

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 363—VOLUME XXXIII

JULY, 1949

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Voluntary Work

“CROWDS waited tensely outside the North Ward polling station in Louth last night. A recount was being made to decide the winner of the ward's third seat.

“The result was that Ratepayers' candidate, W. R. Burr, retiring member, and the Council House Tenants' candidate, J. Leeman, blind World War One ex-serviceman, both polled an equal number of votes.

“On a draw of the two names from a hat, conducted by Returning Officer, Ald. A. E. Maxey, Mr. Burr was elected to the Council.”

This is an extract from a Lincolnshire newspaper following the widespread Local Authorities Election last May.

At the end of June comes the news that Mr. Leeman stood again at a by-election and was elected.

A great many St. Dunstaners are councillors and all will join in congratulating the latest addition to this list.

Councillor Leeman is a basket maker, won the D.C.M. in the First War, and was a sergeant in the 8th Lincolnshire Regiment.

The Representation of the Peoples Act, 1872, provided that where there is a tie in the voting at an election, the Returning Officer shall give a casting vote or the candidates shall cast lots. From time to time there has been much argument when the Returning Officer has used his casting vote and it put him in an invidious position. To meet this, the 1948 Representation of the Peoples Act has taken away the casting vote and declares that the Returning Officer shall “decide between the candidates by lot and proceed as if the candidate on whom the lot falls had received an additional vote.” Thus, the use of the element of chance to determine human affairs is recognised, following, no doubt, ancient custom to which frequent reference is made in the Bible.

We reported recently that Mr. Fred Martin, C.B.E., a Scottish St. Dunstaner, had been elected Convener of the Aberdeenshire County Council. This is a remarkable appointment for a blinded man because the Convener, or Chairman as we would call him in England and Wales, of a County Council has to preside at statutory meetings, call speakers as they “catch his eye,” deal with points of order, and so on—tasks which often tax the quickness as well as the wisdom of the seeing.

In the field of voluntary public work there are many openings for the expression of a man's individuality and the use of his talents in the service of the community, and, as has been shown, blindness does not necessarily bar a determined and able man from full participation.

In social work, too, are many opportunities, and a great many St. Dunstaners hold office in the branches and other elements of the British Legion. The latest of these that I heard of was the case of Mr. Ernest Russell, one of the first St. Dunstaners to arrive at Brighton in the early months of the last war, who has lately been elected a member of the Northern Area Council of the Legion. And the figure of Captain William Appleby, O.B.E., one of the founders of the British Legion, comes to mind. Mr. Godfrey Robinson, M.C., is Vice-Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind, and Mr. Rex Furness, Chairman of Warrington and Widnes Society for the Blind.

Many who do not hold office also devote themselves to voluntary work, and I call to mind Mr. W. T. Scott, who gives so much of his spare time talking to and helping the deaf-blind, and Mr. Norman Perry, who interests himself in the well-being of crippled children in Grimsby.

Lucky is the man who enjoys his daily task and earns a living thereby; but lucky also is he who works for nothing save the satisfaction of doing a job that is appreciated. Many blind men I know gain much happiness by trying to do things for other people, not only in local government or social service, but also in ordinary day-to-day contact with their neighbours.

We have to take so much by way of help from other people—though we should never take it for granted—that there seems to me to be an obligation upon us to give back what we can, and there is a great reward in the friendship that comes our way as a kind of unsolicited and unexpected bonus.

Eastern Braille

I know nothing about Eastern languages at first hand, but believe them to possess a complex and difficult script, though many have been adapted to the Western alphabet. Very few people in the East can read at all, and an even smaller percentage of the blind are literate. The effort of St. Dunstan's in India, which was so ably directed by Sir Clutha Mackenzie, was a notable example of what can be done to bring a measure of release from mental imprisonment, and it is to be hoped that the gospel will spread. Sir Clutha Mackenzie himself, since he gave up the work in India, has continued to study the development of a system of braille reading and writing suitable for the main Eastern languages, and he has recently been invited to go to Paris for two months to attend a conference of U.N.E.S.C.O., where he will be advising on this subject. This interesting appointment follows a request by the Government of India that the subject of the use of braille in Asia and Africa should be put on the Agenda, and they specially asked for Sir Clutha to be there.

Triplets

Mr. S. Doy, of Ashford, Kent, and Mrs. Doy, are the parents of triplets, three sons being born to them on June 20th. This notable event would put them in the news whenever it occurred. However, I learned of it the same morning as I was reading the Government's Population Report, which warns us that the average family must consist of 2.4 children if the nation is to continue to reproduce itself; so it occurred to me to congratulate this family on beating the statisticians in one go.

Mr. Doy was one of the prisoners of war who had his early blind training in Lord Normanby's prison school in Germany.

IAN FRASER.

Club News

London

The London Club will be closed for the month of August, and will reopen on September 1st with a Domino Drive, and that will commence what we hope will be a successful and entertaining winter season.

