

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

HERE is further information about West House which I promised in my Note in the May REVIEW.

The Contractors will start work in early November and it is estimated that it will take some nine months to complete. West House will accordingly be closed from October 22nd next until approximately the second week in August of next year.

St. Dunstaners who permanently reside in the Home will be accommodated partly at Ovingdean and partly at Blackpool, and a number of beds at both of these Homes will be available for men needing short periods of convalescence or holidays. The number of beds will, of course, be limited, but all St. Dunstaners who desire to visit Ovingdean or Blackpool should make application in the ordinary way and the Welfare Department will do their best to fit in as many men as possible, having regard to the individual circumstances.

An increasing number of beds should become available at Ovingdean owing to a falling-off in the number of trainees. In addition, Ovingdean will be kept open during the holiday periods whereas when it was solely a school, it used to close down. Nevertheless, the very fact that we need a reconstructed West House shows that we are short of beds and there is no doubt that a considerable number of St. Dunstaners will have to be asked to forego or shorten their holiday during next spring and summer. This will, I know, cause disappointment, but I hope St. Dunstaners generally will agree with me that the saving of West House from destruction and the new lease of life which we will be giving to this popular house for very many years to come will make the sacrifice worth while.

Many suggestions have been received from St. Dunstaners in regard to the reconstruction, all of which have been carefully considered, and whilst it has not been practicable—as one or two men have suggested—to have a large number of single rooms with individual wash basins, many rooms will be relatively small, and adequate bath and washing accommodation will be provided on all floors.

The reconstructed Home will be as follows:—

BASEMENT: Kitchens, Store Rooms and General Services.

GROUND FLOOR: Six wards accommodating seven, six, four, two, two and one men respectively will be sited where the existing large ward and adjacent rooms are now situated. This wing will have its own Dispensary, bathrooms, etc. The Winter Garden will be demolished so that the rooms will be light and airy. The Dining Room will remain. The Lounge will be remodelled so that there will be two large rooms connected by a sliding door, and the large Summer House will be converted into a Quiet Lounge, the entrance to which will be from the far end of the Lounge. There will be a large cloakroom near the Lounge and a lift, roomy enough to take wheel chairs and communicating with the upper floors, will be centrally situated. The Matron's Room, with an adjoining General Office, and the

V.A.D.s' Dining Room, will remain as at present; the entrance to the building will be improved so as to eliminate draughts; the Hall will be more spacious and free of obstructions and the whole building centrally heated.

FIRST FLOOR: Three wards, for two, four and seven men respectively, with adequate bath, washbasins, etc., in a central position. An orderly will have his quarters on this floor, and in one wing, accommodation will be provided for Matron and five of the senior sisters.

SECOND FLOOR: Six wards, for four, three, four, three, four and seven men respectively. Ample bath, washbasins, etc., will be centrally situated and there will be accommodation for two orderlies.

STAFF QUARTERS: "Westcot" will be re-designed and the V.A.D. staff who are not resident in the main building will sleep there. Similarly the remaining orderly and domestic staff will be housed in one of the outbuildings.

GENERAL: The total accommodation for St. Dunstaners will be sixty and they will all sleep in the main building. The remaining outbuildings will be used for men undertaking hobby work. The garden, too, will be redesigned so as to be more accessible to the men especially those in wheel chairs.

The number of St. Dunstaners who have to be permanently accommodated at St. Dunstan's by reason of ill-health, old age, etc., is increasing and it is intended—when West House has been reconstructed—that they should live there. There will accordingly be only about a dozen beds available for other St. Dunstaners and it is intended to utilise these beds for men requiring extended convalescence in a quiet surround, with adequate medical and nursing facilities.

The Home at Ovingdean will fulfil the function of a holiday centre and a place where St. Dunstaners can get a change or a short period of convalescence, as well as a Training Centre for new St. Dunstaners.

These are, I think, wise decisions which will in the end greatly improve our ability to provide the necessary beds in suitable surroundings for all the varying and complicated needs of our large family. It will be seen that the primary function of West House after reconstruction, namely, to take care of permanents, semi-permanents, the sick and those requiring long periods of convalescence, will mean that the ordinary St. Dunstaner will not normally be able to go there for a short holiday and this will undoubtedly cause grief to many, especially among the older generation who much preferred West House to Ovingdean. It should be remembered, however, that before the war, West House had been closed down altogether and was on the point of being sold, and many First War St. Dunstaners who found Ovingdean strange at first had begun to get used to it and to enjoy it. However, we can only do the best we can and I am at least happy, as I know many St. Dunstaners will be, that West House, which has such a warm corner in our hearts, will go on providing a large number of beds on the old site with all its old amenities and contacts, for those who need it most.

The close-down of West House is over so long a period that it necessarily causes some staff changes, although most of the key staff are going to stay with us and be fitted in for periods at our other Homes. To those who leave us we say 'thank you very much indeed for your splendid service', and particularly to Mrs. Ouseley, who though she has only been with us for four years, had made a very deep impression upon St. Dunstaners and is beloved by all who have enjoyed the hospitality of West House during her Matronship. Some of the men who have been there for holidays during the past few years have told me that they would like to make a presentation to Mrs. Ouseley as a token of their affection and I am glad to say that Mr. Askew will be willing to act as honorary treasurer of a presentation fund so that donations may be sent to him at Headquarters.

