

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS to St. Dunstaner Patrick Garrity, who was telephone operator at the British Legion Headquarters from September, 1919, to September, 1947, on being awarded the British Empire Medal. A wide circle of St. Dunstaners and of ex-Service men generally will remember his cheerful welcome to all who called up the British Legion.

Another St. Dunstaner who received the British Empire Medal is W. A. Biggs, of Leicester, who has acted as St. Dunstan's Voluntary Organiser in that area for a number of years and has raised over £10,000 in aid of its funds. Congratulations to him.

Congratulations also to Sir Brunel Cohen, who becomes a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for his work as Chairman of the National Advisory Council on the Employment of the Disabled. Limbless himself, he was the Member of Parliament to be returned in the 1918 Election to take up the cause of ex-Service men, and he has made their welfare his life's work. He was for twenty-five years Honorary Treasurer of the British Legion, and for twenty-four years has been a Member of the Council of St. Dunstan's, and has been a familiar figure at many of our gatherings.

The New London Club—A Warning

The new Club at 191 Marylebone Road is now in use. It opened unofficially on Monday, May 31st, and on Tuesday, June 8th a number of the London men gathered to discuss the details of the Club and to elect a Committee. A full report of the proceedings is printed elsewhere.

We warned St. Dunstaners in the April issue of the REVIEW that in view of the fast moving traffic in Marylebone Road, they and their escorts should take particular care in approaching Headquarters from the opposite side of Marylebone Road.

There is a Belisha crossing a few yards away from Headquarters and Mr. Askew—because he was mindful of the danger—asked the Ministry of Transport whether warning signs could be erected to show motorists that they were in the vicinity of a building used by war-blinded men and women and whether a press-button traffic signal which would stop traffic could be installed outside the building.

The matter was investigated by the Regional Engineers, but they advised that no special steps could be taken. The press-button signal was impracticable in view of the weight of traffic, and special warning notices for blind people could not be erected as to do so would attract applications from other sections of the community, and a widespread variety of notices all over the country would tend to make motorists ignore them.

I felt that this matter should be reviewed at the highest level and wrote a personal letter to the Minister about it. The Minister asked senior officials of his Department to consider the matter and they spent some time in investigating the problem on the spot.

They, however, advised the Minister and me that no special precautions could be taken which would have the effect of making the road safer for St. Dunstaners, and they stressed, as we have done, the warning that our men should not attempt to cross the road by themselves, but should always be accompanied by an escort and use existing Belisha crossings.

In Parliament

As I write this note on June 9th, we have just concluded the Committee stage of the Finance Bill, the legislation that puts into force the provisions of the Budget. We had a gruelling time in the House, including two nights when we got home in the early hours, and two all-night sittings. Amongst many hundreds of subjects varying from the tax on beer to Imperial preference, there were three items in which I took a hand which I think will be of interest to ex-Service men generally and St. Dunstaners particularly.

I moved a new clause to take the Purchase Tax off motor cars bought by 100 per cent. pensioners. There were, I said, two reasons for this new clause. Firstly, I wanted the three-wheeler motor invalid chair, now provided by the Ministry for a limited number of paraplegic and other limbless men, withdrawn and a small four-seater car substituted. An eight-horsepower Ford, Morris or Austin would cost no more than a three-wheeled chair and would give more comfort, better protection and greater safety. But if a normal vehicle like this was provided, then the wife, or members of the family, might use it and it might be considered that Purchase Tax should have been paid. It would, I said, be ungenerous to these men to deny them a four-seater vehicle for this reason; that was why my clause included the words, "Primarily for the use of ex-Service men," so that the motor car could also be used on occasions by his family. The other reason for taking the Purchase Tax off was that many 100 per cent. pensioners needed a car for business or pleasure, or both. Purchase Tax did not hurt the rich, but greatly handicapped the poor, and the men for whom I was speaking could not, in many cases, afford the high price of a car, especially with Purchase Tax on it. The Government refused the concession, but it was stated that the Minister of Pensions was considering replacing the three-wheelers by four-wheelers and that he was getting out a scheme to provide such vehicles in cases where all the man's circumstances, including the nature of his disability and business, would warrant it. Although we pressed the Financial Secretary to give details he would not do so, but said that the Minister of Pensions would shortly be making a statement. I accordingly put down a question to ask for further details, and this will, I hope, have been answered by the time these words go to press. Whether the proposed concession will go far enough to be of value to a wider group of severely disabled men including St. Dunstaners, I do not know; we must wait and see.

Disabled Person's Housekeeper

At one in the morning, I had a go at the Government to agree to an Income Tax allowance of £50 per annum in respect of a blind or crippled person's companion or housekeeper. Such an allowance is made for every man's wife, but if he has no wife or family to look after him but only a housekeeper, the disabled man does not get the allowance. Many lonely blind or crippled people, I said, were in this plight and they ought to be relieved. The Financial Secretary rejected this.

Purchase Tax on Baskets

At five a.m. on the last day, I sought to get the Purchase Tax taken off all baskets. Mr. White, head of our Basket Department, and Mr. Burman, Instructor at Ovingdean, had given me particulars on various points. Baskets made by trainees at Ovingdean, even though they were only beginners' baskets and below normal trade standards, were subject to Purchase Tax; I asked the Government to see to this. Baskets with a wooden bottom were taxed at the rate of sixty-six and two thirds per cent., whereas the same baskets made wholly of willow or cane were only taxed at thirty-three and a third per cent. The best thing was to take the tax off baskets altogether, because almost all baskets were utility articles and it was a small home industry in which a number of disabled and blinded persons work. I had been informed that 25 per cent. of St. Dunstaners could not make many of these baskets satisfactorily unless they had a wooden bottom. Similar arguments apply, of course, to Lord

Roberts' Workshops and other disabled men's factories, and to other articles apart from baskets.

