

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 361—VOLUME XXXII

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

“Mr.”

IN the first World War, St. Dunstaners were addressed by members of the staff mainly by their surnames, and the second World War group are mainly addressed by their Christian names. Speaking for my generation this did not seem strange to us for we were many of us under twenty years of age, and our teachers and Matrons were a good deal older than we were. If it was a little disconcerting to be called by your surname, or your Christian name, by a junior typist, we put up with it because we realised the difficulty of drawing the line.

This custom went on more or less generally until it outgrew its origin, as well as common sense. Now we have the anomaly that middle-aged and older men are still sometimes addressed by new and junior members of the staff in this manner, and if we do nothing about it, the same anomaly will arise with the new generation.

I think the time has come for a change, and I have therefore issued a directive to all staff of St. Dunstan's that all St. Dunstaners are henceforth to be addressed, in correspondence and verbally, by the title of “Mr.” or, where appropriate, “Captain” or “Major,” etc.

Nothing will prevent, and this directive is not intended to prevent, the friendly relationship between individuals which naturally leads to the use of surnames, Christian names or nicknames, but this must grow out of friendship and understanding, and not be taken for granted.

The Editor of the REVIEW points out to me the special problem that arises in the magazine. This issue appears in exactly the form to which we are accustomed and has not been altered as a result of my directive. The Editor would welcome suggestions as to how we shall carry out the spirit of the new proposal in the columns of this journal in future.

West House

On a recent visit to West House I made a statement which I think will be of interest to all St. Dunstaners. I said that the advent of the men from the Second War had added so many to our numbers that we needed more beds for sick and old, convalescent and holiday men, than we had planned in the 1930's. In those days we had hoped that the time would come when Ovingdean alone would provide sufficient beds for all these groups. We had given up West House, and it would have been sold had not the Second War intervened. Fortunately therefore, it was still there and when the war was over it served a most useful purpose—which it still serves—of providing additional beds.

It is, however, an old house with no lift, rambling passages, inadequate accommodation and ventilation, and not up to the standard of a St. Dunstan's Home.

We have now had the property thoroughly inspected and have been assured that the fabric is sound, and we have therefore decided that it is to be reconstructed inside and the

plans for this change are now being made. If we can get licences the work will probably begin in the autumn, and we shall have to make temporary arrangements to cover the period of reconstruction. Further information about this will be given later.

I feel sure St. Dunstaners as a whole, and particularly the 1914-18 men, will be glad to know that a new St. Dunstan's Home will be created on the old site at West House which is so familiar and so popular.

I took the opportunity of consulting the men who happened to be at West House on the occasion of my visit, and many of their suggestions will be taken into consideration, including particularly the desire for as many small rooms and hot and cold wash basins as possible. I shall be pleased to receive comments and suggestions on this proposal in general, and as regards details, which might be considered in the reconstruction.

War Pensions

There is much activity in relation to War Pensions behind us and ahead of us. A deputation representing many national organisations for ex-Servicemen and women went to see the Minister a few weeks ago under the leadership of the National Chairman of the British Legion, Lt.-Col. C. Gordon Larking, J.P., and Lt.-Col. R. Grimshaw, O.B.E., J.P., Chairman of the Legion's National Pensions Committee.

On Tuesday, April 26th, there was a Debate in the House of Commons, a good report of which will be found in the British Legion Journal for June, which is enclosed with this REVIEW.

Early next month the Legion meets in its Annual Conference at Great Yarmouth, and the Agenda paper shows that many resolutions on War Pensions will be moved by delegates from Branches all over the country.

There has never been such a widespread campaign for a review of War Pensions as the British Legion has conducted during the past year, and I have no doubt that the Conference will wish it to be continued.

Although we have not attained our main objective, which is a Select Committee to inquire into every aspect of War Pensions and Allowances, we have obtained a wide measure of support from M.P.s, Press and public, and the campaign will go on.

The Journal

Apart from reading the Report of the War Pensions Debate, I advise my friends to have a look at the British Legion Journal, which they will find an interesting paper. I hope the activities and spirit there recorded will induce many who have not yet joined the Legion to do so.

IAN FRASER.

Derby Sweepstake, 1949

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake, which is now closed, is being made at the Club premises at Headquarters on the evening of Friday, May 27th. Those drawing horses will be notified by letter.

National Insurance Scheme, 1949

Under the above Scheme, the Ministry of National Insurance will be sending out to all insured persons Contribution Record Forms showing the number of contributions to 6th March, 1949, and also the number of years in Insurance.

Some of these forms have been sent direct to Headquarters, but if sent to home addresses, will St. Dunstaners make a special note to forward them to Miss Sailing at 191 Marylebone Road, without delay, as it is most important that we should have a complete record of Insurance.

ALEX MACKAY,
Welfare Superintendent.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," May, 1919:

"It is with feelings of great satisfaction that we read the terms of the preliminary Peace which the Allied and Associated Powers have prepared for the Germans, and the courteous but firm words with which M. Clemenceau delivered them to the enemy delegates, inspires us with confidence as to the determination of the victors that the terms should be carried out in every detail. We of St. Dunstan's bear no grudge and feel no resentment, but we like to know that the men who have forced on a peaceful world the horrors of the past four and a half years will get their deserts, . . . and that adequate steps will be taken to prevent the recurrence of the useless waste of human life and treasure which goes hand-in-hand with Armageddon."