Another well-known figure at Church Stretton and Brighton retires from the service of St. Dunstan's having attained the age-limit observed by our organisation. This is Mr. J. E. Rose, Publicity Officer for the past ten years. Publicity is very important for St. Dunstan's, not only because of the great measure of support we receive from the public, but also because the influence of St. Dunstan's name in government circles, amongst employers, with housing authorities and in many other directions, is of the utmost use to individual St. Dunstaners. Mr. Rose, who was a well-known Fleet Street journalist of long standing, carried out his duties with ability and discretion and earned the gratitude of St. Dunstaners. We will all wish him happiness in his retirement. IAN FRASER.

London Club Notes

The Club opened on September 1st with a very good attendance for the Domino Drive, while on Saturday, 3rd, the Bridge Section played off some important matches. On Monday, 5th, the Institute of Magicians gathered to practise the art of magic, and the next day the whist fans gathered in strength to battle their wits against each other. The Club is now in its stride again for the forthcoming winter session, and below you will find the main events which your committee men have planned for your entertainment and sport. Our good friends, Mr. Willis and Miss Ibbetson, are always in attendance to welcome you and look after your welfare. The Club is gaining in popularity, and there is plenty of room and always a welcome to any fellows who have not yet paid us a visit.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge Notes

On September 3rd, the Bridge Club opened its winter season (in a heat wave) with a grand Bridge Drive when twenty St. Dunstaners entertained a like number of guests, and Sir Ian and Lady Fraser honoured us with their presence.

It was rather a special occasion, being the presentation of the first of the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophies, won by Mr. Wiltshire's team, comprising himself and Messrs. Douglas, Shakspeare and Miller. The winners in the Bridge Drive were (1st) Messrs. Waller and Shakspeare, (2nd) Messrs. Ward and Henry, (3rd) Miss Byrnes and Mr. Webster.

Mr. Frank Rhodes, captain of the Bridge Club, presided and welcomed Sir Ian. Sir Ian, replying, congratulated all sections of the London Club. He urged members to think of other St. Dunstaners who had not yet enjoyed the amenities of the Club and to make it their personal business to get them in.

In some circumstances, loneliness was worse than blindness and the two together was a terrible burden. Often a man was so shy or apathetic that he would not make the effort to go out, and became introspective and unhappy. If they could induce even one friend to exchange this isolation for the comradeship of the Club, they would have been doing a really good deed.

Sir Ian then presented the prizes.

Outdoor Activities

The walking season will commence with a one-mile race to be held at Highgate Harriers' Stadium on September 24th. The President of the Harriers has very kindly promised medals for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd men home. We are hoping a good many men of both wars will turn out for this event.

Other races this year will be a two-mile race on October 29th, and a three-mile race on December 3rd. Also on December 3rd there will be a three-mile "Novices' Race." I would like to explain that the R.W.A. (who supply the judges) rule that a novice is "confined to competitors who, at the time of competition, have never won a prize in an Open competition."

The walking programme for 1950 is as follows:—

January 28— 5 miles.
March 11— 7 miles.
April 29—10 miles.

The seven-mile race is to be an All-England Championship when silver cups will be awarded to the first S.S. and the first T.B. man home, to be held by the winners for one year. Also, the R.W.A. have agreed that certificates shall be awarded to all who walk 5, 6 or 7 miles within the hour in this race.

Of special interest to the London Club Walkers: It is proposed to award Cups in both sections for the best aggregate performance in all the events mentioned above, and points will be awarded as follows:—

1st in each event—	5 points
2nd " " " "	4 " "
3rd " " " "	3 " "
4th " " " "	2 " "

One point will be awarded to the remaining competitors who complete the course. This, as already stated, applies only to the London walkers. In the meantime, walking practice will start again on September 6th, when all newcomers will be welcomed. Until further notice, The Holme, Bedford College, Regent's Park, will be used on Tuesday evenings as dressing rooms for walkers and escorts.

For those interested in swimming, the Seymour Baths, Seymour Place, will be open again to St. Dunstaners on September 5th and every following Monday evening between 7 and 8 p.m.

The Gymnasium at 204A Great Portland Street, is also open to St. Dunstaners on September 8th and each Thursday following up to 6 p.m.

Indoor Activities

Whist: An Aggregate Drive will commence on October 4th and run for six consecutive weeks.

Dancing competitions will be held on January 13th, 1950, and not December 9th, 1949, as previously published. Competitions will include Old-fashioned Waltz and Quick-step for St. Dunstaners only. Slow Waltz will be an open event.

Full details of the above competitions will be sent to all Clubs and Houses.

Any St. Dunstaners wishing to enter the above, please contact their nearest House or Club or me at Headquarters.

Chess. Date not yet determined. Anyone interested, please contact Mr. T. Tuxford at West House, Brighton.

Bonny Baby Photo Competition. I cannot believe that St. Dunstaners, old and young, are responsible for so few Bonny Babies that I can—up to the time of going to press—only receive a dozen entries. The closing date will, therefore, be extended to October 12th, so please let me have photos of your babies and make the competition worth while. All photos will be returned.

