

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 368—VOLUME XXXIII

JANUARY, 1950

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

How to Register your Vote

WE all know now that the General Election will be held on February 23rd, and as that day draws nearer, many St. Dunstaners will no doubt be thinking about the best method of recording their votes.

The best advice I can offer is to go along to the Polling Station yourself if you possibly can, for it is always an interesting experience and the almost unprecedented excitement which the forthcoming election is bound to create will be stirring.

As many of you are already aware, under the Blind Voters Act a blind person may either:

(a) Take to the polling booth a companion, who may be any other person having a vote in the constituency or ward, or his or her father, mother, wife or husband, brother or sister, son or daughter, such persons being 21 years of age, to mark the ballot paper;

or

(b) Ask the Presiding Officer to mark the ballot paper in the presence of representatives of the candidates, as was the case before the law came into force in 1934.

The provision whereby a blind person may take a specified relative or friend to mark the paper resulted from a Bill which I piloted through Parliament in 1933, in order to provide blind people with the greatest degree of secrecy in voting that was possible in their case, and if he wishes to use this method, he must tell the presiding officer that he is blind and that he has brought a companion to mark his paper. The companion must then fill in and sign a simple declaration which will be given to him by the presiding officer. This declaration merely states whom the companion is and that he will keep the knowledge of the vote secret.

This, then, is the method of recording your vote if you are able personally to attend the polling station. But if this should prove impossible for any reason, a blind person can now apply to be placed on the Absent Voters List for an indefinite period, and may vote by post. This concession is provided for under the Representation of the People Act, Section 8 (1) (c) for a voter who "is unable or likely to be unable, by reason either of blindness or other physical incapacity, to go in person to the Polling Station, or if able to go, to vote unaided."

Application to be placed on the Absent Voters List must be made on Form RPF 7, and there is a doctor's certificate included which has to be completed, and it is important

to remember, too, that this form must be returned before the election begins, i.e., before February 3rd. The form can be obtained from the Electoral Registration Officer or any local political agent.

The same facility is available for those who cannot vote in person because of occupation, service or employment, or because he no longer lives in the area where he is registered. In this case, a similar form, but minus the doctor's certificate, is needed, and this can also be obtained from the electoral registration authority for the voter's constituency.

Although I still recommend all blind men and women to get to the polling station if they can, this new regulation does enable you to record your own vote from your own home if you so desire.

IAN FRASER.

St. Dunstan's Old Contemptibles

Thirty-one St. Dunstaners have so far responded to the invitation in the November REVIEW to Old Contemptibles to send in their names. They are Messrs. W. Appleby, J. Ashmore, S. E. Backhouse, A. W. Ballard, J. Battsland, C. E. Bolton, E. Brewer, F. J. Brown (Birmingham), Arthur Brown (Exeter), A. Cook (Brighton), G. T. Dennis, John Edwards (N.W.1), M. Goundrill, G. Hadfield, H. E. Hill, R. Z. Hurrell, A. Keep, J. W. Mahony, J. McAndrew, C. McCairn (enlisted as J. Martin as he was under age), G. E. Perry, G. B. Priest, G. H. Richards (Manchester), A. W. Roberts (Chester), J. B. Selby, W. Shayler, W. Stedman, C. F. Spiers, H. Taylor (Bournemouth), G. W. Wardle and W. Woodrow.

All these St. Dunstaners landed in France between August 4th and November 23rd, 1914. W. Woodrow had served regularly since 1901 before he was taken prisoner at Mons. R. Chaplin had served since 1910 when war broke out, but he was not sent to France until December, 1915.

C. E. Bolton landed in France on August 23rd and was blinded on the 27th, which must surely make him the first St. Dunstaner to lose his sight, although he did not come to us until the following April. The claim to be the first admitted is, we think, now held by J. B. Selby, who was one of the first four St. Dunstaners, being admitted on February 15th, 1915. J. W. Kerr, of Widnes, was, we believe, another.

Correction

The price of the Shelf Model Electric Alarm Clock, mentioned last month, is 30s. 10d., and not 30s. 1d. The wall model is 30s. 1d.

From All Quarters

A. Hamlett, of Winsford, is making a great success of tobacco growing. He has grown and cured 15½ pounds in his allotment this year. It is good stuff with a pleasant smell.

★ ★ ★

Alan Nichols is writing a book and he wants to include in it some personal stories of Sir Arthur Pearson, as told by St. Dunstaners. He therefore invites St. Dunstaners to send in their own stories of Sir Arthur, for which he will give prizes of five guineas, three guineas, and two guineas, with a fee of two guineas for any other published in the book. Stories should be sent to him at Rose Bungalow, 97 Mile Oak Road, Portslade.

★ ★ ★

There was a fire at the house of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Holland, of Heswall, just before Christmas, but fortunately it was confined to one room. An electric fire had fallen over and the hearth and surrounding floorboards were set alight. The Leading Fireman said that it was "sheer good luck" that the fire had not spread; it was due to the fact that there were no draughts in the room.

