special position inside the grounds to welcome them.

Our men had already received a warm welcome from the crowds assembled and later, the two Queens halted their progress to the main entrance of the Pavilion to shake hands and chat with each one.

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The many St. Dunstaners who met her at Brighton will hear with deep regret of the death of Miss Regidor, who gave us faithful help as an escort for many years.

#### Retirement

St. Dunstan's staff suffers a serious loss on the retirement of Mrs. Dunphy, who has been our Visitor in the North-West of England since September, 1930. Mrs. Dunphy has been greatly loved by all who came in contact with her and she will take with her many good wishes for her happiness in her well-earned retirement.

Mrs. Dunphy's place in the Lancashire Area has now been taken by Miss E. Graham Doel.

#### Southern Area Superintendent

The post of Southern Area Superintendent, left vacant by the retirement of Mrs. Paul upon her marriage, has been filled by Miss L. D. Webster.

#### A George Medallist

A Canadian St. Dunstaner, Major Ted Dunlop, of Toronto, who is Supervisor of Casualty Rehabilitation for the Canadian Government, and who received the O.B.E. in a recent Honours List, has now been awarded the George Medal for his gallantry in attempting to dispose of a grenade dropped by a soldier during training in September, 1943. He is an officer of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, and it was as a result of this action that he lost his sight.

#### More Honours

Our congratulations to P. Sheehan, of Kentish Town (new war), who has received the Oak Leaf Award for action in Burma; and to S. Worthington, of Liverpool, who has just received the British Empire Medal. He is already a Military Medallist.

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We also learn from the *London Gazette*, of the award of the British Empire Medal to Rifleman Arnold Diamond for his services to the Braille School at the Prisoners of War Camp in Germany. Our congratulations to him upon this well-deserved honour.

His friends will be interested to know that he is embarking upon a theatrical career and is playing a small part in the forthcoming London production of Anthony and Cleopatra.

#### On the Air

Ron Smith, of Newhaven, who was blinded in Italy, will be one of Carroll Levis's discoveries in a forthcoming broadcast. He had an audition as a comedian at the Grand Theatre, Derby, on August 24th and was immediately chosen. Of 250 people who had auditions, only one other earned a broadcast.

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Another new war St. Dunstaner, Ernest Russell, of Leeds, was one of the winners at the B.B.C. Quiz "Have a Go," conducted by Wilfred Pickles at Leeds Town Hall recently. The questions were on "Famous Men of Leeds."

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We have had a number of requests for Miss Morrah's address. It is c/o Bank of Australasia, Customhouse Quay, Wellington, New Zealand.

#### From "Mrs. Paul"

August, 1946.

DEAR ST. DUNSTANERS,

I have just heard from Commander Smyth of the present you have given me on my leaving St. Dunstan's. It is most kind of you to think of me like this and I am very grateful for your loving thought.

This present has been sent to me in the form of a cheque which I am paying into the Bank. I am sure you will agree that this is the best thing to do while Purchase Tax continues and prices are so exorbitant. Later on I shall hope to buy something which will be a reminder of you all and the happy years I spent working with you at St. Dunstan's.

May I also say "thank you" to those of you who sent me personal presents, all of which I shall treasure.

I send my good wishes to all St. Dunstaners and hope things will go well in the future for every one of you and your families. I shall always remember you and St. Dunstan's.

Yours sincerely,

MAY SELF.

#### A Fire in Park Crescent

Fire broke out in the lounge at St. Dunstan's Massage Hostel at 12 Park Crescent, in the early hours of July 20th. It was discovered by Miss Barbara Williamson, V.A.D., who was awakened by the smoke. She and Matron Walker roused the eight St. Dunstaners who were sleeping there and they filed quickly and calmly downstairs into the street. Meanwhile the brigade had arrived and the fire was soon under control. The lounge and its contents, and a bedroom above, were damaged, but no one was hurt, but we sympathise with Micky Burns who lost his collection of gramophone records.

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Colonel Edwin Baker, of Toronto, a St. Dunstaner of the last war and now head of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, recently spent three weeks in Trinidad which he visited at the request of the authorities who invited him to review the position of the blind world there and to make recommendations as to a future blind welfare policy for the Colony.

### Blind Person's Pension

As many St. Dunstaners will know, Non-contributory Old Age Pensions are payable on a Means Test to blind persons at age forty instead of the normal qualifying age of seventy.

In the past, some of our men were eligible for the pension and received amounts varying from 2s. to 10s. a week. Due, however, to the all round increase in pensions, their means rose above the scale laid down by the Acts and in nearly all cases the pension was cancelled.

When announcing the increase in the Old Age Pension to a maximum of 26s. weekly, the Government also mentioned there would be a revision in the scale under which the Non-contributory Pension would be paid.

As the result of this revision, a single man will be entitled to some part of the pension if his yearly income is below £128 5s., and a married man will be eligible if the joint yearly income of himself and his wife does not exceed £256 10s.

The lowest income at present enjoyed by a St. Dunstaner who is single or a widower is £169 a year and it is therefore clear that none of these men will be eligible for any part of the Blind Person's Pension. It may be, however, that a small number of our married St. Dunstaners will be entitled to some part of the pension if the joint yearly income of himself and his wife is less than £256 10s. The following examples are given by way of illustration:—

	£	s.	d.
(1) Disability Pension ...	2	5	0
Unemployable Supplement (including National Health Insurance benefits, if any) ... ..	1	0	0
Wife's Allowance ...	16	0	
Attendant Allowance ...	10	0	
Earnings or Cash Allowance ... ..	8	0	
	<u>£4</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>

=£257 8s. 0d. a year.

Any married St. Dunstaner coming within this category, or having any greater income, will not be eligible for any part of the Blind Persons Pension.

If there is no Attendant Allowance in issue, but earnings or Cash Allowance of 18s. a week, the result will be the same.

	£	s.	d.
(2) Disability Pension ...	2	5	0
Unemployable Supplement (including National Health Insurance benefits, if any) ... ..	1	0	0
Wife's Allowance ...	16	0	
Attendant Allowance, earnings or Cash Allow- ance ... ..	10	0	
	<u>£4</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>

=£236 12s. 0d. a year.

Any married St. Dunstaner whose total yearly income together with that of his wife's is as above, will be entitled to a Blind Persons Pension of 4s. a week each for himself and his wife.

	£	s.	d.
(3) Disability Pension ...	2	5	0
Unemployable Supplement	1	0	0
Wife's Allowance ...	16	0	
	<u>£4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>

=£210 12s. 0d. a year.

Any married St. Dunstaner whose total yearly income together with that of his wife's is as above, will be entitled to a Blind Persons Pension of 10s. a week each for himself and his wife.

It should be realised that in calculating a person's eligibility for the pension, income of every description is taken into consideration. This would include all regular amounts paid by St. Dunstan's during the year and if the man or his wife own the house in which they reside a certain amount, based on the net annual value of the house, is added to the joint incomes.

If, after reading the above, any St. Dunstaner feels he is entitled to the pension, he should obtain and complete the necessary form of application, which may be obtained from any Post Office. The Postmaster or Postmistress will assist in the completion of the form, but if any St. Dunstaner finds any real difficulty and would like our help, he should write to his Area Superintendent.

The increase in the pension and the change in the means scale takes place early next month.

### Reunions Continued

Manchester, Liverpool and Lincoln meetings in July ended the first part of a crowded programme of After-Care Reunions extending over a period of three months.

At Manchester, some eighty men met at Houldsworth Hall on July 11th, for lunch, where Commander Smyth, Mrs. Dunphy and Miss Lewis were kept busy bringing old war and new war men together, and Sadie Black, now Mrs. Stokes, was there to represent the women St. Dunstaners of new war.

So many St. Dunstaners live in the Liverpool area, that two meetings had to be held on successive days. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Alderman Luke Hogan, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and Sir John Shute, Chairman of the Liverpool Branch of the British Legion, were among those who greeted the guests on July 12th and 13th, at Reece's Restaurant.

The Lincoln meeting was three days later. Mr. G. Deer, Member of Parliament for Lincoln, his wife, Councillor O. G. Deer, and Mr. Timms (Chairman), and Mr. Vincent (Secretary), Lincoln British Legion, were among those who accepted invitations to be present at the luncheon at Kirkewhite Boys' Club, Commander Smyth presiding.

Then there came a break in the long list of meetings and it was on August 13th that the next Reunion took place—this time at Leeds. Lord Normanby, known to all St. Dunstan's ex-prisoners of war and now a member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council, was enthusiastically welcomed by some sixty Yorkshiremen at luncheon, at Powolny's Restaurant, at which he presided. In his speech, Lord Normanby said there was very little, given the necessary equipment, that a sightless man could not do. He needed what England most needed—determination and guts to build a world most suited to his needs. Commander Smyth, and Miss Phyllis Pease were also present, while Lieut.-Col. A. Butler, Chairman of Leeds Branch, represented the British Legion.

