

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 356—VOLUME XXXII

DECEMBER, 1948

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

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

"THE PEOPLE," a well-known Sunday newspaper with a large circulation, gave prominence recently to an article advocating the complete merger of the principal national organisations for ex-Servicemen and women. They mentioned, for example, the British Legion, the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Help Society, the National Association for Employment of Regular Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, the British Limbless ex-Servicemen's Association, and St. Dunstan's.

If these organisations were completely merged, the article argued, much administrative expenditure would be saved.

It may be true that there is some overlapping and duplication of work amongst these organisations, but one must not overlook certain important factors which arise out of the history, the tradition, and the spirit of individual organisations. In the case of St. Dunstan's, it is certainly true that the *esprit de corps* which binds together the men and women blinded on war service under the name of St. Dunstan's is a very important source of encouragement and help to them. St. Dunstan's is so well known to Government, to Local Authorities, and to the people generally as the single organisation in this country that looks after every interest of every war-blinded service man and woman, that for all practical purposes, every case in this field needing help of any kind is referred and is exclusively dealt with by our organisation. Many of our men and women are proud to be members of the British Legion, or of the Royal Air Forces Association, or of other societies for the companionship and mutual support which they afford but for help and advice they come exclusively to us.

Blindness is a special problem; the war-blinded are a sufficiently large number to enable a powerful organisation to be their guardian and friend and yet sufficiently small to enable every individual to be dealt with as human beings. My own view is that much would be lost and little gained for the nation or for St. Dunstan's if our organisation lost its identity and was merged in any others.

A better policy, it seems to me, is the one which we follow, namely, that of co-operation and close liaison with other bodies. For example, in the field of money raising we have for years co-operated with the British Legion by abandoning our own separate Flag Day and taking a small share of Poppy Day and by virtually giving up our public appeal during the month before Remembrance Day; and in Scotland we avoid competitive appeals with Newington House, Edinburgh, the Scottish organisation for blinded ex-Service people, by a collecting agreement. To aid administrative liaison, a member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion sits on our Council and there are other ex-Service committees on which there is mutual representation.

The handicap of blindness puts us in the blind world as well as in the ex-Service world and there is a very substantial amount of co-operation between us, the National Institute

for the Blind, the National Library for the Blind, the Sir Beachcroft Towse Fund, the Wireless for the Blind Fund, and other societies. Mutual representation at Council and Committee level, co-operation in the production and conduct of Talking Books, substantial contributions to inventions and research are examples.

You cannot force amalgamation. It can only grow out of working together. I have urged closer working together at all levels and a good example of recent mutual support which I have encouraged is the coming together of ten national organisations for ex-Service men and women in support of the British Legion war pensions campaign.

We must not, however, be complacent and although I think the article in "The People" goes too far, it is vital that voluntary organisations should be efficient, should avoid unwieldy administration and should work together to a very large extent to cut out overlapping and waste.

Do not, however, let us destroy individuality, variety, special knowledge and, above all, *esprit de corps* of certain organisations like St. Dunstan's.

"Man cannot live by bread alone."

To all St. Dunstaners and friends of St. Dunstan's the world over, my wife and I send Christmas greetings, and may the peace and goodwill traditionally associated with Christmas-tide extend into the New Year to abate the strife of an uneasy world. IAN FRASER.

### Headquarters Bus Stop

At the request of St. Dunstan's, the London Transport Executive and Marylebone Borough Council have agreed to a new request stop for west-bound buses for the convenience of St. Dunstaners travelling to Headquarters. The new stop is at 199/200 Marylebone Road, which is just beyond our building.

### Briefly

W. A. Perring, of Melbourne, has been elected President of the Legacy Co-ordinating Council. At the Legacy conference dinner, when the new President addressed the delegates, his audience included the Premier of West Australia, Mr. McLarty.

★ ★ ★

Gwen Obern was the soloist at the Wales Festival of Remembrance at the famous Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, on November 11th. Two thousand people were present. Before the ceremony, Gwenny had tea with the Mayor and many of the Legion officials.

★ ★ ★

J. Nicol, of Hepburn-on-Tyne, laid the local wreath on Remembrance Day.

★ ★ ★

J. Wood, in open competition, won the silver cup, two first prizes, two seconds, one third, and one specially commended in the Chrysanthemum and Vegetable Class, at Grange over Sands Horticultural Show.

★ ★ ★

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Williams, of Warrington, celebrated forty years of married life on November 29th.

### St. Dunstan's Club (Manchester)

The revived Club is gaining popularity and meets twice a month at the New Exchange Cafe as well as holding a Social Evening, by kind permission of the Red Cross, at their rooms at Pendleton on the second Friday in each month. We have had several enjoyable outings including one to Blackpool on November 11th, when we were Matron's guests to lunch and tea. Following a short Remembrance Service in the Lounge we challenged the residents to a Domino Tournament and much to our chagrin were soundly thrashed.

We shall be delighted to welcome any St. Dunstaner who happens to notify the Secretary, Mrs. Dunphy, The Rough, Chester Road, Mere, Nr. Knutsford, so that she can arrange about the catering.

We are considering the formation of a swimming section and shall be pleased to hear from any men who are interested.

### Tandem Cycle Touring

The General Secretary of the National Cyclists' Union has offered to put St. Dunstaners who would like to go tandeming, in touch with their local clubs, with a view to touring at week-ends.

