

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### Good Luck to Mr. Mace

**M**R. A. Mace, accompanied by his wife and daughter, sail for Australia just about the time these notes are being printed. Although he has been with St. Dunstan's for 28 years, he still has a good many years of active work ahead of him, and he has retired from our service for purely personal reasons.

I well remember a day in 1919 in my little temporary wartime office in Regent's Park when he came to me for an interview, and as a result joined the small staff I was then building up in our newly-formed After Care Department. He was our first Massage Superintendent, and has held that post ever since. He and I together handled the Settlements and After Care of our early masseurs, chose and devised the apparatus and equipment they would require, and made a plan for starting them out in private practice.

No group of St. Dunstaners have been more consistently successful than our masseurs—now called physiotherapists—and their achievements are the result of their own abilities and hard work, and Mr. Mace's patience, wisdom, technical knowledge and commonsense. Although disabled himself by the loss of one eye and the impairment of the other, he led an arduous life, travelling all over the country visiting the practitioners in their homes, and handling much correspondence and the buying and installation of equipment. Thus, when the physiotherapists from the Second War were ready to go out into the world, we had at hand a man of great experience to help them to start. Both generations, and all the staff who came in contact with Mr. Mace, will share with me the view that in his resignation we lose one to whom St. Dunstan's owes much, as well as a warm-hearted personal friend.

I do not know whether Mr. Mace intends to retire altogether, or whether after a rest he will take up active work again in Australia. I should guess the latter, because he is a man who, it seems to me, will only be happy doing something to help another fellow, and if this turns out to be the case, his unrivalled experiences in dealing with the rehabilitation of ex-service men may prove of value in the Commonwealth.

It is a curious but happy coincidence that at the last Annual Conference of Physiotherapists held in Brighton a presentation was made to him. This spontaneous tribute of affection, to which all physiotherapists subscribed, reflected their admiration for his long work and for his sustained efforts during the war years, but at the time, none of them, nor any of us at Headquarters, knew of his impending retirement.

## Welcome, Australia

I have had the pleasure during the month to welcome Joe Lynch, C.B.E., President of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association, who arrived in this country by air with Mrs. Lynch. Joe is visiting England to discuss with my staff and me the offer which we recently made to the Australian Government to welcome as our guests any blinded members of the Australian Forces whom the Australian Government decided to send over to St. Dunstan's for training.

Joe Lynch has already spent a week at Ovingdean, and amongst the instructors there, as well as at West House, our Holiday Home, has met a number of old friends who knew him at St. Dunstan's during the period of the first World War.

IAN FRASER.

## News from South Africa

In a letter to Headquarters, Edward Denny, of Pretoria, writes:

"The Royal Family have been enthusiastically received everywhere and all sections have fallen in love with the Queen while the Princesses have received their share of adoration and, of course, the King has made himself extremely popular. They arrived at Pretoria by the White Train on the morning of March 29th and left, by aeroplane, for Salisbury, on April 7th. The three planes passed immediately over our flat.

"The weather during their stay in Pretoria was none too kind and much rain fell. Rain was falling right up to the time of the arrival of the Royal Train, but subsided for a time as the King left the station platform. Mrs. Denny and I and Mr. and Mrs. Higo, representing St. Dunstaners of World War I and II respectively, were presented at the railway station to the King and Queen who chatted with us for some minutes. Field Marshal Smuts was with them and also shook hands with us. The King was much interested when I told him about my 32 years service in the Royal Navy, British Army, and South African Defence Forces and the Queen seemed to know all about St. Dunstan's and asked me whether I had been in the new home at Ovingdean."

## Derby Sweepstake

### Last Days

The closing date of the Derby Sweepstake (open only to St. Dunstaners), is **Friday, May 23rd**. The draw will take place on Tuesday, June 3rd, and those drawing horses will be notified the following day. The race is to be run on Saturday, June 7th.

## Reunions, 1947

Since the first list of Reunion dates was published, a few slight amendments have been made. The list now stands as follows:

Swansea (previously Cardiff)	May	17th
Bedford	"	29th
Bournemouth	June	3rd
Portsmouth	"	5th
Maidstone	"	16th
Oxford	"	19th
Leicester	"	21st
Brighton	"	26th
Guildford	"	28th
Colchester	July	1st
Norwich	"	2nd
Wolverhampton	"	5th
Lincoln	"	10th
Leeds	"	12th
Newcastle	"	14th
Edinburgh	Aug.	5th

During the month, successful Reunions were held at Liverpool on Friday and Saturday, May 2nd and 3rd, and at Birmingham, on May 10th. At the Friday Liverpool meeting, Mr. T. F. Lister, C.B.E., past Chairman of the British Legion, was the Guest of Honour, and at the Saturday meeting, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present, with Col. John Shute, C.M.G., D.S.O., Chairman of the Liverpool Branch of the Legion, and Mr. W. H. Home, Vice-Chairman, Liverpool Branch. At Birmingham, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser again attended and welcomed Mr. Brazener and other representatives of the British Legion.

## Grandfathers

Dr. Ludwik B. Rosenberg, whose daughter, Janina, gave birth to a daughter in Athens on March 3rd; S. C. Smith, of Derby, whose daughter has had a son; W. Robinson, of Grantham, a granddaughter, and A. King, of Bradford, a grandson.