Club News

London

In the last issue of the REVIEW, I inadvertently stated that the Field Sports Day was in September. Of course it is July 23rd, and I dream I am being chased round the track carrying the weight in one hand and the medicine ball in the other, being chased by Tommy Gaygan with the javelin at the ready.

I am pleased to see more fellows at the Club and feel that we are really getting into our stride now.

Bridge.—Will all those who took part in the Team tournament on April 2nd please note that the final of this event will be held on Saturday, June 18th.

To all bridge players—a bridge drive will be held on June 25th at 2.30 p.m. at Headquarters Club. Bring your own partner, or a partner will be provided if desired. Please notify Frank A. Rhodes (Captain).

Heartly congratulations to Messrs. Wiltshire and Henry on winning the Pairs Competition for 1948.

Indoor Section.—*Ladies' Day!!!* It has been suggested that the ladies, wives and girl friends (please don't get me wrong), of members, spend a day by themselves at either Folkestone or Eastbourne. The Committee will be delighted to arrange this at a maximum cost of 12s. 6d. each, if desired. Ladies interested, please address enquiries to me at Headquarters with suggestions as to date. A good lunch will be arranged. Let us hear from you in numbers. *Please Note.*—Percy and I are very fond of Pink Peppermint Rock.

Home Notes.—A small party was royally entertained by the employees of the Railway Depot at the Bricklayers' Arms on April 23rd. I understand this will be an annual affair and would advise an acceptance of future invitations.

At last! A Victory! In a return match at home, we met the Barrow Boys of Fulham and beat them, the best two of three, at Darts. One lost—one won—the team is now looking forward to the decider at the Queen's Arms, Fulham, in the near future.

Quite a number attended the Staff Dance at the Victory Hall, Leicester Square. We had a most enjoyable evening and would like to meet the Staff of St. Dunstan's a little more often under the same pleasant conditions.

TINY F.

Outdoor Sports.—As previously stated, the Sports Day will be held on July 23rd at the Alperston Sports Ground, Wembley. A full programme has been drawn up and a circular will be sent to all London men in due course and we shall look forward to receiving your entries as soon as possible. It should be a great day for all.

Swimming has now started at the Seymour Baths, Seymour Place, N.W.1. Monday evenings, 7 to 8 p.m. Full particulars and tickets from the Club.

Rowing.—It is quite within the bounds of possibility that we may have a regatta at Marlow, so will oarsmen get together and get some practice. Boats are available on the Regent's Park lake any evening.

I will not comment here on the walking as a full report appears elsewhere, but walking will now continue through the summer. More races are in hand for later on, so anyone who likes a spot of training can get all particulars at the Club or from Tommy Gaygan.

In the meantime, don't forget the Gymnasium is still at your disposal on Tuesday evenings.

T.G.

Well, that all looks like a good report to me, so make a note in your diary of these events, and don't forget the Suggestion Box is there for your use.

P.A.

London Club Road Walk

On Saturday, April 30th, we held our first post-war Walking Race round Regent's Park. Starting from Bedford College and doing four inner circles and one outer circle made a good six miles. The weather was just right and it was quite like old times to see such a good field of veterans and novices.

We must congratulate the competitors on the good times put up, and even more so on the splendid style of the new walkers. Although the judges looked very hard, they had very little fault to find. Here are the results:

S.S. Section.		min. sec.	
1st	A. Brown	...	53 27
2nd	W. Miller	...	55 4
3rd	W. T. Scott	...	60 19
T.B. Section			
1st	T. Gaygan	...	59 6
2nd	C. Williamson	...	62 7
3rd	M. Burns	...	63 7
4th	W. Robinson	...	63 34
5th	J. Ellis	...	66 35
6th	F. G. Dickerson	...	70 36

HANDICAP WINNERS:

S.S. Section—W. Miller, 1st.
W. T. Scott, 2nd.
T.B. Section—C. Williamson, 1st.
W. Robinson, 2nd.

T. Gaygan—Fastest Loser prize.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. J. W. Harris, R.W.A., for all his work in making this day such a success, to the escorts, to the ladies who provided such a splendid tea, and to the Bedford College officials for so kindly placing their premises at our disposal.

Birmingham Walk

The following Saturday, May 7th, saw the first post-war Walk of the Birmingham Club and there was a grand line-up for the start of this 7-mile race.

The Cup returned to London and two prizes were also awarded to each competing team. Mr. Fawcett, our Commandant at Ovingdean, presented the prizes, and we should like to add our thanks to his to Mr. Cooling, Honorary Treasurer of the Birmingham Club, and organiser of the Walk, and to the escorts and officials and to all our other Birmingham helpers. We were extremely sorry for A. Morgan, who was a late starter owing to a bad train connection. Nevertheless, he walked through the field up to third place and possibly with a level start would have done better.