It was a smaller meeting at the Victoria Hotel, Sheffield, on August 14th, but only in numbers. The volume of high spirits at "this most cheerful gathering" as one newspaper described it, was right up to standard. The Lord Mayor of Sheffield (Alderman C. W. Gascoigne) who was

accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, paid a warm tribute to St. Dunstan's and its men. He was followed by Captain Matt Sheppard, Chairman of the Sheffield Branch of the British Legion, who told them of the help which the Legion was proud to give them. Commander Smyth introduced the guests and Miss A. Smith, Social Visitor, Yorkshire Area, was also present.

The following day, some sixty St. Dunstaners met at the Great Northern Hotel, Newcastle. Captain W. Appleby, member of the Council of St. Dunstan's, presided, and he introduced to the company, the Lord Mayor of Newcastle (Alderman J. A. Clydesdale), who is himself blind. Other guests were Mrs. Appleby, Mr. J. T. Cuthbertson, member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion and Mrs. Callender, of the Women's Section, British Legion.

Captain Appleby also presided at the first Scottish meeting to be held since the war. This was at the Ca'doro Restaurant, Glasgow, on August 26th. He urged his hearers to strive to take part in local government affairs. "There is a golden opportunity," he said, "for you to do fine work for the community." Owing to the fact that the Lord Provost was in Brest on that day, he was unable to be present, but Bailie Robert C. Smith, senior magistrate of Glasgow, represented him. Commander Smyth attended this meeting and, as at the other Reunions, read a message of greeting and good wishes from Sir Ian Fraser.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon their anniversaries:—

Mr. and Mrs. J. Davies, Wrexham, January 8th, 1941 (only recently notified); Mr. and Mrs. S. Brydson, Gateside of Trench, June 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Harris, Fareham, July 21st; Mr. and Mrs. H. Acton, Paignton, July 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. Jennings, Bradford, August 1st; Mr. and Mrs. J. Stibbles, Pitlochry, August 1st; Mr. and Mrs. A. Turrell, Leeds, August 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Brooks, Bournemouth, August 17th; Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Salter, Lavender Hill, S.W., August 21st; Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Gidney, Morden, September 10th; Mr. and Mrs. R. Edwards, Twickenham, September 11th; Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Lynch, Ruislip, September 17th.

## West House Notes

July 17th gave us the first anniversary of the return to Brighton of the Melplash contingent and it was certainly a great day here. After lunch, the sun shone brilliantly; all sorts of sports took place on the lawn and all sporting sorts took part in them. Wives, Good Companions and V.A.D.'s joined in. In the evening there was a dance on the lawn, illuminated with fairy lights for the occasion.

On July 23rd, we received an invitation to a concert at the Dome, the star item of which proved to be a Quiz between teams representing West House and Ovingdean. We are proud to report that at last West House has had a victory—its representatives were Messrs. Muggeridge, Hurrell, Stubbs, Humphrys and R. Sheehan.

The somewhat patchy weather then took a turn for the better and swimming, boating and picnics on the beach were the order of the day. Swimmers might feel it worth their while to apply to M. Clements (new war), for his interesting booklet, "How to dress on the beach in three easy stages." Another enthusiasm suddenly seized the reputedly staid inhabitants of West House and anyone passing our door at a *very* early hour on July 25th, would have noticed a small detachment, escorted by Sisters Pepper, Winters and Oates creeping out. This small but heroic party made it way to the Palace Pier and there boarded the *Martha Gunn*. With grim determination, they cast their lines—with grim determination they stood and fished for three solid hours—and with grim determination they withdrew—empty-handed. (If anyone has an odd worm or two they don't want will they please send them post haste to us).

August opened with two days at Goodwood. Although the weather wasn't exceptionally kind to us, trips to benevolent bookies cheered the spirits of most of us.

Highlight of the month was two play readings—"Between the Soup and the Savoury," with Matron, Miss Wakeham (Wakey) and Mrs. Pilbeam; and "The Rest Cure," with Ft.-Lt. Bayley and Sisters Carter, Ashford, Arnold, Melbourne and Costigan doing the noises off.

An exceptionally fine Brains Trust, with Mr. C. H. Tester, J.P. (Question Master), Miss Bather, and Messrs. W. Teeling, M.P., C. Whitaker, J. Hay, R. Bunn

(Borough Treasurer) and W. T. Curtis-Willson, gave very great satisfaction to an audience which, to the joy of West House, held Lady (Arthur) Pearson and Matron Pain.

Then more racing and another Brains Trust, with Orderly Wright as Question Master and St. Dunstaners Roden, Cook (new war), W. Collins, Rhodes and Muggeridge—and to bring the month to a close—more racing, this time at Goodwood.

## Operation—"Busmen"

Time 10 a.m., July 10th, 1946.  
Destination MIDHURST.

Off we go from Portland Place, with the usual full load of happy St. Dunstaners. This year (the 21st outing), we had four coaches and a double-decker. Let me give you some idea of what took place.

We wended our way from Brighton to Worthing picking up some of our friends en route and so on to Broadwater Green. Here we assembled on the Green to have our "photo took" as one of the lads put it. After a juggling feat by the photographer, our photo was duly "took," accompanied by the wisecracks St. Dunstaners are now famous for.

Off again through lovely Sussex, arriving at Midhurst at 12.30 p.m., with Patcham Boys' Band waiting to play us from the Grammar School to the Drill Hall. Can St. Dunstaners march! I was proud to march with them, as to the tune of "Sussex by the Sea," we arrived at the Drill Hall. In there we seated ourselves at tables decorated with flowers by the good people of Midhurst, and hey presto, sandwiches, rolls, cakes, ices and, of course, "wallop" appeared as if by magic.

Mr. A. E. Cannon, Chairman of the Committee responsible for organising the outing, extended a hearty welcome to all St. Dunstaners, old and new. The next speaker was Sir Bernard Bourdillion, President, British Legion, Midhurst, lately returned from Nigeria, who said St. Dunstan's came first in the thoughts of the people of Nigeria.

Feeding operations concluded, off we went to that lovely spot on Lord Cowdray's estate. The band, already seated and all set to start on the word "go" from our able M.C., Mr. Alf. Woolgar—so on with the dance; St. Dunstaners partnered by the local ladies.

## Points from Letters

### The Two Wars

"It seems to me that the two wars may most simply be distinguished by the words, 'First and Second Great Wars.'"

A. T. BROOKS, Bournemouth.

"I suggest the 1914 and 1939 Wars, or as an alternative, the Serbian conflict and Polish conflict respectively.

"Re classifying the two generations of St. Dunstaners, I suggest '1914' men and '1939' men. This would avoid the confusion between their actual age and term of Association with St. Dunstan's."

W. GIRLING, Southampton.

"I suggest the Kaiser War and the Nazi War—I do not propose to commemorate Hitler's name by including it."

R. NORRIS, W.5.

### Young St. Dunstaners

Raymond Jenkins (Porth), has passed his B.Sc. degree examination at Cardiff University.

Betty Milner (Liverpool), has secured her School Certificate with two distinctions and six credits.

Honours for the two sons of W. Woodrow, of Alderbury. Frank, now promoted to Captain, R.E.M.E., has received a Certificate for Devotion to Duty from General Montgomery, and Arthur, a Sergeant in the R.A.C., a certificate for good service, in the King's Birthday Honours.

### Marriages

On June 8th, Gilbert Burtenshaw (Walthamstow) to Nancy Jeffrey.

On March 16th, Eleanor Meckin (Workington) to Mr. Adam Doggart.

On May 25th, Marjorie Smith (Boldon Colliery) to Mr. Horace Halder.

On March 2nd, Esther Mary Thompson (Bexhill-on-Sea) to F-Lt. William J. Bolt.

Gunner W. J. Hill (Gloucester), on December 15th, to Miss Edna Taylor, at Gloucester, and on the same date, at Tonbridge, Corporal J. C. Hill (Gloucester) to Miss Winifred Crittenden.

On April 27th, Arthur Condon, Basingstoke, to Miss Eileen Mary Tillen.

On March 20th, Dorothy Audrey Dale, Midhurst, to Captain H. R. Price.

The eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duxbury, Cheadle Hulme, in Germany.

Four o'clock and good-bye to the good people of Midhurst, and off to Chichester for tea. During the tea, Mr. A. E. Cannon asked how many St. Dunstaners present at the moment, were also present at the first outing in 1921. Eight "old stagers" answered. At this point, F. Richardson, our St. Dunstaner, in a short but brilliant speech, thanked the Chairman and Committee for such a grand day.

Off again to the Winterton Arms, Cockers Hill. Within a quarter of a mile of the lovely rose gardens we dismounted and marched to the gay tunes of the band right into the gardens.

Then Matron Ouseley, of West House, in a short, witty speech, said how proud she was to see the boys marching; and may I tell you Matron, the lads are proud to know you! On behalf of the Boxgrove British Legion, Mr. Mason welcomed all men of St. Dunstan's. The good old R.A.F. Tangmere, supplied more "wallop" and so the happy evening came to an end at nine o'clock. All aboard and off to Brighton where we all arrived safely. So ended a perfect day.

