

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 366—VOLUME XXXIII

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

WE spend so much time—mostly justifiably—cursing all Governments and Government Departments that it seems only fair occasionally to give a word of praise where praise is due. My house in Regent's Park was destroyed by fire during an air raid in March, 1944, and at last it has been repaired, mainly at the cost of the War Damage Commission, and we have moved back into it after five years of exile or inconvenient living. What a pleasure it is to get home once again and, so far as a blind man is concerned, to enjoy surroundings that he knows, where every feature, step or corner is familiar. The War Damage Commission has dealt with the matter of my house courteously, efficiently and with reasonable generosity. Acting on behalf of a very large number of blinded ex-Servicemen, St. Dunstan's has also had many dealings with the War Damage Commission during the last few years, and our officials, too, with few exceptions, have had the same experience. Here then is an organ of government, mobilised for a particular emergency, which has carried out its unusual task well and deserves our thanks.

Furnishing is a bit of a job, especially with prices so high, and in this field the Commission's insurance cover is quite inadequate to meet the immense rise in costs of recent years.

Walter Thornton wrote to the REVIEW some months ago that when he was carrying his baby he walked backwards so as not to bump the child's head on sharp corners. My wife and I have been moving furniture these past weeks and I have taken a tip from Walter, for I find that walking backwards carrying a piece of furniture I am less likely to crush the article itself or my own fingers.

With a little practice you can learn to walk backwards most efficiently, and if you aren't able to look where you are going, it doesn't seem to me to matter very much. Here, perhaps, the philosopher may think, is an excellent case in which the blind man is better off than the other fellow.

Whether it was moving the furniture or catching a chill, I do not know, but the last few days I have been suffering from an acute pain in the left shoulder which hinders my use of my left hand. I cannot lift it or put it up to my collar or face without great difficulty. It is a personal experience of no great importance to anyone but myself, but it has demonstrated to me more than any amount of talk and imagination could have done how crippling it is to be without the full use of a hand—and in my case I happen to be left-handed. I have been putting on my collar, shaving, and most difficult of all, doing up my back trouser buttons with one hand, and this the least effective. My sympathy and understanding goes out to those St. Dunstaners who have only one hand. An ounce of experience is worth a lot of theory.

Last month I mentioned walking sticks. To-day I have a suggestion from a sympathetic correspondent who saw a blind girl in trouble with her guide dog, and the crowd looking on not knowing that she was blind. My correspondent suggested the dog should wear a white leather bow or carry some other distinguishing mark. I have thanked my correspondent for her kindly suggestion, but I have added that I doubt whether St. Dunstaners who have a guide dog would welcome this. I remember before the war the German dogs used to wear a large Red Cross on each side of their harness. What do those concerned think?

IAN FRASER.

### Reminder

If you have not yet applied to Mr. Mackay for your ticket for the **London Reunion Dance** at the Seymour Hall on Wednesday, December 7th, you should do so immediately. One ticket will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort, but it is regretted that children under 16 cannot be included. The Reunion, of course, is primarily for men living in the London area.

### Filter-Tip Cigarettes—A Warning

One of our shop-keepers has brought to our notice the filter-tip cigarettes which are now on the market and asks us to warn St. Dunstaners of the danger of the red-hot end dropping out on to clothes or furniture. We understand that the big tobacco companies are aware of this risk and are investigating the matter. They say that there is a blue line of warning on the cigarettes, but that few people take notice of it.

### Remembrance Day

A party of some fifty St. Dunstaners and their escorts met at 191 Marylebone Road, on the morning of Sunday, November 6th, before moving off to Wellington Barracks to join up with the British Legion parade. Then, in soldierly columns, they marched to the Cenotaph for the Service of Remembrance. The wreath, from the men of St. Dunstan's all over the Empire, was placed on the Cenotaph by Percy Ashton.

The previous afternoon and evening, a number of St. Dunstaners had attended the wonderfully impressive Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

### Old Contemptibles

Sergeant Alan Nichols wonders how many Old Contemptibles among St. Dunstaners are still living. We, too, would like to know as a point of interest. Just a post-card, please, giving name, regiment and date, if possible, of landing in France, to the Editor, 1 South Audley Street, W.1.

### Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service

The Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson will be held in the Chapel of the Ovingdean Home at 5.15 p.m. on Sunday, December 4th. It is hoped that all St. Dunstaners living locally will be able to attend.

On the morning of December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, a party of St. Dunstaners will proceed to Hampstead Cemetery from Headquarters to place a wreath upon Sir Arthur's grave. Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Askew, at Headquarters.

### Four Thousand Miles Away

Many St. Dunstaners will remember Mr. Tom Graves, who for many years was a popular member of the Accounts Department at St. Dunstan's. Mr. Graves has had an appointment on the Gold Coast for some years now but he never forgets St. Dunstaners, and in a letter to Sir Ian recently, he wrote: "Whilst visiting Kumasi Hospital recently, I was given tea by Matron and I was thrilled to observe it was served on a St. Dunstan's oak tray. Kumasi is the capital of Ashanti, 170 miles inland from Takoradi, and nearly 4,000 miles from Raglan Street."