It is with some regret that I have to inform you that the Sports Day, fixed for July 23rd, at Alperton Sports Ground, will have to be cancelled owing to the lack of support. Much time and money has been spent on organising this Sports Day, and the only thing needed to make it a really good day's outing was the wholehearted support of Club members, but entries have been so few that the committee feel that it is impossible to go on with the arrangements. Personally, I think crowds would have turned up on the day, but were too apathetic to write in for tickets. Well, the blame rests with the Club members.

On Sunday, June 19th, fourteen fellows and escorts enjoyed a ramble to Leith Hill and were entertained to tea by Mrs. Spurway. Well, I say fourteen, but one member very self-sacrificingly offered to stay at the bottom of the hill and guard the handbags, but it was very enjoyable and we would like another soon.

On the 30th there was a Coach Trip to Folkestone, wives only, and by their jubilant spirits on the return they all seemed to have had a good time. They were all laden down with fruit and rock, and all looking very brown. But I cannot see eye to eye with the fellow who said "Let's send them away for a week."

PERCY ASHTON.

Bridge

The thanks of the Club are extended to Mr. A. Field and his assistants in undertaking the difficult task of running the "Teams of Four" competition for us, and we offer sincere congratulations to the winning team: Messrs. Wiltshire, Douglas, Shakespeare and Miller, and to the runners-up: Messrs. Downs, Brown, Thompson and White.

NOTE.—There will be no Bridge on July 30th, nor during the month of August. Please let me have your names for the Bridge Drive on September 3rd.

FRANK RHODES (Captain).

Indoor Activities

Bonny Baby (Photo) Contest:—

Will all interested please forward photographs to me. All entries to reach me not later than Monday, September 19th.

There will be three age competitions:—

- A. 6 months—18 months.
Boys and Girls, Weight and Exact Age.
- B. 18 months—3 years.
Boys and Girls, Weight and Exact Age.
- C. 3 years—5 years.
Boys and Girls, Weight and Exact Age.
St. Dunstaners' children and grandchildren only.

Lady Pearson, Lady Stern and Dr. John Hunt have kindly consented to judge competitions.

Home Club Notes

Another Get-Together Dance will be held at Chenil Galleries, Chelsea, on September 16th. Dancing 7.30—11 p.m. to Ernie Cookson and his band. Fully licensed bar and light refreshments. Spot prizes. Admission 2s. 6d.

Tickets available from Mr. B. Willis, Miss Ibbetson, or by post.

We entertained members of the British Legion Wembley Branch at the Club on Friday, 24th, for the decider of three dart matches. After a hotly contested match we were beaten wanting only 15 to win.

Miss Ibbetson supplied refreshments, as only she can, and this rounded off a most enjoyable evening.

On Saturday, 25th, a party of six members, assisted by Miss Angela Lynch and Miss Westcott, visited Wembley and gave a very fine concert to the British Legion.

I use the medium of the REVIEW to thank all who took part.

TINY FLEMING.

Outdoor Sports

I am greatly disappointed that all our efforts for the Sports Day have come to naught, as announced above. It seems that the only active part of the Sports Section is the walking, which will start up again early in September with a 5-mile walking race. The winter programme will be published later.

The Regatta is off, for the same reason as the Sports Day, although I doubted very much if we would be able to hold one this year, but boats are available on the lake at Regent's Park throughout August. The Gym will be closed, though, as will the Swimming Baths. Perhaps we shall do better next year.

T. GAYGAN.

Reunions

Maidstone Reunion was held on June 8th and this very happy and successful meeting was presided over by Lt. Col. Eric Ball, Senior Member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council. Also present as guests were Mr. H. C. Mallett, Managing Director of Tilling & Stevens, Ltd., of Maidstone, Colonel Sheldon, of the Paper Mill, Aylesford, and Mr. W. Welch, Chairman of the Maidstone British Legion. Mr. Welch described the St. Dunstaners present as "this cheerful company."

Colonel Ball also presided at Winchester a week later, when St. Dunstaners from Portsmouth, Portchester, Fareham and the Isle of Wight were among the guests who assembled for lunch at the Guildhall.

At both these meetings, a message of good wishes was received from Sir Ian Fraser, whose duties at Headquarters and the House of Commons made it impossible for him to be there.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were, however, present at the Grimsby meeting, which took place on July 2nd at the Town Hall, to which they were welcomed by the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Mrs. Margaret Larmour. Mr. Doughty deputised for Mr. Mackay at this meeting, and among the guests who were present were Major Bloomer, Chairman of Lincolnshire County Committee of the Legion, and the Chairmen of the two Grimsby Branches of the Legion.