"BUSMAN."

### Advanced Braille Reading Test

Congratulations to the following who have passed their Advanced Braille Reading Test during the last few months and are therefore entitled to the special prize of £3.

G. A. Prince, Newcastle; S. E. Varley, Tottenham; Blodwen Simon, Ruthin; G. Richards, Manchester; R. Young, Dorking; J. Dennick, Evesham; W. Christian, Douglas, Isle of Man; J. E. Davies, Darwen; H. Thompson, Warrington.

### To West Country St. Dunstaners

St. Dunstaners in Miss Oliphant's area, will be interested to know that the man who was wanted in connection with the burglary that took place in the homes of Miss Oliphant and Miss Briscoe earlier in the year—has now been arrested. There is a reasonable chance that they will recover a certain amount of their possessions.

### Promotion

Harry McAndrew, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. McAndrew, of Bournemouth, to the rank of Major, R.A.S.C., Regular Army.

## Blackpool

Starting on July 2nd, onwards to the end-of-August closing for redecorating, life at Wimbourne Place has been one long brilliant strip of successive pleasures. The hectic two months began on July 2nd, with a long coach trip around Blackpool. Of others I can only select the good from the good. Airplane trips, pier jaunts, and "Fine Feathers" at the Grand Theatre, attracted some old birds. While "Dancing Years" at the same venue convinced many that fifty-plus was the answer. All this in addition to the "breaks" at the Home; and they were plenty.

On Friday, August 23rd, Mr. Bridges, a representative of the M.O.I., toured us around the world with a "Talkie-movie" show. It was absorbingly interesting to the "full house" packed into the lounge. So thrilling and spell-binding, too, that at one point only the music of the breakers on the coral lagoons of the South Seas broke the prelude. And now I reach the peerless gem in this jewel-studded holiday time. On Sunday, August 25th, the St. Anne's branch of the British Legion threw us a coach trip to Keswick. What a day! Mr. Raymond Kershaw, President of the branch, was mainly instrumental in organising the outing. Mr. Donald Lindley, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Tom Royston, of the same branch, a well-known entertainer, acted in the capacity of guides and describers and cicerones in general. Matron Davies and Sisters Barnett, Smith, Hughes and Kershaw graced the ride. And were they in form? You're telling me! This was the itinerary in brief. 9.30 a.m. saw both filled coaches well away, through Lancaster to Carnforth for the first tea stop. Through Kendal, Windermere, Ambleside, Rydal Water, Thirlmere to Keswick.

We were sumptuously wined, dined, cigared and cigaretted at the Royal Oak Hotel—the erstwhile "local" of the Lakeland Poets. A washing-basket filled with plums was placed at the entrance to the dining-room, and we were invited to help ourselves. I cannot frame words effective enough to describe the austere, vast, lofty and verdant grandeur of the Westmorland and Cumberland scene. Surely unsurpassable. We returned by way of the Vale of St. John, passing Helvellyn, Lion and

Lamb Rock, Grasmere. Then a motor-launch trip on Lake Windermere, from Waterhead to Bo'ness, seven miles. The coaches went by road and rejoined at Bo'ness. The spot that was fatal to Seagrave, in the speed-boat trials, was pointed out to us, also the measured mile. Tea was taken in the open at Bo'ness. Away to Milnthorpe, last stop, then home by way of the Lyth Valley, reaching Wimbourne Place at 9.30 p.m. One hundred and eighty miles run, 12 hours' unalloyed joy. Supper, a little "speechifying" with all tired, all happy, and so to bed.

We left Blackpool Home resounding sepulchrally to the tread of workmen's boots, and matron and staff side-stepping whitewash, and wallowing in painty stinks.

W.E.B.

## Physiotherapy Successes

The following St. Dunstan's students were successful in the recent Physiotherapy Examinations:—

<i>Massage</i>	<i>Remedial Exercises</i>
Burns, M.	Burns, M.
Evans, J.	Cooper, C.
Inness, J.	Evans, J.
Lloyd, R. (Credit in General Massage)	Foster, E.
Morris, W. G. (Credit in General Massage)	Inness, J.
Vickers, A.	Lloyd, R.
Weeks, J.	Morris, W. G.
	Vickers, A.
	Weeks, J.
<i>Anatomy and Physiology</i>	<i>Electrotherapy</i>
Davies, L.	Davies, L.
Humphrey, J.	Humphrey, J.
Nicolson, C.	Nicolson, C.
(Distinction)	Shea, W. G.
Shea, W. G.	Theobald, R.
Theobald, R.	

After the Camp at Lee-on-Solent, there was a St. Dunstan's Reunion on a small scale at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Edwards, of Twickenham, when St. Dunstaners J. Gimber, C. Williams, Billy Christian, J. J. Morgan and R. Edwards, with their wives and children, met for tea. They had not seen each other for many years and when the son of J. Brooks of Sheffield turned up unexpectedly to join them also, we can guess that "a good time was had by all."

## St. Dunstan's Navy Week

"My bridle arm was hanging loose, my head looked fair to go

'Twas then I thanked my lucky stars, I wore my old shako."

The words of that old song came vividly to my mind as I pictured Jim Ellis of the 10th Hussars, blinded in the N. African campaign, and minus that left hand so vital to a cavalryman, whom I met at the camp provided for St. Dunstaners by the kindness and courtesy of the officers and ratings of the Fleet Air Arm at Seaford Park, Lee-on-Solent. Well, his hand was gone, and his headlights, but his head had not gone, for with the courage of his race and the spirit which we audaciously term the St. Dunstan's Spirit, he threw himself into the activities of the camp, dancing with the members of the W.R.N.S., entertaining his comrades with song, monologue and music which he magically contrived with the aid of a piano-accordion and the three fingers that the fortune of war had left on his sabre arm. There were other members of the younger generation who attended that camp, which was also visited on the Sunday by twenty more from St. Dunstan's at Ovingdean. As one of the old generation, blinded on the Somme, I watched them with critical perception. Had there been another party behind the hedges, there was nothing to inform them that the laughing, joking, cheerful crowd on the lawn were men blinded in the two world wars. It was the second camp provided by the Fleet Air Arm at Seaford since the cessation of hostilities, but the first one I had attended as I had imagined that it was only for the men of the younger generation, and that an old-timer like myself would feel out of place. Not a bit of it. Age, rank and old regimental jealousies all vanished in the mutual fellowship, but for myself and I think most of the campers, the highlights of the week were the party given by the W.R.N.S. at their quarters at Edinburgh House, and the farewell dance on the lawn. The latter was gaily illuminated with red, white and blue fairy lamps hung in huge clusters among the trees that surround the lawn, while the White Ensign was floodlit. We could not see those illuminations, but they were reflected in the hearts and minds of all, and the echoing strains

of the dance tunes, and the subdued murmur of the dancers, was countered from the near distance by the more spontaneous and hilarious merriment from the direction of the refreshment marquees, where an impromptu entertainment group of the old school, reinforced by a couple of members of the new school, informed all and sundry that once they were together, they could and would find amusement and a mutual joy in life. Of course none of this would have been possible without the co-operation and hospitality of these practical men and women of the Senior Service, but that point was never accentuated. It was with some pride possibly, that they took us around the harbour, to show us the anchored might of Britain, and around the aerodrome, from which they had taken such a vital part in the defence of Britain.

Yet, when we met them in the various Petty Officers' messes in the evenings for refreshment, entertainment and dancing, there was only that old spirit of comradeship, that men miss so much on leaving the Service, but the men of St. Dunstan's have retained, and will retain throughout the years. I must close this account of first impressions by returning to my very first introduction to a new boy, and once more the lines of that old song ring through my mind:—

"So let this be my epitaph, whene'er they lay me low—

Here lies a jolly light dragoon, who loves his old shako."

Jim at his second camp, with three years' experience in the dark world, got bravely mounted, trusting himself to the leadership of Jack Dawkins, Spl-Major of the "Blues" rode back into camp with the same flourish that will bring him and many of his comrades back each year to Mrs. Spurway's Camps of Peace. Yet it is not merely the Spirit of St. Dunstan's, but that greater Spirit, which, guiding the destinies of all men, has seemed to have an especial care and use for the men and women of this isle. I shall therefore, not wait the final call to bivouac, but wait my second call to camp and that call to arms by the friends of the W.R.N.S., who lifted the weight of twenty-five years and made me feel as young as these young men of the new brigade!

J. RADFORD.

### Church Stretton Notes

All good things must come to an end and the Church Stretton phase of St. Dunstan's history is now closed. At the moment of going to press, a good many people are still working hard clearing up and organising the final move to Brighton.