### Placements

A. Rayner, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. S. Wolf & Co., Ealing; D. Jennings, as a telephone operator with the South Eastern Electricity Board, Worthing; G. J. Salters, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Gresham & Craven, Salford; R. A. Harmsworth, as a shop-keeper in the business formerly run by J. W. McConnell, at London Road, Salisbury; D. C. R. (Rex) Cole, as a shop-keeper at Lower Tuffley, Gloucester, whose shop was officially opened by the Mayor of Gloucester on October 14th.

### Club Notes London

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club will be held at Headquarters on January 6th, 1950, at 7.30 p.m. The Committee hopes that all members will make a special effort to attend.

Our Club has been very active this month and the Whist Drive Tuesday evening has attracted quite a number of newcomers. This week sees the end of the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Whist Prize Competition.

The Club will be closed on December 5th as we have the Dance at the Chelsea Town Hall.

### Bridge Notes

The prestige of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club was substantially enhanced at the Ilkley Annual Bridge Congress, when Messrs. Coles and Winter pulled off "The Double," taking first place honours in two "Pairs Competitions." Mr. Jack Armstrong, a stalwart supporter of our Bridge Club, rendered the party valuable service and his assistance was very much appreciated.

On October 22nd, one of the Club's most valuable assets—"Aubrey"—said "au revoir" on leaving London to take over a Guest House at Lynton. However, it gave us an opportunity of showing our appreciation of his great assistance over so many years (especially on our trips to Harrogate), and he was presented with a table lamp as a little memento.

Miss Turner was also in the limelight, for we presented her with a rug as a token of appreciation on the occasion of her wedding. Luckily for us she has chosen a husband (or should I say a husband has chosen her), who will enable us to keep in touch with her on alternate Saturdays.

On behalf of the Club in general and myself in particular, may you, Miss Turner, and "Aubrey," have health, happiness and prosperity throughout the ensuing years.

Also on October 22nd, the match "North v. South" (of the Thames) was played and North gained the victory by a meagre 300 points.

NOTE.—*All Bridge Players:* The Annual General Meeting will be held at Headquarters on December 10th at 2.30 p.m. sharp, and the Bridge Christmas Party will be held on December 17th at 2.30 p.m.

FRANK A. RHODES.

### Indoor Events

The BONNY BABY PHOTO COMPETITION was well supported, entries coming from Ireland, Scotland, Wales and all parts of England (156 entries in all). Lady Fraser, Lady Stern and Dr. John Hunt were confronted with an array of baby photos which would have compared with any representative group the world over, and their task was difficult. Long and deliberate was their scrutiny of each photo, and slowly the process of elimination took place. Congratulations to the proud parents or grandparents of the following winners, each of whom will receive a prize of £3 or £2—first and second—respectively in each age group.

#### Group A—Girls

- 1st—Susan Mitchell, of Guildford.
- 2nd—Margaret Harris, of Crouch End.

#### Boys

- 1st—David Richard Brett, of Brighton.
- 2nd—John Glasspool, of Brixton Hill, S.W.

#### Group B—Girls

- 1st—Margaret Miller, of Glasgow.
- 2nd—Susan Miller, of Leamington Spa.

#### Boys

- 1st—Leslie Peter Baker, of Billericay.
- 2nd—Roy Martin Hart, of Brackley.

#### Group C—Girls

- 1st—Pauline Margaret Simonite, of Leighton Buzzard.
- 2nd—Margaret Potts, of Ovingdean.

#### Boys

- 1st—Bill Thompson, of Gateshead.
- 2nd—David Ernest Young, of Bury St. Edmunds.

Many thanks to all who sent entries.

DANCE at Chelsea Town Hall, December 5th. Tickets are still available. One man—one escort. Tickets free. Please let me have your application.

DANCING COMPETITIONS will be held, also at the Chelsea Town Hall, on January 13th. Tickets 2s. 6d. Events—old-time waltz and slow foxtrot.

TINY FLEMING.

### Outdoor Sports

The outstanding event was the two-mile walk on October 29th, the results of which given overleaf show the excellent standard of walking. Some very fast times are being put up.

The next walk is over three miles on December 3rd, from the Inner Circle, Regent's Park, at 3 p.m. In conjunction with this will be a Novices' Race. So now is the chance for new fellows to "have a go." Send your entries to the Club or to me as soon as possible. A five miler follows on January 28th.

The swimming season has ended and rowing has finished but the gym is still open at 204A Great Portland Street, W.1, and the hours have been extended from 6 until 7.30 p.m.

It has been suggested that we have a running race. Well, why not? Send your entries or enquiries to me at the Club and we will find escorts and make the necessary arrangements.

T. GAYGAN.

#### 2-mile Sealed Handicap, October 29th

Competitor	H'cap time	Allow. Scratch	Actual time	Pos.	Pts.
A. Brown ...	17.04		17.04	1	1
W. Miller ...	17.15	0.50	18.05	4	1
A. G. Bradley	17.46	2.10	19.56	7	1
W. T. Scott ...	16.37	3.25	20.02	8	1
J. Lynch ...	16.08	5.10	21.18	9	4
P. G. Crynan	15.14	3.00	18.14	5	—
T. Denmead...	15.55	3.00	18.55	6	—
T. Gaygan ...	16.29	0.40	17.09	2	3
C. Williamson	16.41	2.00	17.41	3	5
E. Cookson ...	16.30	5.30	22.00	10	2

#### Prize Winners—

Handicap Section A—1st: P. G. Crynan; 2nd: T. Denmead.