★ ★ ★

Bill Harding and his wife have four lovely thoroughbred wire-haired fox terrier puppies (dogs) which they would sell to St. Dunstaners at a special price.

★ ★ ★

W. Carthy, of Rainworth, has been elected Chairman of Rainworth Branch of the British Legion and Chairman of the Old People's Association. He collected £450 in ten months, which gave a gift of £2 each to local old age pensioners at Christmas.

★ ★ ★

Bill Moon, ex-R.A.F., has been granted the Air Efficiency Award.

London Club Notes

On January 6th the London Club held its Annual General Meeting, Mr. W. G. Askew presiding. The Committee for the ensuing year was elected as follows: Messrs. P. Ashton (Chairman), M. Burns, F. Fleming, T. Gaygan, J. Muir, F. Rhodes and A. Wiltshire. The year's report and statement of accounts were favourably received. In the discussion that followed, members were asked to let the committee have their suggestions for a summer sports day for this year. It was also suggested that occasional talks should be arranged on current affairs, preferably for Friday evenings. This was agreed upon and we do hope that fellows will support these talks, which will be announced in the REVIEW. The wish was also expressed that new St. Dunstaners should come to the Club, and the committee expressed its willingness to do all in its power to cater for their entertainment. The Club now looks forward to another year of entertainment and sport.

The Club is open on Monday (Institute of Magicians), Tuesday (Whist Drive). It is closed on Wednesday. Thursday (Dominoes), Friday is a free night, and Saturday is Bridge. A dart board is also provided and we are looking forward to some important Dart Matches in the forthcoming year.

Founder's Day Dance, Chelsea Town Hall, March 24th.

7 Mile Walk, Regent's Park, March 11th.

10 Mile Walk in April.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge Notes

The Annual General Meeting of the Bridge Club was held at Headquarters on Saturday, December 10th, and was presided over by Colonel Ball, who managed to keep us from going too far astray. The report of the last meeting was read and carried, followed by the election of new officers. They were as follows: Jock Muir (Captain), S. Webster (Treasurer), and Drummer Downs (Flying Column). All business was transacted in record time and a vote of appreciation was given to Miss Ibbetson and Mr. Willis for their generous help to the Club during the past year.

Saturday, December 17th, found us collected for our Christmas party. We managed to fill eleven tables, the tables not

being the only things that were filled as, thanks to Miss Ibbetson, a very delightful tea was provided. The sensation of the afternoon, however, was the sudden appearance of Terry Roden among the leaders, and for a time he looked like winning, but the Quarter Bloke seemed to have plenty in hand and drew away comfortably, winning by two lengths, Bruce Ingrey following up third. Mrs. Askew kindly presented the prizes. This rounded off a very happy and enjoyable afternoon.

J. M.

Epitaph

Here I lie with my two daughters
Dead from drinking the Cheltenham waters.
If I had stuck to Epsom Salts
I shouldn't be lying in these damp vaults.

Bridge at Blackpool

On the evening of December 30th, Mr. Jolly arranged for a team of St. Dunstaners to visit the Blackpool Bridge Club, where a most enjoyable evening was spent. A match of twenty-four boards was played, resulting in a win, by 800 points, by the St. Dunstan's team, the players being Messrs. F. King, J. Walch, W. Collins and G. Jolly.

Liverpool Club

The Liverpool Club held its Christmas Party on Saturday, December 10th, at its headquarters, the Sefton Hall, when members with their wives and families came along in the real festive mood. Our guest of honour was Matron B. Vaughan-Davies, accompanied by a surprise visitor who turned out to be none other than our good friend, Miss Wilson.

The party commenced with an excellent tea, which was immediately followed by a magnificent entertainment, given by Mr. J. C. Reason, a well-known pianist on the Merseyside, and his friends. This was indeed a grand start to our evening. A happy little ceremony was then enacted when Matron and Miss Wilson were both presented with a Christmas gift from the Club members by Joan Brougham and Dorothy Cooper. Both were extremely gratified and deeply touched by these gifts.

Matron was then asked to act as Mrs. Santa Claus by distributing gifts to the children, much to the youngsters' delight. Dancing and games was not the order of

the evening, and much fun was caused with some of the ladies, blindfolded, feeding their partners with jelly, the successful pair being T. Kinder and Mrs. Owen. Great amusement was also had with the Baby Bottle Sucking Competition, when A. Wright proved himself to be the Champion Sucker on the Merseyside. The children also had their fun with Musical Bumps and pinning the tail on the tail-less pig, these events being won by May Barton and Leslie Brougham.

A most successful evening came to a close with everyone joining hands for "Auld Lang Syne."

Note.—Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Saturday, January 14th, with further meetings on each successive fortnight.

T. M.

Correspondents Wanted

From places as far apart as Woking, India, and America come requests this month for St. Dunstaners to correspond and possibly pass on the braille REVIEW and "Nuggets."