The Government gave these pleas a sympathetic hearing and stated they would look into both points, namely, the tax on trainees' baskets, and the higher tax on those that had a wooden bottom.*

All-night Sittings

Many think all-night sittings are rather ridiculous and ask why we cannot manage our affairs more sensibly. I often think this myself, but on reflection I realise that if Government could fix the hours of debate and limit discussion, we should be approaching an authoritarian regime and ours would cease to be a free Parliament. This thought, together with a cup of coffee and some sausages, are some comfort when you have been sitting for thirteen hours and dawn is breaking.

IAN FRASER.

Employment of the Blind A Working Party Appointed

Mr. George Isaacs, the Minister of Labour, announced in the House of Commons on June 1st that he had set up a working party "to investigate the facilities existing for the employment of blind persons in industry and in public and other services, and to make recommendations for their development."

Mr. W. G. Askew, O.B.E., Secretary of St. Dunstan's, Mr. W. McG. Eagar, C.B.E., M.A., Secretary-General of the National Institute for the Blind, and Mr. Charles H. W. G. Anderson, B.Sc., Principal of the Royal Blind School, Edinburgh, are among the members of the working party, which will be under the chairmanship of Mr. W. Taylor, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

Mr. Isaacs said that his department and other interested organisations had consistently advocated the employment of as many blind persons as possible in industry. The time had come for a general review of what had been achieved.

*Purchase Tax on Baskets

Since these Chairman's Notes were written, it has been announced in the House of Commons that baskets made wholly of cane or wicker, apart from external fittings, having a bottom made of wood or other vegetable material, are to be charged purchase tax at the reduced rate of thirty-three and a third per cent. instead of sixty-six and two thirds, so the all-night vigil produced partial victory.

A Visitor from New Zealand

We are very glad to welcome to this country W. T. Woods, of Christchurch, New Zealand, and to extend to him our warmest congratulations upon the award to him of the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours for his services to ex-Service men.

He is here on an extended visit of some months and we look forward to meeting him at Ovingdean later in the year.

News in Brief

J. Nolan, of Acton, and Mrs. Nolan recently received a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress of Acton, when they were presented with a parcel of food from Australia. The Mayor spent some time conversing with John.

★ ★ ★
S. C. Tarry, of Wandsworth, has been elected President of the South Battersea and Wandsworth Branch, British Legion, locally known as "The Services Rendered Club."

★ ★ ★
F. L'Estrange Fawcett, a St. Dunstan's officer of the 1914-1918 war, who many times has served on Stowmarket Council, has contested yet another U.D.C. election and has been returned for a further period of three years. At the first meeting of the new Council, he was elected Vice-Chairman.

★ ★ ★
Another officer of the 1914-1918 war, Cyril Bulman, with his wife and their partners, Mr. and Mrs. Watson, have won, by 7,500 points, the Gill Cup for bridge played under the auspices of the Kent Bridge Association. It will be presented to them at the Tunbridge Wells Congress to be held in September.

Derby Sweepstake, 1948

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake was made at No. 12 Park Crescent, on Tuesday, June 1st, by St. Dunstaners J. Botha and F. Collingwood in the presence of Matron Walker, the Editor of the REVIEW, and some twenty St. Dunstaners and members of the staff at No. 12.

The number of tickets sold this year was 2,392—157 less than last year. After deducting £9 from the total proceeds to cover printing and postage expenses, a balance of £290 was left to be divided in accordance with the printed rules. The result was:—

1. MY LOVE W. Hamer, Ovingdean £145
2. ROYAL DRAKE H. Nelson, Durham £58
3. NOOR C. O. Le Bas, Harpenden £29

No fewer than twenty-nine horses "also ran" and those holding tickets for these received two pounds each. They were:—

BLACK TARQUIN	P. SUTTON, Manchester	1420
BLACK PAMPAS	G. LUND, West Hartlepool	601
BLUE FALLS	F. W. CHAPPLE, Bush Hill Park	1324
BLUE MICKIE	G. LAWTY, Bridlington	2352
CITY OF RUSSIA	M. BURRAN, W.1	1863
DJEDDAH	H. BENNETT, Bristol	843
HENLEY IN ARDEN	T. NORTH, Cannock	161
HOPE STREET	J. ELLIS, S.W.16	219
JACOBITE	W. LAST, Crynant	1229
JULIAN	H. C. BAYER, E.17	3
MALLOWRY	F. WAREHAM, Wimborne	982
MILLWALL	D. LITTLEJOHN, Seaford	4
MY BABU	R. HALES, Ovingdean	2267
NATIVE HEATH	D. O. EVANS, Llansamlet	714
OTTOMAN	T. KENT, Pritlewell	838
PRIDE OF INDIA	C. COOPER, Worthing	2378
PRINCE HARDI	W. VENES, Peac Haven	1881
RAVENSWOOD	F. J. BROWN, Birmingham	1287
RUBAIYAT	J. McALONAN, Brighton	350
SPECIALITY	S. BULL, Hemel Hempstead	622
STRAIGHT PLAY	F. W. WALKER, Gosport	1212
TARKA	A. S. DOLBY, Brighton	23
THE COBBLER	J. E. GUNN, Gravesend	1616
THE SENATOR II	A. W. BALLARD, Nottingham	383
TORMIE	J. DIXON, Watford	87
TORY II	BERYL SLEIGH, S.W.7	400
USHER	J. H. NEW, Wolverhampton	1652
VALIGNUS	G. J. WEBSTER, Shipley	71
VALOGNES	A. F. COOKE, Hereford	833

