

# 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

### We will Remember Him

**T**WENTY-FIVE years ago I was writing for the *St. Dunstan's Review* a personal memoir of Sir Arthur Pearson, who died on December 9th, 1921.

If time has softened the poignancy of that event the quarter of a century that has passed has also given the opportunity for reflection and more thoughtful appreciation of his work. Then it was the immediate loss of a personal friend that overwhelmed. Now it is rather the measuring of the effect of his life in the blind world that comes to mind, warmed by a personal recollection of some characteristic incident.

I measure his achievement in the blind world as the greatest in our generation and probably of all time, for he revolutionized our outlook and the view of the outside world about us, and his gospel has spread all over the Empire and to many foreign lands, carried for the most part by his immediate friends from amongst the early St. Dunstaners.

The older St. Dunstaner may see Sir Arthur in his mind's eye as he talked to him in his office about his affairs with rare understanding and sympathy. The younger St. Dunstaner is the poorer for the lack of this experience, but though, perhaps, he does not realise it absorbs something of Sir Arthur's humanity and spirit in the life of the St. Dunstan's of today.

We will remember him and his good works, which flourish with St. Dunstan's and amongst St. Dunstaners everywhere, and at this time, will send our best wishes to his widow, Lady (Arthur) Pearson, our President, and his son, Sir Neville Pearson, who have helped us in so many ways as the years have passed, and are still most active in our Councils.

### Staff Changes

Commander A. D. D. Smyth, D.S.O., R.N., desires to give up active work and has asked to be relieved of his position as Welfare Superintendent and will be leaving us at the end of this year.

Commander G. H. Paul, R.N., Commandant at West House, Brighton, will also be leaving at the end of this year, so that two important vacancies have occurred on St. Dunstan's staff.

Mr. A. Mackay, M.A., has accepted the post of Welfare Superintendent and has started work. Mr. Mackay, who is aged 37, is a graduate of Edinburgh University and before the war had some years' experience in the teaching profession. On the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Armoured Corps and was then transferred to the Royal Indian Army Service Corps and later to the Army Welfare Service on its formation, in which he became a leading administrative officer and attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His war service took him to India, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, North Africa, Italy and Greece.

Mr. L. Fawcett, aged 31, who will become Commandant at West House, was an established Civil Servant in the Customs Department before the war. During the war he served in the Royal Navy Air Arm as pilot, ending up as Officer in Charge R. N. Establishment, Seafield Park, with rank of Lieutenant, where he undertook administrative and welfare duties. He will be known to a few St. Dunstaners who went to Mrs. Spurway's Camps at Seafield Park in 1945 and 1946. He starts his duties at West House early in January.

Four other members of the staff retire on account of seniority, after very long service. They are Mr. A. E. Howlett, who after working for the National Institute for the Blind for a few years, joined St. Dunstan's staff in 1915, as an engineer. His knowledge of braille production, braille writing machines and the many mechanical devices used by blind people has been invaluable and during the last few years he has played a large part in finding, with Mr. Bennett, factory jobs which can be undertaken by St. Dunstaners and has adapted machines and introduced safeguards for their use. The blind world owes a lasting debt to Mr. Howlett for imaginative and practical inventions. Mr. S. W. Fobbs retires after twenty-eight years, having joined us in March, 1918, in the Accountancy Department. Mr. Fobbs rendered devoted service on the accountancy and business side of St. Dunstan's, rising to the post of Chief Accountant. At various times he had to deal with many financial, insurance and other matters for St. Dunstaners, whom he helped greatly. Mr. T. H. Panton was the first of the Mat-making Home Visitors and St. Dunstaners who followed that handicraft all over the country have been grateful for his valuable help since September, 1919. Miss M. L. Norman came to us in May, 1920, to start the Boot Sundries Department at Hanover Gate and became the Head of our Quartermaster's Stores. She was one of the best known and best liked characters at Raglan Street.

The Council of St. Dunstan's is making a presentation to each of these retiring members of the Staff as well as to Commander Smyth and Commander Paul, as a token of our thanks to them for their services, and as a reminder of their association with us. I have already had the pleasure of presenting a clock to Mr. Panton and a silver cigarette box to Miss Norman.

All our readers will join in expressing their very sincere thanks to all those whom I have mentioned, for the valuable services which they tendered in their respective spheres and will wish them the very best of good luck in the future.

### Christmas Wishes

Lady Fraser and I express to all our St. Dunstan's friends our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

IAN FRASER.

### The Blinded German

The letter from the German blinded soldier which we printed last month has aroused much interest.

Of the letters we have so far received, the writers are almost unanimous in their wish to help this blinded German.

J. Proctor, of Saltdean, writes: "I think St. Dunstan's should, as far as possible, be international, and we ourselves are apt to forget how very fortunate we are." A. Gordon Fisher, of Glasgow, follows the same line of thought, when he says: "We St. Dunstaners owe all our happiness, no matter how clever and successful in business, to first and last our very first entrance into the care of St. Dunstan's. We are in a world of our own, in many ways happier than the sighted world, and I would suggest that we forget the troubles of the world and try and create a world of the blind, by assisting in every way possible any of the blind in any other country, enemy or otherwise. We can, by many examples, show the sighted world how to forgive enemies, making friendship the item of importance."

W. Girling, of Southampton, and Walter Thornton, of Birmingham, find the answers in the Bible: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us"; "For the greatest of these is Charity."