## Duplication in Braille Magazines

G. Fallowfield recently drew attention in the REVIEW to the fact that stories contained in certain braille magazines were often reprinted in other braille publications, sometimes several times. We have now received from Major C. H. W. G. Anderson, Headmaster of the Royal Blind School, the following letter:

"I had already noted this complaint when the proofs came to me and had gone into the matter so far as *Hora Jucunda* and *Hampstead* are concerned. I am satisfied that this happens very rarely indeed, because, as you are aware, we print both of these magazines and our transcribers, stereotypers, and proof readers all have an opportunity of seeing the matter in braille and, in addition, my clerical assistant in the printing department, in every case, and I myself in most cases, also see it. I am aware that it did happen more than once in the early days of the war, when I was away and when the matter for both magazines not infrequently came very late. I am very doubtful, indeed, whether there was any justification for the use of the phrase, 'so frequently,' even six years ago and I am satisfied that it is not now justifiable.

"I have adjured everyone connected with the printing of *Hora* and *Hampstead* to be on the lookout for repetition and will hold up publication if necessary to avoid such a happening. I have also written to the N.I.B. passing on the complaint, telling them that a blind member of my editorial staff will make it her job to note the contents of *Progress* and asking that the same job may be done at the N.I.B. so far as *Hora* and *Hampstead* are concerned."

We much appreciate Major Anderson's friendly and prompt action in the matter and hope that the N.I.B. will also co-operate in the way he has suggested.

## Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon their anniversary:—

Mr. and Mrs. R. Black, late of Gateshead, and now of Denton, Manchester, March 29th; Mr. and Mrs. J. Macfarlane, of Ilford, May 20th.

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The son of J. Davies, of Wrexham, has been made Captain of Plymouth Argyle football team.

## From Mr. Mace

The time has come when for health and family reasons I must relinquish the appointment of Superintendent of the Physiotherapy Department at St. Dunstan's that I have had the privilege to hold for the last twenty-eight years. My wife, myself and daughter are going to Australia to join my son who has been there for many years.

It is a physical impossibility for me to get round in the short time I have before I sail in mid-May to say a personal goodbye and I therefore must content myself with saying farewell through the medium of the REVIEW.

At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my deep appreciation to all St. Dunstan's Physiotherapists for their kindness and hospitality whenever I have called upon them, and of their friendship to me. I go away feeling that I retain this friendship and have your good wishes, which is a happy thought for me and I wish you continued success in your profession. To the students who are in training, I say that if they emulate those who have gone before them, they are bound to find happiness and prosperity and I wish them luck.

Although I am going far away, it is my intention to keep in touch with St. Dunstan's; it has been so much of my life that I cannot think of a complete break and I hope that I shall have the pleasure of having news from you all.

A. MACE.

## From Our Press Cuttings

The *Brighton Gazette* of May 3rd had a photograph of film star Joan Greenwood dancing with T. McKay, of Edinburgh, at the Regent Dance Hall, Brighton, where she was making a personal appearance.

From the *Telegraph and Argus*, Bradford: "Very many local ex-service men of the 1914-18 war have been delighted to renew acquaintance with an old comrade-in-arms in the person of 'Tommy' Kenefick, formerly of the 1-6th West Yorks and one of the most popular personalities in local ex-servicemen's circles. His home is now in Kent, but for a week or so he is exchanging its gardens and hop-fields for 'these gritty paving stones' of Worstedopolis and Bradford is all the cheerier for his presence."

## Letter to the Editor

### Jury Service

From Mr. H. D. Rice, *St. Dunstan's legal adviser at Headquarters.*

DEAR EDITOR,

Your law, and for that matter, the law of Whitaker's Almanack, so far as blind person acting as Jurymen is concerned, is bad. There is no statutory provision whereby a blind person is automatically disqualified or exempted from serving on a jury. The Electoral Officers have no power to omit the jury mark from the name of a blind person, but he is entitled to apply to be excused from attending if he should at any time be called upon to serve.

Please don't ask the Editor of Whitaker's Almanack to apologise, as he has already done so.

Yours etc.,

H. D. RICE.

## Correspondents Wanted

We have received the following letter from Mr. H. Amblard, Secretary-General of the French Union of War-Blinded (Union des Aveugles de Guerre):

"One of our members, Captain Hauser, who is set up in business in Dijon, would like to correspond with a St. Dunstaner and asked me to help him to get into touch with one of your members. He was wounded at the outset of this war, 1939, and would prefer a correspondent of his generation. Captain Hauser is an excellent member of our Union and I should be grateful if you could do him this service. His address is Andre Hauser, 4 Avenue Victor-Hugo, Dijon (Cote d'Or), France.

We have also received requests from two more German blinded soldiers who would like a British correspondent. One is 27, married, who was blinded and received injuries crippling his hands in Russia; the other is 30, and unmarried.

The Editor will supply these addresses to any St. Dunstaner wishing to have them.

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Mr. J. H. Dongan, of 84 Pine Road, Kirkclithan Eastate, Redcar, would appreciate copies of old braille magazines and periodicals and would also welcome braille correspondents.

## R.A.O.B.

Congratulations to Bro. Samuel C. Loram, of Brixham, Devon, who has been elected as the Provincial Grand Primo of the Brixham, Dartmouth and South Hams Province of the R.A.O.B. G.L.E.