Handicap Section B—1st: C. Williamson.  
Fastest Loser, Section A—A. Brown  
Fastest Loser, Section B—T. Gaygan.

#### Institute of Magicians

On another page a detailed description of our conjuring tricks is given by the Editor, who was a lynx-eyed spectator at the Birthday show.

If any St. Dunstaners, especially recent war members, are interested in these tricks, and would like to be initiated in the art of Magic, will they please get in touch with Mr. Mackay at Headquarters and he will furnish them with all particulars. As Christmas is drawing near, now is the time to start conjuring. We welcome you, including escorts, on Monday nights at about 7.30 p.m. at Headquarters.

NOTE.—Dec. 5th will be a blank night as our instructor-magicians will be having a night off. ALF WILTSHIRE (Representative).

#### OVERHEARD

Bob, rising from the dinner table at West House: "Au revoir, gentlemen and Scotsmen."

A Jock: "Well, Bob, seeing that these collective nouns are synonymous, you are guilty of an invidious, grammatical redundancy!"

### Liverpool

#### The Frisbies Invade Blackpool

On Sunday, October 30th, a very happy party of members and wives, or escorts, of the Liverpool Club visited the Blackpool Home at the kind invitation of Matron Davies. Leaving Liverpool in beautiful sunshine shortly after 10 a.m., we travelled by motor coach equipped with radio which entertained us with Billy Cotton's Band and the Wilfred Pickles programme. After gliding through the countryside for more than an hour we called a halt at the tavern known as the "Rose & Crown," where we enjoyed a nice cup of tea and sandwiches. Once again we got under way and without further stops we reached Blackpool about 1 p.m. startling the fellows at the Home, as we arrived, with a mighty yell. After a lot of chin-wagging with friends whom we met, Matron escorted our party to the Bourne Hotel, which is opposite the Home, where we dined most royally. Lunch being over we returned to the lounge, where a domino match took place between the rival "Pools" resulting in a tie for first prize between Jackson (Liverpool) and Taylor (Blackpool) with six games each but the "Frisbies" claimed team honours with an aggregate of 37 wins to 34. Whilst Matron conducted the ladies on a tour of the Home we were amusingly entertained by Joe (The Voice) Daly, accompanied by Sister D. at the piano. Tea was then served, after which Matron announced for the special benefit of the ladies, a game of Musical Knees, which provided a great deal of amusement and was thoroughly enjoyed by all, the winner being Peggy Watts.

However, all good things must come to an end and the time arrived, only too quickly, for us to say goodbye. Before leaving, L. Jackson, Chairman of the Liverpool Club, expressed on behalf of us all, our very sincere thanks to the Matron and staff for a wonderful day.

TOMMY M.

### Birmingham

Of all the varied activities enjoyed recently by the Club, space permits mention of only a few.

The outing to Stratford-on-Avon was a very happy affair and everything went well. It took thirty-five of the Voluntary Transport Service cars to convey all our members,

escorts and helpers. We were met and welcomed by our numerous and hospitable Stratford friend, including Miss Chadwick herself. We spent a lazy hour on the river, and did more than justice to the picnic tea. We proceeded to a nearby field for sports and in spite of the hummocks we walked, ran, jumped, threw and tugged. Some of us remembered the tug-o'-war for a few days afterwards! The hospitality of the British Legion was still to be enjoyed, and eventually we were taken home, however far, by the V.T.S.

The Swimming Gala in September was a distinct success and augurs great things for next year. Messrs. Cadbury Bros. were our hosts, lending us their Men's Practice Bath, and providing all the competitors, guests and friends, with a delightful tea. We were disappointed that flat tyres prevented the Brighton team from joining us, but we quickly reorganised and swam Rest of England *v.* Birmingham, to the honour of Rest of England, who won the Birmingham St. Dunstan's Swimming Trophy by 33 points to 15. The standard set was high and there will be keen competition indeed in the contest of September, 1950, and a very warm welcome to all who can come. We were delighted to see so many of our older members in almost every event—no fewer than fourteen competitors took part in the swimming in all—and congratulate those whose names so often ranked among the winners, viz., Messrs. Stafford, Stanley, Waterworth and Thornton (who incidentally were the winning team).

We have several outstanding fixtures apart from our usual monthly meetings. We've had our first of some Saturday dances, and it was much enjoyed. Somehow it acquired the flavour of a Lee-on-Solent Camp dance, for we found ourselves "bobbing up and down like this," in true nautical style. If the Children's Party and the Club's Christmas Party prove to be as satisfying as last year's we shall have had a truly live and happy year. Many thanks to our B.R.C.S. team of helpers!

P. A. FAIRHEAD ("FAIRY").

### 100 Years Old

A special greeting from St. Dunstaners to Mrs. Lloyd, mother of our own Nurse Lloyd, who reached her 100th birthday on November 6th.

### Mrs. Argyle

Mrs. Bessie Argyle, Welfare Visitor in the Midlands since 1936, is retiring at the end of November, having attained the age limit observed by St. Dunstan's. I am sure her many friends will join in wishing Mrs. Argyle happiness and good health in her retirement after the years of devoted and loyal service she has given to so many St. Dunstaners and their families living in the Midlands. It has been suggested to me already by several of her men that they would like to make her a little presentation, and I should be most happy to act as honorary treasurer for any contributions the St. Dunstaners whom she visited may like to send in to me at Headquarters.

