

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### Friends

A GOOD many people are lonely, including some blind people. Some are lonely at all times because they are uncommunicative or shy. Others are lonely for a few hours of the day or perhaps at week-ends, when they are not at work and the family are busy getting the dinner. A blind man is more susceptible to this kind of loneliness than others, because he is less mobile or less capable of amusing or interesting himself in various activities. What is a cure? The radio or talking book or braille will pass the time, but they will not make up for the lack of human society. You cannot talk things over with a talking book, or open your heart to a braille magazine, nor can you go for a walk with either. You can go for a walk by yourself, and many do, and feel the better for the exercise and fresh air. Still the lack of human association is there. To remedy this state requires some effort on the part of the blind man himself. You must attract people so that they want to be with you. It is no use going to your club if, when you get there, you are still alone. It is no good someone coming to take you for a walk if you know it is a bore or a duty which they are perhaps only too willing to discharge, but glad to finish. To attract friends is easy for some and difficult for others; there is no secret remedy. If you cannot do it easily and naturally, do not give up. There is something you can do about it. First of all, try and make yourself a good listener. Most people like talking about their own interests or themselves. Few people like listening to other people's troubles. Secondly, be well-informed, not to deliver lectures but so as to keep conversation going. It is very difficult to talk in a friendly way to someone whose only answer is yes or no.

It is not so easy for a blind person to be well-informed, because he cannot read the newspapers, but fortunately there are other ways. Radio is a wonderful source of information. It is worth while studying the details of the programme so as to see what is coming and plan to listen. A regular series of talks is often worth following, even if at first it bores you. Do stick it out. Nothing good can be had without going for it. You will probably find that the more you listen the more you will be interested, and you will look forward to the next instalment of the programme. Plays are excellent. So are the discussions and the book reviews and the current events talks. Then there is the talking book and braille; although they do not give human companionship, they make you more interesting so that you are better qualified to attract or retain friends. Doesn't it amount to this?—friendship is a two-way affair, for you must give as much as you take. A blind man must receive guidance and help; his friends must see for him, and he must, therefore, repay in some other way. This does not necessarily make for embarrassment; on the contrary, it may bring the two friends closer together. If ever I am tempted to be

sorry for myself because I have been left alone, I reflect that it is probably my fault for being a bore or being inconsiderate. People are so kind that this danger is ever present for all of us, blind and sighted alike.

### St. Dunstan's Braille Machines

The old Stainsby-Wayne is a faithful friend. Most St. Dunstaners learnt their braille with its help. But it writes downwards, so that you cannot read whatever you have written without taking the paper out. I remember, in my father's office forty years ago, an old Yost typewriter which wrote upside down, and you had to turn the carriage on its back to read what you had typed. No typist would thank you for a machine like that nowadays, but we are so very conservative, especially blind people, and we stick to the Stainsby probably because we have got used to it. However, now we have introduced a new St. Dunstan's Braille Writer. It writes upwards and you can feel what you have written immediately. It only writes on one side of the paper, but normally this does not matter. Paper is cheap enough. For the business man who wants a machine on his desk, or for the letter or note writer, it is a great improvement. New St. Dunstaners will be taught on it, and will qualify for it if they need it when they leave. St. Dunstaners who have left can apply for it, and if it makes a contribution to their business, or enjoyment of life, they can have one. The keyboard is different to the Stainsby and a little confusing at first, but it will soon be learnt by a keen brailist. Lessons can be arranged at Brighton or Blackpool for those who want to qualify for it, and take a test when they are on their annual vacation there. No country in the world uses a machine which writes upside down, except ours. The new machine is not original. It is merely a copy of one of the best and simplest which has stood the test of time. It is light and well-made. I recommend it to anyone who really makes use of braille writing and is not too old to learn a slightly new technique for the fingering.

IAN FRASER.

### The Navy and St. Dunstan's

During the years 1941-45, when we were at Church Stretton, our Home at Ovingdean was occupied by the Royal Navy. It became H.M.S. Vernon—a Naval school for instruction in the use of under-water weapons. On April 4th, to commemorate their use of our building, a plaque was presented to St. Dunstan's on behalf of the captain, officers and men of H.M.S. Vernon, now at Portsmouth.

Commander J. R. Carr, now commanding H.M.S. Vernon, made the presentation to Sir Ian Fraser. The plaque is in the form of a wooden shield. It records the war-time use of the Training Centre, and bears the ship's badge, a crest, and the punning Latin motto, *Ver non semper viret* ("Vernon always flourishes").

Among those present also was Lady Fraser, Commandant Fawcett, and Matron Pain, and Lt. Commander Robin C. B. Buckley, G.M., R.N., who served three periods with the Vernon at Portsmouth before the war, and who was the first Naval officer to lose his sight in the war. Lt. Commander Buckley is now back with H.M.S. Vernon at Portsmouth, on lecturing and other duties, and in the course of a

speech which charmed everybody, he traced back his connection with H.M.S. Vernon from the time he was a midshipman until 1941 when, to use his own words, while taking to pieces an enemy explosive of a novel type, he passed the essential test which ensured his entry to St. Dunstan's.