Those drawing horses which did not start were:—

J. R. Ridley, N.2	OVERHEAD	1690
C. W. Matthews, Maidenhead	ROARING FORTIES	961
C. Cooper, Worthing	SOLAR SLIPPER	2377
S. Brazier, Herne Bay, drew	THE FIELD	1326

Grandfathers

C. Blackett, of Plymouth; W. Canning, of Wallasey—three times within one week!

The London Club

On Tuesday evening, June 8th, St. Dunstaners from the London area met at Headquarters, 191 Marylebone Road, to discuss the principles of the new Club. Sir Ian Fraser, who was accompanied by Lady Fraser, was in the Chair for the first half of the meeting, Mr. Askew later presiding.

Opening the meeting, Sir Ian said:—

"We are here to-night to found the new St. Dunstan's Club—new because many aspects will be new and will cover wider fields. It follows the Bridge Club and the unofficial gatherings in the old Lounge at St. John's Lodge, and although these were not clubs in the same sense, they had the same purpose and the same effect.

The most comfortable rooms on the ground floor of this building have been set aside for the use of the Club.

The R.A.F. at the end of the war gave us a very fine donation from all ranks throughout the world. We talked to them about what we would like to do with the money and the Club was one of the objects suggested. As the Club is in London, Londoners get something of an advantage. The possibility of establishing clubs in the provinces is unlikely since the numbers would not warrant the establishment of such clubs on the same scale, but help will be given in the form of support for social activities and so on.

Although the Club is in London, we want to attract to it as many men as possible outside London who might come for an evening occasionally, and all men coming from a distance who are passing through London. It is hoped that a wide circle of St. Dunstaners throughout the country will visit it from time to time.

No. 8 Park Crescent will continue to remain open for some time as a "passing-through" hostel, so that men passing through London may enjoy a comfortable bed and surroundings. No. 8 will not close down until alternative accommodation has been found next door to these Club buildings; we have taken two small houses and when vacant possession is obtained, they will become the "passing-through hostel" or the residential aspect of the Club. There will be no rooms for residence in the sense that men reside there permanently. The object is to have beds available for the largest possible number.

As far as day-to-day arrangements are concerned, we want the Club to be run by yourselves. We hope that seven men will form a committee to run the Club. It is not proposed to fill all seven places tonight. I suggest you elect five members from the body of the hall to-night and empower the Committee to co-opt two others during the next month or two. The Committee will have in attendance a senior member of the staff, who in the first instance will be Mr. Askew. If Mr. Askew is away or unable to attend, Mr. Mackay will act as his alternate.

This club is freely available to all St. Dunstaners of both wars—officers, men and women alike, on equal terms. (Applause).

It will follow a modest but active programme. Modest because I don't want you to think we are contemplating anything on a grand style. Our plan is a continuance of the old Lounge, to make provision for the Bridge Club, and to develop, as I said, on improved lines. We want as many as possible to take part in its activities and we want it to be a social, friendly place where old friends can meet, rather than a body constantly putting on shows."

Sir Ian then called on Mr. Askew, who had spent time and thought in arranging the amenities of the Club, to make known the principles on which the Club was being started.

Mr Askew then presented the following points:—

1. **Opening Times:** The Club would be open from 5 to 10 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The Club would be closed during August so that the people concerned might take their holidays.

2. **Staff:** The Club would be in the charge of Sister Ibbetson, a V.A.D. at No. 8 Park Crescent. Mr. Willis would be Club Manager, assisted by Mr. Dawkins, with other helpers drawn from voluntary sources.

3. **Canteen:** Tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes and sandwiches would be available at moderate prices.

4. **Committee:** It was suggested that a Committee of seven should be appointed and that members should be in office until the first week in January. The Club, it was hoped, would by then be on an even keel and St. Dunstaners would have the opportunity of electing a new Committee or re-electing the old one.

It would be an advantage if three persons out of the seven retired the first year and four people after the second year. This would ensure continuity of management.

5. **Sub-Committees:** Small sub-committees should be elected for specific interests, one of whom should be a member of the main Committee.

6. **St. Dunstan's Review:** A column of the REVIEW should be devoted each month to the publication of Club notices and Club events.

7. **Finance:** A sum of £100 would be placed at the disposal of the main Committee in the first place since there was no subscription or entrance fee.

The meeting received Mr. Askew's points with applause and when this had died down, Sir Ian rose and said:—

"The Finance Bill is being debated in the House of Commons to-night and one of the items to be debated is purchase tax on baskets. I hope to get back to say a few words about this since it affects our basket-makers. Before I go, therefore, I propose a general discussion on the principles outlined by Mr. Askew." Discussion was then opened.

W. Lacey asked whether there had been an increase in sportsmen sufficient to warrant carrying on; Sir Ian thought that the figure might be the same as ten years ago; this included a powerful element of young fellows and a powerful element of grandfathers.