RESULT		min. sec.
1 A. Brown	London	63 45
2 W. Miller	... London	65 12
3 A. Morgan	... Rest of England	66 57
4 T. Gaygan	... London	67 57
5 T. ap Rhys	... Rest of England	68 53
6 H. McL. Steel	London	69 54
7 J. Jerome	Rest of England	69 54
8 W. T. Scott	... London	70 32
9 J. Coupland	... Rest of England	72 49
10 C. Williamson	London	73 33
11 B. E. W. Bright	Birmingham	74 23
12 W. Robinson	... London	74 47
13 D. Faulkner	... Birmingham	74 57
14 S. Tutton	... Rest of England	75 25
15 W. S. Castle	... Birmingham	75 35
16 L. Kibbler	... Birmingham	77 21
17 W. Trott	... Birmingham	80 4
18 S. Southall	... Birmingham	82 53
19 J. Salt	... Rest of England	88 9

TEAM RACE

1st	London	... 17 points
2nd	Rest of England	... 25 points
3rd	Birmingham	... 57 points

West House Notes

Easter at last! The weather was superb and exceeded our wildest expectations. Fresh air was the order of the day.

In addition to two Plumpton Meetings for the racing fans during Easter, we had three other coach outings. All of these, the picnic on Littlehampton beach on Good Friday, the Treasure Hunt at Alfriston on Saturday, and the Mystery Drive to Ocken-den Manor, Cuckfield, on Easter Monday, were enjoyed immensely. The Treasure Hunters were rather inclined to take things easier than heretofore as the heat proved a little too much for such an energetic pastime; however, Rees Warren and his wife were successful in finding all the articles, which was quite an achievement. Still, we know that Rees is something of a magician!

The Communion Service and Evensong on Easter Sunday were very well attended. In the Chapel the decorations of Spring flowers were enhanced by the beautiful lilies given by H. Clevitt, of Worthing.

The evenings were well booked up with inside entertainment. On the 14th, the Staff read two one-act plays, one a thriller, "Master Dudley," and the other a comedy, "Inconstant Moon," which went over very well. A party was held on the 17th.

We were so very pleased to welcome a party of young French students from Nantes, La Chorale Chantecler, who sang some classical songs followed by some folk-songs, one or two of which were familiar to the boys. To reciprocate, our own Charlie Thomas sang a song for them, which, like their singing, was unaccompanied. A vote of thanks was given by H. Costigan.

The local lads paid us a visit on the 19th, when a whist and domino drive took place. The domino prize-winners were:

Resident.—(1) Broadley, (2) Orrell, (3) Brightwell.

Guests.—(1) Sebbage, (2) Miss Whiteman, (3) Unsworth.

The whist prize-winners were:

Gentlemen.—(1) Coles, (2) Stevenson.

Ladies.—(1) Mrs. Fleetwood, (2) Van Niekerk (playing as lady).

Booby.—Bob Young (Glasgow), Mrs. Mills.

Various other whist and domino drives were held during the month.

The holiday came to a most satisfactory close on the Monday night, when we had a

Gala Dance. We were all delighted to have Mrs. Malone with us once again over the Easter period.

The outstanding event amongst outside activities was on the 7th, when twenty-five men and four staff went to the Mayor of Brighton's "At Home." Tea was provided and afterwards all the guests were entertained at a most enjoyable concert.

During the month we had our usual Friday night dances. The 22nd being St. George's Eve gave us an excuse to have a special "do." Needless to say, it was enjoyed by all.

On the 28th, Mr. Austin Laidlaw was the Question Master at a Brains Trust. It was a most interesting discussion and the team consisted of Messrs. Humphreys, Cull, Martin and Muggeridge.

Last, but not least, weddings were in the air. Owen Daly was married to Miss Allen at the Church of St. John the Baptist on the 19th; a number of the staff were present.

Orderly Standley was married to Miss Jackson (V.A.D. Good Companion) on April 23rd, and T. Sattary's engagement to Miss Ethel Snell was announced at a dance on April 1st.

Camp Reminder

Shawbury, Shropshire (R.A.F.), July 8th to July 16th.

Lee-on-Solent (R.N.), August 5th to August 13th.

St. Dunstaners wanting to know camp arrangements should write to Mrs. Spurway, Holmwood Vicarage, Dorking.

National Laying Test

Report for the seventh period of four weeks, March 28th to April 24th, 1949.

Posn.	Name	Test Score
1	Bagwell, Philip	720
2	Gregory, T. D.	692
3	Young, W. E. ...	688
4	Webb, William	653
5	Holmes, Percy	650
6	MacIntosh, Charles	647
7	Woodcock, W. J.	605
8	Chaffin, Albert...	593
9	Smith, W. Alan	556
10	Jarvis, Albert ...	551
11	Carpenter, E. H.	516
12	Clarke, T.	354

Average per bird to date, 106.12

Reunions

The Brighton Reunion was held at the Corn Exchange on April 20th, when a particularly large gathering of St. Dunstaners from Brighton and parts of Sussex and Surrey met Colonel C. H. Madden, O.B.E., M.C., Member of the British Legion National Executive Council, who was our special guest. Mr. Mackay presided, and among those present were Matron Ouseley, Matron Vaughan-Davies, the Commandant, Mr. Fawcett, Mr. G. Stenning, Secretary of Hove British Legion, and several members of the Headquarters and Technical Staff.