M. I. McFarlane, a Canadian St. Dunstaner living at Worthing, also turns to a Bible teaching: "Love thy neighbour as thyself" and adds: "St. Dunstan's is a beacon and not a blackout; therefore we must and shall show him the light. There shall be among us no nationality, no barriers of class or religion. Let him come within our circle, and let us visualise St. Dunstan's as a cosmopolis."

Another Macfarlane, telephonist "Jock," of Ilford, is brief and to the point: "Let us forgive but not forget," he says. "Let Sir Ian give him all the advice possible, but for God's sake keep him away from our shores as we have enough refugees in this country at present."

### Ovingdean—Not Church Stretton

Will St. Dunstaners please note that all correspondence and braille literature should be addressed to Ovingdean from now onwards, and not to Church Stretton.

### Mr. Churchill to make Presentation to Chairman

The Editor has kindly allowed me space to refer to the presentation St. Dunstaners are making to Sir Ian Fraser, on the occasion of the Twenty-fifth anniversary of his becoming Chairman of our Organisation.

The response to the letter I, as chairman of the Presentation Committee, sent out to all St. Dunstaners in the British Isles and the Overseas organisations, has been most gratifying, and the splendid sum of a little over £350 has been received to date.

The Committee considered that as a Dance is being given to St. Dunstan's men and their wives living in and around London on January 23rd next, this function would be a fitting occasion on which the presentation could be made, especially as we were informed that representatives from Ovingdean and West House would be invited, in addition to officers and men in training in London.

The Committee felt that the following St. Dunstaners should also be invited in order that the gathering might be representative: one from Scotland; one from Wales; one from Ireland; two from the Midlands; two from North-West England; one from North-East England; one from the Eastern Counties; one from the South-West Counties; and one from the Southern Counties.

It is therefore proposed to have a ballot and the persons drawn will be notified, and accommodation arranged for them and their escorts.

Mr. Winston Churchill has very kindly offered to make the presentation. The Committee felt that he, as a great war leader of the two wars, would be a particularly appropriate choice, and they are indeed gratified to feel that in his busy life he will be able to do this.

The Committee have ascertained that Sir Ian lost some of his table silver when his house was demolished by an incendiary bomb in 1944, and have learned that it would give him and Lady Fraser great pleasure to receive from his St. Dunstan's friends a gift of this nature. It was, however, felt that it would take many months, in these difficult times, to obtain table silver which Sir Ian and Lady Fraser would like and treasure, but that another article—a token of the presentation as a

whole—should be given on the occasion of January 23rd. It is, therefore, proposed to present him with a walking stick on that day, suitably engraved, which will be a daily reminder to him of the regard in which he is held by his St. Dunstan's friends.

N. A. RAMSDEN.

### After Forty Years

Our warmest congratulations to W. C. Carnell, of Bampton, who on November 21st married Miss Ethel Leyshon, of Lynn, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

This is the sequel to a friendship which began nearly forty years ago, when our St. Dunstaner, who was working in the mines in the Aber Valley, met Miss Leyshon, who then lived with her parents at Caerphilly. Then the war of 1914 came. Billy went to France and was blinded at Loos. At about the same time, Ethel went with her parents to the United States.

Billy came out of the Army and was trained at St. Dunstan's; then he settled down as a successful poultry farmer in Kiln Cottage, Bampton, Devon. Meanwhile, Miss Leyshon made numerous efforts to trace him and eventually she did so. They have corresponded and three years ago agreed to be married. War-time restrictions made an immediate journey to England impossible, but at last Miss Leyshon obtained the necessary permission and she arrived in the *Queen Elizabeth* on her first "peace-time" return voyage.

They were married at the Methodist Church, Bampton.

### Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," December, 1916.

The College Annexe is nearing completion, and the men who are to reside there will find a charming matron in Miss Power and a delightful companion in Mr. R. K. Huskinson.

The new chapel on the lawn is approaching completion and our Hon. Chaplain, the Rev. E. N. Sharp, has arranged a Consecration Service, to take place on Thursday, December 14th. It will be followed by the confirmation of several St. Dunstan's men.

Miss Ommaney has placed her house at Blackheath at the disposal of Sir Arthur Pearson as a rest-home for St. Dunstan's. There will be 40 beds available.

### Notes and News

We have received a letter from C. E. Bolton, of Bexley Heath, reminding us that he was blinded on the 27th August, 1914, in the retreat from Mons. Was he the first to be blinded in that war? If not, how many others were before him?

★ ★ ★

P. J. Sparkes, of Grimsby, has been made a Life Honorary Member of his branch of the British Legion, in recognition of his excellent work over many years.

★ ★ ★

A. Bennett, of Dover, has again been elected to the Committee of the Dover Branch of the Kent County Association for the Blind, a position he has held for over twenty years.

★ ★ ★

Good luck to Joe Britton, of Wakefield, who has taken over a fish and chip business. Although he is handless, he is able to operate the machines that have been installed for cleaning and chipping the potatoes. He is, we believe, the second St. Dunstaner to start out in this line. The other is C. Firth, of Heswall, who has had a successful business for some years.

★ ★ ★

Stanley Heys, lift attendant at the King's Street District Bank, Manchester, overcame all transport difficulties arising out of the recent bus strike and reported on time for duty each morning.

★ ★ ★

St. Dunstaners will hear with regret that the house of Helen Keller, at Easton, Connecticut, has been destroyed by fire. The house had been closed while Miss Keller was visiting this country and the cause of the fire is not known.