Will men in Manchester Club area who are interested please send their names to Mrs. Eaton, 1 Dunollie Road, Sale, Cheshire, and in the Birmingham Club area to Mrs. Spurway, Holmwood Vicarage, Dorking.

### The Navy and St. Dunstan's

Each year, for the last three years, some fifty St. Dunstaners have been the guests of the Royal Navy at Lee-on-Solent for a week of unequalled hospitality and generous entertainment. These camps have been those which Mrs. Avis Spurway has organised for St. Dunstaners for twenty years.

On November 17th, to mark this happy association between the Royal Navy and St. Dunstan's, the Officers, W.R.N.S. and other ranks, together with the civilian staff of H.M.S. Daedalus, presented to St. Dunstan's an airscrew from a Naval Air Arm Aircraft which had been prepared and fitted with a fine clock, the whole being mounted on a mahogany base and inscribed.

Commandant L. Fawcett, late of the Fleet Air Arm and himself the first naval organiser of these Camps, introduced his former Commanding Officer, Commodore D. M. L. Neame, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N., who, on behalf of H.M.S. Daedalus, made the presentation. Presenting the trophy, Commodore Neame told St. Dunstaners that their visit was the highlight of their summer season. "We hope this clock will never stop—it is symbolic of our friendship towards you which you know will never stop."

Replying, the President of St. Dunstan's, Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., thanked Commodore Neame and the ship's company for their gift and their hospitality. Referring to St. Dunstaners, he said he knew of no other place where there was such a perpetual feeling of cheerfulness and goodwill. There was no place which was not brightened by their presence.

Mrs. Spurway had a tremendous reception when she rose. She spoke of her great enjoyment in organising these camps and of the wonderful co-operation which she had received from the Naval authorities.

On behalf of the campers, a vote of thanks to H.M.S. Daedalus was voiced by J. Boyd.

The inscription on the clock base was: "Presented to St. Dunstan's by the Commodore, Officers and Officials of the Civilian Staff of H.M.S. Daedalus, as a token of friendship between the two establishments, November, 1948."

### Great-Grandfather

T. H. Marshall, Barbourne.

### Grandfather

W. Allen, Torrisholme.

### Talking Book Library

It will disappoint avid readers that last month's fog delayed the deliveries to the Library, but it need not worry anyone because the volume of recording is increasing rather than falling away. The actual delivery of books to the Library depends on the outside manufacturers and it is fair to assume that, although they do their best, they must vary in the amount of completed orders.

"The Judge's Story," by Charles Morgan read by Joseph McLeod, is the solitary addition of the month, but if quality is preferred to quantity there should be no disappointment. The Judge is retired and the story is woven around his ward, her husband and a club enemy. The author, recording and reading are first rate and there are several hours' good entertainment in the grooves of the records comprising "The Judge's Story." 33 revs. a minute suits the Judge admirably. Unfortunately, this offering is essentially pre-39 and that, in some way, makes the story less powerful than it actually is.

In conclusion, I trust that "First Nighters" will not altogether demand this yarn from the Library, but it is quite unlikely so I refuse to envisage such a happening. This book is, I believe, the pick of the last three months. Good listening!

NELSON.

### Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," December, 1918:—

#### FINE WEATHER

Dear Editor, I'm feeling fine,  
In fact, I'm in fine feather,  
Don't think that I've been drinking wine,  
It's only just fine weather.

★ ★ ★

My early spuds are going in  
My violets take an outing,  
And e'en my hair which was so thin,  
Has lately started sprouting.

★ ★ ★

My cabbages and cauliflower  
Each day are growing faster;  
The passion-fruit which climbs the bower,  
May yet meet with disaster.

★ ★ ★

The bees among the ti-trees roam,  
E'en as on Scotia's heather,  
And carry loads of honey home  
Each day we have fine weather.

★ ★ ★

From Him who doth our footsteps guide,  
Let us request together—  
Whatever it might be outside,  
Give us at heart fine weather.

THIRD RESERVE.

### News from Arizona

from T. Till, of Lancaster, who flew there on October 5th.

After leaving Heath Row, we had a two hours' flight to the Shannon airport, which I thought pretty good time. After a short stay there for tea we again set off for the long hop over the Atlantic. Our destination was to have been the Ganda airport in Newfoundland, but on the way we were told to land at Stevensville, a government air base used in the war. It was evidently too rough to land at Ganda. A halt at Stevensville for breakfast, and then a 600 miles hop to New York where I had to leave my lady friend, the stewardess, and be placed in charge of a fresh lady companion. We had quite a long stay in New York, where by the way, it was blowing and raining a blizzard, and after what seemed to be a very long while we again set off on the long trail, and our next stop was Washington, D.C.

When we arrived there, the crew seemed to think there was something amiss with the engines, so the plane was run into the hangar for inspection. We all hung about the place an hour or two, during which I wondered whether to pop over to the White House and say "Howdy" to the President. Then the first part of our somewhat exciting programme began. We got away about an hour's flying time from New York when the pilot deemed it wise to return to New York as the engines were not functioning perfectly. This meant a round trip for us of about 550 miles. We reached New York again without mishap, and after a somewhat dreary stay there, we set off again in a fresh plane.

