

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

## PRESENTATION TO SIR IAN FRASER

Made by Mr. Churchill at New Year Dance

ST. Dunstaners of two wars met at the Seymour Hall, London, on Thursday, January 23rd, for their New Year's Dance, an occasion which was of special importance for two reasons—it was the first Reunion of the London men since 1939, and it was to be the occasion of a presentation to Sir Ian Fraser by Mr. Winston Churchill of a gift from the men of St. Dunstan's to mark his 25th anniversary as Chairman of St. Dunstan's.

In spite of the severity of the weather, there were nearly five hundred people present at the Hall, but everyone deeply regretted that the Brighton contingent, with whom also were the representatives of Wales (J. M. Lucocq), the North-West Area (T. Milner), North-East Area (F. Crabtree), the Midlands (W. Trott), the Southern Area (W. Lowings), and the South-West Area (R. Sheehan), who were travelling up to London by coach, had been held up by the snow and ice at Handcross, near Crawley, and had had to return to Brighton.

Representative St. Dunstaners who were able to get to the Hall were J. Boyce (Ireland), C. McIntosh (Scotland), H. Edge (North-West Area), P. Sumner (Midlands), and A. I. Gwyn (Eastern Area).

At eight o'clock, a roll of drums announced that Mr. Churchill had arrived, and there was a rush to the platform at the end of the big Hall to give him a warm

welcome. With Mr. Churchill and Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, were Lady (Arthur) Pearson, our President, Sir Neville Pearson, Miss Hamar Greenwood, Matron Pain, Air Commodore and Mrs. Bentley Dacre, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony MacDonald, Captain William Appleby, Lieut. Col. Eric Ball, Major General John Hay Beith, Sir Brunel Cohen, Mr. Edwin Fisher, Mr. Askew, and the four members of the Presentation Committee, Messrs. N. A. Ramsden and W. Sheridan, representing men of 1914-1918, and Messrs. A. Finney and A. H. H. Brown, representing those of the recent war.

Sir Neville Pearson, presiding, said that for all of those present, it was a tremendous occasion. They were all deeply grateful and were deeply conscious of the honour that was being done to them in that the presentation, which was in commemoration of 25 years of devoted service, was being made "by our country's most distinguished citizen to our country's most distinguished blind man." He called on Mr. N. A. Ramsden, chairman of the Committee organising the presentation, to propose good health to Mr. Churchill and to tell everyone what the presentation was about.

Mr. Ramsden said that the suggestion that the presentation should be made to Sir Ian had met with "a spontaneous and magnificent" response from all parts of the British Empire. More than £400 had been subscribed. Sir Ian had said that

it would give him and Lady Fraser great pleasure to receive from his St. Dunstan's friends a gift of table silver to replace some of that lost when his house was destroyed in 1944. As, however, that would be difficult in present times, a token presentation of a walking stick, suitably engraved, would be presented to him by Mr. Churchill.

There was tremendous applause when Mr. Churchill rose to speak. He said, "I am very glad to have been chosen for the part of carrying out your wishes tonight. It is many years since I first became associated with St. Dunstan's; in fact, nearly twenty years have passed. I knew its Founder and I have always been deeply stirred by this cause, and I feel it very gratifying that you should have invited me to come here this evening.

"My old friend and colleague in the House of Commons, Sir Ian Fraser, has served you well. For twenty-five years he has devoted himself to the cause of those who suffer a grievous sorrow and deprivation. By his high character and dauntless spirit he has shown how such injuries can be conquered and how vital, happy lives can be lived in spite of what to those who have the gift of vision, seems to be an overwhelming calamity. There are the beauties of the inner vision, but these would not suffice without bold pioneers who march forward and show how thousands of men and women who have lost their eyesight, many as a sacrifice for the life of their country, can play important parts, valuable parts, in the whole social, moral and political life of our island.

For twenty-five years, Ian Fraser has served you courageously and I have seen him on so many occasions devoting himself to all this work, not only for those who have lost their eyes and sight, but for all ex-servicemen in this country and throughout the Empire, to whom our undying gratitude is due."

Mr. Churchill then handed the stick to Sir Ian saying, "This is a symbol of your gratitude to him and a crutch to aid him, not only in finding his way about, but in disposing of anybody who stands between him and the high purpose he serves."

Mr. Churchill then picked up a bouquet of flowers from the table and handed them to Lady Fraser, and, addressing St. Dunstaners

once again, he said, "Keep fighting the good fight, and carry on to increased success. We all owe a great debt to this man who has found the way and shown the way to extract from the heart of affliction the means of grace and the hope of glory."

Sir Ian Fraser received a great ovation when he rose. He said:

"May I thank you, Lady Pearson, widow of our Founder, and you, Sir Neville, for presiding and for giving your support to these proceedings. I should like to express the deep sense of gratitude which I feel to you, Lady Pearson, and to your husband's memory which is cherished by St. Dunstaners and by other blind people all over the world.

"You have been kind enough, Mr. Churchill, to praise the work which has fallen to my lot to do, and I ask you to accept my very sincere thanks for those words. But the success of St. Dunstan's has rested upon the shoulders of many people and primarily upon those of the men who have been blinded in the two wars and who through their courage, their loyalty and adaptability, and their determination to continue to serve their country in peace as they did in war, have made St. Dunstan's notable, and I would like to thank them for their loyalty and friendship all through the years.