At Leicester, on the 26th, Mr. J. A. V. Boddy, Member of the National Executive Council and President of Leicestershire and Rutland Council, and Mr. J. E. Quain, Secretary of the Leicestershire Branch, were popular British Legion guests.

The Plymouth meeting took place at the Duke of Cornwall's Hotel on May 2nd. Major R. W. Fennamore, Secretary of Plymouth No. 1 Branch, represented the British Legion here.

Other News

J. H. New, of Wolverhampton, will be busy during the next few weeks attending presentations for St. Dunstan's as a result of the Domino and Dart Leagues which he organised some four years ago. With this year's cheque, his total from this one League will be £650.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Higgins, of Cricklewood, have received a pair of blankets from Princess Elizabeth—one of her wedding presents sent from Australia.

E. Jackson, of Chaddesden, is the domino "ace" of Chaddesden British Legion. He has not lost a league game since he joined the branch team last October.

Tommy McKay is now on the Committee of the Corstorphine (Edinburgh) Branch of the British Legion.

W. J. Carthy, of Ainsworth, has been made a vice-president of Nottingham Chrysanthemum Society, vice-president of the Rainworth Old Folk Fund and Publicity Officer of the local War Memorial Fund. As he is also on the local committees of the British Legion and the Mansfield R.A.F. Association, he hasn't much spare time.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I read with interest the Chairman's notes and on the same day was handed a copy of the "Herald" with a similar article by a blind civilian. From both, I think that there is one outstanding point and that is, "We are blind, but is the rest of the world?" Most of us have many friends and are, generally speaking, admired, but this is not what we want. I think that it is the public who want educating towards us and not we towards them. Many will affirm that the general public will pass you daily, will evacuate a carriage leaving you there, will not warn you of impending trouble, etc. Why, we do not know, and how much nicer it would be if they would greet us as they can see us and we are not dummies, to give us that hand when travelling, for to try to be too clever may lead to disaster, for noise is confusing and finally we are not super radar sets which can pick up all and sundry ahead of us. Could not talks be given occasionally, and press articles be used, for we are friendly but we have no eyes, and they have.

Yours sincerely,

Aston Clinton.

PAUL BAKER.

DEAR EDITOR,

While entirely agreeing with Sir Ian's advice *re* the "loneliness" of the blind, may I offer certain personal observations. Long and happy experience has shown me the superabundance of human kindness, a universal unselfish eagerness of sighted people to relieve our disability, yet invariably a strange disinclination on their part to take us out walking. The latter I do not believe is due to any lack of good nature, but to their timidity towards our peculiar affliction, and to their feeling of incompetence in understanding and coping with a responsibility they needlessly exaggerate. We can largely contradict this erroneous but perhaps natural misconception, by trying to live in their world, and not expecting them to enter ours. This can best be done by placing implicit confidence in them, in boldly attuning our mobility to theirs, and most of all by a conviction that we can enjoy with them the life and colour around us. The latter, by exercising our faculty of "visualisation" by inviting their co-operation by discriminate questioning, immediate activity and

surroundings, they will be both ready and pleased to enlighten us, and if we can thus get outside ourselves, we shall be worthy companions, and have travelled far along the road to Victory over Blindness.

Yours sincerely,

Southampton.

W. GIRLING.

Many a Slip . . .

DEAR EDITOR,

The Wolves won the Cup for the Midlands on April 30th. The team has been well entertained as a reward for its victory. A week later, it was a London team that took the Cup from Birmingham and the Rest of England. This victorious team of battle-scarred jolly old sportsmen could not get a drink on their thirsty train journey home. They had to drink only with their eyes. The Cup remained empty. Why? you may ask! There were so many foreigners having dinner. It is nice to know the British Industries Fair has been so successful.

Yours faithfully,

W. T. S.

"That Lucky Face"

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been reading that letter of Mr. Mudge's and I note that after paying his rupee to the fortune teller, he—the F.T.—took one searching look at Mudge's face and ran for his life. So what! The first time I saw Mr. Mudge I took one searching look at his face, and I gave a scream and also ran.

Yours sincerely,

Romford.

EBBY GRAY.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

Eric Lucocq, Cardiff, on March 19th, to Miss Pat Smart.

Margaret Lomas, Walthamstow, on April 16th, to D. R. Wilson.

Mary Carlton, B.Sc., Canterbury, on August 7th, 1948, to Reginald Sterling, B.Sc.

Alma Firth, Heswall, on April 23rd, to Harry Musson.

G. Samworth, Edgware, on May 14th, to Miss Joan Winifred Daly.

James Moore, Folkestone, on January 1st, to Miss Ann Redden.