Our next stop was Memphis, in Texas, quite an important city. A stay there for eats and drinks, and away again for Dallas, in Texas. This was a very long hop across the country of the cowboys, but alas, when we neared Dallas, we were told there was a bad electric storm there and that all planes were grounded. However, we kept on our course until we were over Dallas aerodrome, where we circled around quite a lot. We tried to land, but the plane was plunging about like a bucking horse, and we just couldn't land. This meant us having to return, but after an hour or two we were wired that the storm was passing away from Dallas, so we again started in hopes of being able, this time, to effect a

landing, which we did. After that we had no further trouble and we eventually reached Phoenix, my destination.

It was a thrill, when I descended from the plane, to be hailed by my sister, who I had not seen for some fifteen years, and by my brother-in-law, who I had not seen for close on thirty years. On the whole I quite enjoyed the trip, which was both a new experience and a thrilling adventure.

We had only one meal on the plane, which was served on a tray affixed to the seat by a very cunning device. The seats on the planes were very comfortable and well sprung and padded. For sleeping purposes one had to press a button on the side of the seat, and lean back to the angle one preferred. All very simple. We had no beds, but were provided with rugs if needed. We just sat in our tilted seats all the time. Chewing gum was provided for anyone who liked to keep his or her jaws in good practice.

The weather here is still pretty hot, and in the afternoon it reaches the region of 95 degrees. Most of the time I am toggled up in a pair of trousers and a very thin shirt, but quite often the shirt is dispensed with. We are seven hours behind you on the clock, and only some 400 miles from Hollywood. The air here is just about the driest on earth.

It will seem quite strange spending Christmas here, as it will be the first Christmas I will have spent apart from my family. And I expect by the time I return home I will be as brown as a nigger. I am enjoying really good music, good food, and a very comfortable car. Nobody walks here, everybody rides to escape the heat.

And now for a six months' holiday, or as the Yanks say, a six months' vaycation!

### Young St. Dunstaners

#### Marriages

The son of W. Holmes, of Witton Park, in Germany to Miss Edith Hohmann.

On November 23rd, Pearl Yarwood, Wythenshawe, to Mr. Robert Falshaw. Pupils at the bride's School of Dancing gave a display in her honour at the social which followed the wedding reception.

On July 17th, Brenda Thomas (Neasden) to Mr. T. J. Philpin.

★ ★ ★

The daughter of A. Massey, Reading, had a son on October 6th. She now lives at St. John's, Newfoundland.

### Chess Week-end at Brighton

Chess players from all parts came to Brighton on Nov. 5th to play in the annual tournament for the Championship Cup.

Two matches were played against outside teams, as in the previous year, viz.: The Brighton Chess Club and the pick of the Boys' League.

Although the St. Dunstan's players were strengthened somewhat by the inclusion of Dick Slaughter and the much improved Basil Porter, the result was not a great deal better than last year.

We failed to win a game against Brighton Chess Club, but the Boys allowed us to win two and a half games.

In our own Club Matches, there was much to be remembered for many a day, if only for the headaches which resulted after the stern struggles which took place in all rounds leading to the final.

*First Round*—A. Condon *v.* T. Tuxford; B. Hammett *v.* R. Slaughter; C. Scott *v.* F. Kirkbright; D. Vine *v.* H. Porter; E. Hill *v.* F. Parker; F. Cookson *v.* P. Maskell; Bye, G. Fallowfield.

*Second Round*—T. Tuxford *v.* F. Kirkbright; R. Slaughter *v.* P. Maskell; G. Fallowfield *v.* H. Porter; Bye, E. Hill.

*Semi-final*—H. Porter *v.* E. Hill; P. Maskell *v.* F. Kirkbright.

*Final*—E. Hill *v.* P. Maskell. Resulted in a draw.

After making enquiries, I find that the general opinion is that our programme for this annual Chess Weekend is too heavy to be carried out in the short time allotted. Another observation was that the Brighton Chess Club is far too strong for our class of chess. At the same time we are most grateful for the experience gained by meeting so strong a team consisting of at least five county players.

The Final, resulting in a draw, must be encouraging to all our members, for it proves our Cup can be won by anyone who plays chess. Can we hope, therefore, to have the pleasure of playing against some of the St. Dunstaners of this last war?

Before I close, allow me to say a word of appreciation on behalf of my chess pals, for the kindness shown to us by the whole Staff at West House. I feel sure that the Boys' League thought it well worth while paying us a visit, for their appetites were well appeased, and the ice cream, Oh Boy! Oh Boy!

Tux.

### A Motoring Holiday Abroad

Sgt. Alan Nichols spent a motoring holiday in France and Switzerland in September and he has sent us a most interesting summary of his trip, which covered 2,080 miles from door to door. He says that the cost to his party of five, including hotels and petrol, worked out at £16 15s. 0d. per head for the fourteen days.

If any St. Dunstaner would like details of the route the party took, the Editor will be pleased to send it on, and Nick will be happy to answer any questions of the subject of petrol and to give useful information regarding the position in France and Italy.

He says, "The £10 one has to pay for the return journey from Dover to Calais for the car is well worth noting, because the return fares for five persons from London to Zurich is £78 and we covered more than 1,000 miles over and above that trip, so it is hardly necessary to refer to the advantages of a motoring holiday as compared to a set objective by train."