"I would like to pay my special tribute to their wives. It must be difficult to be married to any man (laughter), but much more difficult to be married to a blind man. We owe our wives a very great deal. I owe a very great deal to mine. 'Mavro,' who was with us on St. Dunstan's Council for so long until his death recently, once said, 'Some women have charm; others have sense; but very few have both.' But, he would say, one that he knew was Lady Fraser."

Sir Ian went on, "The success of St. Dunstan's would not have been attained were it not for the staff—the old staff who have been with us from the beginning, and of whom Lady Fraser, Mrs. Chadwick Bates, my secretary, Miss Goole, and Miss Coultate, are among the few who remain.

"I should like to pay tribute also, to the secretary of St. Dunstan's, Mr. Askew, who has helped so many St. Dunstaners and is always ready with his help and advice.

"Mr. Churchill has presented me with a walking stick—a sign of authority, perhaps, but it is the authority of St. Dunstan's.

"This stick is a token of the gift you have given me. You will understand that we wanted to choose something that will be a lifelong pleasure to us. When our grandson inherits the silver, its beauty will appeal to him, but it will be all the more valuable to him by having among the pieces one that bears upon it the inscription that it was presented to his grandfather by one of the most famous men England has known—Mr. Churchill.

"I rejoice to think that of the war-blinded men, 89 per cent. have joined in this presentation to me. I thank not only the men of this country, but in the Dominions overseas. I appreciate more than I can say, your kindness and your affection. I know I have the confidence of the Council and the men of two wars. I will go on giving the best part of my time and the best part of my thought to your service so long as I have your confidence.

"Thank you all for your kindness and for this presentation. My wife and I join in wishing you all the very best of good fortune and good luck."

After the cheering had died down, Sir Neville Pearson called upon Mr. A. H. H. Brown ("Tiny" Brown), who expressed on behalf of all St. Dunstaners their thanks to Mr. Churchill for coming there that evening.

When Mr. Churchill left the platform, St. Dunstaners formed a guard of honour.

Then the band struck up, and dancing began and continued until eleven o'clock, although more people seemed to be talking than dancing. The New Year's Dance was, in fact, just what it was intended to be—a grand London Reunion.

Winners of the spot prizes were Sammy Webster and Mrs. Kerr, D. Cockerill and his daughter, Mrs. Milson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lacey, Mr. and Mrs. Hedger, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Ollington, Jimmy Wright and Miss Gladys Prior, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Higginson.

A film of the presentation was shown on the Paramount News at hundreds of cinemas all over the country.

#### WANTED

DECEMBER "REVIEWS."—The Editor would be very glad indeed for unwanted copies of the REVIEW of December, 1946.

### Deaf Blind Watch Fund

This Fund, as my St. Dunstan's friends will know, was started early in 1945 by our old friend, Mr. Ottaway, and since that date, the magnificent sum of £300 has been subscribed, almost entirely by St. Dunstan's men. The object of the Fund was to supply Braille Watches to the civilian deaf-blind, and it was suggested that I, as Honorary Treasurer, should make an appeal once a year for subscriptions through the medium of the REVIEW.

I have to date been able to send to the National Deaf Blind Helpers' League, 62 watches for distribution to deaf blind persons, and I need hardly tell you of the enormous pleasure these have given as in nearly every case, the recipients have been awaiting a watch for years.

Many St. Dunstaners have sent me donations during the past year and I am not asking them to send again now, but if any of my St. Dunstan's friends would like to forward a shilling or half-a-crown, I shall be grateful. The cost of a Braille watch has increased to £5 14s. 9d., and as the National Deaf Blind Helpers' League have reviewed their list during the past few months and tell me that there are some 150 deaf-blind persons who have no watch, it will be seen that there is still much work for this little fund to do.

W. G. ASKEW.

### In the Tiger's Den

One day, when visiting Whipsnade Zoo, I suddenly found myself being led down a steep flight of narrow steps.

As I learnt afterwards, a keeper, who had noticed my St. Dunstan's badge, had put up a warning finger for silence, and beckoned to my wife for us to follow him.

Soon I heard a door being unlocked, and realised that I was being taken into an underground chamber. The keeper said to me, "Hold out your arms," and the next thing I knew was that I was holding a furry animal of some weight. When the creature began to growl gently, I said in some alarm, "What have I got here?" and I was told that it was a four months old tiger that had been born in the zoo, one of two survivors from a litter of four. When we re-visited Whipsnade a few weeks later, we found the young tiger behind bars; his little brother had died.

Dunstable.

H. ROLT.

### West House Notes

After our somewhat riotous Christmas, we were, for the most part, quite content to have a few quiet days at the opening of this month in which to recuperate.

On January 5th, we were pleased to have Messrs. Laidlaw and Richardson with us again, bringing with them another lively selection of records which we all enjoyed.

In the second week of the month, our new Commandant, Mr. L. Fawcett, arrived to take up his duties at West House. Already well-known to many St. Dunstan's campers as "Skipper," he was given a sincere welcome by men and staff. Within a very short time, he was helping us with Spelling Bees and Play-readings—to the Staff's relief and the men's enjoyment!!