Sunbeams

Throughout summer, at Brighton and Blackpool, many of our comrades sit around in a punctured sort of way, blushing like pillar-boxes. One wonders—is it wise to get sun-tanned to a carbonado? Does auto-suggestion make sun worshippers such devotees, in that sun-tan looks somewhat like the colour of amber ale, thus it MUST be good for one?

In tropical countries people do not walk around bareheaded in strong sunshine: they invariably use the shaded side of a street. That sunshine can upset balance, provide an excuse, and play havoc with clear expression, I can prove conclusively.

A titubant fisherman from Fleetwood filched a "budgie" from its cage, tried to teach it to sing "Yo-ho for the Spanish Ma-hain," and a Blackpool policeman asked him why he had the bird in his hand. Stutteringly he replied that he was walking around in the sunshine looking for two birds in a bush to find out which really was worth the most.

Women, too, are equally liable to have their thoughts jumbled by too much sunshine, in spite of having their heads tied up like meat puddings. A son of mine was in the Admin' Office of one of the services. To that department came a letter which read as follows: "Dear Sir,—The doctor is making me have a little sun because I have had twins in the enclosed envelope, as you will see. This cannot be done without a struggle. Can I rely upon you to do something for me without that?"

Once again. I was chatting with the wife of one of our men—one of the nicest of women—telling her that I hoped to spend a week's holiday with the aid of a hiking-cum-railway tourist ticket. She said: "If you are within a mile or two of our house at any time—STAY THERE!" She, too, had her hair done up pudding fashion, but the sun's heat bored through that cover and upset her poor syntax.

So be careful with the sunshine this summer, won't you? Use it sparingly at all times. Ever remember that it is the shade that makes the sundial worth looking at. Southampton.

W. E. BROOKES.

★ ★ ★

At the 25th Re-union of the 21st Battalion of the KRRs., at York, G. H. Heeley, of Leeds, was elected Junior Vice-President of the Association.

Talking Book Library

April's Appetisers

Three shortish books form the month's quota of releases, "You're on the Air," "Gerald," and "Minute for Murder."

"You're on the Air," written and read by Lionel Gamlin, is an interesting account of broadcasting technique from a man living behind the microphone. The reader of the book has a great opportunity of putting his own writing across in this recording and the book is short enough to maintain interest throughout. Read this one—it is not the type you can hear on the wireless, but it brings the mike a little nearer.

"Minute for Murder," by Nicholas Blake, read by Alvar Liddell, is a goodish mystery thriller.

"Gerald," by Daphne du Maurier, read Richard Wessell, is the biography of an actor father by a novelist daughter. It is good, as most of this lady's writings are, but I am sorry she didn't slip a generation and write of her grandfather, for Gerald inherited his acting ability from his father, although, of course, he worked and polished until he achieved the top of his profession. A very human, penetrating biography, well written, well read and well recorded.

Many happy revolutions! NELSON.

Science Museum, South Kensington

The Museum Superintendent of the Science Museum, South Kensington, has informed us that arrangements are being made to stage a special exhibition for the blind and partially sighted from June 11th to June 26th, inclusive.

Two "May" Reviews

We would like to thank the observant readers who have pointed out the mistake in the date printed in last month's REVIEW. Although the REVIEW was numbered correctly, the printers jumped two months and made it "May" instead of "April." We would advise readers who keep their copies to alter May to April to avoid any confusion in the future.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. W. Farmery, Winchester, December 19th.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. S. Boorman, of Peterborough, April 19th.

Congratulations.

Blackpool Notes

Sunday, May 1st, will certainly be remembered by all the boys, old and new, who were at the Blackpool Home on that day. The occasion was the celebration of 28 years' service of Matron Vaughan-Davies. W. A. Biggs, of Leicester, in giving the toast, paid warm tribute to Matron's long and devoted service and he asked all present to be upstanding to the toast, "Matron—her jolly good health, good luck and every success in life." Then followed "For she's a jolly good fellow," and the cheers nearly brought down the roof of the big Lounge. Then we all did the Hokey-Cokey and smartly jiggled into the dining room to the tune of "Sons of the Sea" and the words of "Bobbing up and down like this."

On the previous day there was a presentation of gifts to two Sisters who were relinquishing their duties at the Home. One was Miss Berry, known to all St. Dunstaners who had visited Blackpool during the past seven years for her splendid services in time of sickness. Miss Berry was retiring at least for a time to care for her parents in Devon and all were sorry to lose her. She was presented with a magnificent pigskin shoulder bag and purse. Then Miss Kershaw, also of the Dispensary, who had been with us for three years, was presented with a handsome alarm clock and a note-case. Miss Kershaw is leaving us to take a training course in hospital, and when qualified, which we all hope will be with full qualifications in the shortest possible time, hopes to return to us again. Both Sisters thanked the St. Dunstaners for their tokens of appreciation. Their retirement is regretted by all of us and we hope that some day they will return to St. Dunstan's. W.A.B.

BLACKPOOL STOP PRESS

Mr. Bell, a new escort, has organised a rota so that we now have more men escorts—at least half-a-dozen.

The manager of the South Pier Hotel recently met Matron and has promised us regular tickets for their shows.