### Young St. Dunstaners

George Fallowfield, junior, who joined the Southwick Model Aero Club a year ago, has won the silver challenge cup for the best designed aircraft. This included its flying performance throughout the flying season; on average his model flew fastest and furthest. He is 13.

"Paddy" Tuxford has passed his School Certificate Examination in spite of eight weeks' absence through illness. He is also fast becoming a champion runner, being second in the Senior Cross Country Run and second in the West of England Air Force Cadets' Mile.

Desmond Jackson (Ashford) has won the National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering awarded by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

Hetty Marsden (Alderholt) is sitting for Mr. Augustus John, the artist.

Paddy Coleman, Northampton, has obtained the National Diploma in Design (Painting) and hopes to get a place at the Royal College of Art, London.

Coming to the microphone on January 6th — Christine McLoughlin, who will broadcast a group of songs from the Dublin station.

## Peers Demand Inquiry on War Pensions

From the "Daily Telegraph" December 9th, 1948:—

"The Government suffered its first Parliamentary defeat of the session this evening when the House of Lords, by 47 votes to 30, called for an inquiry into existing rates of war pensions and disability allowances.

The Government had strenuously resisted the proposal, Viscount Addison, Leader of the House, contending that such an inquiry would carry an imputation on the work of the Ministry of Pensions, which had been uniformly praised.

Pressed by the Marquess of Salisbury, Leader of the Opposition, to accept an inquiry, if only to prove that the Government were right, Lord Addison still refused to agree, but when a division was taken, Conservative, Liberal and non-party peers entered the lobby together to carry the motion.

The vote was on a resolution moved by Admiral of the Fleet the Earl of Cork and Orrery,

'That in the opinion of this House the time has arrived to hold an inquiry as to whether the existing rates of war pensions and disability allowances are adequate to meet requirements under the conditions at present prevailing.'

Lord Cork said that the suggestion had been put forward by the British Legion and nine other ex-Servicemen's organisations, but the Government had not only refused the request, but had insinuated that it was made from political motives.

This he indignantly denied. Indeed, in asking for an inquiry, were the associations not going the best way to keep the subject out of politics? (Opposition cheers).

'I sometimes think politicians take themselves too seriously,' he continued amid laughter, "and imagine that this nation consists of two sets of people always running along strict party lines. As a matter of fact, the great mass of the population are only too ready to work together for the common interest.'

The present basic rate of 40s. a week was fixed as long ago as 1919, and was increased in 1946 to 45s.—12½ per cent. in 30 years. During that period the value of the pound had fallen to 60 per cent, and industrial wages had risen by probably 80 per cent.

He earnestly pleaded with the Government, which had a good record for humanitarian treatment, to agree to the appointment of a small impartial committee of men known throughout the country for their standing and integrity.

Viscount Bridgeman supported Lord Cork's plea, if only for the effect on the reputation of the Services.

Lord Moynihan thought the basic rate should be related in some way to the cost of living, and the minimum rate should give freedom from fear and want.

Lord Crook opposed the motion, saying that although for years he had fought for better pensions, the last three years had seen the end of the things against which he had agitated.

Lord Llewellyn thought the case for an inquiry had been made out. It did seem ludicrous that basic pensions which were 40s. in 1922 should only have risen to 45s. during that period.

Opposing the motion, Lord Calverley commented, 'I wish the British Legion, instead of hoarding its money, would spend it more freely.'

He was promptly rebuked by Lord Cromwell, treasurer of the British Legion, who pointed out that in the past two years, the Legion had spent £250,000 more than it had received.

Lord Calverley: In that case, I withdraw what I said.

Lord Cromwell, continuing, said he could not understand why the Government were reluctant to refer this matter to an impartial inquiry.

Viscount Hall, First Lord of the Admiralty, replying to the debate, said this was a matter above party. There had been great changes both in the amount of pensions and in the Ministry's attitude, and the Government could see no real difficulty of the sort which usually required reference to an inquiry.

The Government's policy was to give help where it was most needed. It was true that the basic rate had only been increased from 40s. to 45s. whereas rates in industry had risen much more, but the majority of pensioners, 80 or even 90 per cent., were working and sharing in those increased rates of pay.

The Government had been concerned to make provision for those who could not earn, and this they had done by vastly increased allowances.

He illustrated his argument by quoting a case of a 100 per cent. disabled man, who in 1938 received 40s. basic pension plus 15s. for attendance. To-day the same pensioner received £2 5s. basic pension, 16s. for his wife whom he married after disablement, 30s. unemployment supplement, and 40s. for attendance, which totalled £6 11s. a week. In addition he was supplied with a free motor-car and an upkeep allowance of £45 a year.

Lord Cork, replying, said no one had challenged the kindness of the Ministry of Pensions. The trouble, he supposed, was that 'the Government dare not face up to Sir Stafford Cripps and ask for a few millions more.' (Ministerial laughter).

Lord Salisbury, intervening, said the First Lord had argued against an increase, more than against an inquiry. The Government would be wise to set up some form of inquiry, if only to clear the air or prove themselves right.

Lord Addison rose and sharply said he regretted Lord Salisbury's attitude. The Leader of the Opposition knew that when an inquiry of this kind was asked for it was on the basis of some urgent public matter, defective administration, serious injustice, or something of that kind.