The news comes to us from the Provincial Grand Secretary, Bro. R. J. Worth, who writes: "This is a very scattered Province; to visit one lodge means a return trip of over 75 miles, but with the assistance of P.G. Sec., Bro. Sam has visited each lodge at least twice during the first quarter of this year, with numerous visits to Lodges in other Provinces . . . Should any St. Dunstaner who is also a member of the Order visit the Torbay area during the coming summer, Bro. Sam will be pleased to meet them in the Prince of Orange Lodge, Platel's Hotel, Brixham, on Saturday evenings.

## In Brief

J. G. Healy, of Blackpool, was the author of a short story, "The Conversion of Rollo," which appeared in the April issue of the *Home Review*.

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J. W. Gill has been made a life member of the Droylsden branch of the British Legion.

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J. H. Mason, of Bognor, was the shop-keeper referred to last month in the article headed, "Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow."

## Thirty Years Ago

From the "*St. Dunstan's Review*," May, 1917:

Our first summer concert was held under ideal conditions—for winter. In April one naturally expects something pleasant and balmy in the way of weather. But on this occasion the snow fell as it had not fallen in April for half a century, so the weather experts said.

We do not often have a child of five to entertain us, but little Miss Estella Branson of that age was a great success with her songs. The little dance she did might very well have been done without, but the fact that she did it was not her fault, but rather that of those who brought her.

Miss Dorothy Pain has assumed her Commandant's red frock and presents a brave appearance. The pleasant warmth of the colour did something to reconcile us to the inclemency of the weather.

## West House Notes

An early Easter this year, so early that it seemed we had scarcely recovered from Christmas and the New Year before the new batch of holiday-makers were upon us! However, All Fools' Day passed us by almost uneventfully and on Thursday the rush began. The programme, we think you will agree, was well up to the standard of Christmas and we have been happy to hear from many of those who spent a short break with us that it was also as enjoyable.

The holiday programme started off on Thursday evening with a Concert from the "Youth Takes a Bow" Company; Plumpton Races on Saturday and again on Easter Monday, whilst at West House we arranged a big Whist Drive and Domino Tournament on Saturday afternoon for St. Dunstaners in the Brighton district. That same evening, we were all entertained at a Party devised and produced, in the main, by Sisters "Chad" and "Chas." Our old enemy, space, denies us the opportunity of giving you the low-down on their highly amusing commentary on the men going in to lunch—perhaps it is just as well for such things are hard to reproduce as amusingly as the original.

On Easter Sunday, a number of men attended Holy Communion at St. Anne's in the morning and returned to West House in time to receive their Easter parcel from a trolley laden high and decorated with spring flowers. The Nigger Minstrel who presented each present, had something to say to each man in Sister Chaddock's own inimitable manner.

That afternoon, the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton visited West House and then there was the Special Service and dedication of a charming picture, a copy of Raphael's "Madonna and Child," in memory of the late Matrons Thellusson and Boyd-Rochfort. West House Chapel Funds were used to provide the picture and the Chapel was looking very lovely with a new prayer rug of Madonna blue which had been made and presented by George Richardson specially for the occasion.

In the evening, the men arranged their own Concert—or rather, "Costi" arranged the programme. Charlie Thomas sang and there was a surprise visit from "Laura" and her accompanist from the Canadian "Meet the Navy" Show. She was intro-

duced by Mr. W. G. Hopkins, Chairman of the local Canadian Ex-Servicemen's Association. There were piano and guitar solos from Tommy White, and Reg White sang and told a few stories. Altogether a very enjoyable evening's entertainment.

Such a week-end! You can imagine it is difficult to pick the high-spot. If you are a boxing fan, then it would undoubtedly have been Easter Monday morning when Joe Baksi and his trainer, Ray Arcel, found time to drop in on us. We should like to find room here to tell you how extremely kind Baksi has been to the lads at West House during the time he was at Brighton in training—almost any afternoon you would have found one of our men down at the Gym whilst Baksi was having a "try-out." Some of the news even found its way to the National Press.

If it's a swing fan you are, well we had that too! After a party of men went to the Concert at the Dome on Easter Monday, Mr. Jack Leslie who organised the Concert brought most of the artistes along to West House that same afternoon. There was Robin Richmond and the Swing Choir, and the star visitor, Cyril Fletcher—all in extremely good form and high spirits. We only wished they could have stayed a little longer, but they had come between shows and it was indeed a flying visit.

On April 9th, a party of twenty went for a picnic to Beachy Head and from then until the end of the month, we had our usual arrangements for darts, dominoes and housey-housey, as well as visits to theatres and our Friday night dances. Concerts at West House included one from S.E.F.A., a party we were happy to welcome back again after an absence of several months.

Towards the end of the month, we were delighted to have a visit from Don Welsh, Chris Duffy and Sam Bartram of the Charlton F.A. team. Commandant, Mrs. Carter, Duggie Frith and Johnny Mooney had visited the team during their stay at the Hotel Metropole and invited them along to sample West House hospitality.

An eventful month came to a close—one which had been marred only by the sad news of the death of Alec Lawlor in the Royal Sussex County Hospital on Easter Monday. Alec, who had been a permanent at West House for some time, will be greatly missed by one and all.

## Springboks' Laager

On the evening of May 9th, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser gave a dinner party at the Café Royal for South African St. Dunstaners in training and others of us with South African connections.