Receiving the plaque, Sir Ian said that it would have a place of honour in the Training Centre. The building had been handed back to St. Dunstan's by the Navy in the same perfect order as it had been taken over.

### Honour

E. W. Read, of Portchester, formerly Chief Electrical Artificer, Royal Navy, and now at St. Dunstan's, has just received the Gold Medal in the Order of Oranje Nassau, graciously awarded to him by Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands.

### Placements

F. Howse as a telephone operator with Dartford Hospital Management Committee; E. Marr, of Blackburn, with Messrs. Phillips, Blackburn Works, on mica gauging and selecting; J. Mottershead, wiring metal parts, with Messrs. Cooke & Ferguson, Manchester.

## Club News

### London

On April 1st we held a really topping Dance at the Chelsea Town Hall, when well over two hundred people attended and danced to Ernie Cookson and his Band, and we must certainly hand a bouquet to Tiny Fleming and his sub-committee for the best dance of the year. We were delighted to welcome Sir Ian and Lady Fraser during the evening.

The top score at whist has been beaten by Alf Wiltshire, with a score of 101, beating the previous best, set up by McSteel, of 100.

Why not drop in one evening and enjoy the Club with your fellow members?

*Bridge.*—Will all those who are interested in Bridge please contact Frank A. Rhodes at Club Headquarters, any Tuesday evening or Saturday afternoon (except Bank Holiday Saturdays)?

The Bridge Section entertained a large number of guests to a bridge drive on March 26th, and the lucky ones (or should I say the skilful ones) were presented with a small token of their effort by Miss Ibbetson. On April 2nd, twenty-four St. Dunstaners from near and far assembled to take part in the first round of the Sir Arthur Pearson Tournament for teams of four. Will all those who played on Saturday, April 2nd, note that the second and final round will be played off on June 18th?

F. A. R.

*Indoor Activities.*—All Houses and Clubs are now acquainted with the Rules covering the Finals for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophies. There have been no comments, so I take it they are accepted. If, however, anyone would like a copy of the Rules I shall be glad to send him one.

Darts and dominoes are first on the list, and preliminary heats or rounds should be well under way. I want your best teams for the finals as soon as possible. Meeting place and time can then be arranged.

*Home Notes—A Trip to Epsom?*—Derby Day, June 4th, Whit-Saturday? A trip can be arranged providing I have your applications quickly. Coaches are getting scarce, and I would like to restrict to one escort, as I can only arrange for 60 at most. More than 60—a ballot will decide who shall go.

*Singing and Musical Instruments.*—Can we recapture the old enthusiasm? Here, the more the merrier. I hope to receive sufficient entries to make it possible to provide accommodation elsewhere. Let me hear from you, please.

A most enjoyable evening was spent by our Darts team at the Queen's Arms, Fulham. We were again, unfortunately, beaten, so a little more practice from the darts boys, please.

TINY F.

*Outdoor Sports.—Swimming* will start on May 2nd, and thenceforward every Monday evening, 7—8 p.m., at the Seymour Baths, Seymour Place, W.1. We join the Blind Sports Club. Please bring your own costumes. All interested, please contact T. Gaygan, or Mr. Willis at the Club, who will issue tickets. Swimming is "mixed."

*Rowing.*—Now that the evenings are longer, many fellows may like to have a row on the lake at Regent's Park; boats are available at the boathouse again this year. Any men who think of forming double sculls or pair oars should contact Tommy Gaygan, who will fix boats and coxes.

We are making headway with the *Field Day*, to be held in September, and hope to publish full programme next month. By the way, chaps, the Gym. is still open.

T. G.

*Magic, Conjuring, Ventriloquism.*—Do you know that every Monday evening, at about 7.15, free tuition is given in the art of magic to St. Dunstaners, by members of the Institute of Magicians? Any St. Dunstaner, and escort if you wish, who would like to avail themselves of this opportunity can be assured that he will have a very amusing time. Amuse your friends at parties and, at the same time, get a real kick out of it yourselves.

So, brother St. Dunstaners, we welcome you to the St. Dunstaners' Section of the Institute of Magicians. For full particulars, please telephone or write to Mr. Mackay, at Headquarters.

A. W.

### Golden Wedding

We warmly congratulate Mr. and Mrs. J. Bentley, of Lancing, who celebrated their golden wedding on March 27th.

## Derby Sweepstake, 1949

Applications are invited for tickets in the REVIEW's own Derby Sweepstake, which is open only to St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees.

Tickets will again be 2s. 6d. each and applications for them can be made at once and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 20th**. Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered.

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

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

## The First Commentator?

*From the Sports Editor's Diary, "Evening News," April 8th:—*

Who was the first commentator to give a running commentary of a football match? I'm not talking about radio, so there's no need for George Allison to be brought into the argument.