Mrs. Argyle's place is being taken by Mrs. E. M. King, who was on the Ovingdean staff for several years and is already known to many new war St. Dunstaners. We extend to Mrs. King our very best wishes in her new appointment.

ALEX. MACKAY, General Welfare Superintendent.

### Thirty Years Ago

From "St. Dunstan's Review," November, 1919:

"The last race, held at Putney on October 9th, was a very interesting event. It was the outcome of a sporting challenge issued by J. Gimber and W. Christian, of the College Annexe, to row any semi-sighted pairs in Pair Oars. The challenge was accepted by A. H. Craigie and L. E. Carter, of the Bungalow Annexe (although totally blind), H. N. Hardy and C. A. Fankhauser, of the House, and A. Blackwell and H. Glendenan, of the Bungalow Annexe. Hardy and Fankhauser won by about one and a quarter lengths, H. Glendenan and L. Jenkins (the latter taking Blackwell's place) second, A. H. Craigie and Carter third, and J. Gimber and W. Christian fourth. The race was extremely fast and even; in fact, the second, third and fourth boats all finished within boat's length.

"The Saturday Sports are going along in a most satisfactory way. Each Saturday the number of entries average about 200. Saturday, October 25th was a record, there being 257 entries."

### FOR SALE

TANDEM.—Chater Lee, medium weight, latest four-speed Sturmey Archer gearing. Two panniers fitted at back but never used. Side-car chassis and fittings. Price £15, with or without the side-car, or nearest offer. L. Constable, 27 Bedford Road, Hesse, E. Yorks.

### West House Notes

What a marvellous summer it has been, the last to be spent at West House as a Holiday Home! We certainly have much to be thankful for and it was with this in mind that we planned our rather special Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, October 2nd. As this was the last Service to be held before the closing down we decided that it should be in the Conservatory, as we expected a very large congregation including all the local St. Dunstaners and their families. About 300 people attended.

The fruit and floral decorations around the altar and walls were really magnificent particularly the Sussex trugs and the West House wheelbarrow.

So many people came laden with gifts, and we were particularly touched with the small fry who brought offerings to the Children's Corner. The following day George Taylor and Harry Day did a round of the hospitals distributing the fruit and flowers.

We were delighted that Sir Neville and Lady Pearson were able to be with us for the day, and their presence amongst us just gave the necessary fillip to make it such a success. Cannon Speight (who travelled from Worcester to be with us) and Padre Taylor officiated, Sir Neville reading the lesson. Thanks are due to George Killingbeck for his help in organising the choir and to Cathleen Ramsden and Charlie Thomas for the solos which together helped to make up such a beautiful service. It was grand team work between Ovingdean and West House.

Thora Hird was also with us for the day, and what a reception she received! We were so grateful to her friend, Geoffrey Inns, who took many photographs of individual groups in the garden and who is sending copies to all those concerned through Mrs. Hutchinson.

Mr. C. Singleton's friend, Mr. Swift, Organist (late B.B.C.), conceived the idea of a concert in the evening and he played several compositions beautifully. The choir also lent a hand in the Concert and George Killingbeck, Joe Walch, Bob Osborne and Cathleen Ramsden gave us a delightful rendering of the old favourite, "Chu Chin Chow." The whole show was compered by Thora's small film star daughter, Janette Scott, who won the hearts of all the boys.

How delighted we were to welcome Jack Sullivan and his guest artistes on October 12th, who gave us a splendid evening's entertainment. The party included Walter Tate, Clifford Rawson, Tug Wilson, Mr. Spurling and Doris Seise. There was certainly no lack of variety and the peak of the evening was reached when the large barrel of beer, so thoughtfully provided by Mr. L. Barnet, was rolled out and distributed, together with the cigarettes kindly given by Mr. Gluckstein. Mrs. Mellor sent the most lovely gateaux and ice cream: Needless to say all this helped to make a never-to-be-forgotten evening.

The day of days was Thursday, October 20th, which started off with a Treasure Hunt at Arundel, where a marvellous tea was provided which compensated for the wet weather. Tiny Northcott and Mrs. Jones were the courageous couple who succeeded in finding all twelve articles and rightfully earned the prize. The evening started with a grand film show given by Messrs. G. Inns and P. Roberts, who brought their own apparatus by car in torrential rain from London. Commandant and Webster kept the dance going with a swing and although rather cramped for space our style was certainly not cramped and the Hokey-Kokey and the Conga were danced in the true West House style. The climax of the evening was reached when Tiny Northcott, on behalf of the West House Permanents and the Sick Bay at Ovingdean, presented Matron Ouseley with a cheque with which to buy a present, as a token of their love and esteem. All these sentiments were admirably summed up in a moving speech by Jock Boyd.

As the strains of Auld Lang Syne rang out it was evident that many were thinking of the other boys who were not able to be with us on this memorable occasion.

### Dancing

Now that West House is closed, the Friday evening Dance was resumed at Ovingdean on November 11th, and will be held on every following Friday from 8 p.m. until 10.15 p.m.

### Bandsmen Wanted

Ernie Cookson and his Band have vacancies for any St. Dunstaners interested in dance music. Enquiries to Ernie Cookson, 86 Thornhill Road, Barnsbury, London N.1.