Our friend, the Rev. G. Chadwick, was married on May 3rd at Newcastle. "Deafy" Jordan, of Luston, made him a door-mat as a wedding present.

Miss Berry's and Miss Kershaw's "Thank you" to the troops:

"Miss Kershaw and I wish to thank you, through Matron, and to say how very much we appreciate your tokens of friendship presented to us. We hope you will forgive the rather cowardly way we have left without saying goodbye to anyone, and we ask you to accept it as proof of our feelings for you. We're both coming back. B. and K."

Tribute to Gas Company Telephonists

In a feature, "Salute to Southall," in the "Co-partners' Magazine," published by the Gas, Light and Coke Company, there was a picture of W. H. Timbrell at his board. The caption said: "Voice of Southall is cheerful Telephone Operator Bill Timbrell, known as 'Tim.' Totally blinded in First World War, he is St. Dunstan's trained. Finds his way around with absolute confidence. Does his own typing, too. He is one of several blind telephone operators employed by the Company."

From South To North

"O poet from the green hilled shire who
'aileth from the North,
E'er space has quenched thy foolish ire and
poured upon thee wrath,
Know that the seed on fallow field in that
fair village Cary
Has brought forth an abundant yield that
was quite necessary.
The bawdy jokes you hail with glee, as
pleasing to the vicars
No more will taint West House you see
reserved for city slickers.
Oft times we heard there was a place, where
all was peace and quiet
But found, on seeking, that the place was
one unholy riot;
Those dulcet tones sound dull indeed at
one or two a.m.
And country lads need sleep indeed after
their day's hectic play ('Hem!').
We love West House, we love the boys, and
love the Staff so cheery,
But still we register our hate of all the
'Willies' Weary.
So now you see, though you Taunt On, I
did not drop a 'T,'
I dropped a brick that will jaunt on down
by the Sussex sea."

The Pensions Debate What the Press Said

On Tuesday, April 26th, War Pensions were debated again in the House of Commons. The Debate is reported in the "British Legion Journal" which is enclosed with this REVIEW. Here are extracts from some of the newspapers and journals which commented on the matter.

"TIME AND TIDE."

The division in the House of Commons on the Liberal motion demanding a Royal Commission to inquire into the adequacy of war pensions and allowances in the light of the present day cost of living was a dispiriting spectacle. Last year, when Sir Ian Fraser tabled a motion asking for a Select Committee of inquiry into the same matter, it was signed by 275 members, including nearly 70 Labour M.P.s. The Government's reaction to this all-party motion was first to refuse time to it, then to tell a private meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party that they did not think an inquiry necessary, and finally to try to discountenance the whole move by turning it into a party battle. What has been so dispiriting is the success which invariably attends this shabby manoeuvre.

"BELFAST NEWS LETTER."

There was every reason why the subject should have been kept on a non-party level, as the mover of Sir Ian Fraser's motion pleaded it should be. However, it was agreed that the debate produced valuable information apart from the hints of concessions from the Minister.

"ECONOMIST."

A sample survey of war pensions, such as the Assistance Board periodically undertakes among its cases, might reveal more accurately than the Ministry of Pensions' officials can tell just where and to what extent genuine hardship exists. If none exists, then it would be to the Ministry's advantage to have it established beyond doubt. One suspects that the persistent refusal to agree to an inquiry masks the Labour Party's—and in particular the trade unions'—dislike of the British Legion. In view of the dignified, sincere and informed speech made by Sir Ian Fraser in the debate, in strong contrast to the virulent attack

made on the Legion and other Service organisations by the Labour Member for Hull East, this attitude is quite uncalled-for.

"BIRMINGHAM POST."

Most of the feeling was due to Socialists who think that Conservatives are making political capital out of the legitimate agitation of the British Legion. They got their answer from Sir Ian Fraser, the blind Member for Lonsdale, who spent an hour begging the Government to take the controversy out of the field of party politics.

"NEW STATESMAN AND NATION."

Sir Ian Fraser made a firm, well-balanced speech with an earnest attempt to make it "non-political." Yet however sincere his object, there was no doubt that the campaign for a Select Committee had been used by many for political ends.

"THE TRIBUNE." (Mr. J. P. W. Mallalieu, M.P.)

"I think we know, but I'm not sure that we all need continually reminding, that disabled men, especially disabled ex-Servicemen, have a prior claim on society. Even now these claims are not being fully met. But the verbiage of back-bench contestants and the reasoned brilliance of Marquand prevented us on Tuesday from seeing the problem in a completely dispassionate light."

"NORWICH MERCURY."

Mr. Simmons, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions, announced some pensions changes which were welcomed by Sir Ian Fraser. But Sir Ian still wanted a Royal Commission.

"PORTSMOUTH EVENING NEWS."

Resentment of the attack (on the Legion) has been expressed in Portsmouth and district, which boasts of many thriving branches of the Legion. All who know anything of the movement's work in Portsmouth will be the first to deny that the "scrounger" types—if any—are the concern of those who devoted themselves to the welfare of the ex-soldiers, sailors and airmen of two world wars who have settled down in the City.