Reunions of this kind are always pleasant occasions and as soon as we entered the lounge we were greeted by the hubbub of voices of people renewing old friendships, and we joined in the exchange of warm handshakes. As an ex-Tembanian, it was grand meeting our former matron, Miss Pease, again, and to hear a few familiar Afrikaner voices. Most of the other fellows had arrived at Tembani after I had left, but the mention of names like Mrs. Chadwick Bates, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Alers Hankey and Colonel Woon at once started a succession of questions and answers. After an excellent dinner, we toasted the King in South African wine. Sir Ian then rose to welcome his guests, the guest of honour being the South African High Commissioner, Mr. George Heaton Nicholls; others included Mr. J. Lynch, St. Dunstaner and head of the Australian Blinded ex-Servicemen's Organisation, and Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Phillips, head of the South African Red Cross in this country—a very good friend to our Springbok St. Dunstaners—Mr. Grenfell Williams, Director of the South African programme of the B.B.C., who brought along Miss Rose Alper and Mr. Norrie Sowman, two South African artists, to entertain us. Sir Ian went on to say how glad he was that the South African blinded ex-servicemen had come to England for training, and said it gave us in England a chance to repay a little of the unbounded hospitality that had been lavished upon St. Dunstaners and all British troops who were fortunate enough to stay a while in South Africa. "I know all Tembanians will be grateful to Sir Ian for the expressions of deep gratitude which he made to the people of the Union on our behalf. With the mention of Tembani, Sir Ian regretted that Mrs. Bates was not with us, but spoke for all when he said how much we were looking forward to her arrival over here in June for a well-earned holiday. A telegram of affection and good wishes for her journey had been sent to her. Wishing the Springboks the best of luck for the future, Sir Ian said he was sure they

would bring nothing but credit to the name of St. Dunstan's. Coupling the name of the High Commissioner with the toast of South Africa, Sir Ian told of Mr. Heaton Nicholl's distinguished career in the public life of that great country, and before drinking the toast, our Springboks gave an excellent rendering of their National Anthem, "Die Stem." Replying, the High Commissioner expressed gratitude to St. Dunstan's for looking after his country's blinded ex-servicemen, and was confident that the future of his compatriots was assured. St. Dunstan's, he said, was yet another tie cementing together our two countries. If the "Oubaas" were present, he would thank his gallant Springboks, not only for the services which they had already rendered to their country, but for those which they will be able to give in the future. Having just returned from the Union, he told us something of the wonderful success of the Royal Tour and of how Their Majesties had done more in bringing the peoples of South Africa together, and even closer to the Mother Country than would many years of legislation. Sir Ian then asked the Commandant, Air Commodore Dacre, to read a telegram of greetings and good wishes which had been sent to the Royal Family aboard *Vanguard* "from South African blinded soldiers and other South Africans assembled at dinner in London under the auspices of St. Dunstan's," and the reply which had been received from Their Majesties' private secretary, expressing the Royal thanks.

Danie Pretorius, who was called upon to propose the toast to St. Dunstan's, made a brilliant speech, packed with Afrikaans humour and metaphor, and he spoke with deep feeling of "the thousands of helping hands at St. Dunstan's which were guiding him and his comrades across the dark river of blindness to a new and happy future on the other side of the bank." He pledged their life-long loyalty to "The Flaming Torch—our Guiding Light."

The High Commissioner had to leave directly after dinner and was given a rousing send-off to the strains of "He's a jolly good fellow." With a smile and a wave of the hand, he bade us "Tot Siens."

Miss Alper and Mr. Sowman, catering for the bilinguists, entertained with English and Afrikaans songs—we even had a bit of Zulu from Mr. Sowman.

## Basic Rate of Pensions

### Sir Ian Fraser asks for an Increase

Speaking in the House of Commons on the Motion for Adjournment on Thursday, May 1st, Sir Ian Fraser said:

The Government have decided to throw over the cost of living index, under which we have worked for a very long time, and it is indeed time they did because it is out of date and misleading. The British Legion and Members of the House have been pointing out to one Government after another for the past twenty-five years that this index was not related to the reality of the life of our people. That is not surprising when you consider it was devised upon tables prepared in 1904.

Why is the old index being thrown over? Because it is out of date partly, but also presumably because the Government expects a rise to take place in the cost of living, and it would embarrass them. It would affect the wages of three to four million people and the pensions of three quarters of a million more pensioners.

Will the Government stand by its obligations although they are altering the index? Sir Ian demanded. Are consultations going on between the Government and the British Legion and other ex-Servicemen's representatives? No! They are not, and since there are 750,000 people to whom the State owes an obligation in this matter, the second question that I have to ask the Minister is whether he will call ex-Servicemen's representatives and the British Legion into consultation so that they may have a fair chance as the two sides of industry of asking how this new cost of living index is to be constructed, and how it will operate in relation to the men in whom they are interested.

Continuing, Sir Ian said:

"I think a rise in the basic rate of pension is already due. In 1919 the 100 per cent. disabled man was given £2 a week as a flat rate pension. He has since been raised to £2 5s. to assimilate his rate to that which is to be paid under the Social Insurance Act for disability. In addition to that, he receives a marriage allowance for a wife, whenever he marries her—that is a recent innovation—he gets children's allowances, as he always did, but he gets them for all his children, and if he is unemployable he draws £1 a week unemployment allowance. Moreover, if he is unemployable, his wife's allowance is 16s. instead of 10s.