### Letter to the Editor

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

DEAR SIR,

Whilst I agree with the Chairman's Notes that there should be one Brotherhood for St. Dunstaners of both wars, there will be occasions when one wishes to distinguish them, therefore I suggest that the St. Dunstaners of War No. 1 should be called say, Brown Major, and St. Dunstaners of the Second War should be called Brown Minor.

Yours faithfully, BRAITHWAITE, Major.

### Beryl Sleigh, the Singer

Seven years ago, Beryl Sleigh, a young contralto who had studied singing in this country and in Italy, and who had appeared in several West End shows, was waiting for the first vacancy at Sadlers Wells. But the war came and while serving with the A.T.S. (F.A.N.Y.), she was blinded in an air-raid. She was the first girl of this war to come to St. Dunstan's.

She has resumed her studies at the Royal College of Music, and with the well known Russian singer, Oda Slobodskaya, and on November 25th, at the Swedenborg Hall, she gave her first London recital.

A packed and enthusiastic audience, many of whom were St. Dunstaners, heard a delightful programme of twelve songs, ranging from *Ombra mai fu* from Handel's "Largo" to the joyful *Ring out wild bells*, by Edgar Bainton. Beryl's voice is rich in tone and wide in range, and a particularly happy choice of songs was Roger Quilter's *This House of Joy* and *Love's Philosophy*.

A most enjoyable evening included items by Edna Elphick (cello) and Margaret Harris (pianoforte). Daisy Bucktrout was the accompanist. The concert was arranged by the Circle of International Art.

Our warmest congratulations are extended to Beryl. We wish her the greatest success in her professional life.

### The Braille Radio Times

The Braille Radio Times is mailed regularly to about 150 St. Dunstaners. It is felt that the circulation would be much increased if this publication could be simplified to some extent. Here are a few questions to which we would like an answer:—

1. If you are at present receiving the Braille Radio Times, do you really use it or do you find it rather difficult, and not worth the trouble?

2. Do you consider the issue of a supplement containing a list of the special terms in use would solve the difficulty of the many special abbreviations which must be used to save space?

3. Have you any practical suggestions which will make this periodical more readable by the average St. Dunstaner?

Please write to the Welfare Superintendent at Headquarters and give your views. Your opinions will be very welcome.

### From the Chairman's Postbag

J. Alton, of Ovingdean, has written to the Chairman asking if a machine could be produced to enable a sighted person with no knowledge of braille to write braille letters, so that a wife could write confidentially to her husband. Sir Ian, in his reply, says:—

"This is undoubtedly possible and I am sure we could make a machine, but the question is whether it would be used in large numbers. You mention electricity and I can assure you that if this was introduced the machine would cost £5 or £10, and possibly more, and if large numbers were ordered I doubt very much if many St. Dunstaners' wives would buy them at such a price. Our Research Department is now very busy with urgent gadgets for men with high disabilities, but I will refer your suggestion to them in case an idea turns up of doing the job you have in mind extremely simply and economically. If we can produce a machine for, say, 30s., on which a sighted person could write braille to a blind person, even if it was uncontracted braille, there might be real value in it."

★ ★ ★

DEAR SIR IAN,

You may be interested to learn that on my travels I had a gentleman from Reading (in the engineering business) as an escort, who mentioned that he had a "new" St. Dunstaner engaged on capstan lathe work. He told me the head of the department had informed him that the quality of the work was every bit as good, and often superior, to that produced by his colleagues.

For your information the name of the St. Dunstaner is Caswell. It is most gratifying to us 1914-1918 St. Dunstaners to know that our associates of the 1939-1945 affray are maintaining the prestige of St. Dunstan's.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK A. RHODES.

★ ★ ★

In a letter to Sir Ian, commenting upon the list of trades, professions and handicrafts in a recent REVIEW, George Fallowfield says:—

"The quality of our training as a whole has struck me as much superior to that given to the civilian blind, though the trainee spends more time than we do. I have been astonished to find men, after spending two years in an institution, can only make a couple of lines, yet we in eighteen months seem to have learnt everything, plus repair work. I have sold baskets to people which lasted them fifteen years. I have mats of fine design made by our men which have been at the door as many years, and trays made by our joiners in daily use still as good as ever, save for discolour.

### From the First Polish St. Dunstaner

Sir Ian has received the following letter from Jan Lasowski ("Big John"), who was the first Polish blinded soldier to come to us:

DEAR SIR IAN,

I am leaving for France and I would like to say farewell to all members and friends at St. Dunstan's. It is nearly six years since I arrived at St. Dunstan's as a stranger, and I am pleased to say I was treated just the same as any Englishman. When first I arrived at St. Dunstan's, not knowing the English language proper and the rules of St. Dunstan's, I am sorry if I may have been a bit of a headache to you. When the Matron approached me as regards work such as carpentry, etc., I did not think I would be capable of doing such a job, but thanks to the training I received at St. Dunstan's I have succeeded. I would like to offer my special thanks to Mr. Frank Ralph, as he was a very good instructor as regards carpentry. I would also like to give my special thanks to Mr. T. Rogers and Miss Lowe for their assistance they gave me as regards typewriting and braille. After I left St. Dunstan's I went living with Mr. and Mrs. H. Roberts, of Lodge Farm, Dukinfield, and they have treated me as if I was their own son. They provided me with a workshop of my own and I have done exceedingly well. Thanking Mr. E. George, who has given me great assistance with my work during his visits and also supplying me with timber. I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to Miss Wilson and Commander Smyth who have given me great care and attention.