My friend, Father P. G. Howell, of the Church of St. Anselm and St. Cecilia, in Kingsway, seems to have a pretty good claim to the distinction. He was identified with St. Dunstan's after the 1914-1918 war, and was himself a useful goalkeeper. In the 1919-20 soccer season he took a party of blinded ex-Service men from St. Dunstan's to Stamford Bridge for a Chelsea—Middlesbrough match.

The blind fans stood round him while he described the match for them, move by move. That was over 30 years ago . . . radio commentators came much later. Can anyone go farther back?

## West House Notes

March has been a comparatively quiet month, although we have had the usual round of Friday night dances, domino and whist drives, and darts matches. Mrs. Rhees arranged a special domino drive on the 19th, when Toc H sent eighteen members to compete with the boys. The winners for St. Dunstan's were J. Batty, of Sheffield; J. Broadlèy, of Felixstowe; and W. Sankey, now permanent at West House.

On the 8th we had a darts match with St. Richard's Church Club, Hove; we lost to the men's team but had success when playing against the ladies. We again met the members of St. Richard's Church Club, this time on their home ground, on the 22nd, for darts, dominoes and cribbage.

The management of the Dudley Hotel gave a dance for us on the 3rd, and a little party of our lads joined Ovingdean trainees in what proved to be a most enjoyable evening.

We were so pleased to welcome a friend of ours back on the 27th—Mr. Austin Laidlaw, whom we had not seen for two years. He gave a gramophone recital in the Lounge and played a variety of records to suit all tastes. His efforts were much appreciated by all present.

We have not had much outside activity, apart from one or two drives to Alfriston, but there was one race meeting at Plumpton during the month, and our usual racegoers attended in full force. Those coming to West House for a holiday this summer, and who are fond of walking, should come prepared, as Miss Morgan, of our V.A.D. Staff, is going to organise a succession of rambles over the Downs and far away.

On the 31st we rounded the month off with a play-reading by members of the staff, entitled "The Butler Walks," by W. Muggerridge, who is now staying here. This was a repeat performance as we did it in 1947, when it was a great success. It has special appeal to all those familiar with West House and its residents, as the play, which is a thriller, is enacted at West House and "The Butler" causes much consternation amongst the V.A.D. Staff.

## Grandfathers

A. Williams, Chepstow; J. Garbutt, Stockton.

## The Milky Way

We sat near the dispensary, strumming our old catarrhs, and humming "Man is a sturdy oak, woman the clinging vine," when the call came.

"I am not myself to-day, doctor," I said, weakly.

"Then who are you?" he asked. He was very sympathetic.

"I feel like my neighbour who died five years ago."

"Rubbish!" he said sepulchrally, and nodded to a Sister.

"Lie on the couch, Brookie," she ordered. "Pull up your shirt."

I did, and while I waited, raising my shirt became a sort of reflex action with me. When anyone approached, my hands instinctively flew to my shirt. Soon the doctor came, and, selecting favourite spots, dug a finger into them. "Milk and diet," he announced.

I began to think dismally of brass handles, brass plates, and polished wood, and of half the world saying nice things about me they forgot when I could manage with darker moisture than milk. Then I brightened considerably when it occurred to me that I had merely completed the cycle in man's drinking life. As a baby, milk is forced upon him, then come ginger-pop, tea, beer, anything, spirits, wine, cyder, whitewash, tonics, bismuth, water, and finally the doctor makes him drink milk again.

The depressing stage is when one has to hold one's nose before he can drink milk. I reached that point and, to cheer myself, became a song-writer. With a glass of foaming milk held above my head, in a lusty voice I sang my first composition to Matron Ouseley:—

I think that when there ceased to be sufficient tenement

To hold my conscience, then I would begin to be content.

And if I should be there to see my tummy take its leave,

I'd dash my milk upon the lea and chuckle in my sleeve.

Matron thought that my brain was going bad. After another week's milking I asked Matron to find a cow that could give whisky and milk. And she asked the staff to hide the dinner knives.

The treatment cured me. I am a real tough now.

Though we sturdy oaks suffered so, there was only one casualty amongst the staff; that was a black eye. We were sympathetic, and wished her a very speedy recovery because we had to live by the sweat of her brow. I have been thinking since "Which of the twain is the 'clinging vine'?"  
Southampton. W. E. BROOKES.

## Talking Book Library

### March Miscellany

Before I give the latest dope, I must apologise for my misuse of history last January. Cromwell could not cope with the Russian challenge since, like myself, he never realised its existence.

Four new books to decorate the library shelves were delivered in March: "On the Edge," "A Boy in Kent," "The Pursuer," and "The House by the Sea."

"On the Edge," written W. de la Mare, read Duncan Carse, is a collection of shorts with a common thread throughout which makes them reasonably suitable for talky book. The thread, by the way, is a slight shade of eeriness, making them, for want of a better term, a collection of ghost stories. The book is well read and written, but the power is not sufficient to produce goose pimples. However, I do believe too many books of this type are unhealthy for our limited horizon.

"A Boy in Kent," written C. Henry Warren, read F. P. Bayley, is an autobiographical boyhood, interesting, maybe, to those who know the locality it covers, but hardly of moment to others. Comment: The urge to write is more compelling than the urge to read.