### Blackpool Notes

The Blackpool Home re-opened on October 3rd wearing its "new look," and the following day we had an amusing domino tournament—Ladies v. The Troops. We were one lady player short, so "Phyllis" McCarthy, of Manchester, filled the breach and fortunately won 1st prize. This necessitated the shuffling of prizes as we could hardly offer the gentleman a powder puff. Taffy Jones won first men's prize. On October 5th a small party went to Knott End which, as so many will remember, is across the river Wyre from Fleetwood. We are pleased to report that the land lubbers managed to find their sea legs and enjoyed the outing.

On Thursday, 13th, a happy party left for an afternoon trip to Scorton where, as usual, tea was most enjoyable, everything being home-made.

On Friday, 14th, we had our last trip of 1949 to the Lakes. In spite of the autumn weather everybody voted the afternoon a great success. We started out early in the day and had a delightful hot lunch at Bowness, and we returned to Carnforth in time for tea instead of for the stronger beverages usually served. The sail down Lake Windermere was as pleasant as ever—except perhaps for the "music" from the many instruments which appeared from the pockets of the sailors.

On Oct. 22nd we were pleased to welcome old friends from West House. All appear to be settling in comfortably. So are the staff who came with them. St. Dunstaners will be pleased to meet Sister McPartlin and the Misses Chaddock and Arnold, also Orderly Ball who is now our O.C. Dining-room.

October 30th was a great day—the Liverpool Club came along in full force and, after an excellent lunch at the Bourne Hotel, invaded the Blackpool Home to beat us at dominoes—Liverpool Club 37 points and Blackpool 34. Individual scoring was a draw: E. Taylor, of Blackpool, winning six games, L. Jackson, of Heswall, playing for Liverpool Club, also winning six. Fun waxed fast after high tea and the party left at 7 o'clock, having a warm drink for the road before leaving.

We are now looking forward to a visit from Manchester Club on November 11th, and we are putting in a lot of practice so that they shall not repeat the Liverpool Club's beating with the dots. B. V. D.

### Talking Book Library

#### Operation "October"

I have enquired about the possibility of quoting the catalogue number with the books in this column, but learn that it is impossible until the supplementary catalogue is issued. However, the books mentioned herein can be ordered from the library by title.

Two books only achieve release this moon, one I call an upholstered short story, and the other is an honest to God historical novel which needs no embroidery. They are "Corporal Tune" and "The Golden Warrior," respectively.

"Corporal Tune," by L. A. G. Strong, read Norman Shelley, is pleasantly read and written, but has not enough subject matter to sustain its length, though it is quite short. The story is too true for fiction, and not strange enough for truth. In short, it is a chap with a belly-ache which brings him to the grave. Perhaps that's a little sketchy, but some passages in the book will appeal to the literary-minded. You have been warned!

"The Golden Warrior," by Hope Munty, read Gordon Little, must be somewhere near an accurate story of Harold the Saxon when G. M. Trevelyan sees fit to subscribe to a foreword; the authoress, a Canadian, puts the story together very deftly. The great pity is that we all know the end before we start reading these historical novels. It's a shame if history does not appeal to you, but that is the complete offering.

I could give an encouraging trailer, but I won't. NELSON.

### National Laying Test

Final Report for the 48 weeks, October 11th, 1948 to September 11th, 1949.

Pos'n.	Name	Test Score
1	Young, W. E. ...	1228
2	McIntosh, C. ...	1170
3	Holmes, P. ...	1147
4	Gregory, T. D. ...	1127
5	Chaffin, A. ...	1086
6	Bagwell, P....	1073
7	Webb, W. ...	1044
8	Woodcock, W. J. ...	993
9	Smith, W. Alan ...	970
10	Carpenter, E. H. ...	914
11	Jarvis, A. ...	786
12	Clarke, T. ...	648
		Average per bird, 186.97

### It's Magic!

The Club Room at Marylebone Road underwent a transformation scene on Monday night, October 17th, in more ways than one. It was the second anniversary of the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians, and its members celebrated it by putting on a fascinating show. At 7.45 the gold and orange curtains were drawn back from the stage, and Madame Zomah, whose late husband had been responsible for the formation of the Section, then introduced the first artist, Alf Wiltshire. With Mr. Mackay, a volunteer from the audience, on his right hand, and Mrs. Wiltshire, his assistant, on the left the magician produced two packs of cards, handing one pack to Mr. Mackay and keeping one himself. They both shuffled their packs, exchanged packs, shuffled again, exchanged packs, and again shuffled. They each chose a card from their respective packs—and lo and behold! each had chosen the same card. It was more surprising because Alf Wiltshire never uses braille cards. Then the magician recalled "a certain radio feature" which had been popular recently, and proceeded to demonstrate his own skill in that direction. Five members of the audience chose cards from a pack distributed among them by Miss Ibbetson, who then returned the remainder to the magician. Miss Ibbetson wrote on a sheet of paper the chosen cards, then joined the magician on the stage and returned the five cards to the pack. He shuffled them. Miss Ibbetson cut them in two and he placed a half in each jacket pocket. Mrs. Wiltshire concentrated, and in silence he drew out from his pockets and correctly named, the five chosen cards.

Another clever card trick, and then the apparent production of a large Union Jack out of three pieces of tissue paper which had been burnt before our eyes. It was completely baffling.

Charles Luker followed. He produced three squares of paper—red, white and black. These he folded and tore from the folds a piece "the size of a sixpence." Well, it was some saxeppence, for the remnants turned into a Scotsman's hat.