Ovingdean Notes

We had but a few days in April before the Easter Break. The End of Term Dance was held in the Lounge on Friday, April 8th, and went with a swing from start to finish. There was, as usual on such occasions, an excellent Buffet, and in the interval we had an amusing interlude provided by Geoffrey Jacobs and Ron Smith. Stan Oliver also entertained with songs and Roy Glover on his accordion.

Again we have had to say goodbye to many trainees who, having completed their training, were about to commence their jobs and put that training into practice. Commandant, on behalf of all Staff and those trainees remaining at Ovingdean, wished them every happiness and success. There have also been several Staff changes this term, including Miss Shentall, who left us to visit the warmer climes of Kenya, Miss Somerset, Entertainments Secretary, Miss Gardner, Assistant Lounge Sister, Miss Smylie, V.A.D., and a number of the Teaching Staff. To all these people we send our best wishes from the Training Centre.

Dick Burman, so well known to countless St. Dunstaners of both wars, retired from St. Dunstan's service at the end of Term. On Monday, April 11th, trainees and staff at the Training Centre gathered in the Lounge and a little presentation ceremony took place, when a gold Braille watch, suitably inscribed, was presented to him. The watch was presented to Dick by Fred Taylor who, in a short speech, reminded us of Dick's long association with St. Dunstan's. Dick, slightly embarrassed, made a suitable reply, which was received with much pleasure by those present. He expressed his very warm thanks and affectionate memories of all those who had contributed to the presentation. We were happy to have with us Mr. White, from Headquarters, and he replied on behalf of Headquarters Staff. Photographs were taken, and after Mr. Cheesman had presented a small occasional cabinet to Dick, the little ceremony came to an end with the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow."

We were sorry it was not possible to have all Dick Burman's ex-pupils present, but we can assure you he was given a great send-off!

On the last Monday of term a party of Australian trainees went to the House of

Commons, where they heard part of the debate on the Budget and were afterwards entertained to tea by Sir Ian and Lady Fraser.

Breaking up on April 13th, most of the trainees went joyfully home—placing their trust in "Movement Control" and "British Railways." The few remaining, who for various reasons were not able to go home for the holiday, joined in with the excellent holiday programme at West House.

The holiday weather was all we could have wished and everyone returned looking well and sun-burnt, except the unfortunates who had been in the "Frozen North."

The Summer Term amusements began with a party of trainees being invited to a Fancy Dress Ball at the "Savoy Ballroom" given by the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children, and our weekly visits to the Palace Pier Theatre have started once more. Several trainees and escorts thoroughly enjoyed the presentation of J. B. Priestley's "An Inspector Calls."

On April 29th we were delighted to welcome to the Training Centre the Begum Liaquat Ali Khan, who is paying a short visit to this Country from her native Pakistan. She was accompanied by the Begum Rahim Toola, Brigadier Rayaud Din (Senior Military Attache for Pakistan) and his wife. Our visitors were intensely interested in all the training, particularly in the handicrafts work, and the Begum mentioned that they have great hopes of being able to provide an organisation for the blind in Pakistan in the not too distant future.

April Test Results

Advanced.—W. Thomas, P. Giffin.

Preliminary.—J. Loach, E. Crook, J. E. Brown, R. Glover, G. Ellis.

Typing.—N. Lowndes, A. C. Wheeler, T. Denmead.

Writing.—R. Glover, J. McGregor (Australian), B. H. Briggs, J. Ormond, J. E. Brown.

* * *

Dick Burman would like to thank all the Trainees, past and present, for the very handsome gold Braille watch and to thank the Staff for the very nice occasional cabinet presented to him on his retirement.

He says he very much appreciates the kind thoughts and will often think of the happy times spent in the Basket Shop. He sends his very best wishes to all his ex-pupils.

Local Election Candidates

A. Adams, of Balby, and J. F. Leeman, of Louth, were two St. Dunstaners who stood as candidates in the recent Council elections.

J. F. Leeman was particularly unlucky. Standing as a Council House Tenants' candidate, he and another candidate polled the same number of votes for the third vacancy. A draw from a hat was made, and the other candidate was the successful one.

Young St. Dunstaners

Pat, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Jarman, of Llandudno, has passed the final examination of the Law Society and is now a fully qualified solicitor.

Valerie Shread has passed an examination for Ballet Dancing for the Royal Academy of Dancing, and has appeared in several concerts.

Peter Gamble's wife had a daughter on March 28th.

Sussex Downs

*Oh, glorious Downs of Sussex,
Flanked by a sea of blue.
Your tracks were old when
The Legion's tread was new.*

*Oh lovely Downs of Sussex,
Hold fast thy beauty still,
Though human hands would scar thee,
For Mammon's mouth to fill.*

*Oh kindly Downs of Sussex,
How light all troubles lay
When bathed in your raindrops fresh
Or soothed in thy wind's caress.*

*Oh silent Downs of Sussex,
Thy carpet soft I'll tread,
For city streets they tire me
And noisy towns I dread.*

*Oh gentle Downs of Sussex,
What foolishness is mine,
To try to praise with mortal tongue
When God's choir o'er thee sings.*

*Oh peaceful Downs of Sussex,
When soul and body part,
May God in mercy take the one,
The other rest in your heart.*

T. ROGERS.

Births

COPELAND.—On April 10th, to the wife of L. Copeland, of Bournemouth, a son—Lionel Robert.