I should like to take a case to show what this means. A man who is disabled in the highest degree receives £2 5s. for himself, plus £1 if he is unemployable, plus 16s. for his wife, making £4 1s. in all. He may be a veteran of the first war, and he is keeping himself and his wife on that money. His daughter, who may be 19 and may be working for the Minister of Pensions in his office, will get £4, plus, if she is an unskilled typist or messenger girl, and £5 or more if she is a shorthand typist. Is £4 1s. enough for that man?

There are 30,000 men disabled in the highest degree. I think that only a very few of them receive attendant allowances, and only a handful get the big attendant allowances. I think that there is, therefore, a case for raising the basic rate, especially for the man who does not qualify for those allowances.

It was a grand evening and I think Laura Ellis voiced our thoughts when, replying to the Toast to the Ladies, proposed by Ken McIntyre, she thanked Sir Ian for giving us all a breath of South Africa.

"ROOINEK."

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Those present at the South African Party were Captain and Mrs. William Owen, Mr. and Mrs. Van Niekerk, Mr. and Mrs. D. Watkins, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Weeks, and Messrs. Johnny Koehorst, Danie Pretorius, Frank Mandy, B. Hodgson, J. Verster, P. Botha and Ken McIntyre.

Mr. Grenfell Williams, African Director of the B.B.C., and two South African artists, Miss Rose Alper and Mr. Norrie Sowman; Air Commodore Dacre and Mrs. Dacre, herself a South African; Mr. A. Mackay, Mr. J. A. Gray, Editor, *South Africa*, Miss Hester Pease, Miss Wilson, Mr. J. E. Rose, Mr. Pat Owens and Mr. Peter Matthews, members of the staff.

The High Commissioner for South Africa, Mr. George Heaton Nicholls, Mrs. C. Phillips, Commandant South African Red Cross.

Australia was represented by Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Lynch and Captain and Mrs. Ted Blackmore, and New Zealand by Mr. A. J. Somervell.

## Young St. Dunstaners

### Marriages

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

Dennis Mortimer, R.N., Hull, on April 7th, to Eva Foston.

Edward Haslam, Crewe, to Iris Warboys, on December 21st; Ethel Haslam to Wilfred Johnson, February 11th, and Ivy Haslam to Jack Moss, April 9th.

Kenneth Allan, Darlington, at Easter, to Christine Ross Adams.

Petty Officer Leslie Blackett, Plymouth, to Bettina Katie Medlin.

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Elizabeth Owen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Owen, of Blaenau Festiniog, is now a State Registered Nurse.

Out of the whole body of pensioners, who number 750,000, 450,000 belong to this recent war. Of these, some 60,000 receive pensions above 50 per cent., and the balance, nearly four-fifths of the whole number, receive 50 per cent. or less.

My contention is that the pound is not worth as much to-day as it was in 1919, whatever the cost of living figure may be. I do not want to be sentimental about the beer and cigarettes, but I would ask the House to realise that if a disabled sailor, soldier or airman has ten cigarettes a day and one pint of beer, it will cost him 19s. 3d. a week. If he has a Guinness on Sunday the total will be over the pound. Is he to abstain, or is he to be given a pension which will enable him to have some of these small amenities of life which I think that a grateful people in 1919 meant him to have?

I would draw to a close by making these requests to the Minister. First, will he consult the representatives of the ex-Servicemen as he is consulting the representatives of industry? Second, will he look into the question now and see whether a rise in the basic rate of the 100 per cent. and all the other percentages is not already due?"

Mr. Derek Walker-Smith, M.P. for Hertford, associated himself with the case put forward by Sir Ian, and the new Minister of Pensions, Mr. John Hynd, then rose to reply. He said:

The Hon. Member opened his remarks by suggesting that the Government are considering examining the cost of living index because we are expecting a heavy rise in the cost of living, and we would not wish this to be reflected in increased wages. It is a new suggestion to me, and contrary to the facts.

The Hon. Member knows better than anyone else that so far as war pensions are concerned, they are not related to any cost of living figure. I do not think he will dispute that, because it is generally accepted.

Sir Ian: I do challenge that most definitely. I have the statements of successive Ministers, made over the last 25 years—and I have chapter and verse that the flat rate is, in fact, related to the cost of living.

Mr. Hynd: It was a fact that the original 1914—1918 pensions were related to the cost of living indexes, and an assurance given that the pensions would be adjusted according to the rise and fall in the cost of living index figure over a margin of 5 per cent., but as was implied by subsequent statements of Ministers not of this Government, the Minister of Pensions, in 1928, made a very clear statement that while there would be no reduction in the pension rate as a result of the fall in the cost of living index figures, there might be an increase, assuming that the cost of living rose over 215, which was the level in 1919—that was provided there was no substantial change in the pension range by the addition of new classes of beneficiaries. There have been substantial alterations by the additions of new classes as a result of the 1939-45 war.

In August, 1943, it was decided to assimilate the basic pension rates for the two wars at the rate of 40s. The Hon. Member knows that in December, 1945, the pension was increased to 45s., but not because of a rise in the cost of living. That, as the Hon. Member says, was due to the fact that we were recognising a new factor, namely, the relationship

between the war pensioned and the victims of industrial injury. It was said those who had suffered in the war in the service of their country ought not to receive disability pensions lower than those granted to the casualties of industry. I believe that view has been generally accepted by the House.