St. Dunstaner's Greyhound Wins

From the *Evening News*, June 23rd:

Man who got the biggest thrill at Wimbledon Stadium last night was 29-year-old Irishman, Patrick Campbell, although he did not see one of the eight races. His greyhound hurdler, Winged Heels, came with a great finish to win his first race at the track. But Mr. Campbell, blinded in France, where he served with the Royal Irish Fusiliers in 1940, followed the race through the eyes of his wife, Dorothy, who gave him a running commentary.

His excitement heightened when the judge called for a photograph to decide the result. Few people near the line thought Mr. Campbell's dog had won, and he could hear the bookmakers calling the odds against Winged Heels. The camera, however, proved most of the experts to be wrong.

Other News

T. Kent, of Chelmsford, performed the opening ceremony at the British Legion Fete at Chelmsford, in aid of the War Memorial Fund.

T. Barton's spaniel, Linda of Long Mynd, continues her successes. She was awarded a medal as the best reserve bitch at the Scarborough Show.

Harry Pierrepoint, of Boston, has become the owner of a guide dog, presented to him by a number of his old "Terrier" friends. The Mayor of Boston was present at the handing over ceremony, which took place at the Drill Hall, and the *Boston Standard* gave a two-column notice, and a photograph, as a tribute to Harry and "Boy."

Arthur H. Finney, who served with the 111th H.A.A. (R.A.), has been awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.

Thirty Years Ago

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

"St. Dunstan's was well represented at Marlow Regatta on June 21st. The following three crews were entered for the Maiden Fours:—

"*St. Dunstan's (A)*: Stroke, B. Robinson; 3, W. McLurg; 2, F. Hackett; bow, F. Ashworth.

"*St. Dunstan's (B)*: Stroke, Christian; 3, J. Hardy; 2, C. A. Fankhauser; bow, J. New.

"*St. Dunstan's Officers*: Stroke, W. M. Millard; 3, W. W. Hitchon; 2, D. Gibson; bow, E. L. Parry.

"Other entries were Marlow R.C., Henley R.C. and Reading R.C. The final between Marlow R.C. and the two St. Dunstan's Men Boats resulted in a win for Marlow by three lengths, 'B' Team came second.

"A London newspaper correspondent wrote: No event aroused more interest and enthusiasm than the maiden fours in which blind oarsmen figured prominently. These blinded soldiers from St. Dunstan's reach well forward and put plenty of vigour into their stroke. Anyone who has never seen these gallant lads row should visit one of the up-river regattas to witness the spectacle with his own eyes."

Witnessing Wills

In case any St. Dunstaner is asked to witness a Will for a relative or friend, we remind readers that a blind person cannot witness a Will or a Codicil, on the grounds that he or she cannot actually see that the document is signed.

This has been reaffirmed by a recent decision in the High Court.

Blackpool Notes

Blackpool—like the rest of the country—has been basking in glorious sunshine for several weeks, and holiday boys at the Blackpool Home have taken every opportunity to enjoy the sea breezes as well as get really sunburnt.

We omitted to mention in the May REVIEW the happy outings—and the not so happy ones—we have had recently.

On Good Friday evening a very jolly party boarded a coach for a refreshing trip round the Fylde—as this particular part of Lancashire is called. After about two hours of cheery singing, throats became dry and liquid refreshment was indicated, so we stopped at the New Holly Hotel, at Fawton, where a room was cleared for our party.

On two occasions small parties have been to Haydock Park Races, but there were no signs of "winning ways" on the return of the racegoers. These may be called the not so happy outings.

On May 21st a very happy afternoon was spent at Ingleton Water Falls. June 8th was another red-letter day when a happy party went to Scorton and enjoyed a delicious tea of home-made goodies—this was repeated on June 24th to celebrate the anniversary of St. Dunstan's invading Blackpool and taking over "Concord." June 14th was a very special day—we had our first trip of the summer season to the Lakes district. Leaving home at 1.30, we took a Fylde tour through Lancaster and on to Carnforth, where we stopped at the Carnforth Hotel for an "awakener"—a very welcome cup of tea. On, then, to Ambleside, where a motor launch met us to carry us down the ever wonderful Lake Windermere. The owner of this particular launch knows us well, and is always happy to make the sail interesting. As skipper he points out to us all the interesting spots on the lake. These include the hangars, where the Sunderland flying boats were assembled before being tested on the lake.

Tired, hungry, but very happy, we reached home about 10.45 p.m., and after a good supper retired to dream of happy hours aboard the lugger.

This was the first 1949 visit to the Lakes but, weather permitting, more such trips are promised before the end of the season.

On June 18th a small party paid a visit to Knott End—this included a short but amusing ferry crossing of the river Wyre from Fleetwood.

On June 27th a party went to the Home of the Local Blind, where Charlie Chester and his Gang gave an excellent entertainment, and on the following evening a visitor played the piano for us to have a sing-song. A glass of port was given to each person present, and it was noted that voices were more powerful afterwards.