"The Pursuer," written L. Golding, read Gordon Little, is a fantastic yarn of persecution mania, starting at school and continuing through life. Easy reading, but the only way I can describe it is as an imaginative, tragic farce. Well read and recorded.

"The House by the Sea," written J. Godden, read F. P. Bayley, is a deceptively quiet title for the unsavoury tale of a Yankee army deserter who battens on to a middle-aged spinster in a solitary house in Cornwall. An uneasy sort of book, but not too bad a yarn.

This brings the total releases for the first quarter up to ten books of sufficient variety to suit most tastes. Next month promises a good bag. Good listening!

"NELSON."

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been keenly interested in the criticism of the quality of the paper used for the printing of the braille edition of the National News Letter, and also Mr. Rowley's reply. I, too, like the others, have had difficulty in reading the National News Letter, and, like the others, thought it was the man doing the reading (or trying to read).

Mr. Rowley states that the same quality paper is used in eighteen other braille periodicals, and that he receives criticism from other blind persons, complaining of the quality of the paper used, some saying this, some saying that. After reading Mr. Rowley's letter, I thought it would be a good idea to put his explanation to the test by measuring the thickness of the paper used for printing four braille periodicals, namely, the National News Letter, Nuggets, Forward (the organ of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association), and St. Dunstan's REVIEW. The first three are printed by the N.I.B., and the REVIEW by the Royal Blind School, Edinburgh. I used my braille micrometer for this purpose, and here are the measurements: National News Letter, 0.0052in.; Nuggets, 0.0052in.; Forward, 0.0065in.; St. Dunstan's REVIEW, 0.0056in.

You will see that the News Letter and Nuggets are the same thickness, whilst Forward (which is printed by the N.I.B.) is 0.0013in. thicker. I certainly think this difference in thickness, although only just over a thousandth part of an inch, does make all the difference.

Would it be asking too much of Mr. Rowley and the N.I.B. to spare some of the paper as used in Forward to be used for the National News Letter, and so give a great deal of pleasure to a great number of blind persons?

Yours sincerely,

Reading,

T. W. CHAMBERLAIN.

(The eighteen periodicals mentioned by Mr. Rowley did not, of course, cover all the publications issued by the N.I.B. and Forward was one of these. Mr. Rowley assures us again that the paper position is gradually improving, and he hopes very shortly to be able to improve the quality of the paper used for the National News Letter and the other publications.—Ed.)

DEAR EDITOR,

Totally deaf five-years before I came to St. Dunstan's, I was never visited by a representative from either a deaf or a disabled ex-Servicemen's organisation. I learnt the manual alphabet from an old magazine, but unlike braille, what use was it if other people did not learn it too?

There are people who will spend a few moments in writing out a large cheque, but who would never take the trouble to learn to talk to the deaf, or pay the bedridden a visit.

May I say I am not referring to our own deaf or bedridden. On the contrary, I think St. Dunstan's is to be congratulated upon the number of doubly handicapped they have taken under their wing. We are well trained and equipped as blind men, but from a social point of view, our lives could be improved if the British Legion were doing what it should. Unfortunately, the Legion is too much like the church, pub, and theatre, "open for those who can get there and hear," but offers nothing to those who cannot.

Yours sincerely,

Southwick.

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

### From Miss Oliphant

Dear St. Dunstaners and wives of the South West and South Wales,

A message through the REVIEW seems my only way of sending to you my very warmest thanks for your wonderful gift to me, the cheque for £20, which was recently presented to me at a small luncheon party in Bristol. For that, and the very kind things that were said, and the many nice letters and messages I have received, I am indeed grateful. I am waiting a little while before deciding what to buy, hoping that shopping problems will become easier, though I am rather thinking of getting a typewriter which I much need.

I am now working for the Somerset Red Cross, but hope to see many of you when more petrol becomes available and as time permits, or if you come this way, and at Re-unions. Meanwhile, this brings my love to you and your families, and again very many thanks for your gift and for all your many kindnesses to me during past years.

Your sincere friend,

D. J. OLIPHANT.

54 Wellington Road, Taunton, Som.

### Reunions Begin

The first Reunion of 1949 was held at Cardiff on March 11th, when a happy gathering welcomed Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, a British Legion guest, Captain James Prince, M.B.E., Secretary of Cardiff and District Branch, and Mr. Tudor Thomas, the well-known surgeon, of Rookwood Hospital, through whose clever and kindly hands a number of St. Dunstaners have passed.

In his speech, Sir Ian said he did not think there was any doubt that the war-blinded of two wars had been remarkably well rehabilitated. Freedom from government control had helped immensely and, he added, "our men are an example to the world."

The Norwich meeting took place at the Stuart Hall on April 5th. Captain J. J. Chapman, M.B.E., Chairman of the Eastern Area of the Legion, and Mr. G. W. Barnard, Secretary of the Norwich Branch, were among the guests. Mr. Mackay presided, in the absence of Sir Ian, whose duties at Headquarters and in the House of Commons made it impossible for him to attend, but a message of good wishes from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser was read and received with applause.