We have been most fortunate this month in receiving several invitations to outside functions and we should like to thank Mrs. Spamford, Mr. Prior of the "Dog Tray" and the "Creamery," Rottingdean, for their wonderful hospitality.

Amusements in Brighton were many. "Tuesday Night at the Dome" and the Symphony Concerts still attract a large number from West House. We want to thank Councillor Nicholls for his kindness in arranging for a number of us to have free seats on "Tuesday Nights" and also Messrs. Lyon and Hall for giving us seats at the Symphony Concerts.

The less said the better about the trip to London for Sir Ian's presentation. Those who went by rail thoroughly enjoyed meeting many old friends as well as the experience of once again hearing Winston Churchill speak and being able to congratulate Sir Ian personally. For those who were marooned in the 'bus the Commandant and Matron arranged a happy evening at the Adelphi Hotel, Brighton, the following night, which almost made up for the big disappointment.

Then the very bad weather began and so, partly because of that and partly because many men went off to bed for a few days suffering from 'flu, we were forced to postpone the Concert which was to have been given by the Ditchling Players.

On January 28th, although the snow was very deep and it was bitterly cold, a heroic little party came along from the Florence Moore Studios. They gave a nicely balance programme which suited all tastes

and although our audience was rather small, they were certainly most appreciative.

Lack of space last month caused the printer to leave out our thanks to Mrs. Docking for her wonderful patience, energy and skill in fitting out the men with their New Year's Eve fancy dress costumes.

So to the end of one more month. We'll be back again in February.

### From Mrs. Dunphy

DEAR ST. DUNSTANERS,

I think 1947 is to be my lucky year. I have always wished for an antique bow-fronted chest of drawers and your beautiful present arrived on New Year's Day. You can imagine what a thrill I got.

Thank you for this lovely gift; apart from its beauty, which is a joy to me, I look on it as a memento of the many happy years I have spent with you and as such, it is especially precious.

Thank you, too, for your kind letters and personal gifts which I treasure.

I shall look forward to meeting you at future Re-unions, and I wish you and your splendid wives and families the very best of luck for the future.

Always yours affectionately,

EDNA M. DUNPHY.

### "And So to Work"

Percy Ashton, telephonist, and Charles Cooper, physiotherapist, represented St. Dunstan's at their habilitation exhibition, "And So To Work," recently held in London. Their demonstrations caused great interest among the thousands of people who visited the exhibition.

### Princess Catherine of Greece

Tembani St. Dunstaners will hear with interest that the engagement has been announced of Princess Catherine of Greece, to Major R. Brandram, M.C., of the Royal Artillery. The Princess is known to all Tembanians as "Sister Catherine."

### Our Prize Competition

As announced last month, a prize of one guinea is awarded to the sender of a published article, apart from routine reports. This month's prizewinners are J. A. Mudge, of Tottenham, H. Rolt, of Dunstable, and E. H. North, of Taunton ("Gen.").

### Wilfred Pickles at Ovingdean

On February 5th, "Have a Go," the popular Wilfred Pickles quiz programme, was recorded at the Ovingdean Home and will be broadcast on the Light Programme on March 12th or 19th.

### '39 And All That

During the early part of the war, a "rookie" still, despite my three stripes, it was my fortune to be stationed in the Fen country, attached to a company of the R.Es. who were manning searchlights in the muddy flats of the countryside near Ely.

As R.A.M.C. N.C.O., with a very under-strength staff, I often had to make late journeys by car or ambulance to the out-posts and sometimes got back late to the camp, where, as at all good camps, peace and calm reigned after 10.30 p.m.

One wintry night I arrived back shortly before midnight, and went hopefully to the mess kitchen where I knew I should find my supper kept hot for me—if the guard hadn't found it first. My luck was in; the supper was there; and, satisfied and tired, I started on the long walk across the snow-covered field to my own hut, the Regt. Medical Post, where I slept on call in a comfy hospital cot. The moon was shining brightly and under the silver light everything was beginning to look very eerie when, to my horror a large dark animal came bounding towards me over the snow, its two eyes flashing. A fearsome apparition it was, emitting stentorian growls—or so they seemed to me. I felt my hair stiffen. There was nowhere for me to take cover. I and the Thing were all alone in the moonlit field. And I was more than a little relieved to find as it rushed at me that it was nothing worse than a Newfoundland dog whose deep growlings seemed to pass into friendly greeting at its delight at meeting another living creature in the snowy waste.

I proceeded on my way with my new friend who appeared to have taken a great liking to me. That at least was what I thought; but I was on a false scent.

Arrived at the hut, I could not succeed in impressing on my new companion that the hut was sacred to the sick and their attendants. He insisted on entering with me. Once inside, he jumped joyously on to my bed. Nothing could move

him. Neither coaxings nor threats availed. He obviously found the bed very comfortable. But it was a comfort for which I too longed. So I had to resort to low cunning. I spread a couple of old blankets on the ground in front of the coke stove and tried to entice my canine trespasser to use these as his couch. Nothing doing. He just wagged two feet of tail and, when I approached with a foolish thought of lugging him off my bed, he just growled in a somewhat disturbing way. Then a happy thought came. I put a dixie lid of "Patients' Milk" on the top of the stove and started to undress. When I was ready, I put the milk on the blankets and as the dog leapt down to drink, I leapt into bed. He gave up after that. Having had his drink, he just looked at me, then stretched his great body on the blankets and soon there was peace in the hut.