Your obedient servant, JAN LASOWSKI.

### New Talking Books

Early in the New Year new Talking Book machines will become available. There will be a few ready each month, starting in February. Full details of the Talking Book Committee's policy for the provision of machines to new entrants to the Library and for exchange of old machines for new will appear in next month's REVIEW.

### Grandfathers

J. T. Illingworth, of Rochdale; A. Chaffin, of Leighton Buzzard; E. Mills, of Walsall; S. Jennings, of Bradford; and B. G. Wood, of Brackley.

### Pensions Concession for Ex-Service Men

Early this month the Minister of Pensions announced in the House of Commons some important concessions in ex-Servicemen's pensions, some of which will affect St. Dunstaners. These include the payment of allowances in respect of the wives and children of disabled ex-Servicemen in receipt of pension at the standard rates, whatever the date of their marriage (hitherto these have only been payable if the marriage took place within ten years of the discharge from service or the pensioner was considered as unemployable). And he also announced a minimum allowance of 10s. a week attendance allowance, payable to a 100 per cent. disablement pensioner whose condition necessitates some regular attendance, with adjustments in certain other cases.

The removal of the ten years' bar on marriage and children's allowances marks the successful conclusion of a long campaign started by Sir Ian Fraser in the early years of the war.

This new award of Family Allowances will affect only a limited number of St. Dunstaners, as the majority of our married men who are in receipt of the standard rates of pension are already being paid allowances from the Government for their wives and children.

To ascertain the pensioners now entitled to the Allowances, the Ministry of Pensions are sending a small form to every man on their books who is not at present shown as receiving such Allowances from them. This will mean that St. Dunstaners who are single or who are widowers will also be receiving the form, but they need not take any action in the matter at all. Only St. Dunstaners in receipt of the standard flat rate pension and married more than ten years after the date of their discharge will be interested, and these men should please complete the form when it comes to hand, and should forward it to Mr. Askew, at Headquarters, so that he may see everything is in order before the form is returned to the Ministry.

It will take some time for the Ministry to send out all the necessary forms, but the Allowances will be awarded with effect from January 1st next, and arrears will be paid as from that date.

Speaking in the House of Commons on

December 5th, on the subject of the attendant allowances, Sir Ian Fraser said:

There are a great many ex-Servicemen who do not need a constant attendant, but who need some assistance in their homes. I should like to ask how far the Minister's statement goes and if he is going to raise the attendant allowances to be paid to severely disabled men above the level at which it has stood for many years. For example, so far as blinded soldiers, sailors or airmen are concerned, the attendant allowance was 10s. a week, when the maximum possible was £1 a week. I hope that the Minister will raise that to £1 a week now that the maximum has been raised to £2 a week.

The Minister, in reply, said that he had received a memorandum from St. Dunstan's and was considering it.

Continuing, Sir Ian said:—

The flat rate pension for 100 per cent. disability if a man was able to do work by which he earned more than £1 a week, was still only at £2 5s. a week. That was inadequate and should be adjusted. The rate had been at £2 since 1918, and the rise of 5s. is not an adequate reflection on rises in the cost of living. Many of these men are able, with great courage and perseverance, to undertake a job of work, but in many cases the jobs they are doing and have been doing for 30 years, is a job lower in standing than they might have been doing if they were not so severely disabled. For example, in Britain 100 blinded soldiers of the first World War are working as telephone operators, and splendid operators they are. They worked throughout the blitz and stuck to their jobs. Men of that calibre, courage and determination might well have been doing very much better than their present earnings, plus £2 5s.

The Minister's reply to this demand for an increase in the flat rate was unsympathetic.

Sir Ian also raised a number of other matters, including a demand for the removal of the seven years' limit for claims, more sympathetic granting of pensions by the Ministry, better care and employment for paraplegics, etc.

Concluding, Sir Ian said:

If a person loses one eye, he receives 40 per cent. of the flat rate. If he loses two eyes, he receives 100 per cent., plus allowances. But if a person loses one eye on service and subsequently loses the other eye from a natural cause, he still has to live the rest of his life in blindness on a 40 per cent. pension. The loss of one eye is not a very great handicap, but the anxiety lest he should lose the other eye is. A man who loses one eye should not only be given the pension for that eye, but an insurance policy that will make certain that, should he lose the other eye, he will get the full rate.

The Minister replied that this principle was being considered.

### Promotions

Colin Wardle (late of Basingstoke) has been promoted to Warrant Officer, 1st Class, in R.E.M.E.

Richard Tanner (St. Ives), serving in India, is now a full lieutenant.

### Ovingdean Notes

This month's Notes begin on a sad note, for we have to record with great regret, the death of two of our trainees, both of whom died on November 27th. They were Alexander Hirs, an Estonian, of the Estonian Merchant Service, and Bob Bridgman, who was only with us a short time, and who was a soldier of the 1914-1918 war.

Her many friends will also be deeply sorry to hear that Miss Mary Hill died suddenly in St. Dunstan's Trainee House, North Gate, Rottingdean, on December 1st. Mary Hill, who was so well known for her cooking, had been twelve years in St. Dunstan's service, at Portland Place, Tiger Hall, Church Stretton, and at North Gate.

The *Illustrated London News* of November 23rd, carried four fine pages of sketches executed by Capt. Bryan de Grineau, showing something of the life of Ovingdean. Capt. Grineau had visited us the previous month.