Several of the troops have courageously risked the giddy heights of the famous Blackpool Tower—and returned safely.

In spite of the hot weather we have still paid regular visits to the Palace of Variety and other shows.

I have been asked to mention that several of our family appear to be rather light-headed on a Sabbath morn—the reason (not what you think) being that we now have a visiting tonsorial artist who shortens our hair—if any—at a reduced fee. This we find a very convenient arrangement, as well as being less expensive than hair-cutting by outside barbers.

We always appreciate the happy thought of St. Dunstaners—old and new—who visit Blackpool for day trips, and find time to call here to see how we are. These have recently included Stan Southall of Birmingham, Violet Formstone of Liverpool, and A. Cavanagh of Salford.

Come along, St. Dunstaners—a warm welcome awaits you.

"WALRUS."

Placements

H. J. Wilson, Southsea, in a tobacconist's business; W. C. Wood, Southsea, as a tobacconist, confectioner and stationer; A. King, with Butlin's Holiday Camp, Filey; Norman Cook, Grays, as a Head Office messenger with the Thames Board Mills, Purfleet; T. Barber, Redcar, as a "prover attendant" with Welfords Cleveland Bakery; S. Minter, as a capstan operator with Messrs. Rothero & Mitchell, Perivale.

West House Notes

Once again the West House lawn is showing signs of fair wear and tear, which goes to prove how popular the garden is during a heat wave. Just recently we have been quite glad of the gaily coloured umbrellas dotted around to give a little shade.

Derby Day was on Whit-Saturday this year, and the tired but happy band even had the energy to consume a fish and chip supper on the way home. Unfortunately, we could not find room for the wives in the coaches this year, but after entertaining them to a strawberry and ice cream tea, they took part in fun and games in the Lounge, organised by Orderly Webster and Miss Holland. The party was a huge success, enjoyed just as much by the men who stayed at home as by the wives. At times it became quite riotous, especially during such events as musical chairs, when everyone really let themselves go. Charlie Firth, from Heswall, suggested that might we not always have a Ladies' Day on Derby Day? Among the prizewinners were: Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Lammiman, Miss Potts, Mrs. McAndrew, and Miss Read. Mrs. Summers had a special award from Matron for being "The Comedienne of Mr. Cochrane's Young Ladies." Miss Pooley and Ada Read, Daddy Read's daughter, were most helpful in the preparation of the tea, etc.

Whit-Sunday was an enjoyable day, and we started off well with a "Stirrup Cup Drive" out into the country, with a stop *en route* for coffee and doughnuts. In the evening the staff, with the help of Mr. Austin Laidlaw, put over a three-act play-reading, "Fresh Fields." It was such a success that even Mark Sheridan woke up to the fact that he was too late to go over to his pet local for his nightcap!

On June 7th a trip by sea to Ryde, Isle of Wight, was planned, and it would have been a grand day had it not been marred by a rough sea. However, Miss Arnold, in charge of the party, said everyone made the most of it, and the crew of the steamer *Britannia* were most co-operative.

Everyone voted it a really tip-top Whit-holiday, as we had endeavoured to cater for all tastes.

We have not had many shows from outside of late, hence the Clairview Players from London, who performed "Saloon Bar," were especially welcome, besides being an excellent company. Many local St. Dunstaners were in the audience, and they and the residents were most appreciative. Mr. Austin, Transport, was responsible for the lighting and stage in general.

In addition to the usual round of Friday night dances, housey-housey, whist and dominoes, Bridge also got under way during the period Frank Rhodes was down. Of course, as we know, Frank and Bridge are inseparable.

On Sunday, the 26th, we had a visit from Hy Hazell, star of the film "Paper Orchid," which was showing at the Imperial Cinema. Leslie Holmes, Mr. Bucket of Columbia Pictures, and the author of the story were also present.

On the 27th, several men and staff went along to the Astoria Cinema to see the preview of "They Live by Night," at the invitation of the Management, who were most hospitable to our boys.

The Brighton Race Meeting on the 27th was well attended.

The Glyndebourne Opera sent us five seats for a musical concert on Saturday, the 30th, and not only was the concert itself delightful but the setting on a lovely summer afternoon was perfect, being situated as it is right in the heart of the country, near Lewes.

Among other activities was a visit to the Dome to a variety show, at the invitation of the Typographical Association.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. C. Wilshaw, Worthing, May 6th; Mr. and Mrs. J. Boyd, Brighton, July 2nd; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Bowring, Weymouth, July 5th.

Grandfathers

H. Chadwick, St. Helen's, and J. McAndrew, Blackpool.

* * *

Twenty blind golfers took part in the United States national blind golf tournament recently.

A Week-end in Paris

A party of Australian ex-Servicemen from St. Dunstan's have recently spent a week-end in Paris as the guests of a group of Australian business and sportsmen in this country.