Next morning we went to breakfast together in the Sergeants' Mess, and, after we had both had a hearty meal, he went on duty with me. But this, of course, could not go on. Having now made real friends, he let me read the name on his collar and I found he was owned by a publican in the neighbouring town. So, with the help of a piece of rope, he was conveyed to his owner by one of my orderlies.

I frequently saw him afterwards and he always greeted me in friendly fashion, remembering, perhaps, that he owed me for a bed and breakfast—not to mention a supper of "Patients' Milk." It was a pleasant little adventure, but the point that rankles is that it was the orderly who took him back who was rewarded with half-a-crown.

Tottenham, N.17. JOHN A. MUDGE.

### Thirty Years Ago

From the *St. Dunstan's Review*, February, 1917

"Rowing men will be interested to hear that in the 1916 season they had out no fewer than 3,054 boats on the Regent's Park lake. This makes practically an average of ten for every working day in the year, and as we all know, there are many days when the weather will not permit us to row at all, it means something very much higher. It will not be long now before the early boating will start anew, and the boys will begin practising for the first race meeting, which will be held in April."

## Headquarters to Move at the End of the Year

We have to announce that our Headquarters Offices will be moving again, but this time, we hope it will be for good, or at any rate, for the lifetime of most of us. No move will, however, take place until at least the end of the year, on account of the many alterations that have to be made to our new offices and the difficulties of getting licences, labour and materials in these times.

The houses in Park Crescent, which form our present Headquarters, are not suitable for permanent offices and are only held on a temporary lease, but they were the best we could get when our Regent's Park offices were destroyed by air raids, and they have served us tolerably well.

In the early 1920's, the whole of St. Dunstan's organisation was concentrated at St. John's Lodge, Regent's Park, in the big house and outbuildings nearby. Then we gave up the big house and for some years our organisation was divided, the office side being in the outbuildings in Regent's Park, and what might be called the works side being at Raglan Street.

In the forthcoming move, which, as we have said, we hope will last for a long time, we have tried to concentrate once again the works and the office sides in so far as they affect St. Dunstaners, because in practice, we have found that very many St. Dunstaners write to us in the same letter about their raw materials, or other aspects of their home occupation, and also about purely welfare matters. It was administratively inconvenient to have to break down these letters into their various elements, but more important still, it was inconvenient to the St. Dunstaner himself to have to go to two places to see the members of the staff with whom he had to do business. So in the new arrangement we looked for a building big enough to hold everything. We did not fully succeed, for very big buildings are extremely difficult to find nowadays, owing to the destruction of the war, and we limited our search to the Baker Street area, because it is so familiar to St. Dunstaners and to our staff and to the public. We have been fortunate to secure a big building at 191 Marylebone Road, which belonged to Queen Charlotte's Hospital, but was vacated by them just before the war broke

out. The building is a sound structure, but will want much repair work and modernisation.

In addition, we have been fortunate to secure a long lease at a nominal rent of a big house at No. 1 South Audley Street. It is our intention to concentrate practically all St. Dunstan's organisation in 191 Marylebone Road, which will in due time become the new St. Dunstan's Headquarters. South Audley Street will be used for an Appeals and Publicity Office, the Chairman's Office, and the Council's and Committees' board-rooms.

The only part of St. Dunstan's organisation that cannot be fitted into these two buildings will be the Mat Department and some of our heavy raw material stocks, which will be near at hand.

With the Marylebone Road property are three cottages, at present under requisition to the Local Authority, which will eventually be used for a residential hostel to take the place of the present No. 8 Park Crescent, the house to which St. Dunstaners can come and stay for a night or two when they are on their way to Brighton, or are visiting us on business, or for medical or other reasons. There will also be at Marylebone Road, some club rooms where those passing through London and those living in London and the Home Counties can come up to meet each other and join in club life, including an occasional whist drive, bridge club, or musical evening.

The Marylebone building is 1,200 yards going west from Baker Street and within 500 yards of Edgware Road. This is a little further away than we would have wished, but in actual fact, it is nearer to Baker Street than was the old Headquarters in Regent's Park.

We wish we could have got one big building in a slightly better position, but although we searched every street and had the very best professional help, the ideal building in the ideal situation could not be obtained. However, when we settle down, the new arrangements will, we think, prove satisfactory to all concerned and will be particularly convenient to St. Dunstaners themselves, which is, after all, the one thing that really matters.

For some years, we shall have to maintain a hostel in London for physiotherapy students, and it may be that, for a time, No. 12 Park Crescent, will not prove to

be big enough. We are considering the various alternatives, including the retention of No. 12, and the conversion of No. 11 into an additional hostel. Information about this will be released in due course, but students may be assured that provision will be made for their residence in London while they are undergoing their training in Great Portland Street.

## Blackpool Notes

After the excitement of the Christmas and New Year festivities, January has passed in a quieter vein, but nevertheless, has had its pleasures.

Visits have been paid each Monday evening to the Palace of Varieties, and on Wednesday afternoons to the Grand Theatre.

The usual dances have been held on Tuesday and Friday evenings and Domino Tournaments on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

On January 10th, an invitation came from the R.A.F. Association for two men to attend their annual dinner and was thoroughly enjoyed by the lucky two.