Mr. J. R. Jerard, of Woking—who is partially blind—would like to correspond in braille. He lives in a home for the blind.

Mr. L. Motwani, of New Delhi, a blind teacher, would welcome letters from St. Dunstaners in braille. He has already met some of our Indian St. Dunstaners at Dehra Dun. "Nuggets" would also be appreciated.

Mr. Clark W. Noble, of Massachusetts, U.S.A., also wants to have the REVIEW in braille if any St. Dunstaner would be good enough to pass his copy on.

The Editor will be glad to give any of these addresses to interested St. Dunstaners.

Stalag 9 A/H

A Christmas card has reached us, addressed "To the boys of Stalag 9 A/H Closter Haina, now at St. Dunstan's." It was from T. J. Rowe (Taffy), R.A.M.C., and it read: "A hearty Christmas greeting that's laden with good cheer, and wishes for the best of luck all through the coming year." Taffy's address is 5 Greenfield Terrace, Cwypark, Treorchy, Rhondda.

In the News

Introducing the first of three articles on party election machines, Charles Wintour wrote in the *Evening Standard* on January 16th:—

"In a very small back room at 22 Gayfere Street, S.W., there sits a blind telephonist before a switchboard. 'Liberal Party,' he says and plugs the call through to the Press Office. 'Liberal Party . . . Liberal Party . . . Liberal Party.'

"He takes a few minutes off to talk to me, and a pretty girl who has come from New Zealand to learn about switchboards takes over. 'It's the first one I've seen anywhere,' she says, nervously, but sits down to work with what seems miraculous deftness and efficiency.

"The blind man is Mr. Hurrell. He has been working the Liberal switchboard for five years, ever since he was trained by St. Dunstan's.

"He is proud of the fact that for the duration of the election campaign he will operate 15 outside lines instead of the usual four. From now until polling day he will be working an 11-hour day.

"And will he vote Liberal? 'Well, I don't know,' he says. 'I might. I might vote Conservative. I don't know. If at the end of all this I am still sane then I shall just sit back and think.'

"It is to capture the votes of the Mr. Hurrells of this country that the hundred-odd Liberal officials and their staff will be working overtime for the next six weeks."

The St. Dunstaner referred to is our old friend, A. W. Hurrell.

From the *East Anglian Daily Times*, December 28th:—

"For the second year in succession thieves have robbed a blind ex-Service St. Dunstan's man, Mr. R. Waters, who resides at Needham, and carries on a small poultry business.

"On Christmas Eve thieves were apparently disturbed in Mr. Waters' poultry run, but they escaped, taking with them a number of valuable stock poultry."

An excellent article by J. Shonfield, of Reading, appeared in the Christmas Number of the *Christian World*. It was one of four under the heading, "These Count Their Blessings," and our St. Dunstaner wrote it at the Editor's invitation.

International Braille Conference

There are many thousands of blind people in the world who are unable to read or write, or to have any further education at all. That is because there has not been sufficient interest in their welfare throughout the universe.

A few months ago the Indian Government approached UNESCO for advice on this matter and, as a result, UNESCO decided to invite a delegate from each member country to a Conference, in an endeavour to find a way to solve the problem, and to stress to the Governments the importance of the care and education of the blind. The Conference had as its aims:

(a) To give those people who had no knowledge of braille a symbol or sign which is used in most of the European and Latin American languages, and so make a universal braille. This would make it much easier for a person to learn a foreign language.

(b) To make recommendations to the big Conference which is to be held in April next, and to prepare the preliminary work necessary for this main Conference.

UNESCO handed the matter of the Advisory Committee over to its Braille Consultant, Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who is himself a St. Dunstaner, and in due course I received an invitation to be one of the delegates to the Advisory Conference which was to be held in Paris in December.

Arrangements for my journey were made by St. Dunstan's and I flew to Paris from Northolt on December 14th, 1949. I was very proud and excited to be going as a delegate to the Conference, and also a little anxious because it was the first time I had been to Paris. I had little opportunity to explore the city, for the Conference kept us occupied, but I did manage to do a little shopping.

We began by choosing our Chairman, who was from the United Kingdom, and a Vice-Chairman, who was from India. The members of the Conference were from France, United States, Mexico, Egypt and Persia. The meetings lasted six days and we thoroughly discussed all items on the Agenda, which had been prepared by Sir Clutha Mackenzie. Finally, certain resolutions were put forward to be tabled for the main Conference in April, 1950.

I was due to fly back to England, but owing to the foggy weather my return was delayed, and finally I returned by train and boat from Dunkirk.

I got back to England a few days before Christmas, which I spent with friends, and I am very happy indeed to have had the opportunity of attending this initial Conference, which may finally prove to be of such assistance to many blind people throughout the world.

SHARI BEKHRADNIA.

Christmas Cards

Readers may like to be reminded that old Christmas cards and calendars are welcomed by the Andrew Davison Christmas Card Industry, Morpeth, Northumberland. The cards are renovated and the profits go to help badly disabled ex-servicemen to augment their pensions.

