

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 338—VOLUME XXX [NEW SERIES] APRIL, 1947

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

ST. DUNSTAN'S has been an active going concern for thirty-two years. It was founded in the early years of the First World War and many of the staff joined us then and in the year or two following. The passage of time and the advent of the Second War have naturally brought us to a period when staff changes were to be expected, and I mentioned some of them in my January Notes.

Two important changes are reported on another page, namely, the transfer of Mr. Harry Bennett from his war-time job back to the charge of what we used to call "Raglan Street" (which was the supply and sales service to nearly one thousand of the First World War men), and the appointment of Mr. Pat Owens to a new post covering what might broadly be termed technical after-care.

Harry Bennett joined the staff of St. Dunstan's in February, 1923, as a salesman, quickly rose to be Sales Manager, then found himself in charge of all our activities at Raglan Street, and when the Second War came, took over many additional duties, including the very difficult work of placing men in appointments and industrial posts. He brought great energy and initiative to surveying British industry on a national scale, and was responsible not only for laying the lines of this important work, but also for all our placements up to the present time. Speaking about the employment of disabled persons generally in the House of Commons the other day, I was able to say that 351 St. Dunstaners of the Second War had been trained and settled, and that of these about 10 per cent. were unable, through various causes, such as ill-health, exceptional wounds, etc., to undertake active work, a further 10 per cent. were in home industries, while 80 per cent. had gone to the professions, commerce, industry, poultry-farming, or other special jobs. A magnificent record not surpassed by any other group of severely disabled men. Harry Bennett and his staff were responsible for the majority of these settlements.

His relinquishment of this job on account of seniority and also because we want him, with his great experience, to rebuild our home industry activities, is a good opportunity to express our gratitude to him for all the splendid and thoughtful services he has rendered St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners.

Pat Owens, who takes over Placement and the other duties defined on another page, is a St. Dunstaner who has recovered a little bit of vision, but who also has a leg missing. He has been appointed not only because he is an extremely capable man, but also because, being a St. Dunstaner himself, and having the additional handicap of an artificial limb, he should understand our men's problems better than others. This appointment follows a practice, which I have observed over a long period of time, of trying to bring into our

organisation a small number of suitable St. Dunstaners in administrative, executive and other positions, where their ability warrants it and their experience will be a help. Pat Owens is 35 years of age, and in his earlier years was a regular Royal Engineer, rising from the ranks to the post of Regimental Sergeant Major. When the Second War came he was commissioned in the Royal Engineers, and he thus has a broad experience of every kind of Army life as well as a technical background. He will go to some of the reunions later in the year to make personal contacts with St. Dunstaners.

IAN FRASER.

Mrs. Attlee Visits St. Dunstan's

On March 31st Mrs. Attlee, wife of the Prime Minister, motored down to St. Dunstan's Training Centre, at Ovingdean, and, accompanied by Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, visited the trainees at work. She talked to many of the men at work on their lathes and other machines and, through Sir Ian, who tapped out the message in the manual alphabet, said to Wally Thomas, who is also deaf, "The Prime Minister wishes you good luck." After luncheon with Lady (Arthur) Pearson and Matron Pain, Mrs. Attlee was taken by the Commandant to the preliminary handicraft training section.

A Message from H.R.H. Princess Katherine of Greece

When the engagement was announced of Princess Katherine of Greece to Major R. Brandram, M.C., Miss Hester Pease wrote a letter of good wishes to Her Royal Highness expressing also the good wishes of the men of Tembani where the Princess was a valued and popular visitor.

Miss Pease has now received the following letter from Princess Katherine:

PALAIS ROYAL, ATHENS.

MY DEAR MISS PEASE,

Many thanks for your very nice letter and wishes for my engagement. It was so kind of you to have thought of me. I so often look back at those nice days at Tembani and all the "boys" and how happy you all made them. When I do come to England with my husband, I shall let you know, as I would so much like to see you again, and also, if possible, see some of the "boys" with you. I shall be getting married on April 21st, and am very busy seeing to a lot of things. Thanking you again so much and please give my love to the boys, whoever you see of them and tell them that I so often think of them.

Yours sincerely,

KATHERINE.

The March Floods

Relatively few St. Dunstaners were affected by the floods which covered many parts of the country in March, but among those to whom our sympathy is extended is J. Lynch, of Hornchurch, one of our shopkeepers, who lost a considerable part of his tobacco and confectionery stock when water from a blocked sewer twice flooded his premises to a depth of several inches.

Len Ellaway, of Monmouth, reported 3ft. 6in. of water downstairs, with outside helpers bringing food in boats. He said: "The piano we put up on an orange box but it was not high enough, the water just about reached the keys; there is a lot of oil floating around on the water so I dread to think what things will be like when it goes. I do not know what my workshop is like; all I can say is that it is still there, and I guess that a lot of the willows will be already soaked."

In York, around H. Scaife's home, the roads were flooded for miles, but our St. Dunstaner and his brother rode through it daily on their tandem on their way to work. His own house, being on a hill, was not in danger. Master Scaife, in common with all the other small boys of York, had the time of his life in this watery Paradise.