Mr. Askew said that about two hundred St. Dunstaners lived within a radius of ten miles of Headquarters and of these about sixty were second world war men.

M. Burns suggested that instead of a number of sub-committees for each branch of recreation, there should be one for indoor and one for outdoor sports. Sir Ian thought that there should be a Bridge Club sub-committee. The present Club was a development of the Bridge Club which had shown what could be done and he would like to put on record the debt owed to that Club.

F. Rhodes asked that the Bridge Club Committee now in existence until February should be allowed to continue to run the Bridge Club, with any suggestions which the main Committee might put forward. He also suggested fairly frequent dances which would attract more men to Headquarters than any other functions.

Replying, Sir Ian said he would ask the Bridge Club to allow itself to disband voluntarily and it was up to them to see that their men were elected. It was for the good of all to start afresh.

There was no floor in the new premises where a dance could be arranged. If a dance were wanted, it must be held apart from the Club premises.

Sir Ian stressed the dangers of the Marylebone Road crossing. The matter

had been taken up at a high level, but it was the authorities' opinion after intensive investigation that it would not be advisable either to have a new bus stop or new notices (not even "Beware of the Blind," added Sir Ian, amid laughter). The only way to ensure safety was to ask St. Dunstaners to take every proper precaution and for motorists to take notice of the usual signs.

W. Lacey asked how the £100 would be spent. The reply was that as St. Dunstan's would be responsible for heating, etc., and for the loss which would be incurred on refreshments, the £100 would be devoted to any cause which was in the interest of the Club.

C. Williamson asked if there would be a bar. Sir Ian said "No," but there was a pub next door and he had no doubt that the "Yorkshire Sting" would soon be as well known as the "Chester" or "Volunteer."

Some discussion took place on the question of obtaining a licence in order that a bottle of beer could be consumed on the premises, but on a show of hands it was the wish of the meeting to go on as we have done in the past.

J. M. Steel suggested a bowling green be available and Sir Ian replied that this was a matter for the Committee, but a good suggestion if bowls could be enjoyed by blind men. Other matters discussed included facilities for the Magic Circle and a request for musical facilities, both of which, Sir Ian said, were matters for the Committee rather than the general meeting.

Sir Ian then rose to leave, asking Mr. Askew to take the meeting.

It was proposed by Rees Warren and seconded by F. Rhodes that the principles outlined should be adopted. This was carried.

The meeting then adjourned for most appreciated refreshments and something like a London Reunion took place. Mrs. Irvine and Mrs. Spurway were among the welcome visitors. An hour later, the meeting again assembled and the election of officers began.

Before the voting began, the point was raised as to whether there should be any differentiation between the men of two wars. Put to the vote, there was almost unanimous approval that there should be no distinction. Voting then proceeded and the following were elected to serve on the main Committee:—

P. Ashton, G. Eustace, T. Gaygan, P. Owens, F. Rhodes.

F. Rhodes paid a tribute to Mr. Askew for his planning and help in providing the greatest comfort for the Club members. He conveyed also the company's thanks to Miss Ibbetson and Mr. Willis and to the helpers who had made the evening so pleasant.

Mr. Askew said he would be in attendance at the meetings of the Committee. He would do everything in his power to make the Club a success but it was up to members themselves. It would be the greatest pity if the maximum benefit was not obtained from the new Club premises.

The meeting then broke up.

British Legion Annual Conference

Looking through the Report of the proceedings of the British Legion Conference, the following points of interest to St. Dunstaners emerge:—

Membership of the Legion is now well over the million.

Grants made during the year for unemployment and the relief of distress totalled £826,209, nearly double last year's total.

Grants in relief of distress, to other bodies, and to Legion schemes, together with the cost of Pensions and Benevolent departments, amounted to £1,192,412.

Lt.-Col. Gordon Larking, Chairman, told the meeting, "We are 100 per cent. with you" to a proposal that constant attendance allowance should not be confined to the totally disabled.

The Conference deprecated the fact that war medals will not bear the names of the recipients, as after the first world war.

A final series of resolutions dealt with monetary awards with medals, income tax charged on widows' pensions, war credits, taxes on tobacco and beer, etc., which the Chairman accepted as being in accordance with Legion policy.

A resolution supporting the proposed International Committee for European Unity and calling for the representation of the Legion on the Committee, Board or Council of the proposed Committee was carried by a large majority. "Sailors, soldiers and airmen," said the Cardiff delegate, Mr. Prince, "were ambassadors abroad in war; so they should help to promote this noble cause of European mutual help." (Cheers).

Reunions

Sheffield, Liverpool and Manchester Reunions have taken place during May. On May 19th, the Lord Mayor, Alderman W. E. Yorke, J.P., and the Mayoress, welcomed the guests at Sheffield, and Mr. W. H. Green, Hon. Secretary, Sheffield Branch of the British Legion, was a guest here. The Liverpool meeting was spread over two days—May 21st and 22nd. The Lord Mayor, Alderman W. T. Lancashire, J.P., presided, with the Lady Mayoress, and the National Executive Council of the British Legion was represented by Mr. T. F. Lister. The guests at Manchester on the 25th were the Lord Mayor, Alderman Mary Kingsmill Jones, and her Lady Mayoress, and Mr. S. Cohen, Chairman, Southport British Legion. Mr. Mackay attended all meetings.