The party left Ovingdean Training Centre in St. Dunstan's bus on Thursday, June 23rd, and travelled by the night ferry from Dover to Dunkirk and then by road to Lille, where they had breakfast. By lunch-time they had reached Villers Bretonneux, the site of the great Australian War Memorial to the 1914-18 war. There they laid wreaths on the Australian and French Memorials and were entertained to a Civic Lunch by the Mayor.

Paris was reached late that same evening and on Saturday the party were the guests of the French War Blinded Organisation at luncheon. They were all most interested in the Headquarters of this Organisation and the type of training given to these Frenchmen. Later that day they joined other Service Organisations in laying wreaths at the tomb of the Unknown Warrior at the Arc de Triomphe, which was a most impressive and moving ceremony. They were next entertained by the American Legion and ended the day at a Dinner and Dance at a Cafe in the Montmartre (which was more or less Headquarters for meals throughout the visit). At this dance, Secretaries to the Delegates of the U.N.E.S.C.O. Conference came along as partners. They were of all nationalities, Dutch, Norwegian, Italian, Turkish, French—and to any onlooker it must have seemed indeed a "United Nations" affair!

In spite of a somewhat hectic Saturday, the party were all fighting fit for the visit to Longchamps for the Grand Prix. An excellent commentary on the race was given by the *Continental Daily Mail* Racing reporter. After the racing was over, the party went along to the Australian Embassy, where they were received by the Australian Ambassador and revived with very welcome "Melbourne Bitters"—still more popular than the French champagne, at any rate with some of the party!

A tour of places of interest in Paris was arranged for Monday, and after lunch the coach went out to the Palace of Versailles where, after a gruelling tour of the huge building, the party sat down with delight to an English cup of tea!

Throughout the trip the weather had been fantastically hot and ideal for the many photographs which were taken at every opportunity.

Returning to Paris in the evening, the Australians paid a visit to what is recognised to be one of the leading Night Clubs in Europe, the famous "Le Lido" in the Champs Elysees, where they duly inbined in champagne and dancing, and thoroughly enjoyed the spectacular Cabaret.

Time was getting short and the return to England loomed near! The morning of June 28th was set aside for "personal shopping expeditions" and here, as throughout the tour, the party were extremely fortunate in having for their guide a young Frenchman who took endless trouble to assist them in every way.

It would be difficult to say what impressed the tourists most—perhaps the visit to the Night Club, the tour of the Worth perfume salon, or the descriptions given throughout the trip by one of the Australian ex-Servicemen, in particular of the areas of the great battles of the Somme, about which most of our Australian trainees had heard so much from their fathers and other relatives. His descriptions made the place names so much more vivid and important.

To England they returned on June 29th, having travelled over on the night ferry *Shepperton*. They were all somewhat fatigued and, after a light meal, most of them were content to have a well-earned sleep until later in the day.

It was a trip which will remain in their memories for a long, long time to come—of that their hosts may be certain.

National Egg Laying Trials

Report for the Ninth Month from
May 23rd to June 19th, 1949

Position	Name	Test Score
1	W. E. Young ...	932
2	P. Bagwell ...	921
3	T. Gregory } ...	905
	P. Holmes }	
5	C. McIntosh ...	898
6	A. Chaffin ...	842
7	W. Webb ...	828
8	W. J. Woodcock ...	779
9	W. Alan Smith ...	760
10	E. H. Carpenter ...	707
11	A. Jarvis ...	691
12	T. Clarke ...	508

Average per bird to date, 18.32

Letters To The Editor

"Mr."

DEAR SIR,

May I be permitted to set forth an opposing view to that expressed by Mr. Muggeridge in the last issue.

Whenever I hear a strange feminine voice say "Hulloa, Arnold" my reflexes instantly register "She would never have dared address me like that if I were sighted." To a less pugnacious person, and there are many, this might engender an inferiority complex, a mental state to which all St. Dunstan's training is opposed.

On every occasion my St. Dunstan's badge is worn, and any respect I receive should be considered an honour to my training, so I sincerely trust Sir Ian's directive, which in my opinion is a great act of rehabilitation, will not be smothered by an avalanche of sentimentality.

En passant, this question links up coincidentally with another subject raised by a correspondent in the same issue. Slovenliness in person and dress is inexcusable, but not more than slovenliness in address.

Yours very truly,
LEONARD ARNOLD.

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR EDITOR,

Further to Sir Ian's article in the May REVIEW regarding the title of "Mr," I fully agree with the directive. If I have any criticism to make, it is that this should have been done years ago. We are now partners in one of the greatest organisations for good in the world, and not merely beneficiaries of an organisation directed by an autocratic council supported by funds contributed by the great British public.

Yours sincerely,
F. G. BRAITHWAITE.

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR EDITOR,

I would like to ask Frank Rhodes a question as regards his letter in the REVIEW.