Bridal Outfits

A limited number of white and cream bridal outfits of different sizes and styles are available on loan to prospective brides of St. Dunstaners or girl St. Dunstaners about to marry. The dresses are of good quality silks and satins, and veils and headdresses are available to go with them. Veils and headdresses may be borrowed separately if required. One or two pairs of shoes are also available.

Application for the loan of a wedding outfit must be made on a form which has been prepared for the purpose, and is obtainable from Matron Pain, St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, Brighton.

St. Dunstan's Holiday Camps with the Navy

Provisional Dates:

July 5th to 12th.

August 29th to September 5th.

Camp Fee, £1. Fares over first 15s. repaid. No ration books required.

Beds are limited and there may be a draw. Please write before Saturday, May 3rd, without fail. Directly after the draw I will let everyone who has entered know their luck. Accommodation will be in the Main Barracks at Lee this year—two minutes' walk from the front and the swimming bath. The various Messes are again to provide evening entertainment. I expect we shall get a trip in an Air Sea Rescue Boat, and a visit to the aerodrome to inspect planes. Please write at once to Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Titchfield, Fareham, Hants. (Tel. Titchfield 24).

"Whereas We Two Were Blind But Became World Champions"

By the way, "we" signifies a banana eater and a yellow belly, *i.e.*, Queenslander and Lincolnshireman.

Oyez! Oyez!! Oyez!!!

I, Edward Richard Blackmore, of Brisbane, in the State of Queensland, temporarily resident in England, possessed of sound mind, no sight, and a good left forefinger and thumb, do hereby claim championship in my class upon my typewriter.

I, Geoffrey Arthur Preston, of no fixed abode, possessed of no sense, no vision, and no useful fingers, do hereby claim precedence over all men in the operation of my typewriter with one metal finger.

If any man doubts the validity of our claim to world championship, he is hereby challenged to enter upon a contest for speed and accuracy, under similar conditions, on consideration of a "pony."

Braille Test Results

Avenue Road

Preliminary—George Reed, Ted Blackmore, Stanislas Sosabowski (amended notice—last month's result was given as "Advanced.")

Writing—Stanislas Sosabowskil.

Derby Sweepstake, 1947

Once again we invite applications for tickets in the REVIEW's own Derby Sweepstake which is open only to St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees.

Tickets will again be 2s. 6d. each and applications for them can be made at once and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 23rd**. Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 9-11 Park Crescent, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered.

The total amount of the money subscribed, after the cost of printing and postage has been deducted, will be distributed as follows:

- 50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.
- 20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.
- 10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.
- 20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

Handless St. Dunstaner Works as a Guide

Ted Miller, who lost his hands and his sight while serving in Holland, is now working as a guide at Warwick Castle. To enable him to acquire a knowledge of the layout of the Castle and its surroundings, a model was constructed while he was at our Training Centre on which all the buildings and special features could be distinguished by touch from the elbow. Trees were represented by pieces of sponge, lawns by cloth, the River Avon by a strip of cycle tyre rubber. Later he was given a three-months intensive course by two tutors in the history of the Castle. Lord Warwick has taken a personal interest in his case.

Honour

Congratulations to Mrs. Maureen Lees, now in training, who has received the T.A. Proficiency Medal for her services in the A.T.S.

Constant Attendance Allowance

Some little time back the Government agreed that, in very exceptional cases, they would award a special Constant Attendance Allowance at the rate of 40s. a week. This special rate was intended for cases of the most severe disablement, such as, for example, the complete loss of all sight and both hands, and affected but very few St. Dunstaners. It did, however, give us an opening to suggest to the Ministry of Pensions that an all-round adjustment should be made in the award of the Constant Attendance Allowance to blinded pensioners.

The Ministry dealt with the matter sympathetically, and I am pleased to say have agreed, as from the first pay-day in this month, to raise the Constant Attendance Allowance for total blindness from 10s. a week to 20s. a week. In addition, they have agreed to give a Constant Attendance Allowance at the rate of 10s. a week to those St. Dunstaners who are pensioned at the 100 per cent. rate and who have not more than guiding vision.

The individual cases are being dealt with by the Ministry on recommendations from St. Dunstan's, and a certain number of St. Dunstaners will have already received notification from Mr. Banks either that we have recommended an increase in their allowance from 10s., 12s. 6d. or 15s., to 20s. a week, or in cases where the Allowance was not previously in issue have recommended the grant of 10s. a week.

We have dealt with the simplest cases first and it will take us some time to complete our enquiries and deal with all the outstanding cases. Perhaps those men who have not heard from Mr. Banks will be patient and will not write to him or to me. Every case will be dealt with in time, and those who are entitled to anything extra will receive payment as from the 2nd April, 1947.

St. Dunstaners will appreciate that the full Attendance Allowance given under the Royal Warrant is still 20s. a week, and that the 40s. a week is only for very exceptional cases. As the result of this it is not possible for the Ministry to award any additional amount beyond the 20s. to those St. Dunstaners who, in addition to total blindness, have other disabilities, such as the loss of an arm or a leg, a missing finger

or two, or some degree of deafness. These St. Dunstaners will receive from the Ministry the same Allowance as is given to other St. Dunstaners whose only disability is total blindness.