Placements

Roy Mendham, Watford, as a capstan lathe operator with De Havilland Engine Company; R. R. Stuart, as an upholsterer with Messrs. J. H. Hunt & Co., High Wycombe; S. Bekhradnia as a telephone operator with Messrs. Alltools, Ltd., Brentford.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," January, 1920:

"The men who are returning after their Christmas holiday, and any old St. Dunstaners who visit the Hostel alone, must walk warily until they are accustomed to the alterations which have taken place as a result of the closing down of the House. The main entrance to St. Dunstan's will in future be by means of the Bungalow Annexe, and Hetherington, the cheery gate porter, who has guided so many of us out of difficulties and dangers as we approach or leave St. Dunstan's, will shortly take up his post there. From the Bungalow entrance, which is only some 200 yards or so beyond the old gate, a covered way runs all the way to the Braille Room, of which half has now been given up to offices for Sir Arthur, Mrs. Bates and her staff. Sir Arthur is to be found in the room which, since this building was erected, has been occupied by Miss Pain. Mrs. Bates and Mrs. Fraser will be in an adjoining room."

Letters to the Editor

The Editor,
DEAR SIR,

Badges for Guide Dogs

We guide dog owners in Holland must carry a white stick with us. This is different than in England as in the Training Centre for Guide Dogs there, you are not allowed to have a stick. I myself do not like a white stick, but find it very helpful, as quite a few people here do not know why the dog has a harness on. It is also very useful in crossing a road, as the traffic would not notice any sign on the dog. As for wearing dark glasses, people are apt to think they are sun glasses, so therefore are not much help. My advice is—no signs whatever on the dog. Just carry a white stick, which is quite noticeable for the public, and safe. It is awkward for me sometimes, as I am still in uniform, and some people think I am just taking a dog out for a walk, as it is not noticeable that I am blind.

Yours sincerely,
Nijmegen, Holland. REIN WAAS.

The Editor,
DEAR SIR,

I would like to support Mr. A. J. Radford's remarks in the November REVIEW on walking sticks and the ferrule, too. The best way to buy a stick is to ask the shop-keeper for an ash stick. A flimsy stick is no use. I have known two blind men break their stick when travelling alone, in each case getting on a bus.

A fellow St. Dunstaner suggested to me we should have our own St. Dunstan's tie, in our colours. What do others think? Will those in favour send the Editor a card? We are aware of the regimental tie, and both possess ours, but feel there are occasions when a St. Dunstan's tie would be appropriate.

Yours sincerely,
Southwick. G. FALLOWFIELD.

The Editor,
DEAR SIR,

The London Club

May I, through the columns of the REVIEW, speak to my contemporaries of Stretton and Ovingdean.

I attended the Annual General Meeting of the London Club on Friday last. Among the St. Dunstaners present there were but five of the Second War.

I, for one, am not a frequent visitor to the Club, but when I do go I always find a warm welcome there from all and sundry. There are regular evenings for whist, dominoes, bridge and magic, and there are outside activities which are very enjoyable. I have attended several and can recommend them.

Now, all this has from time to time been advertised in the REVIEW, but so far the response of my generation has not been very warm.

During the general meeting, I was very happy to hear one of the first war men say a few words about what could be done to encourage the new men, and I can say how this remark was received. It was the subject of immediate talk, and from all sides I could sense a warmth and general desire to get together and try anything to make the younger men come along.

In the Club is a suggestion box; there is also a chairman, and a postal service, and so I feel sure that if some of the old Strettonites and Ovingdean men would send ideas or suggestions through these channels, they would be dealt with in a most warm-hearted manner. It's also up to the second war men more now as time passes, for the second war men will gradually take over the Club through *anno domini*. So when, in twenty years' time, you—I mean *you*—go into the room, you will maybe meet old so-and-so, who slept in the next bed to you at Stretton, and you haven't seen since '44 or '45.

I have not written this as a committee man or from any personal angle, but merely as a token of thanks to our older comrades, whom I know are really anxious to make the Club as much ours as theirs.

Yours in anticipation,
Tottenham, N.18. JOHN A. MUDGE.

St. Dunstaner Transmits Wireless

A. R. Mallory, of Ottawa, writes: "The season's greetings to everyone. The Mallory clan are well, including my three grandchildren. I am still kept quite busy with the dry canteen I manage here, enjoy bowling, and now have my amateur broadcaster's licence, 'VE3AFL.' I am on code just now, but hope to go on 'phone next January."

Blackpool Notes

To all who will be visiting Blackpool—even for the few minutes whilst reading these notes—greetings for happy days in 1950! We shall look forward to seeing St. Dunstaners and their wives who have been here before, and hope for visits from those who have not yet tasted the joys of Breezy Blackpool.

On December 9th we, as so many more connected with our world-wide organisation, remembered and mourned the loss of our Founder. We held a short but impressive service in the lounge, which was attended by some of our local St. Dunstaners.