Here are the ages once again:—

A. 6 months to 18 months. Boys and girls, weight and exact age.

B. 18 months to 3 years. Boys and girls, weight and exact age.

C. 3 years to 5 years. Boys and girls, weight and exact age.

St. Dunstaners' children and grandchildren only.

Home Notes

Another Get-Together Dance will be held on December 5th at Chelsea Town Hall. Admission will be free and any member wishing to attend should apply to me for ticket (which will also admit escort) at 26 St. Andrew's Avenue, Sudbury. Dancing 7.30 to 11.30 p.m.

The Derby Sweepstake, 1949, did not take place owing to a technical hitch, but I have received several donations to Club funds through this medium and the Committee wish me to thank all donors, especially our friends at West House (£5 12s. 6d.) and Blackpool (£4 13s. 6d.) for their kind generosity.—TINY FLEMING.

London Reunion

The London Reunion Dance will take place this year on **Wednesday, December 7th**, at the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place (close to Marylebone Tube Station), from 7.30 to 11 p.m.

As in previous years, the Dance is primarily for men living in the London area, as it will not be possible to book any accommodation for those who cannot return to their homes the same night.

One ticket will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort (it is much regretted that children under 16 cannot be included), and application for tickets should be made to Mr. Mackay at Headquarters *as soon as possible*, and in any case not later than Monday, November 14th.

A Request

We have been asked by Men's Supplies Department to draw the attention of St. Dunstaners to the high cost of wooden packing cases, and the difficulty of replacing them. Many St. Dunstaners fail to return them to Headquarters, despite many requests. This holds up the despatch of articles to fellow St. Dunstaners. Please help the Department to speed up deliveries and at the same time economise.

Thirty Years Ago

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

"The Tug-of-War pull for the Pearson Challenge Cup between the Holders (House) and Challengers (Bungalow) took place at Olympia this year on July 11th. The teams went straight to their stations on the rope amid tremendous applause. Both teams were out for business and were deadly earnest. The huge audience fully expressed their feelings by giving the men a tremendous reception. The teams were very evenly matched; although the House won both pulls, it was touch and go on more than one occasion for the Bungalow.

The French Cavalrymen who were taking part at Olympia were so delighted with our men's exhibition that when they marched out of the arena, they seized them and in true French style proceeded to kiss them on both cheeks."

★ ★ ★

Evan Owen, of Treorchy, has composed an anthem which is to be sung in the local church at Harvest Thanksgiving.

Physiotherapy Conference

Ninety physiotherapists from all over the United Kingdom were in conference at Ovingdean on Saturday, September 10th. Dr. Charles Hill, the "Radio Doctor," who is the secretary of the British Medical Association, was the principal speaker. The Health Service, in one form or another, had come to stay, he said, and our task was to do our best to work it with such changes as seemed to make it more efficient. It had several features which positively discouraged private practice despite any desire of the public for it. In reply to a questioner who said that doctors and specialists who worked the scheme were unable to recommend a patient to go to a private practitioner Dr. Hill said that the general practitioner could, if the patient wished it, recommend a patient to a private practitioner. A hospital specialist, knowing the Physiotherapy Department to be full to overflowing, could inform patients of such private facilities as there were. After all, the patient with lumbago could not be advised to wait ten weeks. The essence of it was that people desiring to be private patients for physiotherapy should be so permitted, provided, of course, they were willing to pay. The British Medical Association, said Dr. Hill, would be glad to give any advice and help that was in their power to St. Dunstan's physiotherapists.

Sir Ian Fraser, who presided, said the National Health Scheme may diminish private practices but, in his judgment, it could not and would not destroy them altogether. So long as there was any freedom of choice left to the individual, there would be some people who would prefer treatment by a doctor or physiotherapist outside the Health Scheme. It was their task to secure all the work they could for their members from this source. They should consider whether to make common cause with doctors who had decided to remain outside the Health Scheme. No one could prevent a man playing golf if he thought it would do his health good, nor could anyone prevent a man going to a St. Dunstan's physiotherapist for massage twice a week if he was too busy or unable to take appropriate exercise and thought this would do him good.

He had led a deputation to see Mr. Bevan. They had asked that private practices

amongst blinded physiotherapists should be encouraged, or at any rate not discouraged. It was clear now that discouragement was to be their portion; they must more and more fend for themselves.

Mr. Bevan had, however, issued a Circular to Hospital Regional Boards urging them to favour the employment of the blind in the National Health Service. While most of them preferred private practice, they thanked the Minister for this.

Mr. L. Howell and Mr. E. R. Ettridge called for further publicity of the right sort and a resolution to implement this was approved.

Mr. S. C. Tarry was re-elected chairman of the Advisory Committee for the fourth year in succession.

Among those present were Mr. Percy L. Way, M.B.E., and Colonel Edwin Baker, O.B.E., M.C., head of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, who said in reply to a toast of "The Visitors," that blinded ex-Servicemen all over the Empire and in the Homeland, as well as scores of thousands of civilian blind people, had benefited by the example of St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners.

Appointment

Hearty congratulations to Kenneth McIntyre, now in South Africa, who has secured an appointment as Lecturer in History at the University of Natal. Ken is a double B.A.—of Rhodes University, Grahamstown, and of Cambridge.

Staff

Mr. Doughty, who has been working in close co-operation with Mr. Bennett over the years, has now been transferred to South Audley Street to assist Mr. Rice, and Mr. Bennett will undertake the work formerly done by Mr. Doughty.