A new form of sport is being tried out at Ovingdean—fencing. It gives promise of being adaptable and well suited to blind people as an addition to those sports which they already enjoy.

Those who find the acoustics of Ovingdean trying will be interested to know that a trial will be carried out in providing the Winter Garden with special acoustic improving materials, and if this is successful, other parts of the building will be also treated.

On Armistice Day, a ceremonial Service was conducted in the Chapel by the Rev. Bryan Crane, our officiating Chaplain, when a wreath was laid at the altar by the Commandant, supported by a representative St. Dunstaner of the Royal Navy, the Army, Royal Air Force, and the Merchant Navy.

Among the departures of our trainees this term, has been Frank Oostoeck, our Dutch friend, who has returned to Holland as a basket-maker, with his English wife. Bill Griffiths, who is handless, has left for his job in a lorry-contractor's business.

Dick Brett, another of our handless men, has invented a very simple and effective cigarette lighter, twelve of which have now been made for each of the handless men.

Trainees in the Machine Shop are making parts on their lathes for the handless

looms which Mr. Nye, of the Research Department, is making.

Among the staff who are leaving, is Miss H. Campbell, from whom we will part with regret. She leaves only one Canadian among those who have given such fine service to St. Dunstan's.

Congratulations and good wishes to the following men who have started jobs:

J. Cowan (capstan), with Messrs. Messenger and Sons, Birmingham; G. Edwards (tapping), with Messrs. Cooke and Ferguson, Manchester; A. Paulson (assembly), Sheltered Workshop, Manchester; J. C. Walters (woodworking), Windmill Furniture Products; D. McGoohan (telephony), Government Training Centre, Manchester; E. Bugbee (assembly), Compressed Rubber Products Ltd., Harefield, Middlesex; G. Dalton (assembly), Messrs. F. Kidd, Stockton; I. Darling has commenced a refresher course in telephony.

### Test Results

**Advanced.**—E. Tucker.

**Preliminary.**—C. Minaar, A. Hold, S. Warner, R. Herbert.

**Writing.**—S. Doy, S. Stinson, E. Tucker.

**Typing.**—J. Alton, P. Filby, L. Halliday, C. Campkin, A. Rahim, T. Walters, G. Stark, G. Reed.

### "Ode" to Sister Berry

*Here is an "ode" to Sister Berry  
Who works at St. D's where she's always quite  
merry.*

*"In the dispensary's" one of her jobs,  
She waits on the roughs, the toughs and the snobs.  
Whether it's headaches, a cold, or a cough  
She'll hand out the dope and then see you off.  
Eyewashes, aspirins, linctus, castara,  
Or something to move the sands of Sahara.  
If occasion arises she'll tuck you in bed,  
Feed you on slops, put a balm to your head.  
She'll take your temperature winter or summer,  
If she thinks it too high, she'll send for the  
"plumber"*

*And when you recover, and feel like a prance  
She'll spin you around, she just loves a dance!  
If she's waiting at table she won't keep you long,  
She'll hand you the grub as she twitters a song.  
So here's to Miss Berry, each of us agrees,  
She's the right type of lass to serve at St. D's.*

*It's a wee bit too long to call it a sonnet,  
But it comes from a bloke with a bee in his  
bonnet.*

W. J. MARKWICK.

### On War Service

News has come to us of the deaths of the sons of two Australian St. Dunstaners—Charles H. Hills and Nick Carter.

Nick Carter's son was killed during the Japanese campaign. John Hills, cutting short his career at Sydney University, to become a Sergeant Navigator, Royal Australian Air Force, was accidentally killed as the result of a bomb-throwing mishap. Our deep sympathy goes out to their parents in their grievous loss.

### Other Australian News

Some time ago we had the pleasure of greeting at Headquarters Mrs. H. Watson, wife of our Australian St. Dunstaner, G. V. Watson, of Melbourne. Mrs. Watson was visiting England to see her father, who was very ill, but "Watty" had had to stay behind as the necessary permission was not forthcoming. He was in good hands, however—his daughter's. Mrs. Watson told us some items of news about other Australians, which we were glad to have, although, as Mrs. Watson said, up-to-date news was difficult owing to the long distances and, therefore, restricted visiting. However, here are a few notes.

Dudley Tregent, Melbourne—doing wonderfully well as a barrister.

Alan Marshall, South Australia—married.

Alec Craigie—well up to a year ago; no more news since.

Nick Carter—worked on camouflage netting during the war in a factory. His eldest son, Jim, came over with the Air Force, and became a prisoner of war.

Harold Gibson, Melbourne—four children, some married with children of their own.

Bob Archer—son now a doctor.

Tom White—working very hard with newly-blinded soldiers; he teaches typing.

Miss Gurner, South Australia—well.

Jack Barfield—sick in hospital, but going on slowly.

### Sir Clutha Mackenzie

Sir Ian Fraser has accepted an invitation from the Government of India to send Sir Clutha Mackenzie to report on blindness in China, and to advise on the training of war-blinded soldiers. The British Red Cross and other relief organisations are also interested in the mission. Sir Clutha has been carrying out similar tasks in India with great success during the past five years.

### In Parliament

Sir Ian Fraser, speaking against a Government resolution in the House of Commons recently to take private members' time, said that it must not be thought that all wisdom was on the Front Bench of the Government. He asked that this vigorous Parliament, with so many young men, should not be denied the opportunity of bringing fresh ideas and proposals. Sir Ian recalled that in his time in the House he had, with the assent of members of all parties, two little Bills passed under the ten-minutes' rule, for the benefit of the blind community. Both did some small amount of good for some scores of thousands of people, and they would never have been touched by the Government.