Two days later, Colchester had its meeting. It was a fine Reunion. Only three men of those invited did not attend. Among the guests was Major G. C. Benham, M.C., President, Colchester Branch, British Legion, and to everybody's great pleasure, Lady Fraser also arrived to bring Sir Ian's good wishes to the meeting.

### Gift Food Parcels from the Argentine

The food parcels from the Argentine, mentioned in our last issue, are now arriving, and by the time the REVIEW reaches you, many of them should have been sent out. Although they are being labelled at Headquarters and posted from there, the packing has all been done in Buenos Aires, and as members of the St. Dunstan's Committee have gone to a great deal of trouble in carrying out this gesture, it is felt that they would greatly appreciate letters of thanks from St. Dunstaners. These should be addressed to: The Chairman, St. Dunstan's Buenos Aires Committee, Bolivar 1575, Buenos Aires, Argentina, South America. Postage of letters to the Argentine is 3d.

### In Brief

C. H. Singleton, of Kingsbury, is a member of a choir called the Apollo Singers, which last month gave a big concert at a factory at Acton.

★ ★ ★

There was a good article in the *Sunderland Echo* recently about our St. Dunstaner, Fred Warin. It paid high tribute to his stability and way of life.

★ ★ ★

In spite of his ill-health, A. T. Tebbutt, of Nottingham, has done splendid work for St. Dunstan's. Two concerts arranged by him recently brought in £12.

★ ★ ★

George Mortimer, of Witham, was a member of the Young Conservatives' Brains Trust which held a Session at the Constitutional Club, Witham, recently. Reference to his quick replies was made in the local paper.

★ ★ ★

Captain J. M. Rees, who for long has been one of the most active British Legion members in his district of Monmouthshire, has been unanimously elected President of the British Legion Club and Branch, Panteg.

★ ★ ★

Following recent correspondence in the REVIEW, Bob Bridger recommends a non-electric razor for St. Dunstaners, and mentions the Wilkinson Dry Shaver.

★ ★ ★

"Remember me to all the boys," writes J. Todd, of Pascoe Vale, Australia, acknowledging his Christmas letter.

### "The One Who Touches"

Mrs. Florence Blaxall, wife of the Rev. A. W. Blaxall who, with our late St. Dunstaner, R. W. Bowen, has done much for the coloured blind of South Africa, has written a most interesting little book. It is called "Mapupula—The One Who Touches," and it tells most movingly of the way in which infinite patience and understanding have brought some happiness into the life of a young Zulu boy, blind and deaf since he was two years old. Now he is twenty-one and Mrs. Blaxall's work is still not finished, but the hardest part is over and she and her husband must feel deep satisfaction at the success they have attained.

### "You've a Lucky Face, My Dear"

During my service in India I, in common with many others, met the usual selection of "wallahs," and had one afternoon a meeting with a fortune-teller. It happened this way. Idling my time away with a fellow sergeant, slightly bored, and waiting for something to turn up, he appeared, with all the usual appeals for a rupee, in exchange for which he would divulge the future. I grinned and managed to induce my friend to try his luck; he passed the rupee, and was told the usual stuff about his wife going to welcome him back home in a few months, how he would change his life, etc., etc., all quite good guesswork, and highly probable. Having talked for some ten minutes he then, of course, needed more rupees to tell more, but my friend was a Scot, so thought his one rupee enough, and then tried to encourage me to chance it. I agreed. I took out my rupee and gave it to the "mystic," who squatted in front of me. He took the money, and tucked it into his robe, then looked at me; after one searching glance he hurriedly snatched forth my rupee from his clothing and thrust it back, muttering, "Nai, Sahib, nai, nai." . . . This may not sound strange, but to all who know Indians, the object is to get money, not to give it back. This chap really thrust it back and, hastily scrambling to his feet, grabbed his bits and pieces and disappeared.

Now, I am not superstitious, and neither believe in nor disbelieve supernatural things. I do, however, wonder why he refused to tell me my future, why he did not keep the money, and why he seemed scared; but I do know I lost my sight within a week.

N.M.

J. A. MUDGE.

### To Lancastrian St. Dunstaners

At a recent meeting of the Lancastrian Society, Sussex, it was unanimously decided to invite Lancastrian St. Dunstaners living in and around Brighton, and boys in training at Ovingdean to become honorary members of the Society. The invitation has reached us through Mrs. Bessie Davies, Chairman of the Ladies Section, who has herself been an escort since 1938 and who asks eligible St. Dunstaners wishing to join to apply for a nomination form from the Secretary, Mr. G. O. Sutton, 49 Lyndhurst Road, Hove, 4.

### To All Campers

**Royal Air Force's** invitation, Shawbury, Shropshire: Friday, July 8th, to Saturday, July 16th.

Fares over 15s. will be repaid in camp.  
Fee of £1 7s. 6d. payable in camp.

**Royal Naval** invitation, Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent: Friday, August 5th, to Saturday, August 13th.

Fares over 15s. repaid.

Camp fee, £1 7s. 6d.