If a man has lost his self-respect, as he suggests some St. Dunstaners have, what is the reason for it? We do not know the reason, therefore we are not in a position to judge, and if, as he states, he knows of cases at Brighton and Blackpool, surely it would be far nicer to get a kind word said to that person by one of the welfare officers.

A kind word always does more good than letters, and a helping hand better still. Probably Mr. Rhodes has always had the care and attention of a wife, as I have myself, but that makes things so much easier. It is very easy to be critical, but far harder to be tactful and helpful. We are not all made with the same natures and ways. Perhaps it is a good thing we are not, so let us always try to find out the reason for these things first.

Yours sincerely,
Tolworth, Surrey. GEORGE EUSTACE.

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR EDITOR,

I read with surprise Mr. Frank A. Rhodes' letter in the June issue of ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW. I strongly advise him to have his friends or observers tested by an oculist under the new National Health Scheme, or perhaps they may be looking through glasses which require cleaning. If I was Mr. Rhodes, I should not be sorry about the Staff—I have always found them very helpful and considerate in all things, and certainly not lacking in tact.

There is a very old proverb, "Never throw stones . . . etc."

Yours sincerely,
P. GARRITY, B.E.M.
Sanderstead, Surrey.

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR EDITOR,

Although Frank Rhodes' letter does not apply to myself, I consider it most insulting, both to the wives whose husbands are out at work and to the Staff. Speaking for myself, I have always found the Staff most attentive and always willing to give assistance in these matters of personal appearance. In what position is Rhodes, being totally blind, able to assess the personal habits of any of his colleagues? I suggest that the bullets were made by some anonymous person for him to fire. This being so, I would remind them of the famous words of the late Bill Tovell—"Bigger men I've seen, but smarter, never!"

Rhodes says he is almost glad he is blind and a St. Dunstaner. For myself, I shall never be glad I am blind, but I am nevertheless proud to be a St. Dunstaner.

Yours sincerely,
JOCK MACFARLANE.
Ilford, Essex.

Young St. Dunstaners

Brenda McIntosh, Dumfries, has received her Scottish Higher Group Leaving Certificate with Highers in Art, English and Geography, and Lowers in History, Botany and Zoology.

Mary Duxbury, Oldham, has been awarded her B.A. degree at Reading University, with honours in French.

The daughter of the late Robert Young, Glasgow, has passed the Final Examination of the Degree of M.B. and Ch.B. at Glasgow University.

David Strachan, of Motherwell, has also passed his Final Medical Examinations successfully. His graduation was on July 2nd, when he was capped and received his degree.

Fred McAndrew, Blackpool, has passed his B.Sc. (Physics) with Honours, at Bristol University.

Eric Maskell, Rochester, has passed his final examination for the Cambridge Tripos with first class honours. He was awarded a prize for his aeronautics paper, and during the past term captained his college cricket team.

Brian Hollins, Slough, secured such high marks for an examination for Slough Grammar School that he has been awarded a place at Wycombe Royal Grammar School until he is eighteen.

Patricia Ettridge, Croydon, has won a scholarship to the Columa High School for Girls.

Kenneth Bowring, Weymouth, is now a C.P.O. in the Fleet Air Arm.

Marriage

Alison McIntosh, Dumfries, on May 6th, to Mr. George W. Walford.

★ ★ ★

Brevities

A little knowledge isn't so dangerous as the man who has it.

* * *

It's called a rubber at bridge because the players' patience is usually stretched.

Talking Book Library

June's Jotting

Once again there is but a singleton to comment on. This fact seems to indicate that in the next few months there will be an avalanche of new releases, since the recording goes steadily on with never a strike or a lock-out to enliven the steady grind. To cut the cackle and come to the boss—the lonely offering is "The Wisdom of Father Brown."

"The Wisdom of Father Brown," by G. K. Chesterton, read by Franklin Engelmann, is really a collection of interesting incidents in the career of an R.C. priest-cum-investigator, and as it is well read and recorded it provides several hours' good entertainment without any pretensions to a classic style of expression. It is what I would call a neat number, amusing, intelligent, and interesting throughout.

Perhaps the drought affects record production, but I rather feel it is the export drive ruining the home supplies. However, next month may be an all-time record in book releases. Good listening in peaceful precincts!

NELSON.

Cricketers' Gift to St. Dunstan's

A cricket bat, autographed by the 1949 New Zealand Touring Team, has been presented to St. Dunstan's by the Warwickshire and Test Match cricketers, T. Dollery and Eric E. Hollies. It was raffled by an old friend, Mr. A. E. Walker, of Birmingham, and as a result £30 was sent to Bill Shakespeare for his St. Dunstan's fund.

Princess Elizabeth Meets a St. Dunstaner

When Their Royal Highnesses Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Derby recently for the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a new housing estate, our St. Dunstaner, H. Bridgman, was presented to them by the Mayor. The Princess was very charming and interested, and the Duke wanted to know about his training at St. Dunstan's, and congratulated him on his fine appearance.