"This Parliament should represent not only the small man, but the small groups of people," said Sir Ian.

The Bills to which Sir Ian referred are the Wireless Telegraphy (Blind Persons' Facilities) Act, 1929, which gave every blind person a free licence, and the Blind Voters' Act, 1934, which enabled a blind person to vote secretly with the aid of a friend or relation, instead of declaring his vote publicly in the polling booth.

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On December 4th, in the House of Commons, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will encourage suitable blind and blinded Germans to reorganise and rehabilitate facilities for the provision of education, training and work for blind people in the British zone.

Mr. J. Hynd: Yes, sir, investigations are already in hand to ascertain how best the Control Commission can assist and encourage the Germans to reorganise their blind welfare services.

Sir Ian Fraser: Is the Hon. Gentleman aware that any help given in this matter will bear fruit, because many blind people, especially young blinded ex-Servicemen, can do valuable economic work?

Mr. Hynd: We are fully aware of these factors, and that is why the question is receiving the attention at present being given to it.

### Miss Rayson

St. Dunstaners will hear with the deepest regret of the death of Miss A. K. Rayson, who was, from 1925 until 1937, Social Visitor for the South Eastern Area. Although Miss Rayson left us early in 1937, she had never lost her interest in St. Dunstan's, and many St. Dunstaners will recall with affection their meetings with her at Brighton and Hastings Reunions this year.

### Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service

Lady (Arthur) Pearson, President of St. Dunstan's, and Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., with St. Dunstaners of two wars and many friends of St. Dunstan's living in the Brighton area, gathered together in the Chapel of the Ovingdean Home, on Sunday afternoon, December 8th, to pay tribute to the memory of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., our Founder.

Sir Neville Pearson read the Lesson, and the Service was conducted by a St. Dunstaner, the Rev. Dennis Pettitt.

The last hymn was "Abide With Me," which was written by the Rev. H. F. Lyte, great-grandfather of Sir Arthur Pearson.

Lady (Arthur) Pearson also attended a service held the same day at West House, Brighton.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, accompanied by Keith Johnston-Stewart, Horace Kerr and Corporal Major J. Dawkins, representing St. Dunstaners throughout the Empire, laid a wreath on Sir Arthur's grave in Hampstead Cemetery, on the morning of December 9th, the 25th anniversary of his death. The wreath bore these words:

*Our Founder—SIR ARTHUR PEARSON*  
In affectionate memory from the men and women blinded on war service  
1914-1918 1939-1945

### To St. Dunstan's

*Like a ship without pilot at sea,  
Drifting slowly toward rocks, dead ahead;  
Like a plane winging homeward would be  
If the crew had baled out or was dead.  
Like the mind of a man newly blind  
Thinking light was its one source of sight  
Are the folks, whom we know think and say  
Life is all through for ship, plane, and mind.  
They are lost, though there still is a way;  
Having sight they are folks truly blind.  
There are those with the courage and skill  
To save ships, planes, and minds. They're the kind  
Who are sure; so they can and they will  
Prove that vision is light to the mind.  
Having known loss of sight, I've been shown  
Vision lies in the mind, not the eyes,  
St. Dunstan's where the blind are not blind,  
You have shown men the source of true light  
And have shown all the world, all mankind,  
That no man having vision needs sight.*

J. FRANCIS SMITH.

### Remploy Factories

The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, as Minister of Labour in the last Government, promoted the Disabled Persons' Employment Corporation, Ltd., in accordance with Section 15 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, and invited the Rt. Hon. Viscount Portal, D.S.O., to be the Chairman. The Corporation, formed in accordance with the Companies Act, 1929, is limited by guarantee and is financed by the State.

The function of the Corporation is to provide employment in "Remploy Factories" and in the case of homebound, in the homes, for all classes of registered disabled persons who are so severely handicapped by disablement, as to be unlikely, either at any time or until after a lapse of a long period, to be able otherwise to obtain employment.

The employment in the Remploy Factories is suitable for certain more severely disabled St. Dunstaners who are not able to do the harder full time of a normal factory. Wages are paid during employment on productive work, and the recognised full rate in each district is paid to disabled persons who are regarded as competent. The products of the factories are sold, bearing the name of "Remploy" and sub-contracts are undertaken for local industries.

It is intended that there should be 80-100 of these factories set up throughout the United Kingdom, the first three of which have been started. The Salford Factory was officially opened by Lord Portal on December 9th. Two St. Dunstaners, A. Paulson and L. E. Deauville, are already employed there on light assembly and it is intended in the near future to add two or three more St. Dunstaners to this factory and also to other Remploy Factories near the homes of other St. Dunstaners.

At the moment we cannot say how successful this type of employment will be to the advantage of St. Dunstaners who wish more sheltered conditions, but it is an interesting experiment which may prove to be an advance on the older method of settlement of St. Dunstaners of this category who have formerly gone to their homes to make baskets, or work at other light employment.

### West House Notes

The weather at Brighton, we regret to say, has not been any kinder than in other parts of the country. However, if it has not been possible to get out and about as much as we should have liked, we have had more than our fair share of surprises and entertainment.