On January 15th, the same Association invited all the "boys" to a Social Evening, which was very much enjoyed by all, and we were transported to and from the gathering by taxi.

After a visit to the Grand Theatre on January 22nd, a party of fourteen men and escorts enjoyed an excellent tea at the Savoy Restaurant.

At the moment, our numbers at Blackpool are small, but our spirits are great and we are enjoying the breezes in large quantities.

RODNEY.

## Placements

C. F. Cooke, with the Riggs Engineering Co., Urmston, on jig drilling; J. Cruse, as a telephonist with the Ministry of Works, Newcastle-on-Tyne; J. F. Alton, on assembly work, with Messrs. Martin Hearn, Hooton, Cheshire; H. Pierrepont, as a telephonist with the L.N.E.R.; Bert Green, with Messrs. R. A. Jenner, Brighton, on upholstery; E. Simpson, as a capstan operator, with Messrs. Gresham and Craven, Salford; F. A. E. Hawes, on assembly, with Messrs. Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies, Ipswich; T. Walter, as caretaker for the War Office in Rochester.

## Grandfather

T. W. Groves, of Oxford.

## Letters to the Editor

### Writer for the Non-Brailleist

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

DEAR SIR,

In the December REVIEW I noticed a suggestion about a machine to enable anybody not familiar with braille to write a braille letter to a friend. It seems to me that any intelligent person, provided with a diagram of braille characters, as printed on the covers of most Braille magazines, can knock off a readable letter with the aid of a Stainsby-Wayne machine. I realise that these machines are not easy to come by at present, but it ought to be simpler to supply a limited number than to produce an entirely new machine. I well remember when I was away from home in training, spending an amusing hour with "Carlo" puzzling out a message that had been transcribed in the manner described above on a Braille Shorthand machine by my son.

Yours sincerely,

S. A. CHAMBERS.

W. Lowings, of Chandler's Ford, writes to suggest a device based on a metal revolving ring on which are the letters of the braille alphabet, the user "dialling" the letters, then using a key to depress the letters as in the ordinary braille machine.

Sir Ian writes:

"I have no doubt that a machine could be made to enable a sighted person to write braille on the principle of the Simplex typewriter. It is something like Lowing's idea, namely, a round disc with letters on its edge. You turned this round until the letter you required was opposite a certain slot and then pressed it down. Even such a machine as this, or based upon Lowing's idea, would cost many pounds to make and I doubt very much if there would be any demand for it."

St. Dunstan's Research Sub-Committee has since considered this matter and Mr. P. B. Nye reports as follows:

"A prototype of a machine to enable a sighted person to write braille without a knowledge of braille would cost in the region of £100; if the machine was in the form of a typewriter, it would be just as easy for the wife to learn braille and use a braille machine as it would for her to learn typewriting so that she could use the machine. It would be impossible

unless it was done electrically, owing to the difference in finger pressure for writing braille as compared with what is necessary for a typewriter. As a result, the Committee have decided that we should not experiment with this."

### Tasmanian St. Dunstan's Fine Record 25 Years in Politics

The following is an extract from the *Hobart Mercury* of November 1st, which has just reached us. It concerns Captain Frank Marriott, C.M.G., M.H.A., who came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1917, and stayed with us for about a year before returning to his own country.

"After what is probably an Empire record for a blind man in continuous Parliamentary office, Mr. Frank Marriott will retire from the House of Assembly this month. He has been a notable figure in the House for a quarter of a century.

"Mr. Marriott's commanding presence and resonant voice would have attracted attention to him at any time, and the fact that he has been totally blind for 30 years had given him an added dignity and developed a sixth sense which has been an asset to him as a legislator.

"To have successfully contested seven elections in 25 years is a record that any man with normal faculties might well recall with pride, but Mr. Marriott had this war disability to overcome as well.

"My 25 years in politics have been most interesting," he said yesterday. "Everyone has been wonderfully kind to me, irrespective of their political creed. Only this week the Premier said to me, 'I am really sorry that you are not coming back to the House.'"

"I was 70 last June," he said. "I tried to practise what I preach by trying to get out of it in 1941 when I was 65, but I was prevailed upon to stand once more."

"Mr. Marriott told how he grasped all the legislation and was able to speak freely and with authority in the House.

"He brought bills home and had them read to him. He indicated the important clauses and these were read and re-read to him. Finally, he typed them out himself and they became impressed indelibly on his mind.

"Often I could quote the salient clauses of a bill word for word," he said.

"I will not be out of a job," Mr. Marriott added.

"He is chairman of the State committee for the care of the war blind, chairman of the committee of the Northern Tasmanian Sanatorium, and a member of the board of management of the Blind Institution, the Diocesan Council, and the Council of Patronage of the Church of England.

"Mr. Marriott said his wife for many years had provided him with the means of keeping in touch with current affairs. 'She literally has read volumes to me,' he said.

"It was a proud moment for Mr. Marriott when the name of his son, Mr. F. A. Marriott, appeared on the list of the endorsed candidates for Bass for the forthcoming election.

"He came to Tasmania in 1903 and took up farming. He joined the A.I.F. in 1915, and was an officer in the 12th Battalion. He served in Egypt and France and lost both his eyes when hit by a German bullet at Baupaume in 1917.