Ovingdean Notes

With the advent of the summer weather, so our steady flow of visitors to the Training Centre has been increasing. This month we have welcomed several visitors from Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, some of whom have been actively connected with the sending of food parcels to this country, and, in particular, to St. Dunstan's.

Extremely interested in the training work being done by St. Dunstan's was a visitor from Pakistan, Miss R. S. Quari, who is the Secretary to the Pakistan Ministry of Refugees and is on a short visit to England.

Early in the month we had the excitement of the annual trip to Epsom for the Derby. This year not quite as many trainees went as previously. This, we think, was due to the fact that Derby Day fell on Whit-Saturday, and so many had to make a choice between going to Epsom or going home. In most cases it seems it was a win for the home side!

For those who did go along it was a most enjoyable day. We left the Training Centre at about 9.45 a.m. and, joining forces with West House, we proceeded to Epsom. Generous gifts from the Woodroyd Secondary School, Bradford, and the members of the Sussex Motor Yacht Club, Brighton, made it possible for each man to be provided with a packet of cigarettes, and 5s. spending money. In addition, every St. Dunstaner was given a ticket in a "free sweep" and on the return journey we stopped at the Chinese Gardens, Hurstpierpoint, for a fish and chip supper. To Mrs. Comer and Staff we offered our sincere thanks for a really delightful packed lunch and tea.

On the afternoon of Whit-Monday (which was a holiday from training) a Treasure Hunt to Alfriston was organised. About twenty trainees and escorts had great fun searching for an elusive "ripe strawberry," and an equally unprocurable "dead mouse." The party returned to the Training Centre in time for the evening dance in the Music Hut.

Once again this month we have been entertained by our good friend, Mrs. Meadows, and members of the East Preston Red Cross and British Legion. These outings to Rustington are becoming a regular feature in life at Ovingdean—rather like the dances organised by Mr. Cheesman,

of London, another of which took place at the "Arlington," Brighton, in June. To all these kind friends we say "Many thanks for the way we are so constantly remembered."

A few trainees who had served in the Forces in the Far East went up to London for the Burma Reunion at the Royal Albert Hall on June 17th. They tell us it was a most impressive and enjoyable gathering.

We have also been fortunate enough to receive complimentary tickets from the Typographical Association for a grand Variety Show, held at the Dome recently, and from the Manager of the Imperial Cinema, Brighton, came an invitation for St. Dunstaners and their escorts to attend the world premiere of the film, "Paper Orchid," featuring Hy Hazell and Hugh Williams. About 60 trainees took advantage of this opportunity, and a few went down to West House to meet Miss Hazell when she made a personal appearance there prior to the film. Our thanks, too, must go to the Brighton Territorial and Auxiliary Forces for so kindly sending us tickets for a Concert, given in the Dome by the Royal Artillery Band.

There have been three interesting talks given at the Training Centre during the month by outside lecturers. The first was by Mr. J. Wadsworth, of the Intelligence Dept. of the Midland Bank, on "Development Areas in this Country." On June 15th, Rear Admiral Elliott, O.B.E., came along and the title of his talk was "Yarns of the Life of a Sailor." Finally, on June 27th, we had a visit from Mr. D. Morris, the Director of Programmes of the B.B.C. Midland Programme, who gave us a very interesting description of the programme, "Listeners Answer Back."

The Debating Society had one debate this month, "That International Games Improve International Relationship"—and it was a lively one!

Our final item of interest from Ovingdean this month was the departure of the party of Australian trainees on a week-end trip to Paris. A short account of this trip, which was organised for the Australian fellows by a group of Australian sportsmen and business men in this country, is given elsewhere in this edition of the REVIEW. Sufficient for us to quote the words of one of the trainees who, on his return to Ovingdean, said "It was a champion time."

Always Room For Voluntary Service

"There will always be a place for voluntary philanthropy; even in a highly developed welfare State there will still be anomalies and individual cases for which no rules can provide," said Sir Ian Fraser, President of the British Legion, speaking at Cleethorpes on July 3rd.

Sir Ian went on: "At the height of the totalitarian regime in Germany the stifling of voluntary philanthropy was part of the process of denying freedom to citizens to organise any movement which was not a creature of the all-powerful State. A liberty-loving people like the British would never stand for this, and when their hearts prompted them to succour the maimed, they would do so notwithstanding any discouragement from their rulers.

"There is a dangerous tendency nowadays to discourage and discredit our traditional freedom and we must be on our guard. We know from experience that thousands of ex-Servicemen and women would not have received their pensions at all, or would have received less than they were entitled to, had it not been for the British Legion's action."

Although much had been done, the majority of the seriously disabled were still left with less actual income than the average wage; and the compensation of more than 700,000 partial pensioners was practically the same as thirty years ago.