For those of us who had visited the Theatre Royal and enjoyed the play "The Hasty Heart," it was an added thrill when we met Miss Margaretta Scott and other members of the cast, who so kindly came along to West House to visit us on November 8th. We particularly appreciated the way they remembered to talk with our friends in the Sick Ward. We presented Miss Scott with a tray, made by Tommy Tuxford, and a bouquet and ranged ourselves round her happily for the "Press." It was an afternoon we shall remember for a long while to come.

Our first Concert this month was given by "Youth Takes a Bow," and we have to thank our young friends for a jolly evening, both then and later in the month, when we were invited to the Hove Town Hall.

A number of us enjoyed an excellent Symphony Concert at the Dome, for which we were given tickets, and then there was the never-failing attraction of a party, given for us by the Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' Association, which is a well established favourite on our Calendar. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking the retiring Chairman, who has done so much for the social life of St. Dunstan's during the past years, and we welcome the new Chairman.

On November 10th was commemorated Remembrance Day, with a Service at 11 a.m., which was held in the lounge, and conducted by Commander Paul. In the afternoon a detachment of men paraded for the Service at the Dome. Wreaths were laid at the War Memorial by Commander Paul, Sheridan and Frank.

A little party of us visited St. Dunstan's Corner on November 11th, and wreaths were laid on the graves of the late Matron Thelluson and Matron Boyd Rochfort, and Flanders Poppies on the graves of those men who died at St. Dunstan's. Prayers were read by Canon T. J. James, M.C.

Everyone had a grand time at the dance given by the local Red Cross Detachment, at the Regent Dance Hall, and also at a

dance held at West House, when prizes were presented by Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs, of Hove.

In spite of the rain we did manage to organise a little riding for the New War holiday men, and there were car trips, including tea on the road, for those who are not able to get out often.

Finally, there was an impromptu Concert, arranged by Jack Sullivan, at which Brighton's Max Miller was the guest star. We think we are right in saying this was the first time a Concert had been held in the Sick Ward—but it certainly must not be the last! We should like to express our thanks to Max Miller, Jack Sullivan, Arthur Hyman and George Barnard for an evening which was a howling success. A special word, too, to W. T. Curtis-Willson and our friends at the Sussex Yacht Club, who sent along plenty of beer and cigarettes—thank you all very much—it was just what we needed to make the evening perfect!

Well, this was to have been a quiet month because of the redecorating which is going on, but we think you will agree that in spite of the presence of the painters in the lounge and conservatory, and fewer men, we have suffered very little in our programme of entertainments.

To those of you who will not be with us for Christmas we send the Season's Greetings.

We are glad to be able to give good news of Q. M. Evans. Her many friends will be pleased to learn she is well on the way to recovery from her recent illness, and we all combine to wish her a speedy return to good health. Whilst we know she must still have a long convalescence, we are hoping she will come to our New Year's Eve Party, and are looking forward to seeing her once again.

### National Laying Test

Position	Name	Test Score
1	Gregory, T. ...	102
2	Jackson, George ...	97
3	Fisher, T. M. ...	71
4	McIntosh, Charles ...	43
5	Holmes, Percy ...	35
6	Jarvis, Albert ...	33
7	McLaren, David ...	32
8	Chaffin, Albert ...	—
9	Smith, W. Alan ...	24
10	Watson-Brown, M. ...	3
	Average per bird, 8.28	

### The "Drone" at Ovingdean

On holiday at West House, Bert Dean and I hit a loose-end day, so we decided to honour Ovingdean with our presence. If any of the "Plum-and-Apple" war men strike a sticky patch when on holiday, go to Ovingdean and have a chin-wag with the "Spam War" boys there. After visiting the workshops you will have received a tonic.

Mr. Leslie Banks, Miss Davieson, Charley Hawkett were pleasant contacts after so many years apart. Matron Pain was away, we regretted that. Our objective was the workshops, and particularly the Engineering and Upholstery. Engineering Shop first. Mr. K. Norman, instructor, gladly and exhaustively opened up life there to us. The drone of the machines, the unfamiliar sounds of steel-boring, turning, sawing, banging of steel upon steel, his cupboard full of manufactured articles; their uses explained, the constant busy hum, the cleanliness of the place, its airiness, everybody busy and wholly concentrated, it all impressed us much. We chatted with George Edwards, of Liverpool, a life soldier, who, in eight weeks, had progressed from small machines to operating a full-size machine. George is a product of a later, live-faster-and-more-dangerously generation. He has done the right thing—seized his opportunity with both hands, and we congratulate him and others upon that.

We then witnessed, to us, an immensely clever piece of craftsmanship. John Taylor, of Ovril, Suffolk, was dismantling a motor engine. Make no mistake about it. It was slowly disintegrating into its constituent parts. We stood by while its dismemberment took place. This was immensely intriguing. To an average sighted person this would seem an impossibility. It is not so. It is an accomplished fact. Later he will put it together again. It would demand the quintessence of concentration. That quality was in strong evidence in all the men operating the machines. This shop is more than interesting.

On the same floor, housed in one corner, is the Boot-repair section. To old "hide-bashers" this is worth a visit. Nail trays are now above the bench. You will be mainly interested in the machines; sewers, stitchers, and the Blaker. Benching is much about the same. Mr. Kitson, instructor, always ready to rush you around.

Away to the Upholstery Shop. Here

the noises consisted of dull wallops, taps, squeaks and the burr of a sewing machine. But the finished product which resulted from these sounds would charm any woman's eye. Mr. S. G. Bundy, the chief instructor, gave us a resume of the curricula of the training. Work is highly technical, artistic, and delicate; and demands a measure of imagination, initiative, and a capacity to mentally visualise a finished product. This is not every man's job, but it is certainly a busy one for those undergoing training. We spent an interesting hour, and left the boys springing, stitching, stuffing, covering and kicking up no end of a dust.