Then came his attempts at dry-cleaning. Three pieces of silk—green, red and yellow, but all heavily stained with black marks—were shown to the audience. By the strangest coincidence, he had with him

a packet marked "Lux," and into the packet, obviously quite empty, he pushed the three squares. A wave of his wand, a few prods, and out came three squares of silk, but this time perfectly clean.

Trick followed trick, and Charles fully deserved the applause which greeted him at the end of his act.

And then there was a surprise. Just to fill a gap, or so he said, Percy Ashton went on to the stage. He was only a newcomer (so he said), but he made two glasses standing on a book defy the law of gravity by being turned upside down. Some amazing card tricks followed. Into a little black bag with a zip fastener, he put an egg. He crushed the bag, squeezing it in all directions, opened it again, and the bag was empty. "See if you can find it," he asked Miss Scott, who was in the audience. She opened the bag, and there was the egg. Well, once again we were left guessing.

Then the audience sat back and enjoyed two songs from Horace Manning, who is himself a promising recruit to the Section.

And so we came to the last part of the programme. "Smudger" Smith, with easy assurance and a wicked grin, making two glasses apparently hang upside down from a book; then stuffing them in their upright position with pieces of silk, and repeating the trick, only this time gently drawing out the silk from the glasses still upside down. A beautiful piece of showmanship followed—the clearing up of all his props including a magic wand, which apparently enabled him to take a glass of beer from an empty tin. Finally, the manipulation of a piece of green pleated paper into at least fifty designs—from a saucepan to a hula hula skirt. It was very funny, and very clever.

Mr. Mackay spoke for everyone when he said that the show we had seen that evening was first class. He thanked Madame Zomah, Mr. Oscar Oswald, Mr. John Bradbury and Ethelbertine, all of them founder members of the Section, Mr. Fred Willis and Mr. Reg Jamison for their great help since the Section began. Madame Zomah, in reply, said there was little to add except to say how proud they all were of the way in which the St. Dunstaners had done their stuff, not only that evening, but on other occasions, and not always on a platform. They were a credit to their instructors.

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Mere words cannot measure the deep regret in the closing of West House, and although it will rise again like the Phoenix, the home from home will be just another memory in the annals of St. Dunstan's.

Whilst it is recognised that reconstruction was necessary, it is felt that the deprivation of West House as a holiday centre could be readjusted materially and financially without losing sight of the needs of Permanent and Convalescent cases.

At this juncture too, I would, through the medium of the REVIEW, pay my personal tribute to Matron Ouseley for her sympathetic understanding, her untiring energies as the liaison between the public and St. Dunstan's; to all V.A.D.s, ever at our service; to Arthur Mason and his band of orderlies (the back room boys); and last, but not least, the Catering and Kitchen staff, who did so much in the back areas, and too, our friend Austin, always at the service of his fellow men.

"Thank you" is but small reward to show the immensity of appreciation.

Yours sincerely,

Brighton. W. A. MUGGERIDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

Sir Ian's remarks in last month's Notes should hearten many new St. Dunstaners. The use of a stick is a science that the young men will find takes a long time to develop. A dead stick is useless, so do not use a rubber ferrule, but a fairly substantial stick with the "bullet" variety of metal ferrule. It should act as a tuning prong.

A blind man without a stick is like a tight-rope walker without a balancing pole. This, however, is no reason why men in their own homes or St. Dunstan's need to habitually carry a stick hitting people's legs, etc.

I always knew when my children were young that one day they would grow up and leave me. So I made a habit of walking independently along the grass verge, etc., when out for our regular evening and Sunday rambles. I remember well the thrill when I went alone for my first long walk, pretending to myself that they were either just over the hedge or a bit further on or behind. Gradually increased the distance, but the reaction to this now is that I feel safer by myself, behind my dog, than I do with an escort. Castle Cary. A. J. RADFORD.

### Other News

When Princess Elizabeth visited Derby recently, our St. Dunstaner, H. Bridgman, was among the guard of honour which she inspected, and to whom she spoke.

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T. Attrell has been made one of the Vice-Presidents of Polegate British Legion.

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Ned Ward and Sean MacNamara, both of Dublin, who will be remembered by men who were with them at Church Stretton, have been decorated with the Emergency Medal.

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Edward Denny has received the War Medal, which has been awarded to him for services rendered during the recent war. With it was a letter of thanks from Field Marshal J. C. Smuts, then Prime Minister of South Africa.

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W. E. Bignell, of Edgware, has found a new hobby—rabbit keeping. For the first time in his life he entered his rabbits at a local show and won five prizes, including three firsts.

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W. Webb, of Great Houghton, has been in his present house and job for 33 years. Can anyone beat this?

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St. Dunstaners must have a way with leeks. S. Purvis, of Seghill, was 11th in the local Leek Show, from among 67 competitors, and J. Marshall, of Horden, Co. Durham, won two first prizes in local shows.

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B. Bentley, of Stoke-on-Trent, placed a wreath at the British Legion Memorial Parade on Remembrance Sunday, and H. McCrea laid a wreath on the Belfast Cenotaph during the Armistice ceremony.

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F. C. W. Westaway has just celebrated the 25th anniversary of his election to the Executive Committee of Yeovil British Legion. He is also on the Benevolent Committee.