Glasgow and Gloucester Meetings

The Scottish Reunion at Glasgow on June 12th was a gathering of the clans. Forty Scots were there from John o' Groats to Solway Firth and Mr. Mackay and Sir Ian represented what the Chairman called the "outer" Scots from the South. Sir Ian, who had also attended at Dunoon the Annual Conference of the British Legion (Scottish), said that this Conference, as was the case at the British Legion's own Conference at the Albert Hall, had urged the need for a revision of pension rates to meet the fall in the value of money. He assured his audience that the Legions, in co-operation with ex-Service men's organisations generally, would represent the case to Ministers and M.P.s of all parties. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," said Sir Ian, "so do not expect anything, but we will do our best."

A Reunion was also held at Gloucester on Monday, June 14th, which Sir Ian and Lady Fraser also attended. This was a large party of West Country and South Wales St. Dunstaners and after singing "God Save the King," they sang the Welsh Hymn led by Gwennie Oberrn.

A. B. Hill proposed that a presentation be given to Miss Oliphant in appreciation of her devoted services for thirteen years to St. Dunstaners and their families in the West Country. A number of St. Dunstaners had formed a little committee to sponsor the presentation, and

it was suggested that half-a-crown a head was an appropriate amount. Many subscriptions were received at this Reunion and at the Taunton Reunion which followed on June 17th, and Sir Ian promised that Mr. Askew would act as Honorary Treasurer and would receive subscriptions from men who were not at the Reunions and wished to participate.

In the light of the money collected, Sir Ian will consult the committee as to what is the best form for the presentation to take and how and when it shall be made. The members of the committee were W. Bryer, A. Bundy, K. R. Cook, W. L. Keen, A. B. Hill, G. Hill, H. E. Hill, F. Madgwick and H. A. Perrett.

At Glasgow, T. M. Fisher, and at Gloucester, A. E. Hill of Bristol and A. J. Caple of Cardiff, proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Ian and Lady Fraser and St. Dunstan's.

Birmingham St. Dunstan's Club

It is some months since the Club sent a report of its doings to the REVIEW. This does not mean that it has not been having successful monthly meetings at Red Cross H.Q., Edgbaston.

The last meeting, well attended, was held on May 9th, a lovely afternoon for sitting in the garden and playing quoits and dominoes. As usual, a very nice tea was arranged by the Red Cross. Mr. Cooling announced that members had subscribed £1 2s. 6d., which pays for food and any balance to the Club Fund. Miss Fairhead, Hon. Sec., announced the Summer Outing for early July and said the Limbless Association, Broad Street, had invited members and escorts to a party in June. Stratford was decided upon for the outing. Red Cross cars will call for members and their wives and take them home at night. The party takes a picnic tea.

Mrs. Spurway undertook to get in touch with old friends in Stratford, arrange a river trip, sculling, sports, and a visit to the Legion H.Q. The Legion has written to say that St. Dunstaners will be Hon. Members of this Club and that we can dance in the Club Room. Miss Fairhead, 45 Anderton Park Road, Mossley, Birmingham 13, is Hon. Sec.

Should any St. Dunstaner who has not yet joined the Birmingham Club care to write, he will be included in the party.

A Blinded Sikh's Gratitude

Havildar (Sergeant) Jagat Singh returned home when his training at Dehra Dun was over. Blinded, left arm amputated and with only a thumb and finger remaining on his right hand, there was little that he could do beyond setting up in a little business, and St. Dunstan's has the building of a house for him under way—delayed somewhat by the fact that his part of the country has been in a state of anarchy for the past nine months. A gift of winter clothing, however, reached him, and this is how he expresses his feelings in a letter to Sir Clutha Mackenzie:—

“Revered Sir,

I have received the gift parcel of St. Dunstan's. I have no words to thank him. It is clear to me that through its kind I will spend a life worth living. It is boon to we blinded soldiers.

People in the country have odd ideas against the English. I always set a model of yours before them. I am not praising you. I am putting my heart before you. I and my whole family always prays for your long life and prosperity. For I know I cannot do more than this. The good wish and prayer of a poor soldier reaches the highest heavens.

I am going on well these days. I cannot complain against my fate. Through want of room I am not feeling well these days. Please make an earlier arrangement about the building of the house.

I am willing to see you. Chance coming, I shall try to have your darshans.

Praying for your long and prosperous life,

Sd., Hav. Jagat Singh, Halloowal.”

Placements

R. C. A. Jones, as an upholsterer with the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Pontypridd; A. Relf, Slough, in a business; Edward G. Anderson, in the shop at East Ham previously operated by Michael Lawton; B. W. Worting, as an assembler with Messrs. Rawlplugs, Ltd., Mill Hill; Eileen Gould, as a telephonist with the Ministry of Labour, East Ham—Eileen was previously an established Clerical Assistant in the Civil Service; A. Peckett, as a telephone operator with the Ministry of Labour, Corporation Street, Manchester.

Young St. Dunstaners

Christine McLoughlin was second in the Operatic Cup, and won two second places in other sections at the recent Dublin Musical Festival.

David Palmer, Maryhill, Glasgow, has been awarded a travelling scholarship in connection with his work and studies.

Marriages

Edward Williams, Shipley, on March 27th, to Miss Dorothy Hodgson.

Brian Hildick, Shrewsbury, on February 7th, to Miss Joan Hornsby.