Miss Lewis, the Welfare Visitor for Wales and the Border Counties, has left St. Dunstan's to take up another appointment and her place has been taken by Miss J. M. V. Howell. We wish Miss Lewis success in her new job, and welcome Miss Howell to the staff.

London University Success

Our warmest congratulations to Alan Milne, who has secured his B.Sc. in the Faculty of Economics, London University, with first class honours. Only 21 students of some 500 won such honours.

West House Notes

The two months since the last Notes have passed very quickly. The weather has, of course, been superb, which has added to the pleasure of all the out-of-door events.

On July 25th we actually had a midnight bathing party of sixteen, and we have had various other beach picnics, including one for the wives and men who did not go to the Busmen's Outing on July 13th. On that occasion, Albert Oldfield and Bill Brogan were much in evidence, and Matron was much impressed by their efforts. Albert apparently held the North Berwick Annexe 50 yards handicap years ago, but both he and Bill have not done much swimming lately.

The Busmen's Outing was, as usual, a great day, and it is difficult to add more praise. The men on their return were tired but very, very happy.

The Grocers' Outing was the next big item and this, too, was a wonderful afternoon and evening. One hundred men, with wives, escorts and staff, went to Littlehampton for tea, and afterwards Butlin's Amusement Park was very popular.

Mark Sheridan, Paddy Goodison, John Worrell and George Richardson, had a great thrill when they went up to the "Not Forgotten" Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on August 11th.

There were many opportunities for making and losing money, as we had no less than thirteen race meetings during July and August, with an average attendance of forty per day. Goodwood, of course, was the highlight of the racing season for West House, and we attended on the 26th, 27th and 28th in perfect weather.

Now for our very own Race Day, or "Fun and Games Afternoon," as we called it this year, on July 30th. It was a huge success. We had an innovation in the shape of a Baby Show, which Lady Forres, Mrs. Tommy Farr, and Dr. Stirling judged. The bonniest babies were: 1, Philip Miles; 2, Susan Mitchell; 3, Michael Hewitt. During the evening the Southern Serenade Hawaiian Band entertained us.

The weather man let us down on Bank Holiday Monday, and even our Treasure Hunt developed into a quiet drive round the countryside (perhaps not so quiet, eh!) and tea out. The dance in the evening, however, made up for any lack of exuberance in the afternoon.

On July 22nd we had a visit from Le Petit Chantry de Provence, brought by Le Père Bernard Geoffroy. Their beautiful singing was much appreciated.

We had a special Chapel Service on Sunday, July 17th, which was conducted by Canon Speight. The soloists were Bert Tuxbury and Jack Hazell, two new trainees at the "Chippy" shop at Ovingdean.

On this day, also, Clarrie Singleton, of Kingsbury, brought a friend, Mr. Swift, late of the B.B.C., during the evening, and we had some delightful pianoforte selections.

All St. Dunstaners who remember Mrs. Pepper, late Lounge V.A.D., and now living in Newfoundland, will be pleased to hear she has a baby son.

A Fine Record

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. H. Brown, of Reading, must be proud of their family. Their son, the Rev. John Brown, M.A., is Vicar of St. Keverne and Coverack, Cornwall; the Rev. Basil Brown, B.A., is a curate at Camborne Parish Church, Cornwall, after serving four and a half years in Syria in the Intelligence Corps; the Rev. Howard Brown, B.A., has just been ordained and is now curate of Christ Church, Gipsy Hill; he, too, has an excellent war record, having served for five years as a gunner in the Field Artillery at Alamein, Italy and Greece, where he was badly wounded; and Jean Brown, after two and a half years in the W.R.N.S., has just passed her preliminary examination in physiotherapy at King's College Hospital.

St. Dunstaner's Wife Honoured

Mrs. Audrey V. Scott, of Brighton, has been awarded the Medaille de Vermeil by the French Government for her devoted services to France during the war. With the decoration was a Certificate of Thanks from General de Gaulle and letters from General Larminat, President of the Association des Français Libres, and M. Depreux, Minister of the Interior at the time.

* * *

Walter Lethbridge has the only shop on a large housing estate in Oldham and was almost entirely responsible for the formation of the Tenant's Association for the estate. He is an active member of the Committee.

National Insurance: Death Grant

It may be of interest to readers to have the following information with regard to this Grant which is payable from National Insurance Funds.

The Grant is an entirely new benefit as no contributions were paid towards it before July 5th, 1948, and there will, therefore, at first, be many deaths for which no Grant will be paid. For instance no Grant is paid for:—

(1) Any death which occurred before July 5th, 1949.

(2) The death of a man who was aged 65 or over on July 4th, 1948, or the death of a woman aged 60 or over at that date.

(3) The death under the age of 10 of any child born before July 5th, 1948.

A man's contributions can give Death Grant cover to his wife and children as well as to himself, and a woman's Insurance can cover her husband and children as well as herself. There are, however, certain contribution conditions, the main one being that at least 26 contributions of any class have been paid or credited since July 5th, 1948.

The amount of the Grant depends upon the age of the person who has died.