It is not possible, in view of the terms of the Royal Warrant, for St. Dunstan's to obtain from the Ministry any increase for these men, and we have therefore decided that where, in addition to total blindness, the St. Dunstaner has other disabilities caused by his War Service, we will add 5s. or 10s. a week, as the case may be, to his Attendance Allowance by the issue to him of the extra amount out of our Pensions Fund.

Those St. Dunstaners who, because they are in receipt of less than the 100 per cent. Government Pension, are compensated under the Workmen's Compensation Acts or, in the case of 1914-18 men, are not receiving any Government Pension, are in most cases already receiving the Constant Attendance Allowance from St. Dunstan's. These cases will all be reconsidered in the light of the new regulations and, where appropriate, the Allowance will be increased to accord with the amount to which they would have been entitled had they been pensioned by the Government. Those St. Dunstaners who are not in receipt of any Attendance Allowance will also have their cases reviewed to see if they are now eligible for the 10s. a week rate given to men with guiding vision.

This will all take time, but here again arrears will be paid out of our Pensions Fund, with effect from April 2nd.

W. ASKEW.

St. Dunstaners Have a Go

From all parts of the country, letters of congratulation have come to St. Dunstan's and to Wilfred Pickles on the recent broadcast at the Ovingdean Home. One Scottish listener wrote to the *Glasgow Evening News*, "Thanks, St. Dunstan's Quiz Team, and Wilfred Pickles, for the opportunity of hearing these grand people," and enclosed a gift of a pound. Another listener, Mrs. Josey, of Tilehurst, also enclosing a gift, wrote: "Dear Chaps—in appreciation of—to me—the finest and happiest half-hour on the radio since the electricity cut. You chaps don't want sympathy—it's we who do. You've got something we haven't."

Ovingdean Notes

Among the visitors to Ovingdean this month we have been honoured with a visit from Mrs. Attlee, wife of the Prime Minister, and Mr. W. J. Jordan, High Commissioner for New Zealand.

We have had an interesting demonstration from four German subjects, who were brought to this country specially for demonstration purposes, and stayed a week-end at Ovingdean. The demonstration was specially staged, as it is of interest to our handless St. Dunstaners, and to a less degree to the one-handed men with amputations below the elbow. Two of the Germans have been operated upon so as to divide the two bones of the forearm into two long fingers, and they were able to demonstrate that by this means they are able to do many things which are not possible with an ordinary stump. The other two Germans had, by means of an operation, a hole placed through the muscles of the forearm, through which an ivory peg had been inserted so as to provide an attachment as a motive point, actuated by the muscles themselves. With these motive points, the subject is able to operate the thumb and finger of an artificial hand attachment. The demonstration was impressive, but it is yet early to say whether a blind amputee could regard it as an advantage, taking into consideration all the pros and cons.

On Wednesday, March 26th, Mr. George Harrison, Sporting Columnist of the *News of the World*, led a "Sports Brains Trust" at Ovingdean to entertain the Trainees. For over an hour, Mr. Harrison, Jimmy Wilde (ex-Featherweight Champion of the World), Joe Binks (ex-Mile Record holder), and Charles Barnett, who holds the Number 1 Referee's Licence of the Boxing Board Control, told of their experiences in the world of sport, answering numerous questions. The show was an immense success, and Mr. Harrison and his colleagues promised to pay a return visit soon.

On March 31st, Mr. Joe Baksi paid a visit to us, accompanied by his trainer and Mr. Bill Sinclair, the well-known local sporting promoter—to give an invigorating talk and discussion on "Boxing," which produced a large audience.

Five trainees spent an enjoyable day at the House of Commons on Friday, March 21st, listening to the debates of the day. Major Tufton Beamish, M.P. for East Sussex, was one of the speakers.

Mrs. Joseph Child, of the Cultural Relations Office, American Embassy, also visited us on March 25th, to give a talk on "America and its Post-War Problems."

A delightful evening was enjoyed by the trainees and their partners on Wednesday, March 12th, when the Grocers' Association gave a Tea and Dance at the King Alfred Hotel, Hove. The excellent band and floor were greatly appreciated, plus refreshments—obtainable throughout the evening.

A dinner and dance was given at the Savoy Cafe on Saturday, March 15th, by Mr. Cheesman—the second time that he had entertained trainees during their "off training periods," and undoubtedly enjoyed.

On Thursday, March 20th, forty trainees and their partners were invited to a dance at Sherry's, to take part in a dancing competition, specially arranged for St. Dunstan's only. The competitors danced a waltz, fox-trot, and quick-step, which were judged by Sherry's own dancing instructor. The winners of the first prize (two silver cups) were H. Foster and his wife, E. Bedford and his partner (second), H. Frost and his partner (third).

At the "Creamery," Rottingdean, on Wednesday, March 26th, thirty of the trainees and staff entertained Miss Goodall (Pensions Office) and Reg. Turner (Physiotherapy Student), who are being married on April 9th. Matron acted as Hostess and presented the cheque, which was a joint gift from the trainees and staff. Miss MacAndrew kindly provided carnations and snowdrops for everyone, greatly adding to the gaiety of the scene.