Entries for both camps close without fail on Monday, May 16th.

### Chess

J. B. Campbell, of Houghton-le-Springs, who is one of our telephonists, but who has not been to St. Dunstan's, is a keen chess player. He recently won the shield at the local club and he would very much like to get in touch with other St. Dunstaners who are players. His address is 4 Burns Avenue, Houghton-le-Springs.

### Bridge

On Saturday, April 2nd, H. Gover and F. Winter played in a "Pairs" competition in the Southend area, held at the Overcliff Hotel. The event was decided by the Howell movement; there were 32 pairs, and H. Gover and F. Winter finished second, being only 4 points behind the winners. The event was match-pointed and the winners were 249 and the second, 245.

### The National Laying Test

for the period of four weeks, January 31st to February 27th, 1949

Name	Test Score
Bagwell, Philip	485
Webb, William	430
Gregory, T. D.	429
Young, W. E.	422
McIntosh, Charles	384
Holmes, Percy	377
Jarvis, Albert	365
Woodcock, W. J.	362
Chaffin, Albert	325
Smith, W. Alan	293
Carpenter, E. H.	274
Clarke, T.	216

Average per bird to date, 63.89.

### Coincidence

Ernest Marr recently took up a job with Messrs. Phillips' Blackburn Works on gauging and selecting. Soon after he had started, another employee, Tom Brown, arrived in the canteen one day and immediately recognised our St. Dunstaner as the man whom he had last seen lying wounded on the battlefield at Caen in 1943, and had driven him in a jeep from the line to the dressing station.

They had served alongside each other in the same Company of the East Lancashire Regiment, and were holding a position outside Caen during the Normandy invasion, waiting to go into attack. A shower of mortar bombs fell and Marr was hit and rendered unconscious. Tom Brown took him to the dressing station in his jeep, but heard later, unofficially, that his friend had died of his wounds.

Marr now has a permanent escort and guide at the works.

### Can You Beat This?

Our little boy, John, is two years and ten months old, or will be on June 26th next. Quite some months ago he was attracted by my After-Care badge in the lapel of my jacket, and I explained to him in detail its characteristics.

We were reminded of this again on Monday evening when we had a visit from some friends. We were sitting and talking, and one of the friends presented John with a little novelty briar pipe. After showing his pleasure at receiving this present, and after being shown how to hold it to his mouth, he instantly made a bee-line for me, got on to my lap, put the pipe into his mouth and, taking my badge from my lapel, proceeded to "light" his pipe with the torch.

My reaction to this was—so may the torch of St. Dunstan's continue to burn.

L. W. COOK.

Sutton, Surrey.

★ ★ ★

On March 27th, Nina Durham, niece of G. James, of Barrow-on-Soar, was married to Stanley William Betts. Nina has been brought up from babyhood by our St. Dunstaner and his sister, Miss James.

### A Writing Device

A lady recently called at 1 South Audley Street to show us a writing device she had designed for her sister, who had been blind for twelve years. It was in an oblong box, about 10 inches wide by 8 inches, and was based on the idea of a cash register. The lid of the box had a long narrow window cut in it; inside a roll of paper passed over a roller, and through a slit cut in the end of the box. The line of writing is written in the window, the roller turned by means of a handle outside, and the next line automatically comes into use. When the letter is finished it is neatly torn off, the edge of the slit acting as a "guillotine."

Our friend, who is over 70, wants St. Dunstaners to know of this in case it can help them.

### Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," April, 1919.

On March 15th, No. 2 London General Hospital, Chelsea—St. Mark's College as it was before the war—closed down; and thus ended the first and probably one of the most important steps in the lives of a very large number of the men who have been blinded in the war. By an arrangement with the War Office, blinded men were, when possible, sent direct to St. Mark's, or were transferred there from other establishments, for final examination before they came to St. Dunstan's.

The importance of getting in touch with the man as soon as possible after he had lost his sight, of telling him of the achievements of others who had been disabled as he had, of giving him hope and encouragement which was so sorely needed to enable him to overcome his trouble, were fully realised by Sir Arthur, who periodically went to the hospital himself, and who organised a regular staff of Braille teachers, readers, and visitors.

It was in St. Mark's that the majority of St. Dunstaners had to first face the fact that they were not to see again, and since we have, after our time at St. Dunstan's, learned to regard the loss of sight as nothing more than a handicap, to be reduced by thought and application to its lowest possible limit, we cannot help looking back to St. Mark's as a place of achievement, a place where our first battle was fought and won, a place of happy memories.

### Ovingdean Notes

Although we are fast approaching the end of yet another Term at the Training Centre, our programme of visiting lecturers has in no way diminished, and we have been able to provide such a variety of talks, debates, and discussions that surely all tastes have been satisfied!

Our first visitor this month was Mr. Percy Edwards, the ornithologist and well-known B.B.C. broadcaster. He came along to visit the Ward 1 men, and on this occasion too they were joined by some of their old friends from West House, as well as some of the trainees.