(a) For the death of a person aged 18 or over (excluding men born before July 5th, 1893, and women born before July 5th, 1898) £20 0 0

(b) For the death of a man born between July 5th, 1883 and July 5th, 1893, or a woman born between July 5th, 1888, and July 5th, 1898 £10 0 0

(c) Where a Grant is paid for the death of a person under the age of 18, the amount is:—

Under 3 years	£6 0 0
Between 3 and 6 years	£10 0 0
Between 6 and 18 years	£15 0 0

The Grant is usually payable to the person who accepts responsibility for the funeral expenses, and claims should be made to the local National Insurance office.

Social Service

H. Gunson, of Dewsbury, who is a member of the Dewsbury, Batley and District War Pensions Committee, was presented with a certificate for 25 years' membership of the British Legion. He also served on their Benevolent Committee.

Talking Book Library

A little improvement in the number of releases in July, but there are still some to come to restore the three a month average which was maintained for the early part of the year.

"The Sleeping Sphinx," by J. D. Carr, read Gordon Little, is a pleasantly gripping "who done it," in which murder looks like suicide, and suspicion nearly wrecks the love interest, but one or two twists eventually sort out the web of mystery.

"Valley of Revenge," by Jackson Cole, read Gordon Little, is a Wild West saga of sheriff and outlaw, cattleman and planter, water rights and arson, and takes one back to the Saturday at the films in younger days; it makes very light reading.

"Fall of the House of Heron," by Eden Philpotts, read Frederick Bayley, is a modern product inspired by the atomic bomb and depicts a "too sane" scientist who knows a thing or two about the production and harnessing of atomic energy unknown to anyone else, and on trial for his life, tries to save himself by blackmailing the law. An interesting spot of criminal imagination, but the weakness appears in the policeman who is credited with less knowledge of human character than the lab. dweller. Good reading, but just a wee bit prosy.

The Library shelves groaned under the weight of eight books released in August.

"The Northern Maid," by R. Armstrong, read Franklyn Engelmenn, is a sea yarn of good gripping quality, based on the duty of a sea-captain to both his owners and his crew. The yarn covers many and varied degrees of emotion with no lovey-dovey business. Good.

"Hungry Hill," by Daphne du Maurier, read Richard Wessell, is an interesting, well-drawn story of some five or six generations of an Irish family, and how their fortunes rose and dwindled with a copper mine. Of course, there's a bitter family feud thrown in.

"Child of Promise," by Cicely Ashton Jinks, read Richard Wessell, is a misleading title, since it covers the life of Richard Crookback, Duke of Gloucester. Maybe true, may be tripe, nevertheless entertaining.

"The Man who was Thursday," by G. K. Chesterton, read John Marsh, is described by the author as a nightmare and as, seen

in the light of day, such things are amusing, so this extravaganza on the subject of anarchy is good value.

"Byron," by C. E. Vulliamy, read Alvar Lidell, is not as juicy as some might expect, but the dashing poet has a partisan in his author, and was, in any case, a bit of a poseur-cum-exhibitionist. If one likes such reading, it is disappointing.

"Two Quiet Lives," by Lord David Cecil, read Arthur Bush, is another book on poets' lives, Dorothy Osborne and Thomas Gray, which, although beautifully written and read, must fail to appeal to the average reader.

"Priest-Workman in Germany," by Andre Perrin, read Gordon Little, is a heroic story of a Frenchman who volunteered for a labour camp during the recent war to help keep basic Christianity alive in impossible circumstances. Not to be recommended for light reading.

"Our Village," by Nancy Mitford, read Joseph McLeod, has also gone into the Library this month, but I did not manage to read it. Sorry!

NELSON.

Cricket and Football Calendars

A suggestion has been made that the National Institute should produce, at the beginning of each season, calendars in braille giving the principal cricket fixtures (county matches, etc.) and football fixtures (League and Cup games and international matches). The Institute is prepared to consider such publications should there be a demand for at least one hundred copies of each calendar. Will all St. Dunstaners, therefore, who would be prepared to purchase copies, write and tell the General Editor, National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to all those who are celebrating Silver Weddings:—

Mr. and Mrs. W. McLurg, Port William, November 14th last; Mr. and Mrs. S. Weston, Caldmore, near Walsall, August 2nd; Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Webster, Forest Hill, August 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Kirkbright, Deal, August 30th; Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Jenkins, Rhondda, August 25th; Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Thomas, Neasden, September 13th; Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Robins, Queen's Park, September 15th.

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H. R. Potter, of Hastings, is another whose garden is a winner again this year.

Personal Appearances

St. Dunstaners everywhere:

It would seem that my letter in the June issue of the REVIEW has not been favourably received by all. This, of course, was to be expected. I stoutly refute the charge of insulting any wife. I may have called some of them funny names, including my own wife, but insult them—never.

As to the "tact" of the staff, so far as I am aware this has never been challenged, and is beyond all shadow of doubt.

As to the "reasons" why we may lapse into slack habits, I agree there are many, but there are also many reasons why we should "pull our socks up," some of which I mentioned previously.

I thank all those who have taken the trouble to take notice of my letter—pros and cons—and especially the overwhelming majority who have applauded my action in writing it.

FRANK A. RHODES.

St. Dunstaner Designs Newest Pen

From the "Daily Graphic," July 21st:

A blind ex-Service man, Mr. Richard Dufton, aged 37, of Reading, evolved the new Biroette pen, which is being launched in Britain after selling successfully in Australia, South Africa, Egypt and Eire.