Nothing of the sort was alleged here; in fact, everyone had showered compliments on the Minister of Pensions (Mr. Marquand) and the Government could not possibly accept the imputation which such an inquiry carried with it.

Lord Salisbury: There is no imputation that the Government has not done enough. If the Government wishes to avoid imputation, the wisest plan is to agree to an inquiry.

Lord Addison hotly retorted that he could not possibly accept that position. It was all very well for the House to say there would be no imputation, but that would be forgotten when the inquiry started. It would give the impression that there had been some maladministration, defect or lack of sympathy.

Lord Addison was interrupted by loud Opposition cries of dissent. 'Oh, yes,' he continued, after a pause, 'that will be the effect and that is what we cannot possibly agree to.'

The division was then taken, Lord Cork and Lord Allwyn acting as tellers for the 'Ayes', and Lord Morrison for the 'Noes.'

In the course of his remarks, Lord Cork (Cons.) said the discussion originated from the fact that the President of the British Legion (Sir Ian Fraser) had given notice of Motion asking for a Select Committee to go into this question of disability allowances. The President of the British Legion was speaking not only for the organisation over which he presides with such distinction but for nine other associations dealing with ex-Servicemen.

Lord Crook, a Labour peer, also referred to our Chairman. Rejecting the idea that there are more facts that need bringing out, he said, "As a result of the action of Sir Ian Fraser in 1946 and as a result of the intensive work on this matter in another place in July of this year, there never was a better understanding in this country of where we stand. . . . There are many other things that I would have liked to say. . . . I would that there were words of my own with which to conclude satisfactorily what I have said to your Lordships, but I am fortunate that I am able to read the better words, written from a much greater depth of feeling, of Sir Ian Fraser, my admiration for whom I have already indicated; he said:

'No money in the world could make a man happy if he is unfit. Certainly no money in the world can make a man happy if he is in any way cut off from some of the activities of life. Nothing can contribute so much to one's happiness as having to work, and having to work hard.'

## Placements

E. Bedford, Shipley, with Messrs. Wilkinsons, Ltd., Bradford, as an upholsterer; W. H. Robertson, Ipswich, as a shopkeeper; J. Proctor, Brighton, as a shopkeeper, his business including a railway and ticket agency; P. J. Nicholson, with Messrs. Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Nottingham, on plastic moulding work; F. Pawson, as Industrial Superintendent to the Ex-Service Welfare Society; S. Worthington, with The Distillers Co., Ltd., Liverpool, on electrical switch work connected with maintenance; B. Josey, as a hand press operator with Messrs. A. B. Metals, Great South West Road, Feltham, Middlesex; W. Harby, as a telephonist with the South-Eastern Electricity Board, Dorking; A. Dodgson, as an upholsterer with the Standard Upholstery Company, Mitcham.

### West House Notes

An invitation was extended to us by Mr. Babonau of the National Institute for the Blind on November 17th for five men to go to a party at the Lantern, Preston Road. After a most enjoyable time, F. Allcock, E. Hall, Isaac Jones, Martin Manning and W. Sheridan adjourned with the rest of the guests to the Dolphin Theatre.

Our debate this month caused much mirth. The subject "Should Women use Cosmetics?" was strongly supported by the ladies, but the men rather thought otherwise. However, the motion was carried by 75 per cent.

November was greatly brightened by the (1) Chess and (2) Bridge Weekends. Full accounts of these events will be found elsewhere in this issue of the REVIEW.

To herald in the winter's activities, one of the most looked-forward-to events of the season was the Grocers' Federation Annual Dinner, which took place at the Princes Ballroom, Aquarium, on November 18th. After dinner the speeches expressed the warm friendship which exists between the Grocers and the St. Dunstaners. The Mayors of Brighton and Hove were present amongst other guests. Miss Morley, the Brighton Secretary, had a grand ovation, perhaps greater than ever this year as she has recently undergone a most serious operation and indeed it was doubted whether she would be well enough to be present.

We have had several invitations to the Manor Farm Estate Social Club and small parties of men have had most enjoyable evenings this month. We had several other entertainments by our friends in Brighton and Hove, notable among them being C. Bullock and his entertainers and the Wilfrid Players.

### Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Services

On Sunday, December 5th, at West House, we held a Memorial Service to our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson. Lady (Arthur) Pearson, Sir Neville Pearson and Mr. Nigel Pearson were present and the men were delighted to meet them before the Service.

Sir Neville read a most appropriate lesson, Ecclesiastes, Chapter 12, verses 1-7. The Rev. W. J. Taylor and the Rev. D. Pettit (St. Dunstan) officiated. Charlie Thomas sang "Comfort Ye," "Thy Rebuke" and

"Behold and See" from Handel's "Messiah," and the other soloist, Cathleen Ramsden rendered "Abide with Me" very beautifully. The pianist was Orderly George Ball. A very moving address was given by George Killingbeck.

The congregation was a large one and included many St. Dunstaners living in Brighton and district, which necessitated holding the Service in the Conservatory instead of the Chapel. This, however, did not detract from the beauty of the Service, which, although simple and dignified, greatly impressed those able to be present.

The flowers from the altar were taken round to Sir Arthur's sister, Miss Pearson (the first Matron of West House), the following day, as she was not well enough to attend the service.

\* \* \*

At Ovingdean, on the same day, the Chapel was crowded for the Service to Sir Arthur's memory.