December 14th was a day for rejoicing. The oldest St. Dunstaner here, our dear old friend, Don McInnes, celebrated his 80th birthday. We drank to his very good health with a "glassaport" for all.

On the 17th a party of twenty thoroughly enjoyed a band concert, given by the A.A. Battery. It was followed two days later by an invitation from the staff of Messrs. Sitwells, Ltd., to a very jolly party at Dean Street Hall. The following evening we were the guests of the local R.A.F.A., and on the 23rd we attended the Palace of Variety. There was a dance in the lounge on Christmas Eve.

On Christmas morning, Father Christmas called at the usual time (11 o'clock) to distribute the packed and interesting stockings (made of canvas). For several years the first article to be dropped into the surprise packets has been a silver three-penny piece, given by a local "barlady" who wishes the recipients joy—but does not wait for a thank you. Fifty sat down to the festive board. Then we listened to the King's speech before we sat round to enjoy our family party round the fire.

The Boxing Day party was great fun, the evening passing all too quickly.

On Tuesday, the 27th, we went by way of a change to dine at the Tower Restaurant. The Blackpool Corporation lent us a double decker bus for the outward and homeward journeys. On the 28th a small party attended the "Under 30's Club" dance at the Dean Street Hall. R. J. Williams and Joe Walch remained in the musical elbows game to the end and won prizes. On the 29th we saw a new play, "Master of Arts," at the Grand. This was easy to follow,

and as it was about Ascot week we could lay odds that it would be a successful evening. It was.

We had the usual New Year's Eve party, which was scheduled to end soon after midnight, but as Joe Walch and Billy Yarwood let in the New Year it was impossible to curb their—or anybody else's—high spirits for quite a time. However, everyone voted it a happy end to 1949, and a good beginning to 1950.

Things We Should Like to Know

Who suggested Postman's Knock, and who received most letters?

B. V. D.

Other News

Among those who have recently received their Ministry of Pensions cars are Messrs. F. L. Jones, Birmingham; J. Shonfield, Reading; J. Swann, Leicester; and N. F. Pawson, S.E.25.

★ ★ ★

E. Brockie, of Torphins, presented the prizes at a recent whist drive in aid of the Scottish Institute for the War-blinded after he had given a talk on the work of the Institute.

★ ★ ★

J. R. Brown, of Nuneaton, has been in his present house since June, 1916, and basket-making since July, 1915. This is in reply to W. Webb (Great Houghton), who has been in his house and job for 33 years.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Rutledge, of Belfast, has lost her brother in tragic circumstances. He was killed as the result of a car accident on his way to dine with friends on Christmas Day.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. E. Slaughter, Salisbury, December 23rd. Congratulations.

Natural Causes

Although the fact that he was a wartime soldier gave a man the opportunity of drinking too much raw gin, his death could not be attributed to war service, a judge decided yesterday.

—Report in "Daily Mirror."

Magicians Give Press Show

Members of the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians entertained their instructors to a party at headquarters on Monday, January 2nd, and the occasion was presided over by Madame Zomah, the President of the Institute, who, with her late husband, Professor Zomah, has done so much for the section since its inauguration two years ago.

The instructors present included Ethelbertine, Mr. Oscar Oswald (who acted as M.C. for the evening), Mr. Fred Willis, and Mr. Reg. Jamison, but Mr. John Bradbury could not be there owing to a professional engagement. The function was marked by the presence of a number of Press representatives, and, following the tea, several members performed for the benefit of our friends from Fleet Street.

Mr. Jock Brown started the ball rolling by making a number of cards disappear from his left hand by a mere flick of the fingers, and he afterwards produced them from his right trousers' pocket. Later he was able to indicate which members of the audience held certain coins by means of the cards.

Mr. Alf. Wiltshire followed, and his telepathy act completely bewildered the Press representative who acted as an assistant. He caused a good deal of amusement when he held the pack up to his eyes, and while hunting busily for the ace of spades quipped: "It's a good job the Minister of Pensions can't see me looking for this card; he would not understand."

Mr. Charles Luker then produced six handkerchiefs. Three were placed on a chair and three he proceeded to tie together. But when the three handkerchiefs were picked up from the chair it was found that they had tied themselves together and the other three had become untied. Next he put three dirty handkerchiefs into a box marked "Lux," and after waving the magic wand brought them out again perfectly clean, and then, just to prove there was no trickery, showed the box empty.

Mr. Smudger Smith defied the law of gravity by placing two tumblers on a book and turning them upside down, and to make it more difficult repeated the trick with a silk handkerchief which he first placed in each glass and then withdrew them while the glasses were in an upsidedown position.

With a piece of pleated paper he then produced more than fifty different designs from hats to sentry boxes and mushrooms.

Mr. Horace Manning, who only took up ventriloquism three months ago, showed how proficient he had become with some clever cross patter with his doll, Donald.

Finally, Mr. Bruce Ingrey made a lighted cigarette disappear in a handkerchief, but his best trick was to follow. When two volunteers held the ends of a four foot piece of rope, one cut the rope in two, and after the St. Dunstan's magician had tied the ends together, he passed his hands over the knot and it disappeared, leaving the rope again all in one piece.