Interest in Europe and current affairs was stimulated by two exceptionally graphic talks, the first by Mr. Bredin, of the Central Office of Information, on "European Recovery," and on March 8th, "Experiences in Belgrade under German Occupation," related by Mrs. Yovitchitch, to whom we listened with growing concern and horror as she painted for us the grim picture of occupied Yugoslavia.

We were also pleased to welcome back to the Training Centre, Colonel G. Davys, who came this time to tell us a little about "Food and Farming in England," and another aspect of life in this country was presented to us by Commander Cooke (the Governor of Lewes Prison), whose talk, entitled "English Prisons and their Classification," was delivered with rare humour! We are looking forward very much to another visit.

A lecturer who is always much appreciated here is Mr. Wadsworth, of the Intelligence Department of the Midland Bank—in spite too of the rather involved subjects on which he speaks with authority. On the occasion of his last visit, he chose "The Nation's Output and how much use we make of it," and this was followed by many questions and lively discussion.

Our last visiting lecturer in March was Sir Ronald Nesbitt-Hawes, and his subject, "Burma Experiences," dealt in the main with Post and Telecommunication Services in Burma, of which he was Officer in Charge.

The Debating Society, too, seemed this month to have become suddenly serious-minded! The first was held on March 14th, and the voting went against the motion, which was "That Germany should be allowed more freedom for development."

Could it be that the Debating Society had been listening with care to the lecture given by our Yugoslav visitor? At the end of the month they held their second debate, and this time chose "That Youth has come to the fore too much in this generation." This really was a very good debate, and again the voting went against the motion.

From the foregoing you should not be led into thinking, for even one moment, that we have not also catered for the lighter side of life!

Dances were held at the Girls' Training College, Brighton, and also at Rustington. On the latter occasion the St. Dunstan's Choir gave a short concert during the first part of the evening.

We have, once more, to thank the Management of the Dudley Hotel, Hove for a splendid dance, at which 50 men and partners were their guests, on March 3rd, and on the following Thursday, Mr. Cheesman, of London, gave another Buffet Dance at the Arlington Hotel, Brighton.

Sunday evening entertainment has been supplied by Gramophone Concerts organised by Mr. Weir, a Brains Trust and a Quiz.

#### Shooting

On Tuesday, March 1st, a Shooting Match was arranged between the combined teams of the British Legion and the Rose and Crown, Fletching, *versus* St. Dunstan's. Teams of eight competed, with the following result: St. Dunstan's won by 349 points to 332, out of a possible 400. During the match the combined teams presented to St. Dunstan's two beautiful trophies for shooting:

(1) The British Legion Cup for the Individual Champion.

(2) The "Rose and Crown" Cup for the Team Championship.

These trophies are at present being used for monthly competitions, and were accepted on behalf of St. Dunstan's by the Commandant and J. Mahony.

We congratulate the Individual Champion for March, Shari Bekhradnia, from Persia, who scored a possible against his opponent's (J. Blakeley) 41. The Team Champions were the B-Staff, who defeated Dormitory 2B Team.

During the Individual Knock-out Competition, Tom Denmead beat Steve Minter's previous record of 49 in 39 seconds by scoring 49 in 30 seconds. J. Hawkins set up a record for a possible in 45 seconds,

### Entry of the Madihaters

(or Thoughts on reading recent correspondence in the REVIEW)

*Oh lawks a mercy, hush mah mouth,  
Another hater from the south.  
This mad hater, I regret,  
Is from my shire, my Zummerzet,  
Who with noxious aforethought malice  
Takes nom-de-plume from Carroll's "Alice,"  
Mad Hatter's what it's meant to be,  
But Jack, old boy, you've dropped your "T."*

*No West House hatings from the north,  
So here's some "luw" from south comes forth.  
I love to hear the dulcet tones  
Of West House whispering baritones,  
Singing songs of Araby  
Way down south, in Tennessee,  
(While hate-filled voices, gruff and low  
Say that is where they all should go.)*

*Maxwelton braes and aren't we all  
Like tired old neddies by sea wall,  
Freed from nuptial ball and chain  
These lads are carefree once again,  
So if by chance their lungs run riot  
There's the lounge they call the quiet,  
Where the southern West House guests  
Can twiddle their thumbs and take a rest.*

*As for bawdy stories told,  
Never, never one odd ode.  
Their tales would not make eyelids flicker,  
Could be told in drawing room by vicar,  
Now come, ye guys, with southern hates,  
Join in the scriptures with your mates,  
Oh lawks a mercy, sakes above,  
Cut out these hates, let's have some luw.*

*Floyd from Devon, his lips now sealed,  
First set the seed in fallow field,  
Transported them by airy fairy,  
To our pal, Jack, in Castle Cary,  
Who surely now to save his face  
Will confine epistles to air space.*

*And now I think I've said enough,  
Don't treat these hateful men too rough,  
I'll finish now, I've had my say,  
I'll see you West House boys in May.  
God bless you all, forgive my chaff,  
It's enough to make a capstan lathe.*

"GEN."

★ ★ ★

Ernest Russell, of Leeds, has been elected to the Northern Area Council of the British Legion.

the previous record being a possible in 50 seconds—held by "Dingle" Bell.