End of Term Concert

The term at Ovingdean ended with one of the finest concerts St. Dunstan's has ever produced. "Easter Carnival," presented on Thursday and Friday, March 27th and 28th, brought in some old favourites and revealed some grand new talent. The programme included guest artists, Beryl Sleigh and Ron Smith, the Brytonics, St. Dunstan's Orchestra, and its Accordion Orchestra, our novelty instrumentalists,

Eric Howarth (trumpet) and Dick Brett (trombone), with only eight weeks' music instruction, George Hewitt (saxophone) with twelve weeks, and Les Halliday (accordion). Zofia Ksiazek gave a mimed comedy contribution and a beautifully spoken extract from Clemence Dane's play, "Will Shakespeare." But the highlight of the evening was a sketch featuring the Commandant and his secretary, Marjorie Wheaton, which showed the inner workings of that sacred sanctum, the "Com.'s Office." Our Padre, the Rev. Bryant Crane, acted as compere to a riotous evening's entertainment.

Press Cuttings

From the *News of the World*, March 30th, by Sporting Correspondent, George Harrison:

"I had Joe Binks and Jimmy Wilde down at the Ovingdean Home with me during the week and we talked to those grand blokes for an hour on sport. But I figure we learned more than we taught. For example, they have the toughest relay races in the world. For straight stretches of up to 100 yards a lap. A gun starts the runner off and simultaneously a klaxon horn at the far end of the lap opens up. The boy runs, guided in a straight line by the sound of the horn. His second lap runner is on the mark—so they go on, full out every inch of the way. Some years ago, Harold Abrahams, our Olympic sprinter, took on a St. Dunstan's man in a race over 100 yards, which was Harold's distance. The conditions were that Abrahams ran blindfolded. He was beaten 15 yards, as I recall it."

From the *Northern Dispatch*, Darlington:

Joe Baksi, the American boxer, who is training at Brighton for his meeting with Bruce Woodcock, spent an afternoon with the trainees at St. Dunstan's training centre, Ovingdean. Joe visited the gym and demonstrated with the gloves and the punch ball. Then he watched the various phases of training and said, "It's a tonic to watch those boys learning their stuff; it has made me forget almost the particular job I have in hand."

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor.

DEAR SIR,

This is a true story.

A totally deaf-blind man was left in his flat alone. His wife had gone shopping and, as was usual, had left the key on a string in the lock. The man became aware that someone was shouting at him by the warm breath he felt at the side of his head. He put out his hand, felt what he thought was an Army coat, and said that he was deaf-blind. He took out a manual alphabet card from his pocket and held out his hand for communication. He realised that a piece of coal was put in his hand. This was the quick way the coalman was able to tell him that, in spite of such a great handicap, his material wants, at least in the way of warmth, were being provided. Rather a nice thought, I think. Don't you?

Streatham. Yours sincerely, W. T. SCOTT.

This letter receives a prize of one guinea.

Jury Service

To the Editor.

DEAR SIR,

I was interested to read of the evidence given by Sir Ian and Squadron Leader Curtis-Willson before a Royal Commission on Justices of the Peace. I should like to know whether blindness precludes a person from having his name entered on the roll of jurors and being called upon to act as a jurymen.

If there have been blind J.P.'s, I take it there is nothing to prevent a blind man serving on a jury, but I would be glad if you would kindly confirm the point.

Bristol. Yours sincerely, ROBERT SLATTER.

The Editor writes: A blind person is not eligible to sit on a jury. "Whitaker's Almanack" gives a number of disqualifications, which includes "... deaf or blind persons ..." while among the exemptions are peers, members of both Houses of Parliament, and a number of other professional and official categories.

Grandfathers

R. Paterson, of Thirsk; E. Denny, of Pretoria—his son, Terence's wife, had a son on February 5th. Our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith, of Nottingham, whose little grand-daughter, born on February 25th, only lived a short while.

Other News

During the past two months, the B.B.C. has broadcast talks on St. Dunstan's to Russia (twice), Arabia, and South America.

L. Johns, of Totnes, has aroused much local interest by talks on St. Dunstan's to branches of Toc H.

The *Daily Mirror* of March 22nd, had a picture of Rex Cole and his partner, Priscilla Russell, as competitors in a recent Brighton dance contest. The previous competition had been won by Alfred Dodson with Rex as the runner-up.

After giving commentaries of Leeds United home matches to Ernest Russell, an office colleague, Mr. John Fraser, is obtaining a microphone, earphones and other apparatus, so that other blind football enthusiasts can listen.

Liverpool Corporation Baths Committee is to spend £500 for a special ticket-issuing machine to be operated by G. Hewett, who was formerly deputy-superintendent at Stebble Street Baths. He is now being trained to operate such a machine.

Congratulations to J. R. Lynch, B.E.M., of Ruislip, telephonist, who celebrated his twenty-fifth year of service with Shell-Mex and B.P. on February 13th.

Thirty Years Ago

From "St. Dunstan's Review," April, 1917:

Monday, March 26th, was the second anniversary of the opening of St. Dunstan's. Those who were on the staff at the start—there are only five of them, apart from Sir Arthur himself—may well wonder at the changes that have taken place in those two years. There were less than twenty blinded soldiers then, and St. Dunstan's was like a half-empty palace. Now it is more like a railway station on a Bank Holiday. Let us all hope that another anniversary will see the Hostel at the end of the necessity for its usefulness!