The newspaper men went away very impressed by all they had seen—or did not see—and perhaps Madame Zomah herself best summed up the general view of the instructors when she said: "Even I, brought up in the atmosphere of magic, find it hard to believe." As one who was not brought up in the atmosphere of magic, I suggest that "hard to believe" was a slight understatement. This was also borne out by the press notices the following day, the *Daily Mail*, *Daily Mirror* and *Evening Standard* all carried excellent reports of the show.—B. C.

Grandfathers

E. Stevenson, Brighton; G. F. Smith, Guildford; W. H. Lacey, Edmonton.

★ ★ ★

Mr. and Mrs. S. Wain, of Derby, both of whom are 81 years of age, have 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Young St. Dunstaners

Sheila Boyter, A.T.S., was first in the javelin throwing and 100 yards race for her group, Royal Signals, and third in these two events for the whole of the British Women's Army.

Marriages

Wilfred Bentley, Manchester, on December 3rd, to Mildred Howarth, and Freda Bentley, on December 24th, to Leonard Charles Baguley.

Thanks

C. B. Baker, of Enfield, wants to thank the unknown person who returned the locket and chain which Mrs. Baker lost at the London Reunion.

Talking Book Library December Delights

In the final month of 1949, the five books released for circulation were all interesting reading. Appropriately enough, one was "A Christmas Carol," and the other four consisted of two detective stories, "The Cambridge Murders" and "The Franchise Affair," one unusual study of a firm of American lawyers, "Howe and Hummell," and one book of adventure, "British Adventure."

"A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, read Arthur Bush, needs very little comment from me except that if there is anyone who had not read it, they have a pleasant couple of hours in store. I must have read it a score of times, yet still, poor sentimental soul, I have to blow my nose.

"The Cambridge Murders," by D. Rees, read Arthur Bush, is, as the name implies, a thriller in which a college don fills the role of private detective, everybody is suspect, and, as usual, the most likely man "done it." Quite entertaining.

"The Franchise Affair," by Josephine Tey, read Robert Gladwell, has a crack at the popular press going for sensation before truth, and shows the hell suffered by a widow and daughter accused of sadism by a good-looking, sexy little baggage backed by the popular press. I like it—you might.

"Howe and Hummell," by R. H. Rovere, read Arthur Bush, gives a glimpse of the largest firm of shyster lawyers New York has ever experienced. Between 1869 and 1907, this firm defended and, it is rumoured, organised crime in New York, all quite legally, or so it seemed. The book may be humorous but these people were too powerful to be really funny.

"British Adventure," edited by W. Turner, read Alvar Lidell, is six books in one. The titles will explain the book fully. Here they are: "British," applying to them all. Merchant Traders; Soldiers; Sailors; Explorers; Mountaineers; and Airmen.

Pleasant reading for 1950. "NELSON."

Misogynist

Mr. Justice Oliver held at Manchester Assizes to-day that a ball hit for six which soared out of a suburban cricket ground and struck a woman on the head could not be regarded as a nuisance.—

Yorkshire Evening Post.

Invitation to the Bawl

An invitation came last week
For four men to a Christmas treat.
The announcement made—we four took heed.
Taylor, Edwards, Smith and Greave.

Thus, 'twas on Boxing Day we went
Like lords in our car—a real event!
We decided we'd be very gay
To brighten our hostess's holiday.

For no doubt they lived alone,
The mother and daughter, who'd asked by 'phone
For four St. Dunstaners to share
All their goodly Christmas fare.

At last we arrived—but what was this?
No peaceful cottage or sedate young miss.
Indeed to goodness, man—look you—
There were dogs and cats—nine babies too!

"Nine" did you say? Yes, man, for sure,
And barking dogs and cats galore.
The oldest babe was five months old,
We'd struck a baby farm, we're told.

Right at the start, Greaves missed the mark,
He trod on a dog and it started to bark.
It barked so loud, the babies woke,
Crying so hard, we thought they'd choke.

We then were given two babies apiece
To rock until their wailing ceased.
Greaves, having the largest lap,
Was given three to hold, poor sap.

Meanwhile, the ladies had to run
To prepare the meal for which we'd come.
As "sitters-in" we're pretty hot,
Those babes, they slept, the whole d——d lot.

Peace at last, to the meal we were taken,
The ladies, 'tis true, were somewhat shaken,
For it appeared they thought that we
Quite young boys would sure to be.

We may be getting on in years,
But after we'd knocked back the beers,
Those ladies had to confess, we're told,
That no St. Dunstaner is ever too old!

JACK GREAVES.

And it's true.

★ ★ ★

F. Collingwood, Burton-on-Trent, gave a talk on St. Dunstan's at a British Legion meeting recently.

Ovingdean Notes

Such a whirl of activities have taken place here this month that it is difficult to know where to begin our account of them—so what better than to take first things first.