The Breaking-up Concert was given on August 1st for service personnel and on 2nd for trainees, staff and escorts and friends from the village. It would be impossible to mention all the items in this excellent show, but an appreciative audience made it clear that this really lively and well balanced production more than justified all the hard work that had been put into it.

For the Tea Dance on August 4th, we had Sammy Ash and his band, from the Grand Casino ballroom, Birmingham, and on Monday, a splendid Breaking-up Party with the band of the 6th Batt. R.E.M.E., given by Denehurst and Tiger Hall. On Tuesday a farewell party was given at the 27th M.U. R.A.F., Shawbury.

Many trainees have left us lately, having finished their training. We wish them all good luck and hope that we may meet again some day at Brighton. Gerry Wood left on July 12th to work with the Hamptone Upholstery Co., Carey Street, Northampton. Chris Wilkinson left on July 13th to work on assembly with Messrs. Armstrong Patents Ltd., Beverley, Hull. Ron Phillips left on August 5th to work as a telephone operator with Independent Producers Ltd., Regent Street, and George Eustace as telephone operator with Morrison Engineering, Purley Way. Joe Hamilton started work on August 8th as an upholsterer with Messrs. William Rhodes of Nottingham, and John Mudge has returned to his old firm, the Metropolitan Water Board, Lee Bridge, Hackney, as telephone operator. Jack Newton will be starting work as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. English Steels Ltd., of Manchester. Jack Martin will work a plastic press with the Streetly Manufacturing Co., Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, and will start work with Tom O'Connor when a house has been found.

Bob Forster started on August 19th as telephone operator with Barclays Bank, Leeds. He and Miss Lomas are getting married in September and we wish them all happiness.

Josh Williams has finished training on assembly and returns home awaiting placement. Jimmy Dear will be going shortly to work on assembly with Messrs. Williams and Williams of Hooton, near Chester. Gerald Brereton goes as telephone operator to Leys Malleable Castings Ltd., Colombo Street, Derby, and Chris Williams began work on August 12th as telephone operator with the Ministry of Labour, Kingston-on-Thames. Ernie Woofenden started work on Assembly on August 26th with Messrs. Gent & Co., Leicester. Geordie Lund starts work soon as a telephone operator with the Ministry of Labour, West Hartlepool. Fred Dickerson is waiting at home to take up work as telephone operator with the Petroleum Board. Ron Birkin started work on assembly with G.P.O., Birmingham on August 19th. Jan Solowej and Michal Tybinski have finished their training as capstan lathe operators and are waiting for accommodation before taking up their jobs. George Roake, John Fenny and Frank Hayes await placement on assembly, and George Dalton and Jack Horton on the capstan.

Space will not allow us to mention the names of staff and helpers who are leaving us, but we would like to say goodbye and thank you to them all, and all of us who have spent some happy years at Church Stretton can say, "I count myself in nothing else so happy, as in a soul remembering my good friends."

\* \* \*

Congratulations to the following who have recently passed their tests:

**Typing.**—C. Wilkinson, J. Dear, L. McKinnon, A. Hold, R. Owen, C. Stafford, R. Turner, W. Smith, A. Chamberlain, H. Davis, J. Taylor, C. Minaar, J. Hopkins, R. Hales, A. Guylar.

**Braille Writing.**—A. Finney, J. Sheridan, W. Burns.

**Interline.**—E. Gould, J. Lewis, E. Tucker, A. H. Brown, W. Burns, W. Freeman, E. Simpson, M. Tybinski, J. Sheridan, S. Bogicevic.

**Advanced (Interpoint).**—H. Thompson, H. Crane, F. Hawes, N. Hopkins, Z. Stepek, K. Johnston-Stewart, W. Veness, N. Daniel, G. Brooks, C. Williams, J. Cruse.

**Moon.**—G. Roake, W. Carr.

### St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

By the time these notes appear in print, a goodly contingent of our members will be endeavouring to uphold the excellent record they achieved in Harrogate in 1945. Furthermore, one of our most loyal helpers will have reached her home in New Zealand by this time. Miss Morrah has served the club well and truly for many years and all our best wishes go with her to New Zealand.

During the last few months, an excellent number of members have enjoyed their Saturday afternoon bridge to the full. The league programme is well in full swing, and I will not attempt to predict the winners. Several duplicate matches have been played and on each occasion everyone had a very pleasant afternoon.

For the first time, we paid a visit to the Pinner Club and we hope to meet again later on at our Headquarters. Brighton is also becoming an acquisition to our Bridge activities and we are indebted to the Howe Bridge Club for their three very pleasant afternoons. So for Harrogate. This is our fifth visit and like all good things our visits continue to be most enjoyable and I trust that this year will be equally successful.

R. P. C.

### News from South Africa

Congratulations to E. Denny, of Pretoria, who at the Annual General Meeting of the South African Legion of the British Empire Service League, was unanimously elected a Life-President, for service rendered over a period of many years.

Denny's son, Terence, has now been demobilised after six year's service overseas with the South African Air Force. He was recently married in Cairo to Miss Barbara Bennett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Taylor Bennett, of the British Consulate, Istanbul.

Miss Winifred Stonelake, who will be remembered at London Headquarters and at Tembani, Cape Town, when she was on Mrs. Chadwick Bates' staff, was married on June 19th, to Captain G. Ribbink.

\* \* \*

When L. W. Calvert, of Ormskirk, spent a week in London recently with Percy Ashton, they visited the House of Commons where Calvert, for the first time in twenty-eight years, met his brother, who is a commissionaire there.

### Births

**BARRETT.**—On April 13th, to the wife of M. E. Barrett, Leribe, Basutoland (new war), a son—Charles Morgan.

**CORRIGAN.**—On July 5th, to the wife of J. Corrigan, of York (new war), a daughter—Susan Megan.

**FOSTER.**—On June 14th, to the wife of H. Foster, of Aldershot (trainee), a son—Clifford Ian.

**HIGGO.**—On March 18th, to the wife of L. A. Higgo, of Pretoria North, Transvaal, South Africa (new war), a son—Lionel Alfred.

**LEE.**—On July 17th, to the wife of J. Lee, of Gledhow, Leeds (new war), a daughter—Valerie Ann.

**MILLER.**—On August 22nd, to the wife of E. Miller, of Wimbledon (new war), a son—Edward William John.

**MORGAN.**—On July 9th, to the wife of F. T. Morgan, of Bristol (new war), a daughter.

**SHED.**—To the wife of G. Shed, of Streatham Vale (new war), on September 5th, a son—Robert.

**SHOTTER.**—To the wife of W. Shotter, of East Ham (new war), on August 24th, a daughter—Carol.

**WOMACK.**—On August 11th, to the wife of C. Womack, of Leicester (new war), a daughter—Susan Winifred.

### Marriages

**ALEXANDER—OWENS.**—On August 6th, E. A. Alexander, of Bournemouth, to Miss G. E. Owens.

**CHAPPELL—EVANS.**—On July 27th, A. T. Chappell (new war), to Miss Betty Evans, of Woodford Green.

**FORSTER—LOMAS.**—On September 14th, R. Forster of Leeds, to Miss Joyce Lomas.

**FULLARD.**—On April 11th, A. Fullard (new war).

**HAMILTON.**—On September 5th, J. Hamilton, previously of Ireland and now of Nottingham (new war).

**NICCOL—GARDINER.**—On July 27th, T. Niccol (new war), to Miss Gardiner, recently of Church Stretton.

### A George Medallist

A Canadian St. Dunstaner, Major Ted Dunlop, of Toronto, who is Supervisor of Casualty Rehabilitation for the Canadian Government, and who received the O.B.E. in a recent Honours List, has now been awarded the George Medal for his gallantry in attempting to dispose of a grenade dropped by a soldier during training in September, 1943. He is an officer of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, and it was as a result of this action that he lost his sight.

### More Honours

Our congratulations to P. Sheehan, of Kentish Town (new war), who has received the Oak Leaf Award for action in Burma; and to S. Worthington, of Liverpool, who has just received the British Empire Medal. He is already a Military Medallist.

★ ★ ★

We also learn from the *London Gazette*, of the award of the British Empire Medal to Rifleman Arnold Diamond for his services to the Braille School at the Prisoners of War Camp in Germany. Our congratulations to him upon this well-deserved honour.

His friends will be interested to know that he is embarking upon a theatrical career and is playing a small part in the forthcoming London production of Anthony and Cleopatra.

### On the Air

Ron Smith, of Newhaven, who was blinded in Italy, will be one of Carroll Levis's discoveries in a forthcoming broadcast. He had an audition as a comedian at the Grand Theatre, Derby, on August 24th and was immediately chosen. Of 250 people who had auditions, only one other earned a broadcast.

★ ★ ★

Another new war St. Dunstaner, Ernest Russell, of Leeds, was one of the winners at the B.B.C. Quiz "Have a Go," conducted by Wilfred Pickles at Leeds Town Hall recently. The questions were on "Famous Men of Leeds."

★ ★ ★

We have had a number of requests for Miss Morrah's address. It is c/o Bank of Australasia, Customhouse Quay, Wellington, New Zealand.