What the Hon. Member for Lonsdale (Sir Ian Fraser) has said, of course, is that the relationship to the industrial injuries scheme is not enough in the present situation. It was generally accepted by the House and in the country that it was preferable to pay attention to the most needy cases and to adjust such sums as were available for war pensions purposes on that basis to ensure that the most needy cases had the most benefit.

I am sure that, with the advantage of consultation with the Hon. Member and his colleagues, we will be able to examine the whole of the repercussions of present-day conditions, including any changes that may be made in the cost of living or any other factor in relation to the existing pensions. If it were not for the fact that the outcome of the present discussions in regard to the cost of living were so hypothetical at this time, I would have preferred to have been able to give him a direct reply.

### From the Chairman's Post-Bag

From Jimmie Ellis, of London, S.W.16:

"After reading your article in the REVIEW, I got a fellow St. Dunstaner to teach me the deaf-blind alphabet and I was surprised to find how easy it is; the most difficult thing about it is deciding to have the first lesson. I think if people realised that it only takes five or ten minutes to learn, many more would make the effort."

Ellis goes on to suggest that the morse code should be used to carry on conversation between ordinary St. Dunstaners and deaf St. Dunstaners. This suggestion has been passed on to our Research Committee, but it is understood that the objection hitherto taken to the use of morse is that it is not widely known, also that it is far more difficult to feel morse signals than to hear them.

### An Old Friend

Men who were at Tembani will be interested to hear that when Jimmie Ellis was speaking on St. Dunstan's at the Central Hall, Wellingborough, recently, he met Mrs. Martha Houghton, known to all Tembanians as "Ma." Mrs. Houghton was a V.A.D. in the 1914-18 war and her interest in St. Dunstan's began when her brother-in-law, Charles Negus, was blinded and came to St. Dunstan's. She was visiting her brother in South Africa when war broke out in 1939 and was unable to return to this country. She offered her services as housekeeper to St. Dunstan's, South Africa, and remained there until Tembani closed down.

### Ovingdean Notes

We have welcomed this month, P. J. Lynch, C.B.E., President of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association, who is in England as a guest of St. Dunstan's, accompanied by his wife.

The Trainee House, Northgate, will close down at the end of the Summer Term, 1947, in preparation for its new function as a St. Dunstaners' Children's Holiday Home. The Trainee Convalescent Home, Arundel Lodge, will also close at the end of the Summer Term Leave period.

The month has proved to be quite a "Radio Star" interval for St. Dunstan's, Brighton. Ted Heath and his Band paid a visit to us on May 3rd, when a large and enthusiastic audience gathered in the Recreation Hut to hear this famous Band—our "swing" fans being in their element. On Sunday, May 4th, a party of trainees went to West House to hear another Radio Star, Stewart MacPherson, who indeed, entertained all present with his "Twenty Questions."

The Earl Haig Club invited a party of trainees and partners to a dance and social; a darts team match was in progress during the evening, which, incidentally, was won by the trainees.

Thursday, April 24th, marked another anniversary of an enjoyable dance and quiz given by the Staff of Plummer Roddis, Ltd., Brighton, in their restaurant. Arthur Cavanagh contributed to the evening's jollification by singing a few songs.

We now have a "14-18 Club," formed by old war St. Dunstaners and presided over by Mr. Jennings, House Steward. Meetings are held each Wednesday when opinions on various subjects are voiced, with debates and discussions in comparison with the younger viewpoint.

Mondays at 4.30, are "Quiz Nights," with a team for each dormitory. It is indeed interesting to listen to the pace quicken in less than fifteen minutes.

No fewer than six first class Darts Matches have been played around the district and we are pleased to relate that we have been successful on every occasion, winning matches in some cases with a big margin. The clubs concerned are the Roussillon Club, the Earl Haig Club, the Arlington Hotel, and the Golf Club, all of Brighton, the Trevor Arms at Glynde,

and the Hove Sports Club.

There have been two Knock-Out Competitions for Totally Blinded and those with Slight Sight. Results of the first competition were as follows:—

Totally Blinded:	Semi-Sighted:
1.	
Winner—J. Walsh	Winner—S. Gimber
Runner-up—	Runner-up—
T. Rogers	B. Bignal
2.	
Winner—S. Fletcher	Winner—B. Harby
Runner-up—	Runner-up—
N. Crane	S. Gimber

The marriage took place between Alexander Guyler and Mary Killgallon at St. Martha's Catholic Church, Rottingdean, on May 3rd, the reception taking place at St. Dunstan's Hostel, "Brackley."

We deeply regret to report that Jack Bell, who joined us at Ovingdean on February 5th, 1947, died in the Atkinson-Morley Hospital, Wimbledon, on Sunday, May 4th.

### Test Results

Writing Test.—N. Nolde, R. Page.

Advanced Test.—J. E. Davies.

Typing Test.—E. Bedford, L. Edwards.

AVENUE ROAD

Writing.—George Mortimer.

Typing.—Roman Dobrowski.

### Sunday Collections, Ovingdean

During last term, the Sunday collections amount to £8, which is being donated as follows: £2 each to the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League, King George's Fund for Sailors, the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, and Pearson's Fresh Air Fund.