We had two functions to fulfil at Ovingdean, to provide the usual end of term entertainments and then to undertake a very full programme for the holiday men who were coming to spend Christmas and New Year with us. For this reason we began our festivities as early as December 12th, when a really fine evening's entertainment was provided at the end of term Concert for trainees and friends by a number of the staff and trainees. The show, which went with a swing from start to finish, was held in the Music Hut, and there was surely something to appeal to all tastes, whether it was in the fine singing of the Choir and Soloists, the amusing sketch provided by Miss Bates, Miss Wilson and Sister Wightman, the monologue in the Stanley Holloway style by George Killingbeck, or that of Miss Carlton, entitled "My lovely willow soul." The music was provided by a band, directed by Mr. Redmond, which had amongst its members some of the trainees. We were all pleased to have Lady Fraser with us that night, and glad that she found time to come down before departing on her holiday.

The Trainees end of term Christmas Dinner and Dance was held on Wednesday, December 14th. On this occasion we welcomed Sir Neville and Lady Pearson. After an extremely good dinner, taken in an attractively decorated Dining Room, a most successful dance was held in the Lounge, and the Dining Room was quickly cleared so that the doors between the rooms could be opened for the overflow dancers. During the evening the initial distribution of food parcels sent from Australia was made by Max Miller, and before the trainees went home they each received a parcel from the consignment, as did the other St. Dunstaners resident in the Centre.

Trainees departed for home on December 16th and on the 22nd the holiday men began to arrive.

The programme commenced with a Dance on December 23rd and went on right up to the New Year. We held a Christmas Eve party in the Lounge, and with games, competitions, community sing-

ing, etc., everyone was soon in the holiday spirit. On Christmas Day there was a good attendance at the two Services in the Chapel, and, as in past years at West House, Christmas presents were distributed in the Lounge during the morning and they were handed out by Commandant's little girl Susan. Morning port was provided by the Grocers' Association, and Commandant, on behalf of St. Dunstan's, thanked the representative who was present. After an excellent dinner there were some with sufficient energy to go for an afternoon walk, but there were many who retired for a doze! The evening's entertainment was assured by songs from Harry Costigan and Charlie Thomas, monologues, community singing, etc.

After some rest, at any rate everyone was ready for Boxing Day, and early in the morning over 60's only departed on a Mystery Drive. In the afternoon a party went to the Brighton Hippodrome for the pantomime and most people were in during the evening, or part of it, for the Gala Dance, held in the Lounge. Colonel Ball came along to join us, which gave us pleasure, but unfortunately he could not stay long because of getting home again the same night. Another visitor that evening was Mrs. Ouseley.

On Thursday, December 29th, a big party went along to the pantomime, "Sleeping Beauty," which they thoroughly enjoyed, and on Friday, 30th, we held a Domino and Whist Drive for the local men.

A Gala Dance was held on New Year's Eve, and a surprise visitor was Miss Adele Dixon, the leading boy in the "Sleeping Beauty" pantomime. She was a welcome guest and we gave her one of St. Dunstan's trays as a souvenir of the visit. At midnight, "Auld Lang Syne" was sung, and the New Year, represented by Ernest Deaville dressed as a baby (complete in nightgown and bonnet) was toasted with some very excellent rum punch. Some considerable time later we retired to bed.

Came New Year's day and morning port in the Lounge was followed at 1 p.m. by another very good dinner, with all the trimmings.

In the evening we were entertained by the Clairview Players (who had come from London for the occasion) by a performance of "My Sister Eileen," a three-act comedy.

Previously they had visited West House, and they have promised to come again to Ovingdean. We shall look forward to their next production.

Our holiday men, or rather most of them, departed on January 2nd, and the new term of training begins on January 6th.

Darts and Shooting.

During the past term at Ovingdean our Darts Team have had no less than 22 fixtures. Of these they have been successful in winning 16 games.

December K.O. Competition

Shooting: Winner: E. Bullen (Australian).

Runner-up: P. Foster.

Darts T.B.: Winner: J. Hiscock.

Runner-up: W. Evans.

Darts S.S.: Winner: T. Woods.

Runner-up: B. Dunkley.

Knock Out Tournaments

Christmas Holidays

Winners received 12s. 6d.; Runners-up 7s. 6d.

Shooting: Winner: J. Hiscock.

Runner-up: P. Botha.

Dominoes: Winner: T. Devlin.

Runner-up: A. Pimm.

Cribbage: Winner: B. Owen.

Runner-up: E. Brewer.

Darts T.B.: Winner: J. Hiscock.

Runner-up: E. Taggart.

Darts S.S.: Winner: E. Deaville.

Runner-up: C. Thomas.

Christmas Thanks

Commandant wishes to thank those St. Dunstaners and friends who sent greetings this Christmas to Ovingdean, and Matron Pain writes: "A very warm word of thanks to all who have so kindly thought of me this Christmas, and sent me such beautiful cards. Each one brought many memories and I would have liked to write to each sender, but owing to the hundreds received, I am using the medium of the REVIEW, asking each one of you to take this as a personal message of thanks."