### From "Mrs. Paul"

August, 1946.

DEAR ST. DUNSTANERS,

I have just heard from Commander Smyth of the present you have given me on my leaving St. Dunstan's. It is most kind of you to think of me like this and I am very grateful for your loving thought.

This present has been sent to me in the form of a cheque which I am paying into the Bank. I am sure you will agree that this is the best thing to do while Purchase Tax continues and prices are so exorbitant. Later on I shall hope to buy something which will be a reminder of you all and the happy years I spent working with you at St. Dunstan's.

May I also say "thank you" to those of you who sent me personal presents, all of which I shall treasure.

I send my good wishes to all St. Dunstaners and hope things will go well in the future for every one of you and your families. I shall always remember you and St. Dunstan's.

Yours sincerely,

MAY SELF.

### A Fire in Park Crescent

Fire broke out in the lounge at St. Dunstan's Massage Hostel at 12 Park Crescent, in the early hours of July 20th. It was discovered by Miss Barbara Williamson, V.A.D., who was awakened by the smoke. She and Matron Walker roused the eight St. Dunstaners who were sleeping there and they filed quickly and calmly downstairs into the street. Meanwhile the brigade had arrived and the fire was soon under control. The lounge and its contents, and a bedroom above, were damaged, but no one was hurt, but we sympathise with Micky Burns who lost his collection of gramophone records.

★ ★ ★

Colonel Edwin Baker, of Toronto, a St. Dunstaner of the last war and now head of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, recently spent three weeks in Trinidad which he visited at the request of the authorities who invited him to review the position of the blind world there and to make recommendations as to a future blind welfare policy for the Colony.

### Blind Person's Pension

As many St. Dunstaners will know, Non-contributory Old Age Pensions are payable on a Means Test to blind persons at age forty instead of the normal qualifying age of seventy.

In the past, some of our men were eligible for the pension and received amounts varying from 2s. to 10s. a week. Due, however, to the all round increase in pensions, their means rose above the scale laid down by the Acts and in nearly all cases the pension was cancelled.

When announcing the increase in the Old Age Pension to a maximum of 26s. weekly, the Government also mentioned there would be a revision in the scale under which the Non-contributory Pension would be paid.

As the result of this revision, a single man will be entitled to some part of the pension if his yearly income is below £128 5s., and a married man will be eligible if the joint yearly income of himself and his wife does not exceed £256 10s.

The lowest income at present enjoyed by a St. Dunstaner who is single or a widower is £169 a year and it is therefore clear that none of these men will be eligible for any part of the Blind Person's Pension. It may be, however, that a small number of our married St. Dunstaners will be entitled to some part of the pension if the joint yearly income of himself and his wife is less than £256 10s. The following examples are given by way of illustration:—

	£	s.	d.
(1) Disability Pension ...	2	5	0
Unemployable Supplement (including National Health Insurance benefits, if any) ... ..	1	0	0
Wife's Allowance ...	16	0	
Attendant Allowance ...	10	0	
Earnings or Cash Allowance ... ..	8	0	
	<u>£4</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>

=£257 8s. 0d. a year.

Any married St. Dunstaner coming within this category, or having any greater income, will not be eligible for any part of the Blind Persons Pension.

If there is no Attendant Allowance in issue, but earnings or Cash Allowance of 18s. a week, the result will be the same.

	£	s.	d.
(2) Disability Pension ...	2	5	0
Unemployable Supplement (including National Health Insurance benefits, if any) ... ..	1	0	0
Wife's Allowance ...	16	0	
Attendant Allowance, earnings or Cash Allow- ance ... ..	10	0	
	<u>£4</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>

=236 12s. 0d. a year.

Any married St. Dunstaner whose total yearly income together with that of his wife's is as above, will be entitled to a Blind Persons Pension of 4s. a week each for himself and his wife.

	£	s.	d.
(3) Disability Pension ...	2	5	0
Unemployable Supplement	1	0	0
Wife's Allowance ...	16	0	
	<u>£4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>

=£210 12s. 0d. a year.

Any married St. Dunstaner whose total yearly income together with that of his wife's is as above, will be entitled to a Blind Persons Pension of 10s. a week each for himself and his wife.

It should be realised that in calculating a person's eligibility for the pension, income of every description is taken into consideration. This would include all regular amounts paid by St. Dunstan's during the year and if the man or his wife own the house in which they reside a certain amount, based on the net annual value of the house, is added to the joint incomes.

If, after reading the above, any St. Dunstaner feels he is entitled to the pension, he should obtain and complete the necessary form of application, which may be obtained from any Post Office. The Postmaster or Postmistress will assist in the completion of the form, but if any St. Dunstaner finds any real difficulty and would like our help, he should write to his Area Superintendent.

The increase in the pension and the change in the means scale takes place early next month.

### Reunions Continued

Manchester, Liverpool and Lincoln meetings in July ended the first part of a crowded programme of After-Care Reunions extending over a period of three months.

At Manchester, some eighty men met at Houldsworth Hall on July 11th, for lunch, where Commander Smyth, Mrs. Dunphy and Miss Lewis were kept busy bringing old war and new war men together, and Sadie Black, now Mrs. Stokes, was there to represent the women St. Dunstaners of new war.

So many St. Dunstaners live in the Liverpool area, that two meetings had to be held on successive days. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Alderman Luke Hogan, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and Sir John Shute, Chairman of the Liverpool Branch of the British Legion, were among those who greeted the guests on July 12th and 13th, at Reece's Restaurant.

The Lincoln meeting was three days later. Mr. G. Deer, Member of Parliament for Lincoln, his wife, Councillor O. G. Deer, and Mr. Timms (Chairman), and Mr. Vincent (Secretary), Lincoln British Legion, were among those who accepted invitations to be present at the luncheon at Kirkewhite Boys' Club, Commander Smyth presiding.

Then there came a break in the long list of meetings and it was on August 13th that the next Reunion took place—this time at Leeds. Lord Normanby, known to all St. Dunstan's ex-prisoners of war and now a member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council, was enthusiastically welcomed by some sixty Yorkshiremen at luncheon, at Powolny's Restaurant, at which he presided. In his speech, Lord Normanby said there was very little, given the necessary equipment, that a sightless man could not do. He needed what England most needed—determination and guts to build a world most suited to his needs. Commander Smyth, and Miss Phyllis Pease were also present, while Lieut.-Col. A. Butler, Chairman of Leeds Branch, represented the British Legion.

It was a smaller meeting at the Victoria Hotel, Sheffield, on August 14th, but only in numbers. The volume of high spirits at "this most cheerful gathering" as one newspaper described it, was right up to standard. The Lord Mayor of Sheffield (Alderman C. W. Gascoigne) who was

accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, paid a warm tribute to St. Dunstan's and its men. He was followed by Captain Matt Sheppard, Chairman of the Sheffield Branch of the British Legion, who told them of the help which the Legion was proud to give them. Commander Smyth introduced the guests and Miss A. Smith, Social Visitor, Yorkshire Area, was also present.

The following day, some sixty St. Dunstaners met at the Great Northern Hotel, Newcastle. Captain W. Appleby, member of the Council of St. Dunstan's, presided, and he introduced to the company, the Lord Mayor of Newcastle (Alderman J. A. Clydesdale), who is himself blind. Other guests were Mrs. Appleby, Mr. J. T. Cuthbertson, member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion and Mrs. Callender, of the Women's Section, British Legion.

Captain Appleby also presided at the first Scottish meeting to be held since the war. This was at the Ca'doro Restaurant, Glasgow, on August 26th. He urged his hearers to strive to take part in local government affairs. "There is a golden opportunity," he said, "for you to do fine work for the community." Owing to the fact that the Lord Provost was in Brest on that day, he was unable to be present, but Bailie Robert C. Smith, senior magistrate of Glasgow, represented him. Commander Smyth attended this meeting and, as at the other Reunions, read a message of greeting and good wishes from Sir Ian Fraser.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon their anniversaries:—

Mr. and Mrs. J. Davies, Wrexham, January 8th, 1941 (only recently notified); Mr. and Mrs. S. Brydson, Gateside of Trench, June 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Harris, Fareham, July 21st; Mr. and Mrs. H. Acton, Paignton, July 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. Jennings, Bradford, August 1st; Mr. and Mrs. J. Stibbles, Pitlochry, August 1st; Mr. and Mrs. A. Turrell, Leeds, August 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Brooks, Bournemouth, August 17th; Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Salter, Lavender Hill, S.W., August 21st; Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Gidney, Morden, September 10th; Mr. and Mrs. R. Edwards, Twickenham, September 11th; Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Lynch, Ruislip, September 17th.



### West House Notes

July 17th gave us the first anniversary of the return to Brighton of the Melplash contingent and it was certainly a great day here. After lunch, the sun shone brilliantly; all sorts of sports took place on the lawn and all sporting sorts took part in them. Wives, Good Companions and V.A.D.'s joined in. In the evening there was a dance on the lawn, illuminated with fairy lights for the occasion.