Mr. Dufton, chief designer for the Miles Martin Pen Co., was blinded while in the Navy.

His work is uncanny in its accuracy. He used braille-like drawing board instruments, accurate to a thousandth of a millimetre. An official of the company said yesterday: "The new pen is the latest thing in streamlining at a reasonable price."

Blackpool Notes

September, 1949, and the Blackpool Home is closed once more for its annual "spring-cleaning." Lili Marlene, Daisy, Annie Laurie, Bonnie Mary, and Nellie Dean, and all our other "girl friends" accompanied us on our many outings in July and August, including Haydock Park Races on August 25th.

Some of the troops have been up the famous Tower, others round it in an aeroplane. All have heard of the famous Blackpool illuminations, and will be interested to know that this is the first year since we arrived in 1940 that they have been showing.

"TOM SCRUFF."

The Last Reunions

July 7th and 9th were set aside for the Liverpool meeting which was held at Reece's Restaurant. Mr. T. F. Lister, C.B.E., a member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion, and Mr. A. R. Cannell, member of the Cheshire Executive of the Legion, were present on the first day, and on the second we were delighted to welcome among the guests Mrs. Dunphy and Major and Mrs. D. L. Charters. Major Charters is well known to men in the Liverpool area and was the ophthalmic surgeon who dealt with many of our men in the early stages of their blindness in the prison camp in Germany.

Colonel Eric Ball, senior member of St. Dunstan's Council, was in the chair at Manchester on July 11th and Squadron Leader Burley, R.A.F., officer for the Western Region, was one of the guests.

The Sheffield meeting was on July 13th, and Colonel Ball again presided. Mr. H. Benson, President of the Sheffield and District Branch, was among the British Legion guests attending.

The Mayor, Councillor G. S. Field, O.B.E., and the Mayoress, were with Colonel Ball to welcome guests at Reading; the British Legion was represented by Mr. Chivers.

On August 4th, Colonel Ball again presided at the Birmingham meeting. Visitors here were Col. Lawrence, Works Manager of Messrs. Chamberlain and Bookham, Ltd., and Mr. W. Brazener, Chairman of the Birmingham County Council, British Legion.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present at Leeds on August 20th and accompanying them was Mr. Donald Hopewell, a member of the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's. Major Wood, Hon. Secretary, Northern Area, British Legion, was also a guest.

At Newcastle, Captain W. Appleby, C.B.E., who is a member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council as well as a prominent member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion, was in the chair. Another British Legion visitor here was Miss Laura Ainsworth, Chairwoman of the County of Northumberland, and Chairwoman of the Northern Area.

Edinburgh Meeting

PRESENTATION TO MISS WOOD

"Time, gentlemen, please," said Miss Wood, concluding her speech of thanks for the radio and watch which had been

presented to her by Mr. E. Brockie, of Torphins, on behalf of the men of her area, the bouquet, by Mrs. Howes of Montrose, from their wives, and the clock by Sir Ian Fraser on behalf of the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's.

Great good humour and warm affection for Miss Wood was shown by all present at the Scottish reunion. Miss Gordon, the new Welfare Visitor, was in charge but it was Miss Wood's day, and all remembered her thirty years' work for St. Dunstan's.

Sir Ian emphasised the unity of purpose between the Scottish National Institution for the War-blinded and between the British Legion north and south of the Border. Their pensions campaign would continue, he said.

Professor James Drever, F.R.S.E., Convener of the Executive Committee of the Scottish National Institution, and the Rev. Sempill, a prominent member of the British Legion and a member of the Committee of the Scottish National Institution, were also present.

Placements

B. W. R. Glover, as a shopkeeper (tobacconist) at Southsea; E. Hordyneck as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. James Barwell, Birmingham; F. Griffie, Bristol, as a tobacconist, confectioner, etc.; J. H. Griffiths, on assembly work, with Messrs. E. Shipton & Co., Ltd., Northwood Hills; H. R. Langton, Bottesford, Notts., as a capstan operator with the Raleigh Cycle Company; G. Miller, with Messrs. C. and J. Hampton, Ltd., Sheffield, on fettling; H. J. Wilson, as a tobacconist, at Brockley; H. Cope, Stoke-on-Trent, as a mobile canteen proprietor in partnership with his brother-in-law; A. Tillotson, Cleveleys, and H. Dakin, Blackpool, on conveyor belt work with Messrs. Waller & Hartley's, manufacturing confectioners; H. C. Adams, as an assembler with Messrs. Morris Motors, Cowley, Oxford; R. Osborne, temporarily in charge of the cigarette and tobacco kiosk, Ovingdean, pending a shop settlement.

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George Taylor, of Edmonton, has passed with honours the examination for the Certificate of Industrial and Social Psychology and now becomes a Member of the Institute of Industrial Psychology. He gained 90 per cent. marks in a class of sixty.

Ovingdean Notes

By the time this appears in print, more than two months will have passed since our last news from Ovingdean.

Let us think back, for a moment, to July when, undoubtedly, the event of the month was the Sports Day. The weather was much, much kinder to us this year, and we were able to welcome our many guests in hot brilliant sunshine. We were delighted to have with us Colonel Ball, who very kindly came down to present the prizes. It was nice, too, to see so many local St. Dunstaners and their families; with tea-time music supplied by the Training Centre Band a most successful afternoon was enjoyed.