The Carpenter's Shop also held us for a few minutes. All I had time to do there was to look around for soap boxes, but there were none. As I hope to visit the Basket Shop I must leave these two trades till another time, then see what I can see.

We spent a day—in fact nearly two days—at Ovingdean with profit. To all men able to stand the climb, pay it a visit, you'll get a welcome and another when you return to Matron Ouseley, and the ten wise maids of Kemp Town.

When visiting the Engineering Shop ask the instructor to show you the "Eccentric Ejector Bolt," turned by a blind man.

W.E.B.

### Young St. Dunstaners

Jean Westell (Liverpool) is now a fully qualified teacher.

V. Alderson's daughter has passed matriculation out of college with a view to becoming a chartered accountant.

Reg. Ashmore (Loughborough) has passed his Oxford School Certificate examination, and Pat Barbour (Brighton) her matriculation.

Harry Sterno (Bath) has been mentioned in despatches for gallant and distinguished service in N.W. Europe.

Joyce Davies (Darwen) has qualified as a teacher, and Margaret has passed her School Certificate.

Mary Carlton (Canterbury) has obtained her B.Sc. degree.

### Marriages

On May 25th, A. R. Jarman (Bournemouth), to Miss Marjorie Runyard.

On May 3rd, Ada Capstick (Lancaster), to Arnold Edmunds, Canadian R.A.F.

May Davies (Wrexham), on July 6th, to Irwin Povah.

On June 18th, James Butler (Waterford), to Miss Winifred Boyce, and on June 28th, Julia Butler to Eric Crawford.

In December last, Charles Puddefoot (Worthing), to Miss Eileen Tebay.

On June 29th, Laura Thompson (Bolton), to John Hart.

## "In Memory"

### Private John Joseph McKenna, 1st Manchester Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of J. J. McKenna, of Manchester, who enlisted as early as August 7th, 1914, and was blinded at Ypres in May, 1915. He came to St. Dunstan's in November, 1915, where he trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker, but for some years before his death he had only been able to continue with wool rug-making. His death occurred very suddenly at his home on August 9th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

### Private Herbert John Watling, Royal Army Service Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. J. Watling, of Wirral.

Although his sight and health were very seriously damaged as a result of his service from 1915 until 1919, he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1939, and his health then prevented him from receiving any training. For a number of years he had been a permanent resident at Melplash and at West House, Brighton, and he passed away at West House on September 8th. He was laid to rest at Hotton Parish Church, Cheshire.

He was a widower with one son, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

### Rifleman Herbert James Bridgman, King's Royal Rifle Corps

With deep regret we record the death of H. J. Bridgman, of Windsor.

Wounded in France in 1916, as a result of which he lost his left eye, he did not come to St. Dunstan's until October, 1946, by which time his sight had almost completely failed. He was received into training at Ovingdean, but he became ill shortly afterwards and he passed away after a brief illness on November 27th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Bridgman and her son.

### Private Frederick Bradfield, 35th Royal Fusiliers

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. Bradfield, of Battersea.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1917, after being wounded in France, and he trained as a boot repairer, and he carried on his trade for some years. In the summer of 1946, however, he became ill, and he died in Claybury Hospital on November 28th. He was a single man.

### Births

COOK.—To the wife of L. W. Cook, of Sutton, on June 26th, a son—John Allen.

GODING.—On November 29th, to the wife of R. J. Goding, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, a daughter.

HART.—On November 23rd, to the wife of T. P. Hart, of Shrewsbury, a son—Christopher Patrick.

MCCREA.—On November 24th, to the wife of H. McCrea, of Belfast, a son.

### Marriages

FLEISIG—FRY.—On November 30th, D. D. Fleisig, of Brockley, to Miss Dorothy June Fry.

LEWIS—MOORE.—On November 23rd, J. Lewis, of Wolverhampton, to Miss Rosalyn Moore.

COOKE—PARTRIDGE.—On December 14th, G. Cooke, of Crewe, to Miss E. L. Partridge, of Shrewsbury.

### Car Hire Service

Ron Vincent tells us that the details given last month about his Car Hire Service were not quite accurate. His address is 162 Randall Avenue, Cricklewood, N.W.2, and the telephone number, day and night, is Gladstone 6825.

### Ilkley Bridge Congress

#### St. Dunstan's Bridge Club Takes Part

The Bridge Club broke new ground by a visit to Ilkley in the first week-end of December. The local St. Dunstan's Committee organised a Bridge Congress on behalf of our funds, and at the invitation of the Committee, a team was sent up to Ilkley to represent the Bridge Club. They entered in a Town and Open Competition for teams of four, and on this occasion finished about half-way. They also entered pairs for that particular competition, and we are happy to note that Drummer Downs, with our kindly escort, Jack Armstrong, won first prize on the Saturday afternoon. The hospitality of the Yorkshire people was indeed excellent, and one regretted that the all too short visit ended too quickly.

Our other Saturday afternoons have been spent in a very pleasant way and we anticipate a bumper meeting for our Christmas Bridge Drive.

The Committee wishes all the members a very joyous Christmas and may the New Year bring health and prosperity. R.P.C.

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Christmas greetings to all St. Dunstaners and their wives and families from "Mrs. George."