On July 23rd, we received an invitation to a concert at the Dome, the star item of which proved to be a Quiz between teams representing West House and Ovingdean. We are proud to report that at last West House has had a victory—its representatives were Messrs. Muggeridge, Hurrell, Stubbs, Humphrys and R. Sheehan.

The somewhat patchy weather then took a turn for the better and swimming, boating and picnics on the beach were the order of the day. Swimmers might feel it worth their while to apply to M. Clements (new war), for his interesting booklet, "How to dress on the beach in three easy stages." Another enthusiasm suddenly seized the reputedly staid inhabitants of West House and anyone passing our door at a *very* early hour on July 25th, would have noticed a small detachment, escorted by Sisters Pepper, Winters and Oates creeping out. This small but heroic party made it way to the Palace Pier and there boarded the *Martha Gunn*. With grim determination, they cast their lines—with grim determination they stood and fished for three solid hours—and with grim determination they withdrew—empty-handed. (If anyone has an odd worm or two they don't want will they please send them post haste to us).

August opened with two days at Goodwood. Although the weather wasn't exceptionally kind to us, trips to benevolent bookies cheered the spirits of most of us.

Highlight of the month was two play readings—"Between the Soup and the Savoury," with Matron, Miss Wakeham (Wakey) and Mrs. Pilbeam; and "The Rest Cure," with Ft.-Lt. Bayley and Sisters Carter, Ashford, Arnold, Melbourne and Costigan doing the noises off.

An exceptionally fine Brains Trust, with Mr. C. H. Tester, J.P. (Question Master), Miss Bather, and Messrs. W. Teeling, M.P., C. Whitaker, J. Hay, R. Bunn

(Borough Treasurer) and W. T. Curtis-Willson, gave very great satisfaction to an audience which, to the joy of West House, held Lady (Arthur) Pearson and Matron Pain.

Then more racing and another Brains Trust, with Orderly Wright as Question Master and St. Dunstaners Roden, Cook (new war), W. Collins, Rhodes and Muggeridge—and to bring the month to a close—more racing, this time at Goodwood.

### Operation—"Busmen"

Time 10 a.m., July 10th, 1946.  
Destination MIDHURST.

Off we go from Portland Place, with the usual full load of happy St. Dunstaners. This year (the 21st outing), we had four coaches and a double-decker. Let me give you some idea of what took place.

We wended our way from Brighton to Worthing picking up some of our friends en route and so on to Broadwater Green. Here we assembled on the Green to have our "photo took" as one of the lads put it. After a juggling feat by the photographer, our photo was duly "took," accompanied by the wisecracks St. Dunstaners are now famous for.

Off again through lovely Sussex, arriving at Midhurst at 12.30 p.m., with Patcham Boys' Band waiting to play us from the Grammar School to the Drill Hall. Can St. Dunstaners march! I was proud to march with them, as to the tune of "Sussex by the Sea," we arrived at the Drill Hall. In there we seated ourselves at tables decorated with flowers by the good people of Midhurst, and hey presto, sandwiches, rolls, cakes, ices and, of course, "wallop" appeared as if by magic.

Mr. A. E. Cannon, Chairman of the Committee responsible for organising the outing, extended a hearty welcome to all St. Dunstaners, old and new. The next speaker was Sir Bernard Bourdillion, President, British Legion, Midhurst, lately returned from Nigeria, who said St. Dunstan's came first in the thoughts of the people of Nigeria.

Feeding operations concluded, off we went to that lovely spot on Lord Cowdray's estate. The band, already seated and all set to start on the word "go" from our able M.C., Mr. Alf. Woolgar—so on with the dance; St. Dunstaners partnered by the local ladies.

### Points from Letters

#### The Two Wars

"It seems to me that the two wars may most simply be distinguished by the words, 'First and Second Great Wars.'"

A. T. BROOKS, Bournemouth.

"I suggest the 1914 and 1939 Wars, or as an alternative, the Serbian conflict and Polish conflict respectively.

"Re classifying the two generations of St. Dunstaners, I suggest '1914' men and '1939' men. This would avoid the confusion between their actual age and term of Association with St. Dunstan's."

W. GIRLING, Southampton.

"I suggest the Kaiser War and the Nazi War—I do not propose to commemorate Hitler's name by including it."

R. NORRIS, W.5.

#### Young St. Dunstaners

Raymond Jenkins (Porth), has passed his B.Sc. degree examination at Cardiff University.

Betty Milner (Liverpool), has secured her School Certificate with two distinctions and six credits.

Honours for the two sons of W. Woodrow, of Alderbury. Frank, now promoted to Captain, R.E.M.E., has received a Certificate for Devotion to Duty from General Montgomery, and Arthur, a Sergeant in the R.A.C., a certificate for good service, in the King's Birthday Honours.

#### Marriages

On June 8th, Gilbert Burtenshaw (Walthamstow) to Nancy Jeffrey.

On March 16th, Eleanor Meckin (Workington) to Mr. Adam Doggart.

On May 25th, Marjorie Smith (Baldon Colliery) to Mr. Horace Halder.

On March 2nd, Esther Mary Thompson (Bexhill-on-Sea) to F-Lt. William J. Bolt.

Gunner W. J. Hill (Gloucester), on December 15th, to Miss Edna Taylor, at Gloucester, and on the same date, at Tonbridge, Corporal J. C. Hill (Gloucester) to Miss Winifred Crittenden.

On April 27th, Arthur Condon, Basingstoke, to Miss Eileen Mary Tilden.

On March 20th, Dorothy Audrey Dale, Midhurst, to Captain H. R. Price.

The eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duxbury, Cheadle Hulme, in Germany.

Four o'clock and good-bye to the good people of Midhurst, and off to Chichester for tea. During the tea, Mr. A. E. Cannon asked how many St. Dunstaners present at the moment, were also present at the first outing in 1921. Eight "old stagers" answered. At this point, F. Richardson, our St. Dunstaner, in a short but brilliant speech, thanked the Chairman and Committee for such a grand day.

Off again to the Winterton Arms, Cockers Hill. Within a quarter of a mile of the lovely rose gardens we dismounted and marched to the gay tunes of the band right into the gardens.

Then Matron Ouseley, of West House, in a short, witty speech, said how proud she was to see the boys marching; and may I tell you Matron, the lads are proud to know you! On behalf of the Boxgrove British Legion, Mr. Mason welcomed all men of St. Dunstan's. The good old R.A.F. Tangmere, supplied more "wallop" and so the happy evening came to an end at nine o'clock. All aboard and off to Brighton where we all arrived safely. So ended a perfect day.

"BUSMAN."

#### Advanced Braille Reading Test

Congratulations to the following who have passed their Advanced Braille Reading Test during the last few months and are therefore entitled to the special prize of £3.

G. A. Prince, Newcastle; S. E. Varley, Tottenham; Blodwen Simon, Ruthin; G. Richards, Manchester; R. Young, Dorking; J. Dennick, Evesham; W. Christian, Douglas, Isle of Man; J. E. Davies, Darwen; H. Thompson, Warrington.

#### To West Country St. Dunstaners

St. Dunstaners in Miss Oliphant's area, will be interested to know that the man who was wanted in connection with the burglary that took place in the homes of Miss Oliphant and Miss Briscoe earlier in the year—has now been arrested. There is a reasonable chance that they will recover a certain amount of their possessions.

#### Promotion

Harry McAndrew, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. McAndrew, of Bournemouth, to the rank of Major, R.A.S.C., Regular Army.

## Blackpool

Starting on July 2nd, onwards to the end-of-August closing for redecorating, life at Wimbourne Place has been one long brilliant strip of successive pleasures. The hectic two months began on July 2nd, with a long coach trip around Blackpool. Of others I can only select the good from the good. Airplane trips, pier jaunts, and "Fine Feathers" at the Grand Theatre, attracted some old birds. While "Dancing Years" at the same venue convinced many that fifty-plus was the answer. All this in addition to the "breaks" at the Home; and they were plenty.

On Friday, August 23rd, Mr. Bridges, a representative of the M.O.I., toured us around the world with a "Talkie-movie" show. It was absorbingly interesting to the "full house" packed into the lounge. So thrilling and spell-binding, too, that at one point only the music of the breakers on the coral lagoons of the South Seas broke the prelude. And now I reach the peerless gem in this jewel-studded holiday time. On Sunday, August 25th, the St. Anne's branch of the British Legion threw us a coach trip to Keswick. What a day! Mr. Raymond Kershaw, President of the branch, was mainly instrumental in organising the outing. Mr. Donald Lindley, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Tom Royston, of the same branch, a well-known entertainer, acted in the capacity of guides and describers and cicerones in general. Matron Davies and Sisters Barnett, Smith, Hughes and Kershaw graced the ride. And were they in form? You're telling me! This was the itinerary in brief. 9.30 a.m. saw both filled coaches well away, through Lancaster to Carnforth for the first tea stop. Through Kendal, Windermere, Ambleside, Rydal Water, Thirlmere to Keswick.