We have had, as usual, an interesting selection of talks from visiting lecturers. On July 13th, Mr. Bunn, the Brighton Borough Treasurer, talked about local finances, and later the same month Colonel Davys returned to Ovingdean and told us something of "Atomic Energy as applied to Medicine," which was most interesting. The new generation of St. Dunstaners were particularly interested in a talk given by Matron Pain on July 31st, when she gave them a vivid picture of St. Dunstan's from its early days. A somewhat unusual occupation was described by Mr. Lovell, when he talked to us on August 9th, and related some of his experiences as a deep sea diver. His listeners' attention never wavered.

Amongst our numerous visitors recently we entertained a party of Native Chiefs from Kenya. Their particular interest seemed to be the Telephony School, where they watched the operation of the switchboards with rapt attention.

Another group of visitors came to us from an International Students' party, staying for a short time at Brighton.

Our opportunities for outside entertainments have been many.

During the August Bank Holiday weekend a bathing party and an afternoon picnic were arranged for those trainees who did not go home for the holiday.

By this time we were beginning to think of the end of term and our summer holiday, but a week before we broke up Mrs. Mellor, of Hove, extended an invitation to St. Dunstaners from the Training Centre and West House. Together with a small number of escorts, a very large party from both houses was entertained to tea at the

Gwydyr Mansions Restaurant prior to being taken to the Brighton Hippodrome. During tea-time we met Sam Costa and Jon Pertwee (both of whom were appearing in the Hippodrome show).

Our End of Term Dance was held in the Lounge on Monday, August 15th, and was a great success. A short interlude in the dance was provided by an excellent cabaret from Messrs. T. Baker, H. Duxbury and J. Halsall, J. Ormond and P. Appleby, and included selections from the band.

Two days later the Training Centre was empty, save for a few staff, those St. Dunstaners staying in Ward 1, and one or two of our Australian trainees who were waiting a few days before setting off on their holiday.

Test Result

Senior Braille Reading Test:—W. F. Cork, A. Rees.

From Miss Hensley

DEAR ST. DUNSTANERS,

I am sending this letter to you through the REVIEW to thank you so much for my lovely present, which is going to take the form of an armchair and a coffee table. Your gift has given me the very greatest pleasure.

I look back on my time as Visitor as a time of such great friendship and understanding and a memory I shall always treasure. I look forward to seeing you all again at our future Reunions.

Yours sincerely, J. DE M. HENSLEY.
5 Crawford Mansions, W.1.

Retirement

From the "Beacon," July 15th:—

"On June 30th, a luncheon was given at Worcester by the Governors of Worcester College for the Blind to Mr. P. Sumner, on the occasion of his retirement from the teaching staff of Worcester College after 28 years' service. Mr. T. H. Taylor was in the chair and referred to Mr. Sumner's valuable work at the College and wished him well in his retirement."

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T. Batt, of Oakhill, near Bath, won two firsts, two seconds, and two thirds for his garden produce at the local British Legion Show, and the Silver Rose Bowl again at the Bristol Show for blind gardeners, as well as six other prizes.

Miss Macdiarmid

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Miss M. M. Macdiarmid, who came to us in March, 1944, to take over the duties of Telephony Superintendent. "Mac" soon made her own particular place at St. Dunstan's, and became a good friend to our telephonists, particularly the new war men, many of whom she placed in their first jobs. The funeral took place on August 17th. Our telephonists were represented by Messrs. P. Ashton, W. Miller and E. Russell, and Mr. G. Zipfel represented St. Dunstan's.

Mr. D. Macdiarmid, Ruby and Denis desire to express their sincere thanks for the kind sympathy expressed to them in their recent sad bereavement.

Doy of the Bounty

or lines written on the birth of triplets to our friend, Sid Doy

*"I am the great I am, I am,
The pride of old Kent County,
I heed the population plan
And earned King George's bounty.*

*I am the great I am, I am
The great I am, sez he.
I sought a pal for daughter Ann,
And the stork has brought me three.*

*When I was young and in the Guards
The R.S.M. said, "Look here, pards,
You don't form fours now, if you please,
So I've taken his word and formed threes.*

*And now my head is filled with woes,
I like my game of dominoes.
My favourite game is threes and fives,
What am I saying? Ho! snakes alive!*

*There's triplets, quins and even quads,
It conjures up a vision.
I'll have my section or my squad
Or a blooming first division."*

*God bless you and your little boys
May no wars come to scare 'em.
We wish you all the earthly joys,
—Gen. and Freddie Wareham. "GEN."*

Grandfathers

A. Spierling, Bridgend (his daughter had a son on December 11th and his son had a son on July 22nd); S. L. Ball, Neath; A. J. Coleman, Northampton; A. Rees, Stansted; J. Thompson, Parkstone.

F. Wareham has won a Silver Medal for one of his round shopping baskets in the

Blind Section, Dorset Arts and Crafts Association.

Births

BROOMFIELD.—On July 13th, to Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Broomfield, of Weybridge, a daughter—Florence.

FITZPATRICK.—On August 15th, to Mr. and Mrs. B. Fitzpatrick, of Barrow-in-Furness, a daughter.