"He was Chief Scout Commissioner in Tasmania, from 1928 to 1932, and Federal President of Toc H for several years."

### Other News

H. Marsden, of Fordingbridge, well known as a dog breeder, went recently to Salisbury Show, where he met some old breeding friends. As a result of this meeting, a club has been formed, The Southern and Provincial Bull Terrier Club, and Marsden has been appointed secretary.

★ ★ ★

The John Milton Society for the Blind, of New York, offer two religious braille magazines to St. Dunstaners, free of charge. They are "The John Milton Magazine" and "Discovery." Application should be made to the General Secretary, John Milton Society for the Blind, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, U.S.A.

★ ★ ★

W. Burgin, of Brighton, has built himself a front garden wall. Next spring he plans to extend it down the side of the house. The *Empire News* gave him a nice little "write-up" on his feat.

### Important

In order that full food supplies may be obtained, visitors to Blackpool and Brighton Homes *must* bring ration books in which pages G, T, L, M and K, and points pages, are complete for the weeks in question.

### From Australia

We have had the pleasure recently, of meeting at Park Crescent, Mrs. Williams, the wife of our St. Dunstaner, H. J. Williams, of Melbourne. Unfortunately, Mrs. Williams has had to return home earlier than she anticipated, as her husband is ill. We wish her a safe journey and her husband a speedy and complete recovery.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations upon their anniversaries to :—

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Meighen, of Dulwich Hill, November 9th; Mr. and Mrs. Vere Jones, Lostock Graham, December 24th; Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Pratt, Merton Park, February 12th; Mr. and Mrs. H. Dakin, of Blackpool, March 25th.

### Marriage

COWAN—LUCIONI.—On January 11th, J. C. Cowan, of Birmingham, to Miss Evelyn Marjorie Lucioni.

### Young St. Dunstaners 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.

On August 13th, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scrimgour (Middlesbrough).

Edward Milliss (Sevenoaks), on July 6th, to Miss Eleanor Mytton.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Murray (Hawick), on July 17th.

On August 27th, Winifred McCarthy (Stretford), to P/O W. D. S. Bailly.

On March 16th, Eleanor Meekin (Workington), to Adam Doggart, and on August 10th, Harry Meekin, to Miss Mary Berwick.

Jean Margaret Black (Gateshead) on September 9th, to S. Speake.

Charles Nelson (Newcastle) on August 28th, to Barbara Cash.

Robert Brignal (Brighton) on July 5th, to Joan Collier.

Arthur Stanley Owen (Liverpool) on September 21st, to Kathleen Fletcher.

Jack Boothman (Salford) to Lilian Withey, on October 26th.

Josephine Taylor (Shepshed) in October, to Joseph Kynoch.

Joyce Nash (St. Leonards-on-Sea) on September 14th, to Wilfred Felton.

Jack Simpson (Osmondthorpe) to Betty Greenop.

Yvonne Girling (Southampton) on October 15th, to Dr. Evan L. James, late R.N.V.R.

Ronald Skelly (Batley) in September.

On November 14th, Eileen Johns (Chesterfield) to Staff Sergt. William Hill.

On November 25th, Willie Martin (Bray) to Miss Kathleen Nolan.

On November 9th, Gladys Baker (Caernarvon) to L.A.C. George Benns.

### Promotion

John Perrett (Devizes), now in the Far East, to Petty Officer.

### Egg Laying Test

December 9th, 1946 to January 5th, 1947

Position	Name	Test Score
1	Gregory, T. ...	312
2	Jackson, G. ...	279
3	Fisher, T. M. ...	228
4	Holmes, Percy ...	216
5	McIntosh, Charles ...	204
6	McLaren, David ...	195
7	Jarvis, Albert ...	159
8	Chaffin, Albert ...	138
9	Smith, W. Alan ...	71
10	Watson-Brown, M. ...	65
Average per bird,		34.81.

### Ovingdean Notes

Four coaches left Ovingdean and West House for London to attend the Reunion Dance and Presentation to the Chairman on January 23rd. Unfortunately, owing to severe weather conditions, they were unable to proceed farther than Handcross Hill, where an obstruction was met, and the party had to turn back, after being on the road for nearly five hours. The men were very disappointed to miss the function.

Ovingdean is fortunate in having a standby electric light plant which has been able to maintain essential services during the times of electricity cuts. The machinery in the Workshops was affected, but the Workshops had to be abandoned for other reasons—gas heating pressures went down and made the temperature too cold, and condensation on the ceiling has not yet been overcome, so that a steady stream of drops, coupled with the very low temperature, makes it impossible to work, even without the electricity cuts. There have been some anxious moments over the fuel supplies, when the coke bunkers have on more than one occasion gone down to less than a day's supply, and the road up to Ovingdean, covered with snow, has almost stopped supplies from reaching the building.

"Bunny" Greatrex left Ovingdean on Monday last for an estate in Devon, where he is to receive extensive training in Pedigree Dairy Herd Management. The best wishes of his colleagues and the staff go with "Bunny."