#### Darts

The Darts Competition for March was very successful once again—with no less than 50 entrants. The T. B. Competition was won by Colin Fraser, with Jim Griffiths as runner-up.

The S. S. Competition was won by George Emerson, with Ted Irons as runner-up.

#### Sports

It is proposed to run the Annual Sports again this year at Ovingdean, on July 9th. Events for the Challenge Cup will be as follows:—

Cricket Ball.  
Totally Blind and Semi-Sighted 70yds. Sprint.  
Discus.  
Long Jump.  
Putting the Weight.  
Medicine Ball.  
Team Relay.  
Walking.  
Tug of War.

We shall, in addition, hold many other events for those unable to take part in those mentioned above.

Clubs or Houses who could raise a team and wish to enter the Sports, please get in touch with Mr. Jarrold, Training Centre, Ovingdean, not later than May 30th.

Individual entries can also be accepted from St. Dunstaners wishing to partake, who are living in the vicinity.

It is hoped that accommodation will be available at Ovingdean for those who are unable to travel back home on the same night.

### March Test Results

**Preliminary.**—G. Jones, J. Langley, R. Giffin, A. Lincoln.

**Advanced.**—A. Shepherd.

**Senior.**—R. Sheehan, W. C. Scott.

**Writing.**—A. Shepherd, R. Pringle, G. Jacobs.

**Typing.**—A. Little, J. Roper, G. Rowley, J. Corrigan.

### Silver Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. C. Matthews, Maidenhead, whose silver wedding in March, 1946, has only just been reported.

## "In Memory"

### Radio Mechanic Ronald James Statham, R.E.M.E.

With deep regret we record the death of one of our youngest St. Dunstaners, Ronald Statham, of Lee, S.E. He was twenty.

He enlisted as a cadet when he was only fourteen, and he served until 1946 with R.E.M.E. as a Radio Mechanic. Later that year, a grievous illness developed, which resulted in blindness, and, gradually, the loss of the use of his muscles. He became a St. Dunstaner, but he was never able to train. Throughout his illness he bore his suffering with great fortitude and cheerfulness.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his parents and brothers and sisters who nursed him devotedly.

### Sergeant Major John Edward Bell, 2nd Bn. Irish Guards

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of J. E. Bell, of Acton.

This old soldier served with his regiment from 1899 until 1915, and it was in that year that he came to St. Dunstan's. He became one of our braille instructors, and many St. Dunstaners of both wars passed through his hands.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was among the flowers at the funeral. A Requiem Mass took place at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes before the service.

He re-married last October, and our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, and to his son and daughter by his former marriage. Sadly enough, all arrangements had been made for him to retire from work and to live in Ireland.

### Births

**BILLCLIFF.**—On March 11th, to the wife of G. Billcliff, of Grays, a son—David.

**FORSTER.**—On April 6th, to the wife of R. Forster, of Leeds, a son—Ian Robert.

**NASH.**—On March 15th, to the wife of T. Nash, of Cardiff, a daughter—Madeline.

### Marriages

**BIRCHALL.**—On March 21st, J. W. Birchall, of St. Helens. He and his wife will live at Blackpool.

**DALY—ALLEN.**—On April 19th, at Brighton, Owen Daly, to Miss Allen.

**MORGAN—PEARSON.**—On April 16th, Easter Saturday, A. Morgan, of York, to Miss Alice Pearson.

**PUZDROWSKI — MATTHEWS.** — On March 26th, A Puzdrowski, of Birmingham, to Miss D. Matthews.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

**CAMERON.**—To Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Cameron, of Forest Gate, whose baby, Robert, died on March 15th at the age of ten weeks.

**MORTIMER.**—To George Mortimer, of Witham, Essex, whose mother recently passed away.

**REDDISH.**—To C. J. R. Reddish, of Brighton, whose wife died on March 19th.

### Young St. Dunstaners

Kathleen Alderson (Baildon) has passed the Intermediate Accountant's examination and is now working for the Final, to be held in November.

Mavis Hazel, of Merton Park, has now passed her A.R.C.M. examination as well as the L.R.A.M. She is only twenty, and at the recent Wimbledon Music Festival was also awarded 85 per cent. for the violin solo class.

Maureen Robinson, Scarborough, with another girl from Easingwold, is to represent the Yorkshire Red Cross in connection with a big national event to be held in Holland in August.

Harry Pollitt, Farnworth, has become a teacher, having been trained under the post-war training scheme, after six years' war service.

The daughter of A. Anderson, of Forfar, who now lives in British Columbia, gave birth to a son on March 3rd.

### Marriages

Robert Yuile, Glasgow, on March 25th, to Miss Ena Gladstone.

John Printie, Edinburgh, on February 26th, to Miss Theresa Buckley.

Joyce Stamp, Keelby, on April 2nd.

Norman Ian Brampton, Highgate, on February 26th, to Miss Renee Sylvester.

On March 2nd, the son of T. Lambourne, Bletchley, to Miss Nelly Owen.