The Service was taken by the Rev. Dennis Pettitt and Sir Neville Pearson read the Lesson. Jock Boyd, in a simple, sincere address, paid tribute to Sir Arthur's memory. He referred to the deep sympathy and understanding which had led him to found St. Dunstan's—"his memorial for all time."

Lady (Arthur) Pearson and Mr. Nigel Pearson were also present at this Service.

### December 9th

On the morning of December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, Sir Ian Fraser, with Lady Fraser, and accompanied by Drummer N. Downs, W. Miller and Corporal Major J. Dawkins, visited Hampstead Cemetery, where a wreath was placed on Sir Arthur's grave bearing this inscription:—

"Sir Arthur Pearson—Founder of St. Dunstan's. In affectionate and grateful remembrance from the war-blinded men and women of the Empire, 1914-18 and 1939-45."

### From Our Postbag

In the current issue there is an intelligent suggestion about our badges to which I would like to offer my full support.

As I am at the moment using an electric razor riding over the carbuncle scars, I must agree to another remark in the same issue. To a lazy man they are a boon.

G. SWINDELL.

### Bridge Club Notes

During the week-end, November 12th to 15th, thirty-six St. Dunstaners met at West House, Brighton, at the invitation of Matron Ouseley and Commandant Fawcett for what has come to be regarded as the annual bridge week-end at West House. It was in many respects a repeat performance of the 1947 party, and this was a grand reunion of St. Dunstan's bridge players from all parts of the country, even as far north as Glasgow. One outstanding figure was absent—Drummer. As a member of the Committee, his absence was the more serious.

The programme comprised a partner bridge drive on Saturday afternoon, a friendly game of bridge on Saturday evening, cutting-in for partners, but Sunday afternoon was the highlight of the week-end for by kind permission of Matron and her wonderful staff, we were able to entertain a large number of visitors from the Hove Bridge Club, each St. Dunstaner having a visitor for a partner.

A very sincere vote of appreciation for the valuable help rendered to us on the Saturday afternoon and evening by members of the Hove Club was extended to them.

On behalf of all those who had the good fortune to enjoy this week-end, I would ask Matron Ouseley, the Commandant, and their wonderful staff, especially Miss Meldrum and Mrs. Uffley, the Catering Officer, to accept our best thanks for all the work and effort exerted to ensure that the week-end would be a success—which it most certainly was.

Last, but by no means least, I should like to acknowledge the valuable assistance so willingly given by Mr. A. Field in connection with many of our bridge events which is so very much appreciated.

### Results

*Duplicate (Mitchell movement) Championship:*  
North-south—W. van Niekerk and F. King.  
East-west—H. Gover and P. Nuyens.

*Bridge Drive, Saturday evening:*  
First pair—P. Nuyens and H. Miller.  
Second pair—H. Gover and G. Jolly.

*Bridge Drive, Sunday afternoon:*  
1st—Mrs. E. Harrison and F. Winter.  
2nd—Lady Nell and G. Jolly.  
3rd—Lady George Seymour and E. Carpenter.

### Ilkley Congress

During the week-end, November 26th to 29th, members of the Bridge Club paid their annual visit to the Ilkley (Yorks) Bridge Congress when bridge of a very high standard was encountered, and it is most gratifying to know that those who took part in the various events and represented St. Dunstan's, upheld the prestige of the Bridge Club and emulated the spirit of all those who have been accorded the privileges and distinction of being styled "St. Dunstaners."

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Bridge Club will be held on Saturday, February 5th, at 2.30 p.m.

FRANK A. RHODES,  
*Captain and Secretary.*

### Blackpool Notes

The Blackpool Home would like to introduce itself into these pages by wishing everyone a very happy Christmas with the gay and colourful events in plenty which make the festive season such a welcome break from the bleak winds and fog that tend to envelop us at this time of the year. We got off to a flying start on October 7th by welcoming St. Dunstaners back after the vacation—even the sun rose to the occasion.

Wednesday, October 13th was a red letter day. We were honoured by a visit from Sir Neville and Lady Pearson. Coffee was served in the Lounge, to which St. Dunstaners living in Blackpool were invited and were thus afforded the opportunity of meeting our distinguished visitors. After lunch, which was taken in the dining room—men acting as hosts—Sir Neville and Lady Pearson started for home, leaving behind a feeling of comradeship and goodwill.

November 11th being the original Armistice day, St. Dunstaners remembered in their own way; at 12.30 p.m. we were welcoming members of the Manchester Club to share our activities. They were entertained to lunch at the Bourne Hotel opposite us, then a simple service of Remembrance was held in the Lounge, followed by the ever welcome cup of tea. The sporting event, a domino tournament did, alas, result in a crashing defeat for our guests. Now we are in full swing preparing to make merry during the coming weeks.

This is Blackpool signing off.

### Ovingdean Notes

A very proud occasion for St. Dunstan's this month was the visit of the Royal Naval and civilian staff of H.M.S. Daedalus to Ovingdean on November 10th. A report of this visit is given elsewhere in the REVIEW.

M. Droin, from the International Red Cross Society, Switzerland, was a very interested visitor to Ovingdean on November 12th. On the 26th, we were very pleased to welcome a party of the partially deaf and dumb children from the School which has recently moved to Ovingdean Hall.