Sir Arthur Pearson called all the men together on the afternoon of March 2nd to hear him explain the new pension scheme. There was a big gathering of old boys resident in London, and many and varied were the queries that he was called upon to satisfy. It was a useful gathering, and those who went away without understanding all about it had only themselves to blame.

"Reader's Digest"

Recipients of the *Reader's Digest* are asked by the American Printing House of New York from time to time if they wish to continue receiving this popular magazine. Will all readers make a special note that, as the result of a special arrangement, when they receive such a letter in future it should be sent to Horace Kerr, at Headquarters, who will deal with all applications. Readers should, of course, say whether they still wish to receive the *Digest*.

Placements

S. R. Jones, Cricklewood, on assembly, with Messrs. S. Smith & Sons, Ltd.; A. F. Cooke, Hereford, with Messrs. J. Burton and Sons, Ltd. (Model Bakery), Hereford, on bakery work; S. Foyle, Oxhey, as a newspaper vendor, at St. Alban's; F. Bentley, Birmingham, with Wolsley Motors, Ltd., Birmingham, on inspection.

Desert Song

Out in the desert
Only bites and blisters,
You want to come to West House
And meet the lovely Sisters.

Out in the desert
Feeling really lousy,
You want to come to West House
And meet dear Matron Ouseley.

Out in the desert
Living in the gutter,
You want to come to West House
What! Eggs, milk and butter!?"

Out in the desert
I saw some lovely legs,
Not so good as West House
With its ham and eggs!

Out in the desert
Digging hard for gold,
You want to come to West House,
The place for young and old.

Out in the desert
Working on a 'drome,
You want to come to West House,
It's really home from home.

Out in the desert,
It really is a size.
I hope when St. D's. reads my verse
I'll win a guinea prize.

WALLY THOMAS,

West House.

(And he has.—ED.)

From the Chairman's Post Bag

DEAR SIR IAN,

As a member of the Deaf-Blind Helpers League, may I thank you for the practical help and sympathy you are showing to the special difficulties confronting these men. In the wider field, embracing men and women, I have found that a large number are inclined to be older than the average St. Dunstaner. The fund for watches has been a great boon to them. I hope our fellows will continue to support it. This fund is at least one way in which we may show our desire to help.

With regard to your suggestion about apparatus, may I suggest that the better way for us to get these folk into a conversation with more than two persons is for one to act as interpreter. It must be borne in mind that the deaf-blind in any case can only use their one pair of hands, whether for reading braille or for the paw-jaw. If the interpreter will speak out what he is paw-jawing at the same time, then the other members of the party know how the conversation is going and can hear the replies of the deaf-blind. It is better to have the one person doing the interpreting. This requires a little practice. It should be the aim of as many as possible to be prepared to act as interpreters. Then the great thing will have happened, the deaf-blind will realise that he has many friends about him, a clap of the hands will bring intelligent aid. Nothing thing is that when any interpreter is paw-jawing, he should make it his business to see that, if he breaks contact, someone else is ready and willing to carry on the good work. Further, may I suggest that at our various establishments we have displayed in a prominent position a card of the paw-jaw, so that any sighted friends may become aware that such things are necessary.

Yours sincerely,

W. T. SCOTT.

Streatham, S.W.16.

Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow

This is the success story of one of our St. Dunstan's shop-keepers of the 1914—1918 war. With so many new war men just beginning their own shop-keeping careers, we print it as an example and encouragement to them, for it is typical of the grit and perseverance of all our 1914—1918 shop-keepers.

Starting in 1928, he opened as a tobacconist, confectioner and general grocer, with a stock amounting to only £27, and a small working capital. He was determined to give his customers service equal to the larger shops.

His business grew steadily. He had to add to his staff and equipment. Orders were obtained from boarding houses, etc., which meant the purchase of a van for deliveries. A "frig." became an essential part of his equipment, also a cash register, automatic scales, bacon slicer, etc.

For sixteen years the shop was rented, but in 1944, during the worst part of the bombing period, the owner decided to dispose of the freehold and property, which our St. Dunstaner purchased.

It has been apparent for some time that extensions would have to be carried out to cope with the increasing trade. This is now being put into effect, and structural alterations are well under way.

There are nearly 500 registered customers, together with a very large passing trade. The shop was to be closed for one week while alterations were carried out, and two weeks' rations were given to all customers. The severe weather, however, has accounted for the one week developing into ten, trade having been carried on from the store room at the back, and customers served from a counter at the side entrance. In spite of this upheaval, rations have been given out, and all customers have been satisfied with their requirements.

A local Food Inspector has stated that his knowledge of rationing is far greater than many sighted shopkeepers. They have yet to find a discrepancy in his returns.

When asked if he had any advice to give prospective shopkeepers, he merely said: "Study your customers, serve them well, and they will tell their friends." J. H. B.