Donald Greaves, Oldham, on April 24th (Matron Vaughan Davies was one of the guests); and Eric Appleyard, Leeds, on May 1st.

Keith Archer, Melbourne, Australia, on March 12th, to Miss Jean Prime.

Kenneth Allan McConnell, Melbourne, on April 3rd, to Miss Lydia May Sinclair.

Hilda Pollitt, Farnworth, on March 28th, to Leslie Brooks.

Norman Johns, Totnes, on April 3rd, to Miss Audrey Hutt.

Frances Cork, Rhodes Minnis, on November 29th, 1947.

Mary Allen, Morecambe, in April.

On June 6th, Marjorie Abbott, Willesden, to Peter Sirett.

On May 22nd, Agnes Lund, W.R.N.S., West Hartlepool, to Patrick Thomas Nash.

Whitsun at Blackpool

What glorious weather for Whit Week! Here we took full advantage of the opportunity to visit the Lake District.

We boarded a special coach, then on through the lovely countryside to Carnforth, where a short break enabled us to have tea and ices. Then along the main road, over the fells, up hill and down dale, until we thought we were on the “Big Dipper.” Then a wonderful trip of 5½ miles “aboard the lugger” to Bowness where the coach picked us up again. Too soon came the signal for the return journey made alongside the Lake and through the beautiful Valley. A short stop on the return journey at Carnforth for a “toast”—greatly welcomed! The subsequent community singing was somewhat weak and not up to the usual standard, but we reached the Home tired and happy.

(A little appreciation on behalf of the “boys” by Romeo and Juliet).

Ovingdean Notes

During this month we have been very pleased to welcome Dame Katherine Watt with Madame Rais, the wife of the Iranian Ambassador in London. Mme. Rais had a long talk with Captain Bekhradnia, our Iranian trainee. The Bishop of Mauritius visited us on May 21st, and gave a very interesting talk on the way of life in that country.

The Summer Term entertainment began with Mr. Cheeseman's (of London) Dance, this time in the Arlington Hotel. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the fun, including the Manager's two small children who appeared in their dressing gowns, and refused to go back to bed until refreshed with lemonade and buns.

On Whit Sunday evening a party of trainees went to West House, where a performance of “Ousel's Odd Bods” delighted a large audience; and on Whit Monday, Ovingdean trainees again joined West House on a Treasure Hunt to Alfriston. “Jenks” Jenkins, Harold Dickenson and Miss Timmis were the lucky winners.

An excellent performance of the play, “George and Margaret,” was given by the Withdean Club on Wednesday, May 26th. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it, and we hope to see them again in the near future.

A most delightful evening was spent by a number of our debaters at Roedean School by invitation of their debating Society. The subject—“That Beauty is Preferable to Brains in Women”—was most ably introduced by “Killie” who stressed the point of real beauty in character. He was seconded by a Roedean sixth-former grimly picturing a frump discoursing on the Stone Age! A Roedeanite opposed (scorning the dumb belle) and seconded by Jack Cook, followed by an open debate of rapier thrusts and real wit. All look forward to inviting our charming young hostesses to Ovingdean next term.

Another welcome invitation was from the Sergeant-at-Arms, House of Commons, for four trainees and an escort to attend the debate on Friday, May 18th. Sir Hartley Shawcross, Mr. George Buchanan and Mr. Aneurin Bevan were among the speakers. Every kindness was shown the party, including seats in the Peers' Gallery, and a short description of the historical paintings, showing landmarks in the growth of our

constitution; and permission to visit the new Foundation Stone.

A shooting match took place between St. Dunstan's and the Crawley Scouts on Tuesday, May 12th, which resulted in a win for St. Dunstan's by 187 points to the Crawley Scouts' 174. The highest score of the evening was made by Dickie Richardson, who scored 48 out of a possible 50. Another match was arranged in the house between the Physiotherapy Department and the Rest. The Rest won by 271 points out of a possible 300 to 248.

Sports

Our annual Sports Meeting will be held on July 17th, 1948, commencing at 2.30 p.m. (on our own ground). Sports events will be the same as for the last year with additional events for the children at North Gate House, and all St. Dunstaners' children present.

It is also proposed to hold another Sports Day on September 18th, 1948, for all St. Dunstaners away from the Training Centre and living within easy reach of Ovingdean. Events will be as follows:—

- 70 yards totally blind
- 70 yards semi-sighted
- Throwing the cricket ball
- Throwing the medicine ball
- Putting the weight
- Standing long jump
- Throwing the discus
- Walking race

Will anyone who wishes to enter for any of these events please notify Matron Pain or Mr. Jarrold not later than Monday, July 5th? If sufficient entrants are not forthcoming, those who have entered will be informed before September 11th that this Sports day will be cancelled.

Senior Braille Reading Test

C. Durkin, T. Kent.

Correction

Our Norwegian visitor of last month, M. Heian, was reported as being a basket instructor who is blind. This was wrongly worded. M. Heian is sighted and instructs the blind.

For Sale

PIANO, Swiss make, good tone, ebonised case, iron frame, seven octaves, £60.—R. Collyer, 5 Dollis Brook Walk, May's Lane, Barnet, Herts.

West House Notes

The "Week-enders" started to arrive early on May 14th to swell the already considerable number of visitors taking an early summer holiday.

Before the first official function, the chaps were running into old friends and talk and laughter was at once loosening up and preparing the way for the full flavour of festivities arranged according to programme.