Wilfrid Pickles, the well-known B.B.C. broadcaster, with a team of engineers and assistants, visited Ovingdean on Wednesday, February 5th, to make a recording for his "Have a Go" series of broadcasts. Eight trainees were interviewed at the "mike" and many bright answers were forthcoming to Mr. Pickles' questions—some so "bright" indeed, that we feel certain that they will be cut from the broadcast which will be made on the 12th or 19th March (see *Radio Times*). Norman Daniels "brought the house down," when, in reply to the question, "Who would you like to be if you had to be somebody else?" he said, "My girl-friend."

"Love from a Stranger," the play by Frank Vosper, was read before a large and attentive audience on Sunday, February 2nd. Miss Berry, in charge of Movement

Control, gave a particularly fine reading of the leading woman's part, and other parts were read by Messrs. Carter, MacDermott and Norman, and Miss Walker and Mrs. King. Miss Carlton carried her horse with her usual aplomb."

Monsieur Amblard, the Secretary-General of the French Union of Ex-Service Blinded, accompanied by his wife, paid a visit to Ovingdean on February 7th, and was impressed by the provisions that St. Dunstan's makes for our war-blinded.

"Brackley House," which since August has been the Officers' House under the able management of Miss Wilchin, will from now onwards receive the wives and escorts of trainees who come to Ovingdean for a night or two and have to be accommodated.

We have said *au revoir* to another course of nine physiotherapy students who now pass to the N.I.B. School in London.

An Australian Old War St. Dunstaner, L. E. Hoult, who is on a long visit to England with his wife, has come into Ovingdean for a short training before returning to Australia.

### Test Results

#### December—January

**Preliminary.**—J. Gannon, P. Wood, A. Cooke, J. Bailey, W. Smith, W. Chitty, T. Mackay.

**Advanced.**—W. Burns, H. Davis, R. Turner, E. Rowe, Miss S. Connor, J. Waddell (West House), J. Orrell (West House), W. Burnett (West House), D. Watkins, C. McIntosh (West House).

**Typing.**—Z. Ksiasek, B. Dobry, P. Parslow, W. Wrigley, D. Taylor, R. Scrimgour, G. Hewett, R. Cole, T. Horne, E. Walker, D. Grimes.

**Writing.**—R. Owen, H. Davis, A. H. Brown, A. Hold, D. Watkins, R. Turner, R. Herbert, E. Rowe, W. Freeman, R. Craddock, R. Pope, S. Warner.

### Braille Review

We must apologise to our readers for the non-arrival of the January REVIEW in braille and the possible hold-up in the despatch of the February issue. Unfortunately, the supply of zinc, ordered by the braille printers at Craigmillar Park, Edinburgh, has not yet come to hand and their stock is completely exhausted. Both REVIEWS will be dispatched immediately it is possible for them to be set up.

### Births

**DALEY.**—On January 24th, to the wife of J. Daley, of Liverpool, a daughter, Hester Mary.

**FROST.**—On January 5th, to the wife of H. Frost, of Liverpool, a son, Arthur John.

**GOLDING.**—On January 13th, to the wife of M. Golding, of Kentish Town, a daughter, Shirley.

**INCE.**—On January 29th, to the wife of J. Ince, of Leicester, a son, John Robert.

**JETSON.**—To the wife of Stoker Jetson, of Australia, now in this country for hospital treatment, a son.

**MCCARTNEY.**—We hear with deep regret that a baby born to Mr. and Mrs. H. McCartney, of Belfast, was still-born.

**TODD.**—On January 9th, to the wife of P. Todd, of Shrewsbury, a son, Robert Edward.

**WHYTE.**—To the wife of F. Whyte, of Cleland, Lanarkshire (trainee), on January 8th, a daughter—Julia.

### My Bird Song Symphony

The red sun rises o'er the Hill  
There's a stirring in the rippling rill,  
A rustle from the young brier bush  
A limpid note from throat of thrush;  
Midst the rustling of the leaves  
From the bush, from the caves  
I hear the sparrows pert chirrup  
Wake up my feathered friends, wake up;  
Then from the hedgerow and the tree  
I hear my bird song symphony.

They sing so sweet throughout the day  
The woodpecker beats the time,  
The skylark as it wends its way  
Up to that sunnier clime;  
While linnets, chaffinch with all their zest  
Sing to me out their nests,  
Nothing in all the world to me  
So sweet as my bird symphony.

And as the evening shadows fall  
The sun sinks in the west,  
I hear the parent birds recall  
Their young ones to the nest;  
And all too soon is quiet and peace  
Oh why should bird songs ever cease;  
I'm sure those birds sing just for me  
Their glorious bird song symphony.

As night clouds gather in the sky  
From the tree I hear a lullaby,  
Music not by Brahms or Liszt  
The blackbird is the soloist,  
He sings that lullaby to me  
And ends my bird song symphony.

GEN.

### Sir Arnold Lawson

St. Dunstaners will hear with the deepest regret of the death of Sir Arnold Lawson which occurred on January 19th. Sir Arnold was 79.

During the first world war, Mr. Lawson, as he then was, was Sir Arthur Pearson's principal ophthalmic adviser. He became senior ophthalmic surgeon at St. Dunstan's and he remained chairman of its Ophthalmic Advisory Committee until his death.