After the first World War there was a Select Committee to guide Parliament and people as to their duty, and a Select Committee should now be set up aloof from politics, to deal with the problem of the pensioner in the light of the cost of living, modern standards and the social services.

175 Miles in Nine Days

Blind since he was twenty-eight, Coenraad de Boer, a sixty-year-old Dutchman, has just walked from Amsterdam to Brussels.

Accompanied by his dog, M. de Boer covered the 175 miles in nine days.

Births

CIMBRERE.—On June 23rd, to Mrs. Alice Cimbriere, of Blackpool, a son—Peter.

DOY.—On June 20th, to the wife of S. Doy, of Ashford, Kent, triplets—three sons. Thomas Henry, James Frederick, Peter Alexander.

ELLIS.—On June 30th, to the wife of Jim Ellis, of Norbury, a daughter—Linda Mary.

GREASLEY.—On June 23rd, to the wife of H. E. Greasley, of Coventry, a daughter—Julia.

PURCELL.—On July 1st, to the wife of J. B. Purcell, of Urmston, Manchester, a daughter.

ROBINSON.—On July 2nd, to the wife of Leslie Robinson, of Doncaster, a daughter.

TAYLOR.—On April 13th, to the wife of J. Taylor, of Swinton, a daughter—Margaret Elizabeth.

Marriages

DODGSON—CATTEN.—On June 25th, A. Dodgson, of Wimbledon, to Miss Dorothy Catten, of Hove.

MORGAN—PEARSON.—On April 16th, A. Morgan, of York, to Miss Alice Mary Metcalf. (Mrs. Morgan's name was wrongly given in the April REVIEW as "Pearson.")

ROBINSON—HADLEY.—On June 4th, Rex Robinson, of Hastings, to Miss G. E. Hadley, of Brentford.

WEEKS—BAGLEY.—On April 16th, at Brighton, Stanley N. Weeks, of Letchworth, to Miss Cicely Bagley.

Marathon Cricket

Len Hutton reveals in "Cricket Is My Life," recently published, that his historic 364 in two and three-quarter days against the Australians, at the Oval, was not his record in Marathon cricket.

That came much earlier in his career—when he was a member of the Pudsey St. Lawrence Club, which he joined at 11. Matches were in the evenings, play starting after tea and continuing till dark. Once Len went in on Monday and was still batting five nights later—on Friday. After that, he records, his Oval feat "was no trouble at all."

“ In Memory ”

Private John Callaghan, *Royal Munster Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Callaghan, of Cork, who came to St. Dunstan's only in 1941, although he had served from August, 1916, until his discharge in April, 1918.

His health made it impossible for him to undertake serious training, but he did a little rug-work at home. For a long time he had fought against very bad health, and he passed away on May 22nd.

The funeral took place at the Cathedral Church of Cork; St. Dunstaners P. Driscoll, P. Condon, D. Horgan, J. Twomey, and A. Keegan were present, the wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends being placed on the grave by P. Driscoll.

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

Trooper D. S. Harvey Wood, *17th Lancers*

With deep regret we record the death of Harvey Wood, of Rugby, who served with the 17th Lancers from October 23rd, 1906, until October, 1917. He came to us in 1922 and trained as a netter. He went into partnership with his nephew and eventually took the business over, but for some years before his death he was only able, for health reasons, to work at his netting. Throughout his life he had been greatly esteemed by all who had come in contact with him.

His death occurred suddenly in hospital on June 14th, although he had been ill for some time with heart trouble.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral; the body was cremated.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Wood and her son in their bereavement.

Fireman Joseph Aitken, *Mercantile Marine*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Aitken, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. Serving from January, 1915, until March, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1925 and became a boot-repairer. After some years, his health forced him to give this up and he carried on with wool rug-making.

His health had been very seriously impaired for a long time. He became very ill indeed in April, and he passed away on May 3rd at his home.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Mrs. Harvey Wood expresses, on behalf of herself and her son, most grateful thanks for the deep sympathy shown to them by so many friends.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

BLAKER.—To A. Blaker, of Lancing, whose wife passed away on June 25th. Mrs. Blaker was the sister of Mrs. Van Niekerk, to whom we also send our sincere sympathy.

OPENSHAW.—To F. Openshaw, of Burnley, whose wife passed away on March 16th.

WAITE.—To W. Waite, of Didsbury, Manchester, at present in training, who lost his wife on June 28th.

DEBNAM.—To J. Debnam, of Great Barrow, in the tragic loss of his son, Neville, on May 29th. Neville was motor-cycling round a blind corner when he came into collision with a car and was thrown against a wall. He was taken to hospital unconscious and operated upon, but he died a few days later. Many St. Dunstaners will remember the tragic death of Mrs. Debnam ten years ago in a fire at their home.

As in past years, there will be no REVIEW for the month of August.