We were sumptuously wined, dined, cigared and cigaretted at the Royal Oak Hotel—the erstwhile "local" of the Lakeland Poets. A washing-basket filled with plums was placed at the entrance to the dining-room, and we were invited to help ourselves. I cannot frame words effective enough to describe the austere, vast, lofty and verdant grandeur of the Westmorland and Cumberland scene. Surely unsurpassable. We returned by way of the Vale of St. John, passing Helvellyn, Lion and

Lamb Rock, Grasmere. Then a motor-launch trip on Lake Windermere, from Waterhead to Bo'ness, seven miles. The coaches went by road and rejoined at Bo'ness. The spot that was fatal to Seagrave, in the speed-boat trials, was pointed out to us, also the measured mile. Tea was taken in the open at Bo'ness. Away to Milnthorpe, last stop, then home by way of the Lyth Valley, reaching Wimbourne Place at 9.30 p.m. One hundred and eighty miles run, 12 hours' unalloyed joy. Supper, a little "speechifying" with all tired, all happy, and so to bed.

We left Blackpool Home resounding sepulchrally to the tread of workmen's boots, and matron and staff side-stepping whitewash, and wallowing in painty stinks.

W.E.B.

## Physiotherapy Successes

The following St. Dunstan's students were successful in the recent Physiotherapy Examinations:—

<i>Massage</i>	<i>Remedial Exercises</i>
Burns, M.	Burns, M.
Evans, J.	Cooper, C.
Inness, J.	Evans, J.
Lloyd, R. (Credit in General Massage)	Foster, E.
Morris, W. G. (Credit in General Massage)	Inness, J.
Vickers, A.	Lloyd, R.
Weeks, J.	Morris, W. G.
	Vickers, A.
	Weeks, J.
<i>Anatomy and Physiology</i>	<i>Electrotherapy</i>
Davies, L.	Davies, L.
Humphrey, J.	Humphrey, J.
Nicolson, C. (Distinction)	Nicolson, C.
Shea, W. G.	Shea, W. G.
Theobald, R.	Theobald, R.

★ ★ ★

After the Camp at Lee-on-Solent, there was a St. Dunstan's Reunion on a small scale at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Edwards, of Twickenham, when St. Dunstaners J. Gimber, C. Williams, Billy Christian, J. J. Morgan and R. Edwards, with their wives and children, met for tea. They had not seen each other for many years and when the son of J. Brooks of Sheffield turned up unexpectedly to join them also, we can guess that "a good time was had by all."

## St. Dunstan's Navy Week

"My bridle arm was hanging loose, my head looked fair to go

'Twas then I thanked my lucky stars, I wore my old shako."

The words of that old song came vividly to my mind as I pictured Jim Ellis of the 10th Hussars, blinded in the N. African campaign, and minus that left hand so vital to a cavalryman, whom I met at the camp provided for St. Dunstaners by the kindness and courtesy of the officers and ratings of the Fleet Air Arm at Seaford Park, Lee-on-Solent. Well, his hand was gone, and his headlights, but his head had not gone, for with the courage of his race and the spirit which we audaciously term the St. Dunstan's Spirit, he threw himself into the activities of the camp, dancing with the members of the W.R.N.S., entertaining his comrades with song, monologue and music which he magically contrived with the aid of a piano-accordion and the three fingers that the fortune of war had left on his sabre arm. There were other members of the younger generation who attended that camp, which was also visited on the Sunday by twenty more from St. Dunstan's at Ovingdean. As one of the old generation, blinded on the Somme, I watched them with critical perception. Had there been another party behind the hedges, there was nothing to inform them that the laughing, joking, cheerful crowd on the lawn were men blinded in the two world wars. It was the second camp provided by the Fleet Air Arm at Seaford since the cessation of hostilities, but the first one I had attended as I had imagined that it was only for the men of the younger generation, and that an old-timer like myself would feel out of place. Not a bit of it. Age, rank and old regimental jealousies all vanished in the mutual fellowship, but for myself and I think most of the campers, the highlights of the week were the party given by the W.R.N.S. at their quarters at Edinburgh House, and the farewell dance on the lawn. The latter was gaily illuminated with red, white and blue fairy lamps hung in huge clusters among the trees that surround the lawn, while the White Ensign was floodlit. We could not see those illuminations, but they were reflected in the hearts and minds of all, and the echoing strains

of the dance tunes, and the subdued murmur of the dancers, was countered from the near distance by the more spontaneous and hilarious merriment from the direction of the refreshment marquees, where an impromptu entertainment group of the old school, reinforced by a couple of members of the new school, informed all and sundry that once they were together, they could and would find amusement and a mutual joy in life. Of course none of this would have been possible without the co-operation and hospitality of these practical men and women of the Senior Service, but that point was never accentuated. It was with some pride possibly, that they took us around the harbour, to show us the anchored might of Britain, and around the aerodrome, from which they had taken such a vital part in the defence of Britain.

Yet, when we met them in the various Petty Officers' messes in the evenings for refreshment, entertainment and dancing, there was only that old spirit of comradeship, that men miss so much on leaving the Service, but the men of St. Dunstan's have retained, and will retain throughout the years. I must close this account of first impressions by returning to my very first introduction to a new boy, and once more the lines of that old song ring through my mind:—

"So let this be my epitaph, whene'er they lay me low—

Here lies a jolly light dragoon, who loves his old shako."

Jim at his second camp, with three years' experience in the dark world, got bravely mounted, trusting himself to the leadership of Jack Dawkins, Spl-Major of the "Blues" rode back into camp with the same flourish that will bring him and many of his comrades back each year to Mrs. Spurway's Camps of Peace. Yet it is not merely the Spirit of St. Dunstan's, but that greater Spirit, which, guiding the destinies of all men, has seemed to have an especial care and use for the men and women of this isle. I shall therefore, not wait the final call to bivouac, but wait my second call to camp and that call to arms by the friends of the W.R.N.S., who lifted the weight of twenty-five years and made me feel as young as these young men of the new brigade!

J. RADFORD.

### Church Stretton Notes

All good things must come to an end and the Church Stretton phase of St. Dunstan's history is now closed. At the moment of going to press, a good many people are still working hard clearing up and organising the final move to Brighton.

The Breaking-up Concert was given on August 1st for service personnel and on 2nd for trainees, staff and escorts and friends from the village. It would be impossible to mention all the items in this excellent show, but an appreciative audience made it clear that this really lively and well balanced production more than justified all the hard work that had been put into it.

For the Tea Dance on August 4th, we had Sammy Ash and his band, from the Grand Casino ballroom, Birmingham, and on Monday, a splendid Breaking-up Party with the band of the 6th Batt. R.E.M.E., given by Denehurst and Tiger Hall. On Tuesday a farewell party was given at the 27th M.U. R.A.F., Shawbury.

Many trainees have left us lately, having finished their training. We wish them all good luck and hope that we may meet again some day at Brighton. Gerry Wood left on July 12th to work with the Hamp-tune Upholstery Co., Carey Street, Northampton. Chris Wilkinson left on July 13th to work on assembly with Messrs. Armstrong Patents Ltd., Beverley, Hull. Ron Phillips left on August 5th to work as a telephone operator with Independent Producers Ltd., Regent Street, and George Eustace as telephone operator with Morrison Engineering, Purley Way. Joe Hamilton started work on August 8th as an upholsterer with Messrs. William Rhodes of Nottingham, and John Mudge has returned to his old firm, the Metropolitan Water Board, Lee Bridge, Hackney, as telephone operator. Jack Newton will be starting work as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. English Steels Ltd., of Manchester. Jack Martin will work a plastic press with the Streetly Manufacturing Co., Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, and will start work with Tom O'Connor when a house has been found.

Bob Forster started on August 19th as telephone operator with Barclays Bank, Leeds. He and Miss Lomas are getting married in September and we wish them all happiness.

Josh Williams has finished training on assembly and returns home awaiting placement. Jimmy Dear will be going shortly to work on assembly with Messrs. Williams and Williams of Hooton, near Chester. Gerald Brereton goes as telephone operator to Leys Malleable Castings Ltd., Colombo Street, Derby, and Chris Williams began work on August 12th as telephone operator with the Ministry of Labour, Kingston-on-Thames. Ernie Woofenden started work on Assembly on August 26th with Messrs. Gent & Co., Leicester. Geordie Lund starts work soon as a telephone operator with the Ministry of Labour, West Hartlepool. Fred Dickerson is waiting at home to take up work as telephone operator with the Petroleum Board. Ron Birkin started work on assembly with G.P.O., Birmingham on August 19th. Jan Solowej and Michal Tybinski have finished their training as capstan lathe operators and are waiting for accommodation before taking up their jobs. George Roake, John Fenny and Frank Haves await placement on assembly, and George Dalton and Jack Horton on the capstan.