The hot sun and fair skies and good company made the boating expedition at Barcombe Mills in the afternoon most enjoyable, and a number took advantage of the river to "paddle their own canoes" and brace themselves for more active things to follow.

Evening brought all to the "Get Together" dance with both lounge and conservatory floors comfortably filled with couples tripping the light fantastic. The evening continued with many novelty dances, not forgetting our usual Statue and Spot Waltzes, with prizes. After the ball was over, little groups of men could be found with not a thought of Slumberland but talking of "old Charlie," Tom, Dick and Harry, and bringing news of absent friends.

Saturday brought forth an afternoon of sea and sun-bathing with a picnic tea on the beach; this was thoroughly enjoyed by all and brought back brick-red complexions and peeling noses to testify weather conditions. A more restful occupation during the evening—a whist and domino drive to which local St. Dunstaners were invited and proved successful with a large and keen set of tables.

On Sunday, a general desire for rest, especially after the efforts of the Kitchen Staff; some of the snores on the lawn were certainly a song of praise.

A well-attended Chapel Service was held in the early evening with a delightful solo by Miss Brownings. The chapel, as always, was decorated with many lovely flowers.

After supper came our very own theatre with "Ousel's Odd Bods" excelling all previous grand shows with three one-act plays, one "A Cure for Nerves," by the Dispensary Staff, secondly, "Novelette," by the Lounge "Lizards," and thirdly, "Tanks," by Matron and the rest of the "Odd Bods," among whom was Denis Lelliott. All three plays were introduced by Commandant with his usual witty and

jocular style. Mrs. Brodie gave us her very able assistance in many ways with the production.

Bank Holiday came, and the sun was still pouring down; this was the day of rounding up the grand week-end. At 2 p.m. there was a general shepherding of treasure hunters into the coaches and soon all were wheeling away through the Sussex Lanes to Alfriston, and to meet Ovingdean, who were also joining in the fun. Lists of treasures were handed out and soon the whole village was joining in the spirit with St. Dunstaners and escorts knocking at doors and asking for strange items. Six-inch nails (not rusty), moth balls, the "Times," an eyelash, a blonde hair (not a blonde in the party), a bulrush (out of season), and an ode to Matron. At 4.30 the party journeyed to a neighbouring hill, where the picnic tea was disposed of (oh, those thistles!). It was found desirable to let the engines cool at a wayside hostelry. Having oiled the throats, songs were sung all the way back, the rendering of "Ten Green Bottles" bringing the "stayers-in" to the door when the party arrived at West House.

A short rest and clean-up, then the Gala Dance, music lending wings to the feet once more and the running buffet serving tasty refreshments. At 11 o'clock the climax came with our old friend Mrs. Spurway presenting prizes for the treasure hunt and dance; at this stage one of the odes to Matron was read. Ah, yes! A very odd ode!

By breakfast time on Tuesday morning many had departed, leaving still a spirit of gaiety.

Our weekly dance on May 21st was honoured with a visit from Leo Silvera, the famous tenor, and his star pupil, 18-year-old Janet Scott, as guest artistes.

The next day we visited the Toc H Club, Preston Park, for dominoes, and prizes were brought back by Harry Day and Daddy Howe.

On the 27th we welcomed members of the Withdean Club, who gave us an excellent performance of "George and Margaret."

The last star performance was given by Janet Hamilton-Smith and John Hargreaves, stars from the "Song of Norway," during our Friday dance on the 28th.

We may now look forward to another instalment of whoopee at West House.

Theatre Gossip

Attending the Westousdrome, Brighton, I was at once struck by the popularity and fame the Repertory Company, "Ousel's Odd Bods," had gained for themselves. The date I had chosen to visit the show marked the first night attempt of giving three shows for the price of one. And long ere the curtain rose the "House Full" notices were exhibited.

Promptly at eight o'clock the popular Comper welcomed the audience and introduced the first one-act play, "A Cure for Nerves." It would be unfair to select any particular artiste by name, but I think the bedside manner of the doctor would simply stagger the B.M.A. The curtain descended to a furor of applause, which I admit was really merited.

When the house lights came on, silent-footed usherettes passed quietly amongst the audience with ice creams, cigarettes, and even beer, this further service avoiding the necessity of a mad rush in a foot crushing gallop to the bar.

Then the curtain rose on "Novelette," a below-stairs drama lightened by some rare humour and snappy repartee. It is hard to single out for special praise any of the artistes, drawn from the lounge section of the company, but I must compliment the casting, Miss Chaddock and Miss Wilkinson in particular being suited well for the parts allotted them. I would also pay tribute to the cast by saying how I learned a full rehearsal had not taken place until the same afternoon.

The last one-acter was "Tanks," performed by Madame Ousley's Stooges, the administrative section, an offering of entanglement, and love pursuit, even into the lady's boudoir, where the scene was set. The farce went at a good pace through its entirety, with the lovesick captain, immersed in a steam bath of ancient vintage, his desired lady becoming excited and calm by turn, and the passionate French maid completing the main picture. This part was taken by Madame M. Ousley herself, and as the curtain came down the audience rose once again, satisfied that Westousdrome had definitely "Done its Stuff."

With the standard of plays so high, and the performers doing so well, further fame is assured. I must put forward a plea, however, that in fairness to the artistes who are playing to these packed houses, the

theatre really needs a new microphone system, with, I suggest, two hanging "mikes" to augment the existing one.