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Four hundred German war-blinded and their dependants are to live in a specially built town near Ansbach, Bavaria, which will be equipped with all the latest devices for helping the sightless, says the *Daily Telegraph*.

### Ovingdean Notes

Our activities at Ovingdean seem to have been somewhat overshadowed by the happenings at West House during the past few weeks until on October 22nd the doors there were closed and the last of the resident St. Dunstaners had set off on their journey either to Ovingdean or Blackpool.

Within a short space of time the contractors had arrived at West House and were getting on with the job of alterations. To Ovingdean we welcomed the following 16 permanent residents from West House, whose friends may like to note their address for the next few months: Messrs. F. Alcock, "Daddy" Anderson, H. Day, T. Dee, E. J. Hall, J. Hiscock, A. J. Holland, J. Keville, G. Kilsby, W. Manning, R. Newman, A. Northcott, W. Sankey, W. Sheridan, G. Taylor and T. Tuxford. George Richardson and Joe Howe, also previously West House residents, were already at Ovingdean in Ward 1. With these men came the following V.A.D. Staff: Mrs. Carter, Miss Morgan, Miss Nias; and Orderly Staff: Messrs. Webster, Barrows, Cater, Pain, Greest and one or two other newer staff perhaps not quite so well known to St. Dunstaners. Transferred too was Sister Guinan, Miss Morris, Miss Holland and Mrs. Hutchinson, and to transport department, Ovingdean, Driver L. Austin was added.

We in the Sunny South will be looking forward to hearing occasionally from our friends in the Frozen North—so see what you can do, Blackpool.

Perhaps it is that the summer visitors are no longer taking a day trip to Brighton, but we have not been quite so inundated with visitors to the Centre this month. Amongst those who did come, and one who went away particularly impressed, was Frau Erica Musche, who is a representative of the United Nations Association for the province of Styria, in Austria. We were also pleased to welcome a party of patients from the Queen Victoria Hospital at East Grinstead (which is, of course, well known to several St. Dunstaners). They were extremely interested in the work being done here and hope to send along other groups of patients from time to time.

Our Debating Society has been getting into its stride once more, ready for the

long winter evenings. On October 3rd the subject was, "That there should be a Channel Tunnel," and on the 17th a very lively debate on, "That it is better to be a jack-of-all-trades than master of one." The voting on this occasion went against the motion. Finally there was a very good debate on, "That the good old days were best," but the voting went against the motion.

Before this is in print we shall have held our first dance to which all local St. Dunstaners are to be invited (November 11th) but we should like to take the opportunity of reminding local men that these dances will be held on every Friday in future and we hope that they will come along on these occasions, now that West House is closed. From time to time we shall be arranging other entertainments to which they will be most welcome and, as far as possible, these will be notified to them through the REVIEW.

#### RESULTS OF OCTOBER KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS

**Shooting**—36 entries. Winner: J. Mahony.  
Runner-up: F. Cunliff.

**Darts**—14 entries.

*Totally Blind*—Winner: W. Evans.  
Runner-up: F. Cunliff.

*Slight Sight*—Winner: G. Lofty.  
Runner-up: E. Green.

#### TEST RESULTS

*Typing*—H. R. Biggs, B. Dunkley, W. Matthews.

*Writing*—A. Ryan (Australian).

*Preliminary*—T. Partington.

*Advanced*—J. Loach.

#### Ministry of Pensions Cars

Since Bill Harding received the first Ministry of Pensions car in February last, a number of other St. Dunstaners have received theirs. They are Messrs. J. Boyd, Brighton; A. Burnham, Oxford; A. Cavanagh, Salford; E. G. Higgs, Reading; W. Griffiths, Blackburn; L. Faulkner, Northwich; J. A. Peckett, Manchester; T. R. Gaygan, North Harrow; J. H. Banks, Neasden; G. P. Owens, North Harrow; D. Bell, Edinburgh; E. Miller, Leamington Spa; A. Nichols, Portslade; G. L. Treglown, Holyhead; P. Stubbs, Norwich; J. Britton, Pontefract; W. Wrigley, Manchester; W. Lethbridge, Oldham; and E. Higgs, Southfields; H. W. Greatrex, Peacehaven; J. Proctor, Saltdean; H. Bridgman, Derby.

### Young St. Dunstaners

News of three of the Loram boys. Jack, the eldest son, is a Warrant Officer in the Navy and is stationed at Malta, has had a second daughter; Bill, in the Marines and stationed at Hong Kong, has just been promoted to the rank of Sergeant; and Stanley, who married a Greek girl, is living in Athens and is doing well as a teacher of English.

Leslie Straughton, of Workington, has entered Sheffield University for a four-year course, to study for a degree in Metallurgy. His firm, the United Steel Company, are so pleased with his work with them that they have given him this splendid opportunity.

Mrs. Vessey, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Sparkes, marched with the British Legion in the Remembrance Day parade at Grimsby. Mrs. Vessey is an ex-V.A.D. nurse. An excellent photograph appeared in the *Grimsby Evening Telegraph*.

#### Marriages

Joyce Davies, Darwen, on August 5th, to Percy Miller.

Cathie Murphy, Glasgow, on September 30th, to John Brown.

Kathleen Hills, Ramsgate, to Bernard Howlett.

#### Pen Friends Wanted

Commandant Fawcett has received the following letter from a little girl in South Africa. Would some young St. Dunstaners like to correspond with Katherine?