Messrs. Carreras, Ltd., the manufacturers of "Craven A" cigarettes, kindly acknowledged a request from the Shopkeepers' Class and entertained a small party at their factory in Hampstead Road, London, on November 1st, with Miss McAndrew, and the remainder of the Class with Miss Willett on November 5th. To St. Dunstaners who are planning to enter the tobacco business as retailers, the tour over the factory proved of immense value as, apart from being instructive as far as the manufacture of cigarettes is concerned, it provided an insight into the commercial side of the trade, touching on such things as costs and marketing. The trips were planned ostensibly for the purpose of acquiring knowledge of the industry generally, but Messrs. Carreras went a step further and entertained the parties to lunch among their own staff in one of their up-to-date canteens.

The "Lest We Forget" Association gave a supper dance on November 4th at the Dudley Hotel, and invited St. Dunstaners and their escorts, which was very much enjoyed; we think it safe to say that this will be an annual event and one of those occasions to which one will look forward. An excellent variety concert arranged by Norris Productions, Ltd., too place in the Music Hut on November 10th in which personalities of television entertained. The audience was most appreciative, but not very large.

West House and Ovingdean joined forces at the Christmas party of those very good friends, the Grocers' Association, when they held their Dinner and Dance at the Princes Hall. The Ovingdean Dance Band—Messrs. Ellis, Harsworth, Emerson and Glover—was invited to play for a

British Red Cross Society Dance at the Village Hall, East Preston, on the 23rd. The evening was a huge success.

In spite of the entertainment, Ovingdean is still a hive of industry. Work is taken very seriously and the Debating Society is as active as usual. During the debate, "That it is better to live dangerously than wisely," much lively argument was heard and the dangerous livers got the vote! The subject, "That mass emigration from the United Kingdom is the solution to the economic problem of the Commonwealth," was indeed a difficult one and no definite conclusion was arrived at. There were interesting points of view from Canada, New Zealand, India, Australia and America. The month's debates concluded on November 30th, when the Roedean Girls' School Debating Society took their part in the debate, "That this country pays too much respect to tradition." The motion was overwhelmingly outvoted. The inter-Trainees and Trainees *v.* Staff quizzes are always most enjoyable and a good deal of fun. The trainees seem to be the more successful on these occasions.

The Shooting Trophy for this month was won by Dormitory 1 with 11 points, the runners-up being Dormitory 2, with 8. Dormitory 5 obtained the highest aggregate with 1,079 out of a possible 1,200.

Matches played against outside teams during this month were as follows:—

November 9th.—Brighton Crescent "C" Rifle Team 191 points, St. Dunstan's Team 205 points.

November 23rd.—Newhaven Rifle Club 215 points, St. Dunstan's (1914-1918) Team 218 points.

November 24th.—Worthing Squash Rackets Rifle Club 200 points, St. Dunstan's (Australian) Team 216 points.

### Test Results

**Typing**—W. Seymour, A. Bramson, A. Marsden, G. Elphick, E. Crook, A. Gimbrere (Mrs.), K. Jenkins (Australian), L. Johnstone (Australian), E. Hailes (Australian), J. Pottage (Australian).

**Senior**—B. Simon (Mrs.), J. E. Davies, T. Ap Rhys, J. L. Brooke.

**Advanced**—A. Bennett (Dover), A. E. Strand, W. C. Scott (Winsford), W. F. Cork.

**Writing**—E. Warren, L. R. Brown, J. Wilson, E. Hailes (Australian).

**Preliminary**—R. Pringle, A. Shepherd, S. Russell (Gorton, Manchester).

### End-of-Term Concert

A varied programme was presented at the "breaking-up" concerts given at Ovingdean on December 2nd and 3rd.

Owing to his duties at the House of Commons, Sir Ian Fraser could not attend but Lady Fraser was present and the audience also included Commandant Fawcett, Matron Pain, Matron Ouseley, Air Commodore G. B. Dacre and Mrs. Dacre, Dr. Webb and Padre Bryant Crane.

The first part of the programme was mainly contributed by trainees and included songs by Jack Cook, Joe Ormond, Stanley Oliver, Les White, Trevor Baker and Munro Donald; two monologues by George Killingbeck; and items by the full choir. The compere was Tommy Rogers.

After the interval, the V.A.D.s and staff presented a pantomime, "Cinderella," in which "three trainees" surprisingly appeared (Ted Bullen, Alf Shepherd and Alby Ryan), and Les White, Joe Ormond and T. Baker helped to supply the musical commentary.

### St. Dunstan's Girls' Hostel

The address of our Girls' Hostel is now:  
Port Hall,  
Greenways,  
Ovingdean,  
Nr. Brighton, Sussex.  
Tel. No.: Rottingdean 9758.

### Tobacco Relief Refused

In the House of Commons, on November 25th, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware of the decision of the Board of Customs and Excise that an ex-Serviceman disabled in the highest degree who accepts the offer of the Minister of Pensions to give up his retirement pension of 26s. a week in order to receive the 30s. a week unemployment supplement to which he is entitled by reason of his disability, is to lose his entitlement to the Tobacco Duty relief granted to old age pensioners and whether, in view of the small amount of money involved and to the fact that if the concession is taken away the man will lose 2s. 4d. of the 4s. he is gaining by the change-over, he would allow the man to continue to receive the benefit of the concession.