FRANKLIN.—On July 12th, to Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Franklin, of Edmonton, a son—Colin Leslie.

FRENCH.—On August 11th, to Mr. and Mrs. R. V. G. French, of London, a daughter—Alexandra Magdalen.

HAWES.—On August 25th, to Mr. and Mrs. F. Hawes, of Swindon, a son—Beverley Cedric Tarrant Miller.

HOMWOOD.—On July 26th, to Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Homewood, of Lee, a daughter Daisy Margaret.

LANGLEY.—On July 30th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Langley, of Brighton a son—Gordon.

MCGOOHAN.—On July 30th, to Mr. and Mrs. D. McGoohan, of Watford, a daughter—Sheila Mary.

MORGAN.—On August 21st, to Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Morgan, of Bristol, a daughter—Brenda Margaret.

OSBORNE.—On June 30th, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Osborne, of Saltdean, a son—Graham Kevin.

SALTERS.—On August 17th, to Mr. and Mrs. G. Salters, of Everton, a daughter.

SPENCE.—On August 23rd, to Captain and Mrs. E. Stewart G. Spence, of Hillingdon, a son—James.

Marriages

CRUSE—BATHAN.—On August 19th, J. Cruse, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, to Miss Janet Bathan.

DAVIES—THOMPSON.—On August 27th, L. Davies, of London, S.E.23, to Miss Margaret Joan Thompson.

GRIFFITHS—LEE.—On July 30th, J. H. Griffiths, of Northwood, to Mrs. Lee, of East Moulsecomb.

PAWSON.—On August 29th, F. Pawson, of South Norwood.

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"Teddy" Mills, of Walsall, was a prize-winner in Walsall municipal gardens competition; with a picture in the local paper.

Reports of Camps at Shawbury and Lee-on-Solent will appear next month.

“ In Memory ”

Private William A. Burns, *Manchester Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of W. A. Burns, of Salford, an old soldier who served with his regiment from 1910 until April, 1916.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1916 after losing his sight at Maricourt the previous year. He trained in boot repairing, but his health was never good and he was able to do very little work at home. During the last few years he was a chronic sufferer from asthma. At his request, he went to Ovingdean, but he died there ten days later.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers at the funeral. Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Corporal Albert Edward Moore, *Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. E. Moore, of Camberwell. Wounded at Neuve Eglise in 1915, he came to us the same year and was trained in mat-making. Our sympathy is extended to his son, and to his nieces, with whom he lived. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was sent for the funeral.

Air Mechanic William H. Stanley, *Royal Air Force*

We record with deep regret the death of W. H. Stanley, of Stony Stratford. He was discharged from the Service in 1919, but it was not until 1938 that he came to us, his sight having failed gradually. He trained as a netter, but for the past five years he had been bed-ridden. At his request, there were no flowers, but a poppy wreath was sent from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

He was a prominent member of the Methodist Church and the esteem in which he was held was testified by the many friends present at the funeral service.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Private Harold Eric Dixon, *Manchester Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of H. E. Dixon, of Manchester, a St. Dunstaner of the recent war. He was thirty years of age.

He enlisted in October, 1939, and was discharged from the Army in 1944, but he did not come under our care until November, 1947. His state of health then prevented him undertaking any kind of training—he was, in fact, quite helpless and only able to get about by means of an invalid chair, but he endured his great suffering most courageously.

Shortly before his death, it was arranged that he should go to Blackpool for a change of surroundings and the opportunity of meeting other St. Dunstaners, but he passed away at the Home on June 24th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was sent for the cremation ceremony, which took place at Manchester. Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife, who nursed him devotedly.

Private Richard Higson, *2nd Lancashire Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of R. Higson, of Wigan, who served with his regiment from January, 1915, until December of the following year. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1916 after he had lost his sight at the Battle of the Somme, and he trained as a basket-maker and netter; for years, however, he had done little work owing to ill-health. He lost his wife in August, 1945, which was a sad blow to him and one from which he never really recovered.

He passed away in hospital on July 29th. A wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers at the funeral. He leaves two sons, to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

Sergeant George Campbell Shields, *2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders*

It is with deepest regret that we record the death of that popular St. Dunstaner, “Sammy” Shields, of Leigh-on-Sea.

Wounded in France in September, 1915, he came to St. Dunstan's in the December of that year and soon established himself as one of our personalities. His prowess as an oarsman will be particularly remembered. He trained as a netter. He had been seriously ill for many months latterly at West House and at Ovingdean, and he passed away on September 1st.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Shields and her four children.

Mrs. P. Shields and family would like to thank Matron Ouseley, sisters, nurses, orderlies and other St. Dunstaners and their wives who were so kind to her husband, and to her, during her husband's illness at West House and Ovingdean.

Deaths

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

COLLINS.—To W. Collins, of Cowes, whose wife passed away on September 6th.

COTTELL.—To P. Cottrell, of Brighton, whose wife passed away on July 26th, after a long illness.

GRANSBY.—To H. G. Gransby, of Perivale, lately of Sudbury, in the double loss of his daughter, Gladys, on July 14th, and and of his mother on August 8th.

WALKER.—To Mr. and Mrs. C. Walker, of Tottenham, whose eldest daughter died on July 24th.