Sir Arnold Lawson was a very warm-hearted man as well as an eminent surgeon and St. Dunstan's benefited greatly by his long period of service and wise advice. He had the gift of conveying comfort and encouragement to his patients even when he could not give them the hope that they sought and when it was better for the patient's recovery to know the facts, Sir Arnold told them—and was rewarded with their utmost confidence. Until a few weeks before his death, he was still seeing some of his old St. Dunstaner patients from the First War. They, and hundreds of blinded soldiers all over the world, will mourn his passing and feel that they have lost a real friend.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser and Mr. Askew attended the funeral service which was held at All Saints', Margaret Street, London, W.1, on January 23rd.

### Mr. Edwin Fisher

St. Dunstan's has suffered a further grievous loss in the death of Mr. Edwin Fisher, who became Honorary Treasurer of St. Dunstan's in September, 1939.

As Chairman of Barclay's Bank, Mr. Fisher brought a vast knowledge of finance to St. Dunstan's affairs and his wise advice on investment policy and financial matters generally was of the utmost value to the Council. He was a man who always wanted to know how a financial scheme would effect the individual. By his death, St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's lose an honorary officer who brought great prestige as well as practical help to our own organisation during the critical war years.

Lady Fraser represented the Chairman, and Mr. W. G. Askew, the Council, at the funeral which took place in Sussex, and Lady (Arthur) Pearson and Sir Neville Pearson represented St. Dunstan's at a Memorial Service which was held in the City of London.

## "In Memory"

### Driver George Lilley, 1st West Yorks. Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of G. Lilley, of Acocks Green, Birmingham. Lilley was an old soldier who served with his regiment from 1898 until December, 1914, when he was wounded in France; as a result he lost his sight and his health was permanently affected. He was trained as a poultry farmer, but he could not continue and for many years he was only able to do light basket-making as a hobby.

He passed away in hospital on December 9th. Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

### Driver William Spencer, Royal Army Service Corps

With deep regret we record the death of "Billy" Spencer, which occurred at West House, Brighton, on December 14th.

Billy was a great favourite and a true St. Dunstan's "character." He served in the Army from October 1914, until his discharge in April, 1919, and when he came to us shortly afterwards, he was a very sick man and was never able to undertake serious training.

It was necessary for him to have various periods at the Home and when his wife died in 1936, he was admitted as a permanent Annexe case. He was ill for a very long time before his death.

Many friends from West House attended with Matron at the funeral at Brighton Cemetery, where he was buried among his St. Dunstan comrades.

### C.Q.M.S. Cyril Reginald Houghton, 7th King's Liverpool Regt.

We record with deep regret the death of C. R. Houghton, of Sheffield.

During his service from January, 1915, until February, 1919, he was very badly gassed, but he did not come under St. Dunstan's care until 1938. He was then in very bad health and he was forced to give up his work, which was of an administrative nature, some time before his death. He was 53.

Cremation took place in Sheffield City Road Crematorium, where the mourners included representatives of Sheffield Social Welfare Department.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Houghton and her son, Brian.

### Private Samuel Shawl, 65th Canadian Expeditionary Force

With deep regret we record the death of S. Shawl, of Rayleigh, Essex. He was eighty years of age. At an early age he had gone to Canada and when the 1914-1918 war broke out, he left the Canadian Mounted Police to enlist with the Canadian Army. In 1916 he was blinded at Ypres and he came to St. Dunstan's soon afterwards. For some time he kept poultry, but his health has never been good. He passed away on January 20th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife in her loss.

### Private Harry Thomas Mummery, 1st Northumberland Fusiliers

With deep regret we record the death of H. T. Mummery, of Saffron Walden, on January 20th.

He received his injuries in Malta and he came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1919, where he was trained in mat-making and netting. His wife died in 1942. Her loss was a great shock to him and his health had never really recovered.

He leaves a grown up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### Rifleman Sidney Charles Mackey, Queen's Westminster Rifles

It is with deep regret that we record the death of S. C. Mackey, of East Dulwich, one of our best known physiotherapists. He died on January 13th, after a long illness.

Wounded at Neuville, he came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1917, and was trained as a masseur. A fine sportsman before he lost his sight, he was an enthusiastic supporter of Surrey Cricket Club and Charlton Football Club and he numbered among his friends and clientele many well-known cricketers and football players. He was masseur to Dulwich Football Club for many years. He was also a prominent Freemason.

The cremation at Streatham Park Crematorium was attended by hundreds of friends, including Leslie Todd, the cricketer, and representatives of a number of Lodges and Clubs. Mr. Mace represented St. Dunstan's.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and son, who has recently been demobilised from his father's old regiment, the Queen's Westminster Rifles.

### Sapper Frederick George Bishop, 1st Field Artillery

With deep regret we record the death of one of our trainees, F. G. Bishop, of New Southgate.

He was severely wounded in Italy in 1945, and he came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1946. He was, however, only able to undertake light training.

He passed away in hospital, leaving parents and brothers, to whom our deepest sympathy is extended.

## Deaths

We extend our deep sympathy this month to the following:

**HORSLEY.**—To R. W. Horsley, of Brighton, whose wife passed peacefully away on January 7th.

**NICOL.**—To D. Nicol, of Edinburgh,

whose wife passed away, after a very long illness, on February 4th.

★ ★ ★

"Bob" Horsley writes:—"Many thanks to my comrades of St. Dunstan's, and their wives, and all my friends at Blackpool, West House, Ovingdean and Headquarters for their kind help and sympathy. God bless you all!"