National Laying Test

Report for the fifth period of four weeks,
(February 3rd to March 2nd, 1947)

Position	Name	Test Score
1.	Gregory, T.	480
2.	Jackson, G.	454
3.	Holmes, P.	415
4.	Fisher, T. M.	402
5.	McIntosh, C.	384
6.	McLaren, D.	381
7.	Jarvis, A.	362
8.	Chaffin, A.	285
9.	Smith, W. Alan	223
10.	Watson-Brown, M.	182

Average per bird, 67.59 to date

West House Notes

Last month a cheque for £1,000 was presented to St. Dunstan's at West House by the Brighton, Hove and District Butchers' Association. Lady (Arthur) Pearson accepted the cheque on behalf of St. Dunstan's, and, as always, found time to stay on and chat with some of the men after the ceremony.

We were also happy to welcome Dougie Frith, Joe Carney, Tommy Gaygan, Danny Gallagher, Eric Foster and Stan Heys, who have joined Wally Thomas in representing the New War lads at West House. They came to us in February.

Another visit from Brighton College Boys' Choir to the Chapel Service, on March 2nd, was welcomed, and we all enjoyed the hymns they sang.

This month we have had two play readings from the Staff. The first, on the 9th, was called "Rescue," and the readers were Sisters Carter, Chaddock, Melbourne, and Orderly Webster. On the 16th there was the comedy "She was No Lady," which was read by Sisters Melbourne, Chaddock and Pocock.

Another grand evening was arranged for us by our friends of the Brighton and Hove Grocers Association, on March 12th. Many St. Dunstaners will remember the Grocers' Party of old, and we can assure you that this one was well up to their usual high standard, and the hospitality as warm as ever. There were a number of wonderful prizes, and among the lucky prize winners was Tommy Gaygan (West House); his prize was awarded in the Waltz Competition.

There were our usual Domino and Darts Matches and the Friday Night Dances, and a Whist Drive on the 20th.

In the Lounge on March 6th we held a "Brains Trust," and our team consisted of Messrs. J. Penfold, R. McNeil, L. Bunker and W. Curtis-Willson. Councillor Nicholls was the Question Master and the evening was a great success.

During the week that "Arsenic and Old Lace" was playing in Brighton, Nicholas Parsons, whom we had last seen when he was appearing in "The Hasty Heart," last November, came back to West House one afternoon and brought some of the members of the cast with him. The two "Aunties" in the play immediately won the hearts of

all men, and we were most grateful to them for coming to see us.

The Brighton and Hove Musical Club, who have not visited us for some time, gave us a Concert on the 27th March. They gallantly came in the most appalling weather conditions, for here, as everywhere, it has been somewhat damp this month!

Staff Notice

Mr. H. Bennett will be relinquishing the position of Industrial Director and handing over to Mr. P. Owens the responsibility for placement and after-care of shopkeepers, telephone operators, and men employed in factories and similar jobs. Mr. G. E. C. Zipfel, who has been with St. Dunstan's for twenty-seven years, has been acting as Assistant to Mr. Bennett. He has acquired much knowledge in connection with the work and will continue to act in that capacity to Mr. Owens.

Mr. Bennett will assume responsibility for the control of all matters in connection with the Stores, the purchase and supply of raw materials, and the sale of finished articles, technical visiting, etc., of men following home industry occupations (i.e., joiners, basket-makers, mat-makers, boot repairers, and boot repair depots, netters, wool rug makers, and leather workers). Mr. Doughty continuing his present duties under Mr. Bennett.

Points from Letters

"I found the paragraph, 'Thirty Years Ago,' in the February REVIEW particularly amusing. Mr. C. E. Rose edited the REVIEW in those days, and he needed little imagination to know what happened in the 'Lion's Den' after the debate on Boteler's suggestion that the A.S.C. was the most important section of the Forces."

J. E. DAVIES, Llandyssul.

"The reading of Braille gives me more pleasure than listening to my talking book. It may be because in listening to a good reader one is carried into the depths of the story just a little too much, whereas when reading Braille you make your own picture in your mind. A happy new year to all St. Dunstaners."

W. MORTON.

Mount Lawley, West Australia.

Reunions at Manchester and Sheffield

Sir Ian Fraser addressed a big Reunion of St. Dunstaners at the Tudor Restaurant, Belle Vue, Manchester, on April 11th, when he and Lady Fraser attended the second of the 1947 meetings.

Points from Sir Ian's speech were:—

"I much hope that as many St. Dunstaners as possible will come to our Reunions, and I am glad to see such a big turn-out here at Manchester. It is very difficult to get rooms and food, and we cannot always arrange Reunions on a Saturday; indeed, this is the most difficult day of all. If, therefore, Reunions take place on week-days, as many of them will, I hope very much that men who are working in factories and businesses will try and get a few hours off, even if they have to make it up at some other time. I particularly want St. Dunstaners old and new to meet together and form one strong brotherhood, irrespective of age or occupation." (Applause.)

"The residential accommodation at No. 8 Park Crescent, which is provided for men passing through London on their way to Brighton, or if they are coming up to talk business with us, has proved a great success; we shall make a permanent feature of it at our new Headquarters, where there will also be a much more active club, so that London men and those passing through London can meet each other.