MCCARTHY.—On May 4th, to the wife of D. McCarthy, of Northampton, a daughter.

MOONEY.—On May 2nd, to the wife of J. J. Mooney, of Oldham, a son—Ian John.

Marriages

DALY—ALLEN.—On April 19th, O. Daly, Brighton, to Miss Allen.

GRIMES.—On March 26th, D. Grimes, of Eastbourne.

LANGLEY.—On December 28th last, J. Langley, of Shotton Colliery.

MAKER.—On April 23rd, C. E. Maker, of Harrobridge.

MURPHY—STANYER.—On May 10th, T. W. Murphy, of Bedlington, to Mrs. Stanyer.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy is extended to the following:

BRIGHT.—To Alfie Bright, of Blackpool, on the death of his father. Mr. Bright senior was a fine old character and was known as the "London Chimney Sweep." He was eighty-two but was working right up to the time of his death. He was "eighty-two years young" as the local Spalding paper put it.

BURNETT.—To W. J. Burnett, of Exeter, whose wife passed away on January 14th.

SMITH.—To A. Smith, of Aspley Estate, Nottingham, whose wife died on January 11th after an illness most bravely borne.

Placements

J. T. Jones, with the Universal Metal Products, Ltd., Salford, drilling plastics.

G. Paddick, as a capstan lathe operator, with Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd.; D. Watkins, as a telephone operator, with the Buckingham Agricultural Committee, Aylesbury.

* * *

W. F. Shea, of the Royal Marine Commandos, who was blinded at the Anzio beach-head, with his father who served for 25 years with the Royal Marines, cast a wreath on the waters of the Mersey on April 23rd in memory of the Marines who lost their sight at Zeebrugge in the first world war and at Walcheren in the second.

“ In Memory ”

Private Thomas William Grove, *5th King's Own Lancashire Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of T. W. Grove, of Botley, Oxford. Wounded in France, he was discharged from the Army in 1915 and came to St. Dunstan's the same year, where he trained as a joiner. For the past three years, however, his health had been failing, and he passed away on April 6th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and grown-up family.

Charles F. Gibson, *R.N.R. Mine Sweeper*

It is with deep regret we record the death of C. F. Gibson, who for so many years has been a patient in the Star and Garter Home at Richmond.

He was wounded in 1920, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until eight years later. Training, however, was out of the question, for he was an invalid for many years.

He remained cheerful and was always interested in the doings of St. Dunstan's, through Miss Morrah who visited him for so long, Miss Lloyd and Mrs. Giorgi.

He leaves a brother and two sisters to whom our sympathy is extended.

Private Samuel Henry Edwards, *2nd Bn. Grenadier Guards*

We record with deep regret the death of S. H. Edwards, of Hackney.

“Sammy” Edwards was wounded at La Bassee in 1915, and came to us three years later. He trained as a telephone operator and shorthand typist and was ultimately appointed as telephonist at the Ministry of Labour, Hackney, where he worked for twenty-nine years.

He died very suddenly on April 21st at West House, Brighton, while on convalescent holiday and he was laid to rest in the St. Dunstan's section of Brighton Cemetery.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Edwards and her son and daughter.

Private John Henry Mason, *Training Reserve*

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on April 24th, of one of our shopkeepers, J. H. Mason, of Bognor Regis.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1923 after being wounded six years earlier. He was trained as a shopkeeper and he built up for himself a most successful business.

For some time his health had not been good and he was admitted to hospital, but he passed away a few days later.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Gunner John Symonds, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Symonds, of Hunstanton, who passed away in the Sick Ward of our Ovingdean Home on May 14th.

Our St. Dunstaner was a regular soldier who had served in the South African War, but enlisted again when the 1914-1918 was broke out. He was wounded in 1915 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1937, but he was not able to undertake any training. He had been in failing health for some time and he went to West House, but was transferred from there to Ovingdean on January 24th.

He leaves a daughter and four step-children to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

Alexander Griswold Viets, *Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry*

We have heard with deep regret from Col. Edwin Baker of the death on April 22nd of A. G. Viets, of Toronto, one of our earliest Canadians.

Wounded early in 1915, he came to St. Dunstan's the same year for training, but returned later to his own country to take up his pre-war profession of insurance. He distinguished himself by playing an active part in the formation, with Colonel Edwin Baker, of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, of which he remained an active leader until his death, a wise and respected counsellor and colleague.

He had a serious heart attack in December, 1948, and was in hospital until early April. He returned home and was carrying on quietly when he passed peacefully away on April 22nd.

He leaves a widow to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

Mrs. Samuel Edwards would like to thank Matron Ouseley and all at West House for their sympathy and great kindness at the time of her bereavement. She would also like to thank all the St. Dunstaners and other friends who came to the funeral service or sent flowers. She was much touched that so many people showed affection for her husband in this way.