Mr. Douglas Jay: "I regret that it is not possible to continue tobacco duty relief to ex-Servicemen who cease to draw a retirement pension."

### Births

BRADLEY.—On November 1st, to the wife of A. G. Bradley, of Harrow, a daughter—Joan Elizabeth.

KELLY.—On November 28th, to the wife of W. P. Kelly, of Workington, a daughter—Ann Catherine.

KEMPE.—On November 12th, to the wife of S. Kempe, of Redruth, a son—Francis Courtenay Clowance St. Augyn Coryton.

RIPLEY.—On December 1st, to the wife of F. Ripley, of Leatherhead, a son—Jonathan.

WILSON.—On October 19th, to the wife of R. G. Wilson, of South Mimms, a daughter—Ann.

WHITE.—On December 1st, to the wife of J. D. White, of Beeston, Notts., a son—Terry.

### Marriage

HARRISON—FARRANT.—On July 3rd, Jane Harrison to Mr. Edwin Farrant.

### Deaths

We extend our very sincere sympathy to the following:—

CALVERT.—To Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Calvert, of Ormskirk, whose daughter passed away on July 8th. It is much regretted that this notice has been delayed.

FENNELL.—To J. V. Fennell, of Tooting, whose wife passed away suddenly on November 25th.

HURST.—To H. Hurst, of Great Longstone, who lost his wife on November 22nd. She leaves a large family to mourn her loss.

NORTH.—To T. North, of Cannock, whose wife passed away on December 7th.

WEEDALL.—To W. Weedall, of Liverpool, who lost his wife on December 1st.

WHITE.—To P. White, of Leominster, in the loss of his wife on November 20th, after much suffering.

★ ★ ★

Those who knew her will regret also to learn of the death of Mrs. Postlethwaite, mother-in-law of A. Rodgers, of Barrow-in-Furness.

### Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. C. Apps, East Molesley, last February (our first intimation); Mr. and Mrs. T. Ashe, Lancing, December 1st. Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Pike, Brighton, December 15th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Woods, Edmonton, December 25th; Mr. and Mrs. D. J. McLoughlin, December 28th. Congratulations.

## “ In Memory ”

### Gunner Samuel Evans, *Royal Field Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of S. Evans, of Aberdare.

He had been discharged from the Army in 1918, but he did not come to us until 1948, although severe gassing had not only caused blindness but had also badly affected his lungs.

He had a gentle personality, bearing his handicaps with quiet courage, and he will be greatly missed by his wife and daughter, to whom we offer our very sincere sympathy.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was amongst the flowers at the funeral.

### Private George Brewer, *Labour Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of G. Brewer, of Redruth, who came to St. Dunstan's in 1920 and was trained as a netter.

The many floral tributes included one from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades and another from the British Legion, which was also represented at the funeral.

Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Brewer and her sixteen-year old daughter.

### Private Gordon John Boulwood, *Middlesex Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. J. Boulwood, of Romford, who was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1922 and trained as a basket-maker.

He had lived with his family in Romford for twenty-one years, but had been confined to bed for the past twenty-two months; he died at his home on November 15th.

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

### A.B. Stephen O'Connell, *Royal Navy*

With deep regret we record the death of S. O'Connell, of Brighton.

He came to us in 1916 and trained as a mat-maker, but for some time prior to his death he had been staying at the Blackpool Home owing to the illness of his wife. He died at our Home on November 1st and was buried at the Cemetery at Carleton near three of his St. Dunstan's comrades.

St. Dunstaners D. Cockerill and A. J. Jones, Matron Vaughan-Davies, and Sisters Hunt and Berry attended the funeral. A poppy wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was placed on the coffin, which was covered with the Union Jack.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife who is herself lying ill in Brighton Hospital.

### Private Leonard Pickering Saxton, *Machine Gun Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of L. P. Saxton, of Enfield.

He was discharged from the Army in 1918. He continued as a schoolmaster for many years and it was only when he realised that teaching was too great a strain on his strength that he came to St. Dunstan's in 1938. He trained as a telephonist and was ultimately appointed in that capacity with the Sun Insurance Co. His health was never good, but in spite of all his handicaps he never complained, but maintained a cheerful and optimistic outlook on life. He loved his garden and he was busy in it on the day of his death. He collapsed while he was working there; he was taken to hospital but he died in the ambulance. He was fifty-one.

His St. Dunstan's colleague, C. E. Griffin, was amongst those at the funeral service on December 10th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Saxton in her loss.

### Private Harry Palmer, *2nd Queen's Royal West Surreys*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. Palmer, of Thornton Heath.

He was wounded on the Somme in 1916 and he came to St. Dunstan's the same year, where he trained as a netter. He suffered for many years and never recovered from the loss of his Royal Air Force son, who was killed in an air raid in March, 1944, when they lost all their home and were buried for hours under the debris.

He leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### W. F. Archibald, *South African Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of W. F. Archibald, of Natal, South Africa. He served from 1917 until 1919 and came to us two years later, his sight having failed. He trained as a poultry farmer and returned to South Africa where he carried on for many years.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his relatives.

### Pioneer John Foster, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Foster, of Boreham Wood.

Discharged from the Army in 1917, his sight failed and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1939. He was trained in mat-making and later went into industry, but he had been seriously ill for a long time. He passed away on December 3rd.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.