"During the war years, St. Dunstan's, with the most valuable help from the British Legion, has secured many pensions and allowance concessions. The unemployable allowance and the married and children's allowance were most notable, and quite recently we have secured from the Minister of Pensions a valuable new concession in relation to attendant allowances, of which particulars will be given in the REVIEW. This means that many St. Dunstaners' attendance allowances will be raised from 10s. to £1 a week, while a number of those who had not received an attendance allowance in the past will now receive 10s. a week. (Applause.)

"We are still pressing for the raising of the flat rate basic pension, which was related to the cost of living. No notable advance in this has been made since 1919. This mainly affects men who are in full-time employment, for others receive the unemployable allowance, but even those in full-time employment suffer from a severe disability which will handicap them always. They work under a strain and doubtless many are denied the better choice of occupation or promotion which would come to them if they were not blinded. For these, and other reasons, we will continue to press for an increase. I have no doubt that at the British Legion Annual Conference, at Whitsun, strong views will be expressed upon this matter.

"The Talking Book has been badly held up, but when the new Studios are in full production we should catch up. There is a very large waiting list for Talking Book machines; we were on the point of being supplied when the fuel crisis arose, but I hope that we shall receive a few during the next few weeks. St. Dunstaners can be assured that they will hear about the new machines as soon as they are available, and that they will be dealt with fairly in accordance with the waiting list."

The meeting gave a warm welcome to Mr. A. Mackay, the new Welfare Superintendent. Sir Ian said that he had settled down very well at St. Dunstan's, and they had come to have a high regard for his ability and understanding of our men's problems. He felt sure that, as Mr. Mackay came to be better known amongst St. Dunstaners all over the country, his qualities and friendly services would be greatly valued. Sir Ian welcomed many old friends of St. Dunstan's, and paid a tribute to the staff, which was heartily endorsed by the meeting. Amongst those present were Mr. S. Cohen, Chairman, South Lancs. County Committee of the British Legion, Mr. H. H. Chesworth, Hon. Secretary, and Major G. Ferguson, M.C., Area Secretary, The North Western Area of the British Legion.

The previous day a most successful meeting was held at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield, at which Mr. Mackay presided (this was his first Reunion), and Horace Kerr attended and spoke about the Talking Book. Those present included Lt.-Col. Denham, D.C.M., Vice-Chairman of the West Riding County (Northern Area), British Legion, Mr. H. Benson, President of the Sheffield and District Group, and Captain M. Sheppard, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., J.P., Chairman of the Sheffield Group.

Other Reunions

As we go to press the following Reunions have been provisionally arranged for 1947:

Liverpool	May 2nd and 3rd
Birmingham	May 10th
Cardiff	May 17th
Bedford	May 29th
Bournemouth	June 3rd
Portsmouth	June 5th
Oxford	June 19th
Wolverhampton	July 5th
Lincoln	July 10th
Leeds	July 12th
Newcastle	July 14th
Edinburgh	August 5th

Further Reunions will be announced next month.

Death

YOUNG.—Our deep sympathy goes out to Robert Young, of Tweedmouth, Berwick-on-Tweed, who lost his wife on March 18th. Mrs. Young had been in failing health for a long time.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages—

Eileen Moore, Cheriton, Folkestone, on August 27th, to Mr. R. Saunders.

Marjorie Spierling (Llangynwyd), on November 9th, to Rhys Bassett Davies.

Joan Burchall (Midhurst), on December 3rd, to J. Mariner.

Hilda Anderson (Angus), on January 6th, in Vancouver.

Thomas Nelson (Newcastle-on-Tyne), on January 4th, to Miss Ellen Mitchell.

L. A. Robinson (Rayleigh) to Miss Elsie Holdaway, on February 15th.

Grace Bryer, Yate, Glos., on March 22nd, to Wilfred Hartley.

Leslie Blackett, Plymouth, on April 5th, to Miss Bettina Medlin.

Arthur Ball (Neath), on April 5th, to Miss Winifred Egan.

★ ★ ★

Valerie Randall (Hove) back from a long E.N.S.A. tour in the Middle East, has been playing with a Repertory Company in Exeter.

★ ★ ★

Phil Sephton, St. Helen's, who is twelve, has been awarded the Town's Educational Scholarship, and has passed with distinction three Royal Academy dancing examinations.

Tribute

In the early 1930's, Miss Sylvia Skimming spent a year at St. Dunstan's teaching in the netting and rug-making department. When war broke out in 1939 she became a Welfare Officer in a Canadian Hospital, and eventually had her own workshop with five teachers. Later, with the British Red Cross, she went to Europe, again getting handicrafts going in every hospital. For her services she was presented with a Red Cross award by the Queen. "And all this, thanks to St. Dunstan's," writes Miss Skimming. "Because of that small beginning I have been able to help so many hundreds of people and found my own fulfilment and great happiness. I owe it all to St. Dunstan's and would like to send you my very grateful thanks for all the lessons of courage and triumph over adversity which my pupils taught me."

"Mr. H."

St. Dunstaners in all parts of the world will hear with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. Richard King Huskinson, O.B.E., whom they will remember with affection as "Mr. H." He died at Brighton on April 3rd at the age of sixty-eight.