### Placements

David Taylor, as a packer with his old firm, Messrs. Thomas Plant (Birmingham), Ltd.; Jozef Milewczyk, as a drilling machine operator with the Hercules Cycle Co., Birmingham; Bronislaw Dobrey, also as a drilling machine operator with the Hercules Cycle Co.; G. Poole, as a telephonist with Messrs. Caldwell's, Ltd., Warrington; C. E. Roberts, at the Remploi Factory, Salford; C. J. Walker, in a tobacco and confectionery business at Seven Sisters Road, London, N.; H. Holden, in a tobacconist business in Holloway Road, London, N.19; P. Sheehan, as tobacconist and stationer, at Chislehurst; D. Faulkner, of Smethwick, in a fish and chip business.

## Long Treatment Cases to Remain in Services

In the House of Commons on April 16th, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Minister of Defence if he would arrange with the Service Ministers to retain in the Services, and in uniform, officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks, who are still undergoing plastic and other more or less continuous treatment for severe wounds and mutilation, having regard to the bad psychological effect of discharging these men before their treatment is completed.

The Minister of Defence (Mr. A. V. Alexander): Personnel suffering from disabilities attributable to or aggravated by service are at present retained in the Services, in uniform, until medical or surgical finality is reached, within an overriding time limit of 2½ years. I am glad to say that in future such men will not be discharged from the Services until their treatment is completed, provided that there is a prospect of this within a predictable time.

Sir Ian: May I take it that that means even if it is after 2½ years?

Mr. Alexander: We shall not adhere to the 2½ year limit in future, but will keep the men in the Service except in those cases where finality of the treatment is unpredictable.

Jimmy Wright, now at the Queen Victoria Hospital East Grinstead, writes:

"I have handed the copy of Sir Ian's questions and the Minister's replies to all those concerned on long term treatment and amongst the surgeons here. They are all delighted and wish to congratulate and thank Sir Ian for his successful efforts on their behalf. This new agreement will not only benefit Service men in our hospital, but all over the country. Please pass on my own personal thanks to Sir Ian."

### St. Dunstan's Old Boys

Let me begin by saying that although I am of the second world war, I am not very young myself, and some of my friends of the 1914-1918 war would be most indignant if I spoke of them as being old. No, I use the term "old boys" as one would refer to former members of a school.

I was down at Brighton during the Easter week-end, and it was good to renew

acquaintance with those whom I had met at Mrs. Spurway's camps, and to meet others from the old school. Our elders should always have a good influence on us, and at St. Dunstan's I have most certainly found this so. It was encouraging and refreshing to be with these men again, nearly all of whom have quite a distinctive individual personality. I noticed this fact very plainly that with few exceptions each of them has a force of character which made itself felt to me, a character which, if we younger men can reflect and infuse into ourselves, we shall have acquired something. Yes, that is it, they have got that something extra that we haven't got; they are sound, stable and balanced. I expect it is after thirty years of blindness and considerable meditation that they have arrived at a wise and calm philosophy of life, while we on the other hand are still a bit wild and woolly, too impetuous and impatient and unsettled. We have to have some of the corners knocked off us and some of the rough edges smoothed down, and I for one sincerely hope that the passing years will have the same mellowing effect on me as they have had on the men of the 1914-1918 war.

It was a grand week-end, full of entertainment, interest and good fellowship. Like "old boys" at a school reunion, they moved around in a spirit of easy-going comradeship, with a friendly greeting for everyone. They have shown us the way, and we of the new generation will always be indebted to them for their magnificent example, their ready friendship and their willingness to help us at all times.

ANON.

### National Laying Test

Report for the sixth period of four weeks  
(March 3rd to March 30th, 1947)

Position	Name	Test Score
1.	Gregory, T. ...	571
2.	Jackson, George ...	546
3.	Holmes, Percy ...	521
4.	Fisher, T. M. ...	498
5.	McLaren, David ...	497
6.	McIntosh, Charles ...	494
7.	Jarvis, Albert ...	485
8.	Chaffin, Albert ...	362
9.	Smith, W. Alan ...	323
10.	Watson-Brown, M. ...	260

Average per bird, 86.84 to date.

## A Strange Coincidence

It began when two former patients of Terry Roden's (whose name was Learner) and strangely enough were school-teachers, invited Terry and myself to spend a week end with them at their new house in Wraxall, on the Isle of Wight, offering to meet us if we would let them know what time the boat was expected to arrive. But Terry, with that self-confidence so well known to St. Dunstan's bridge players, and so much admired assured them we could manage quite well if they would send instructions how to get to "Four Winds"—the name of the house. The instructions duly arrived, and one glorious Saturday found us boarding a bus en route for Wraxall, the conductor telling us the best place to get down. It was then our difficulties began. We went from one house to another, uncertain which to try. At last we decided we had struck the right one. We marched up the path to knock on the door which was opened and a very charming voice invited us to come in. But there was no move to enter, only an uneasy silence. Then I heard Terry's apologetic voice saying "I am very sorry, but we're looking for 'Four Winds.'" "Oh," replied the lady, "that's the next house up the hill. I also am sorry. I thought it was my boy who is in the Air Force and whom I expect home for the week-end. He likes to have a game with me when he comes home; you see, I am blind."

We apologised once again, turned to walk slowly down the path, our thoughts marvelling at the vagaries of chance.

T. ROGERS.

Brighton.