With all critics and gossip writers it is imperative to remain hidden, so I sign myself
FAUTEILS.

Mr. S. Manchee

The many St. Dunstaners who knew him will hear with the deepest regret that Mr. Syd Manchee died at Brighton on May 24th at the age of 73. One of the original "Good Companions," Mr. Manchee continued his good work all through the war, acting as escort to and from Melplash and Blackpool, helping in a hundred other ways, and still finding time to raise more than a thousand pounds for St. Dunstan's through the Brighton Appeals Office. Since the war he has remained in touch with many of our men and his interest in St. Dunstan's has been unflagging, although for some weeks his health had been breaking. He will be greatly missed.

Matron Pain, Miss Morris and Miss Davison, and St. Dunstaners T. Rouse and J. Howe, were among those present at the funeral.

Golden Wedding

Special congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Morris, of Pontypridd, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on May 29th.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following who are celebrating their anniversaries:—

Mr. and Mrs. D. Owen, Rhos-on-Sea, Mar. 30th; Mr. and Mrs. E. Mills, Bloxwich, April 2nd; Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Baker, Enfield, May 26th; Mr. and Mrs. T. Warren, Slough, June 2nd; Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Frampton, Highams Park, June 16th.

Editorial Address

Will St. Dunstaners note that the Editor's address remains 9-11 Park Crescent, since this is incorporated in the Publicity Department, and that all correspondence relating to "St. Dunstan's Review" and "Nuggets" should be sent there.

Marriages

ROWE-KEILEY.—On June 19th, E. Rowe, of South Woodford, to Miss Katherine Keiley, of Folkestone.

SALT-HOLMES.—On April 21st, J. Salt, of Morecambe, to Miss Betty Holmes, recently of Blackpool.

TIBBETT.—On June 12th, C. Tibbett, of Wimbledon.

“ In Memory ”

Private John Palmer, 15th Highland Light Infantry

We record with deep regret the death of John Palmer, of Maryhill, Glasgow, who enlisted on October 9th, 1914, and lost his sight as a result of gunshot wounds while serving in France. He came to St. Dunstan's early in 1917, where he trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker.

While on holiday at West House in November, 1946, he became suddenly ill. He returned home but his illness continued, and he was only able to do wool-rug work at which he was very successful. He passed away peacefully on May 1st.

St. Dunstaners Irvine, Forrester, McDonald and Yuile followed with Miss Wood at the funeral. Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and two sons.

Private James Alexander Dunlop, 1st Cameron Highlanders

With deep regret we record the death of J. A. Dunlop, of Midlothian, which took place very unexpectedly at his home on May 17th.

He served from September, 1915, until September, 1918; he had been wounded in France in 1918 and he came to us in that year. He trained as a poultry farmer and basket-maker, and he carried on with the latter until the time of his death.

Miss Wood attended the funeral, where nearly fifty of his friends had gathered. He leaves a wife and son to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Henry Jones, Training Reserves

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. Jones, of Flint, who came to St. Dunstan's in 1921 although he had served in the Forces from May, 1917, until February, 1918. He was trained as a basket maker and for many years did this, but for some time now he had been doing light work only. His death took place suddenly on April 25th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Private J. A. Cobbell, Grenadier Guards

With deep regret we record the death of J. A. Cobbell, of Great Yarmouth.

He was wounded at Lavante in 1916, coming to St. Dunstan's the same year, and he trained as a mat-maker.

He passed away on May 22nd.

He leaves a widow and two daughters to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Gunner Ronald Charles Hales, 94th Field Regt., R.A.

With deep regret we record the death of Ronald Hales, who joined St. Dunstan's for training on February 27th, 1946. He was injured in action in Holland. He became seriously ill in April, 1947, and although he made some slight recovery, he was never strong enough to undertake serious training.

He was buried at Nunhead Cemetery, London, on June 3rd, St. Dunstan's trainees and staff at Ovingdean being represented by Messrs. W. Harby, Short, and Curtis, the latter being his personal orderly.

Private James Hartley, Labour Corps

We record with deep regret the death of J. Hartley, who for a great number of years has been a permanent resident at one of our Homes in consequence of his ill health. He served in the first world war from May, 1917, until December, 1918, in which year he joined St. Dunstan's.

He passed away at West House on May 31st and was laid to rest with his St. Dunstan's comrades in the Brighton Cemetery.

Births

CARR.—On May 10th, to the wife of W. Carr, of Rochdale, a son.

GLOVER.—On May 19th, to the wife of W. Glover, of Birmingham, a son—Brian Michael.

NOLAN.—On May 8th (prematurely), to the wife of J. Nolan, of Acton, a son—John. They are both now doing well.

PHILLIPS.—On June 7th, to the wife of W. G. Phillips, of Wolverhampton, a daughter—Ann Mary.

READ.—On June 10th, to the wife of Jack Read, of Hastings, a daughter—Sheila Joyce.

STOKES.—On May 25th, to Sadie Stokes, of Salford, a daughter.

Deaths

We extend our deep sympathy to the following:—

BARRETT.—To Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Barrett, of Lower Edmonton, whose daughter, Violet, died on June 5th.

MUGGERIDGE.—To W. A. Muggeridge, of Hillingdon, whose mother passed away on May 24th.

MAKER.—To C. Maker, of Horrabridge, who lost his wife on June 4th after a serious and long illness.