"Mr. H." was a voluntary helper at St. Dunstan's almost from the day of its foundation, and when the College Annexe was opened on January 1st, 1917, he became its Adjutant, with Miss Power as Matron. Hundreds of St. Dunstaners will recall those happy days from 1917 until the College closed, and which "Mr. H." and Matron Power themselves described as "the best years of our life."

"Mr. H." was a writer, and for many years, as "Richard King," he has been well-known to readers of the "Tatler" as the author of a weekly book review and essay feature, called "With Silent Friends." There was a period at St. Dunstan's when he edited the "St. Dunstan's Review" jointly with Captain Ian Fraser, as he then was, and he contributed a chapter on "The Psychology of the Blinded Soldier" in Sir Arthur Pearson's book, "Victory over Blindness." In that chapter he wrote: "As a worker, as a useful citizen of the world, and, above all, as a true friend and companion, I would pit a blinded sailor or soldier against any other special class of man in the whole world."

Recent war St. Dunstaners will remember "Mr. H." living in his caravan in the grounds at Church Stretton.

The funeral took place on April 11th, at Brighton, St. Dunstan's being represented by, among others, Mr. L. Banks, Mr. P. Lale, Mrs. Carter, and many St. Dunstaners living in the Brighton district. A wreath from St. Dunstan's bore the inscription:—

"From the blinded men and women of St. Dunstan's in affectionate remembrance of 'Mr. H.' and his help and friendship over many years."

Marriage

SIMPSON—LAVERY.—On April 5th, Eric Simpson, of Salford, to Miss Lavery.

" In Memory "

P. McShane, *New Zealand Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret from D. W. Dougherty, of the New Zealand Blinded Soldiers' Association, of the death of P. McShane, of Auckland, New Zealand.

He fought in France in 1914-1918, but he was not admitted to St. Dunstan's until 1935, his sight having deteriorated a great deal in the preceding few years. He was trained at the Jubilee Institute for the Blind in New Zealand and was unmarried.

Private Charles A. Biggs, *Leicestershire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. A. Biggs, of Sedgley, who served with his regiment from 1903 until October, 1914, when as the result of his service, his sight was severely damaged. It was not, however, until 1921, that he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained as a mat-maker and continued with this work for some years, but in 1944, on account of his wife's serious illness and admission to hospital where she has remained since, he became a permanent resident at our Homes.

He died of pneumonia at West House, Brighton, on February 22nd, and was buried in Brighton Cemetery near other old comrades. A wreath from St. Dunstan's was among the flowers.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife.

Private Herbert Walter Nightingale, *1st Devonshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of H. W. Nightingale, of Brighton.

Enlisting in 1914 on the day war broke out, he was wounded in France in 1916 and came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1918. He was trained as a netter, but he had not been able to follow this occupation for some time on account of his serious illness. He passed away on March 31st, leaving a wife and family, to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral.

Private George Sharp, *2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of G. Sharp, of Maidstone, on March 25th.

He enlisted in June, 1916, and in 1918 was badly gassed in France. It was not, however, until 1939 that he was brought to St. Dunstan's notice and admitted to our benefits. He was trained as a netter, but for some time past, his health has not been good. He had been a member of the Order of Oddfellows for forty-five years.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral.

A.C.2 W. Henry Bossom, *Royal Air Force*

With deep regret we record the death of W. H. Bossom, of Crewe.

His service with the Royal Air Force dated from March, 1913, until September, 1921, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1938. His health was always poor and although he learned wool-rug work and light stool-making, for the past four years he had done no work at all. He was a very sick man for some time before his death. He had a break at West House, Brighton, recently, but he passed away at his home on March 25th, after a short period of hospital treatment.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral, St. Dunstan's being represented by Mrs. Dunphy, who was at one time his Social Visitor.

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

Private Edward Joseph Thompson, *Royal Marines*

We record with deep regret the death of E. J. Thompson, of Kenton, on April 1st, the eve of his 79th birthday.

He came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1919, his sight having failed as a result of his service. For some time he carried on mat-making and, later a little back-yard poultry keeping. He was active right up to the last weeks of his life, going out alone and enjoying long expeditions. He was at the London Reunion on January 23rd and enjoyed it immensely.

A widower, he lived with his niece, to whom our deep sympathy is offered. A wreath from St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral. Before the ceremony the fourth verse of Laurence Binyon's poem, "For the Fallen," was read for an Old Comrade by the Standard Bearer of the British Legion (Kenton Branch), who followed the cortege to the graveside.

Births

BIRKIN.—On March 1st, to the wife of A. Birkin, of Small Heath, Birmingham—a son.

LAWSON.—On April 9th, to Jack and Mary Lawson, of Warrington, a daughter—Jacqueline.

MORTON.—To the wife of J. A. Morton, of High Wycombe, on February 14th—a son, Edward John.

SOUTHALL.—On March 6th, to the wife of S. Southall, of Warley—a son, Michael Joseph.

SWAIN.—On March 23rd, to the wife of H. Swain (trainee), a daughter.

WINDLEY.—On December 8th, to the wife of H. Windley, of Hull—a daughter, Carol Mary.