Space will not allow us to mention the names of staff and helpers who are leaving us, but we would like to say goodbye and thank you to them all, and all of us who have spent some happy years at Church Stretton can say, "I count myself in nothing else so happy, as in a soul remembering my good friends."

\* \* \*

Congratulations to the following who have recently passed their tests:

**Typing.**—C. Wilkinson, J. Dear, L. McKinnon, A. Hold, R. Owen, C. Stafford, R. Turner, W. Smith, A. Chamberlain, H. Davis, J. Taylor, C. Minaar, J. Hopkins, R. Hales, A. Guyler.

**Braille Writing.**—A. Finney, J. Sheridan, W. Burns.

**Interline.**—E. Gould, J. Lewis, E. Tucker, A. H. Brown, W. Burns, W. Freeman, E. Simpson, M. Tybinski, J. Sheridan, S. Bogicevic.

**Advanced (Interpoint).**—H. Thompson, H. Cranc, F. Hawes, N. Hopkins, Z. Stepek, K. Johnston-Stewart, W. Veness, N. Daniel, G. Brooks, C. Williams, J. Cruse.

**Moon.**—G. Roake, W. Carr.

### St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

By the time these notes appear in print, a goodly contingent of our members will be endeavouring to uphold the excellent record they achieved in Harrogate in 1945. Furthermore, one of our most loyal helpers will have reached her home in New Zealand by this time. Miss Morrah has served the club well and truly for many years and all our best wishes go with her to New Zealand.

During the last few months, an excellent number of members have enjoyed their Saturday afternoon bridge to the full. The league programme is well in full swing, and I will not attempt to predict the winners. Several duplicate matches have been played and on each occasion everyone had a very pleasant afternoon.

For the first time, we paid a visit to the Pinner Club and we hope to meet again later on at our Headquarters. Brighton is also becoming an acquisition to our Bridge activities and we are indebted to the Howe Bridge Club for their three very pleasant afternoons. So for Harrogate. This is our fifth visit and like all good things our visits continue to be most enjoyable and I trust that this year will be equally successful.

R. P. C.

### News from South Africa

Congratulations to E. Denny, of Pretoria, who at the Annual General Meeting of the South African Legion of the British Empire Service League, was unanimously elected a Life-President, for service rendered over a period of many years.

Denny's son, Terence, has now been demobilised after six year's service overseas with the South African Air Force. He was recently married in Cairo to Miss Barbara Bennett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Taylor Bennett, of the British Consulate, Istanbul.

Miss Winifred Stonelake, who will be remembered at London Headquarters and at Tembani, Cape Town, when she was on Mrs. Chadwick Bates' staff, was married on June 19th, to Captain G. Ribbink.

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When L. W. Calvert, of Ormskirk, spent a week in London recently with Percy Ashton, they visited the House of Commons where Calvert, for the first time in twenty-eight years, met his brother, who is a commissionaire there.

### Births

**BARRETT.**—On April 13th, to the wife of M. E. Barrett, Leribe, Basutoland (new war), a son—Charles Morgan.

**CORRIGAN.**—On July 5th, to the wife of J. Corrigan, of York (new war), a daughter—Susan Megan.

**FOSTER.**—On June 14th, to the wife of H. Foster, of Aldershot (trainee), a son—Clifford Ian.

**HIGGO.**—On March 18th, to the wife of L. A. Higgs, of Pretoria North, Transvaal, South Africa (new war), a son—Lionel Alfred.

**LEE.**—On July 17th, to the wife of J. Lee, of Gledhow, Leeds (new war), a daughter—Valerie Ann.

**MILLER.**—On August 22nd, to the wife of E. Miller, of Wimbledon (new war), a son—Edward William John.

**MORGAN.**—On July 9th, to the wife of F. T. Morgan, of Bristol (new war), a daughter.

**SHED.**—To the wife of G. Shed, of Streatham Vale (new war), on September 5th, a son—Robert.

**SHOTTER.**—To the wife of W. Shotter, of East Ham (new war), on August 24th, a daughter—Carol.

**WOMACK.**—On August 11th, to the wife of C. Womack, of Leicester (new war), a daughter—Susan Winifred.

### Marriages

**ALEXANDER—OWENS.**—On August 6th, E. A. Alexander, of Bournemouth, to Miss G. E. Owens.

**CHAPPELL—EVANS.**—On July 27th, A. T. Chappell (new war), to Miss Betty Evans, of Woodford Green.

**FORSTER—LOMAS.**—On September 14th, R. Forster of Leeds, to Miss Joyce Lomas.

**FULLARD.**—On April 11th, A. Fullard (new war).

**HAMILTON.**—On September 5th, J. Hamilton, previously of Ireland and now of Nottingham (new war).

**NICCOL—GARDINER.**—On July 27th, T. Niccol (new war), to Miss Gardiner, recently of Church Stretton.

## " In Memory "

### Sergeant Joseph Armstrong, *Australian Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death in April, of J. Armstrong, of Melbourne, Australia, who was wounded at Messines in February, 1918, and came to us in December of that year. He returned to Australia the following March. As there was hope that he would regain his sight, he did not train, but these hopes were not realised and he eventually took a little tobacco business.

He was a popular member of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Club and never missed the Friday meetings.

The news of his death came to us through Mrs. Bond, of Western Australia. He died very suddenly whilst on holiday.

### Private James Waddell Thom, *Australian Imperial Forces*

We have also just heard with deep regret, of the death of another of our Australians, J. W. Thom, also of Melbourne, which occurred in April, 1944.

He was wounded at Hamel, in 1918. After training with us as a poultry farmer and mat-maker, he returned to Australia in August, 1920, but came back on a visit six years later to take up boot-repairing. Many St. Dunstaners will remember meeting him then.

He leaves a widow and three daughters, to whom we send our sincere sympathy.

### 1st Class Petty Officer Patrick O'Callaghan, *Royal Navy*

We record with deep regret the death of P. O'Callaghan, of Cork, which occurred suddenly at his home on April 10th.

He served in the Royal Navy from 1895 until 1918, but although his sight was seriously affected by his war service, he did not come under St. Dunstan's care until February, 1931. For some years he had led a quiet life.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. O'Callaghan, whom he married only two years ago.

Four St. Dunstaners, Messrs. Driscoll, Condon, Keegan and Horgan attended the funeral which took place at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Cork, on April 12th.

### Private Edward Roberts, *14th Royal Welch Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of E. Roberts, of Rhyl, on July 2nd.

After serving from December, 1914, he was discharged with very defective sight in March, 1919, but he did not come to us until 1923 when he trained as a basket-maker. He appeared to be in excellent health and was, in fact, helping with the harvest when he complained of feeling ill. He was taken home and a doctor called, but while the doctor was with him he passed away.

Six members of Kinmel Toc H acted as bearers at his funeral. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack. A press correspondent wrote: "'Ted' Roberts was undoubtedly one of nature's gentlemen . . . His blindness brought out inherent qualities which enriched and infected those with whom he came into contact. He sang his way through life."

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and daughter in their loss.

### Quarter-Master Sergeant William Strachan, *Scots Greys*

We record with deep regret the death of W. Strachan, of Motherwell.

Serving from September, 1914, until March, 1919, he came to St. Dunstan's in the autumn of the same year, and he trained as a masseur, continuing in this profession, in hospital as well as private practice, until his death. For a very long time he was a member of the Massage Advisory Committee.

His death occurred on April 16th, after a comparatively short illness. St. Dunstan's Massage Advisory Committee was represented at the funeral by Mr. Gordon Fisher.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Strachan and her three children.

### Corporal Frederick Williams, *Northumberland Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of F. Williams, of Chiswick.

He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1927, but he served in the Northumberland Fusiliers from 1897 until 1909; then, as a reservist, he was again called to the Colours in 1915. He was discharged in 1919 and his sight went gradually a year or so later. While out of the Service, he was a member of the Metropolitan Police Force, from which he was discharged in 1922.

Although he was not in good health, his death on August 7th, was very sudden.

The funeral took place at Acton Cemetery, Mr. T. Gidney representing St. Dunstan's.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and son.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy is extended to the following:—

MCCARTNEY.—To Mr. and Mrs. H. McCartney, of Belfast, whose baby son, Charles, passed away on July 15th.

HIGSON.—To R. Higson, of Wigan, who lost his wife on August 16th.

HALLAM.—To W. J. Hallam, of Edgware, whose wife passed away on March 14th last.

On the eve of my departure for New Zealand, may I express my warm appreciation of the many kindnesses shown to me by the Matron, Staff and fellow-St. Dunstaners at No. 8 Park Crescent, where I have been staying for the past few weeks, during the first part of which my wife was with me. In her tragic death and my sad loss, your sympathies have been a source of great help and to all I would like to say "thank you." I shall take back with me happy as well as sad memories of my stay.

July 25th, 1946.

J. R. MCGILL.