DEAR SIR,

Colonel Peter Price, who is a friend of mine, told me about St. Dunstan's home.

I am a school girl, aged 10½ years, and I go to the Convent High School in Bulawayo.

We have come from England and settled in Rhodesia nine months ago. My home in England was in Edgware, Middlesex. I would like to make friends with someone from your Home and tell them about Rhodesia, my little brother, Anthony, and my dog, Tommy. I hope to hear from you soon.

My Rhodesian friend, Jill, would also like to correspond with somebody from St. Dunstan's. She is 9 years old.

Yours sincerely,

KATHERINE FISHER.

65 Duncan Road, Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia.

### Triplicate News

The ranks of young St. Dunstaners now includes two sets of triplets—and bonny youngsters they are.

Brian, Pamela and Robert Bilcliff, who will be three years old in January, were given a special prize at the Baby Show at a Conservative Fete and Rally held recently at Grays. They were each presented with a silver spoon and pusher by Mrs. Norman Hackforth, wife of Mr. Hackforth—the "Voice" of Twenty Questions.

Sid Doy's three little sons—Thomas, James and Peter, now five months old, won second prize in a recent Baby Show. Their prize was a handsome bath.

#### Marriage

MINTER—REEVES.—On October 28th, J. R. Minter, of Southall, Middlesex, to Miss Barbara Wynham Reeves, of Brighton.

#### Silver Weddings

Congratulations upon their anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. W. Nixon, Sheffield, October 1st; Mr. and Mrs. J. Straughton, Workington, November 6th.

#### Grandfathers

A. ("Smudger") Smith, Wembley; A. C. Cook, Mapperley, Nottingham; C. Firth, Heswall; L. Johns, Totnes; A. E. Hatherley, Kingsbridge; S. Purvis, Seghill; F. C. W. Westaway, Yeovil; H. Raymond, Frimley Green; J. T. Walch, Saltdean.

#### Great-Grandfathers

A. G. Blyde, Camberwell, for the third time.

W. Sullivan, Passage West, Co. Cork, for the seventh time. Is this a record?

#### Wanted

**Cash Register.**—If any St. Dunstan's shopkeeper has a second-hand cash register for sale, would he send all details, including price, to W. E. Bamber, Bamber's Stores, London Road, Hassocks, Sussex.

**Field Glasses.**—Bob Black, of Chisholme 39 Windsor Road, Thornley Park, Denton, nr. Manchester, wants to buy a pair of field glasses for Mrs. Black. Offers please, to above address.

## “ In Memory ”

### Private David Potts, 6th Yorkshire Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of D. Potts, of Norton-on-Tees, which occurred in hospital on September 27th.

He served from August 20th, 1914 until March, 1916, and came to St. Dunstan's the following year; he was wounded at Gallipoli.

He was trained as a mat-maker, and although his health was not very good, he carried on at this work for a number of years, but latterly had only managed wool-rug work.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his friends at St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral, at which some sixty people were present.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Potts and her family.

### Private Harold S. Potts, Royal Army Medical Corps

With deep regret we record also the death of H. S. Potts, of Ilfracombe.

After his discharge from the Army in February, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1921, where he trained in poultry-keeping.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser.

He leaves a widow and four little girls under sixteen. Our warm sympathy is extended to his widow and her family.

### Private Frederick J. Clark, Labour Corps

We record with deep regret the death of F. J. Clark, of Colchester, following a serious operation.

He came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1926, where he trained as a joiner. He had, however, been in failing health for a long time. He was admitted to hospital, but he passed away there on October 19th.

A wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and grown-up family.

### Third Air Mechanic William Dodd, Royal Flying Corps

We record with deep regret the death of W. Dodd, who passed away at the Ovingdean Home on October 31st.

He came to us in November, 1947, his sight having failed as a result of his service in the First World War, but he was not able to undertake any training, and he was admitted as a permanent resident of West House. He leaves no relatives.

### T. Masego

We have heard with regret from Mrs. Chadwick Bates that a St. Dunstaner of the recent war, T. Masego, of South Africa, died there on June 25th.

Our sympathy is extended to his relatives.

## Births

SLEE.—On September 6th, to the wife of J. D. Slee, of Penrith, a son.

STOCKWELL.—On October 18th, to the wife of C. Stockwell, of Withdean, twin daughters—Ann and Jill.

THOMPSON.—On October 31st, to the wife of Leslie Thompson, of Gateshead, twin sons—Bobby and Philip.

VINCENT.—On October 19th, to the wife of J. R. Vincent, of Maidenhead, a daughter.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

FOULKES.—To A. W. Foulkès, of Bletchley, whose wife passed away on October 23rd after a severe illness.

HAWKINS.—To G. H. Hawkins, of Cannock, in the loss of his son, Stanley, on November 14th.

SAMPSON.—To R. E. Sampson, of North Tawton, whose wife died on October 24th. Mrs. Sampson had not been in good health for some time.

SIMON.—To Blodwyn Simon, of Ruthin, whose mother has passed away. Blodwyn lived with her mother.

WILLIAMS.—To J. Williams, of Swansea, whose mother, with whom he lived, died on October 15th.

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Our sympathy goes out also to Mr. and Mrs. T. Johnson, of Ashton-under-Lyne, who have recently lost a much-loved little grandson. He was three years old and was living with them at the time. Another grandson was born to them in January last.