Future Happenings at Ovingdean

In future, news of happenings at Ovingdean, which may be of interest to St. Dunstaners living locally, and to those who may be visiting the district, will be found in the REVIEW immediately following "Ovingdean Notes."

Test Results

The following are Test Results for the month of December, 1949:—

Typing.—T. Woods, E. Green.

Preliminary.—R. Mendham, A. Gimbrere.

Advanced.—W. Evans.

Writing.—W. Waite.

Senior Braille Reading.—S. V. Tutton.

From Mrs. Ouseley

DEAR BOYS,

You have all been so much in my thoughts this Christmas, especially on New Year's Eve. It must have been a case of telepathy when my 'phone rang five minutes before midnight. Your lovely message brought back so many happy memories of West House, particularly when lading out the Punch Bowl and singing "Auld Lang Syne." Nothing that I can say in answer to all the letters I have received from you can touch the fringes of what I am really feeling.

And now the climax has been reached by the arrival of such a beautiful Wireless Set, in a cream plastic cabinet. It is a perfect tone and so easy to take from room to room. I am deeply touched by your very sweet thought and generosity. You may hardly believe it, but this is the first time I have ever possessed a set of my very own. What a real thrill I shall get listening to the string of my mixed cross doubles come romping home, instead of having to wait for Tiny Northcott's return from the racecourse!

I should also like to thank again the Permanents, Sick Ward, and others for the very delightful St. Dunstan's brooch, which I shall always treasure and always wear. But, boys, my greatest treasure will always be your affection. There is one thing that cannot be devalued—FRIENDSHIP.

MARY OUSELEY.

V.A.D. Ladies' Club,
28 Cavendish Square, W.1.

Marriages

LANGHAM—GARRATT.—On December 17th, J. Langham, of Arnold, Notts., to Mrs. Evelyn Garratt.

PADDICK—BREWER.—On December 15th, C. Paddick, of East Barnet, to Miss Brewer.

“ In Memory ”

Sergeant William Kirkby, 114 King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt.

With deep regret we record the death of W. Kirkby, of Slough. He would have been sixty-seven on January 1st.

Recalled to the Army in August, 1914, he went to France and was blinded on the Somme. He came to St. Dunstan's the following year, where he trained as a poultry farmer and mat-maker. In recent years, however, he had been doing only netting, and his death on December 13th took place after a long illness, which he had borne with courage and patience.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and son, who had nursed him devotedly.

Private William Joseph Blagbrough, Lancashire Fusiliers

With deep regret we record the death of W. J. Blagbrough, of Hulme, Manchester, an old soldier who enlisted in 1904 and was discharged from the Army in June, 1919. Although he had long suffered from the effects of mustard gas, he only came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1949, so that we hardly had time to welcome him into our brotherhood, for he passed away on November 28th. He was sixty-five.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was sent for the funeral. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Private Horace Tarling, 1st Essex Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Horace Tarling, of Harlow, who came to St. Dunstan's in 1930, his sight having failed as a result of mustard gas. He trained as a basket-maker, but for a number of years he had not worked, as a result of his failing health.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends.

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

Private Frederick W. Spackman, 4th Buckinghamshire Regt.

We record with deep regret the death of F. W. Spackman, of Dagenham, which took place on December 30th, at the age of seventy-four.

He was discharged from the Army in 1917 and came to St. Dunstan's shortly after, where he trained as a mat-maker, but he had not worked for many years owing to continued ill-health.

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

Private Arthur James Harvey, Royal Army Medical Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. J. Harvey, of Worthing, which took place at the Ovingdean Home on December 4th.

He had for a long time suffered as a result of mustard gas, but he only came to St. Dunstan's in 1939. He was a widower and his daughter had cared for him in his most recent illness; in the hope that he would improve, he entered Ovingdean on December 4th, but he passed away there the following day.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his daughter in her loss.

Private Frederick Lionel Green, Royal Garrison Artillery

We record with deep regret the death of F. L. Green, of Fareham, who died on January 4th at the age of fifty-six.

He was wounded at Neuve Eglise in 1915 and came to St. Dunstan's the same year, where he trained as a basket-maker. Although his health had not been good for some time his death was very unexpected.

He leaves a widow and two young daughters, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Births

EDWARDS.—On November 20th, to Mrs. W. Edwards, of Stoke-on-Trent, a son.

McDERMOTT.—On December 13th, to the wife of J. McDermott, of Wolverhampton, a son—Michael Raymond.

TURNER.—On December 26th, to the wife of R. Turner (12 Park Crescent), a son—Hugh David.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

JOHNSON.—To Mr. and Mrs. F. Johnson, of Derby, whose son, George, died on December 23rd, after a very long illness.

ROBERTS.—To J. T. Roberts, of Stoke-on-Trent, whose mother passed away on December 19th. Our St. Dunstaner lived with his parents.