## Looking Back

It is often said that it is a good thing we do not know or foresee what the future of life is to be, most of us have ambitions in life, only to be disillusioned by the adversities which may follow. I was totally blinded during the third battle of Ypres in 1917, and here are a few incidents before I lost my sight. I was a postman at the Paddington District Office, and it was my duty to deliver at the house in Bayswater Hill which Sir Arthur Pearson had taken, to house the first blinded men of the great war. I would hand in the correspondence and then look back at the house, and wonder what it was like inside with those blinded

men. One of our first St. Dunstaners at that house was Mr. Selby, and later on I sat next to him at our first Canterbury reunion. I had another postman colleague who used to deliver at Bayswater Hill. He had two little lads and I often used to see them. One of these lads later on was in the third bed from mine in No. 8 ward at the Bungalow, Regent's Park; he was Harry Ollington. It was often my duty to be detailed to check the blind literature when the night mail was being sorted. The large volumes came from the National Library for the Blind in Queen's Road, Bayswater. Every book I put on the scales and any overweight were surcharged. We occasionally opened some of the books, but it was impossible for us to understand the braille embossing, but when in St. Dunstan's I learned to read and write braille and passed my test. These are just a few incidents prior to my blindness, and there are quite a number of others I could relate. Finally, my son is a postal clerk at the Dover Head Office, and on many occasions when he has been at the counter he has paid me my disability pension. Son pays father, and I wonder if there are any other St. Dunstaners who can say the same.

Dover.

ALFRED BENNETT.

*These two articles win a prize of one guinea each.*

## Births

BELL.—On May 7th, to the wife of David Bell, of Edinburgh, a son.

HOYLE.—On May 3rd, to the wife of C. Hoyle, of Oldham, a daughter—Jeanne.

LEATHERIDGE.—On March 25th, to the wife of W. Leatheridge, of Oldham, a son—Brian John.

PETTY.—On May 23rd, to the wife of H. Petty, of Leeds, a daughter.

## Marriages

TURNER—GOODALL.—On April 9th, at Rottingdean, Ivor Reginald Turner, to Miss Margaret Hope Goodall. Robert Owen was best man.

POOLE—GASKELL.—On May 10th, G. Poole, of Warrington, to Miss Gaskell.

PRESTON—PEPALL.—On May 7th, at Holy Trinity, Brompton Road, Geoffrey Arthur Preston, to Miss Isobel LeRoy Pepall, M.B.E.

## "In Memory"

### Victor Lavalie, *5th Canadians*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of our Canadian St. Dunstaner, Victor Lavalie, of Manitoba. Wounded at Hill 60, in April, 1916, he was with us from June until October of that year, when he was trained in bag-making and a little poultry farming. He returned to Canada and there has only been occasional news of him during the past few years through Colonel Edwin Baker who, of course, was always in close touch with him.

He leaves a wife and child to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

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

We record with deep regret the death of W. H. Bossom, of Crewe, who served with the Royal Air Force from March, 1913, until September, 1921. He did not, however, come to us until 1938, when his health was already poor, and prevented him from doing more than light occupational work. For a considerable time he had been going downhill and in December of last year he spent a month with us at Brighton, but he was a very sick man and he passed away at his home on March 25th after a short period in hospital.

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

### Private Alexander Lawlor, *4th King's Liverpool Regiment.*

It is with deepest regret that we record the death of A. Lawlor, of Liverpool. Previously in the Merchant Navy, he enlisted in the King's Liverpool Regiment in April, 1915. He was wounded in France, in August, 1916, when he lost his sight and his right arm. He was not able to undertake much training on account of his health. He had a little shop for a time, but for many years he was obliged to lead a quiet life. In late years he was in and out of hospital, spending long periods in our Homes. He went home from West House for Christmas, and was not very fit on his return. He was admitted to the Sussex County Hospital and he died there on April 17th. He was buried in the family grave, the coffin being draped with the Union Jack. A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the many flowers.

We extend our deep sympathy to his brothers and sisters in their great loss.

### Private John Samuel Steeley, *1/4 East Yorkshire Regiment*

We record with deepest regret the death of J. S. Steeley, of Hull. Enlisting in August, 1914, he was wounded the following year, receiving severe head and shoulder wounds, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1932, and then, owing to his very poor health, he could not take heavy training. He carried on with basket work, etc., but for some time he had been a very sick man. Early this year he visited West House; on his return home an operation was performed, but he died in his local hospital on April 23rd.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was placed at the foot of the coffin, which was draped with the Union Jack, and many of his old friends attended the service at the cemetery chapel.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and child.

### A.C.1 Jack Bell, *Royal Air Force*

With deepest regret we record the death of one of our trainees, Jack Bell, who died in the Atkinson-Morley Hospital, Wimbledon, on May 4th.

His sight broke down after his service in West Africa, and he was discharged from the Royal Air Force in September, 1945. He came to St. Dunstan's as a trainee on February 5th of this year.

The funeral took place on May 9th at Ovingdean Chapel and the interment was at Brighton Cemetery. Jack had no relatives.

### J. P. Taylor, *Canadian Forces*

We have also heard from the daughter of J. T. Taylor, of Canada, that her father passed away last year. We have little news of this St. Dunstaner, as he was only in our care for a very short time.

Our sympathy is extended to his daughter in her loss.

### Private F. S. Wardle, *Australian Imperial Forces*

We record with deep regret the death of F. S. Wardle, of Cudworth, near Barnsley, which occurred suddenly at his home on March 17th.

He was one of our earliest St. Dunstaners, coming under our notice in October, 1915, but he never trained with us. He had always been interested in poultry keeping and greenhouse work, at which he was most successful.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral. We extend our deep sympathy to his relatives.