

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I WENT to South Africa just before Christmas on a private visit in connection with our family business. A gale prevented the ship from getting out of the Mersey and another gale prevented her getting into the harbour at Cape Town; two gales in one voyage and the loss of two days must be unusual. So we only had a few hours in Cape Town. Nevertheless, I spent a little time with Mrs. Chadwick Bates and heard how St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners are going on in South Africa. Mrs. Bates seemed well and sent her best wishes to all her old friends over here. From what she told me and from what I learned in different parts of the country, St. Dunstan's name stands very high in South Africa, in both official circles and with public opinion, and St. Dunstaners both of the earlier generation and of the new are in good heart and active in many ways. My visit was to be such a short one that I was unable to attend any reunions and in this very scattered country the chance of running across individual St. Dunstaners was small. Nevertheless I did meet in Mrs. Bates' office W. B. Riley, who emigrated from this country two or three years ago and has started a tea rooms and restaurant business. He told me he was doing well; and in Pretoria a Civil Servant, with whom I was doing business, told me that Danny Pretorius was his neighbour so I looked in to see him. Danny has a well equipped establishment for physiotherapy with a treatment room, gymnasium room and an office, and seemed to be doing well. In Durban I had the opportunity of meeting two St. Dunstaners. One was Ken McIntyre, who is a lecturer at Natal University and I gathered that he was carrying out a very full programme of lectures and leading a very busy and satisfying life. The other was Dr. Alexander, who also has a physiotherapy establishment in Durban. Being a doctor before the war and before he was blinded he was able to take up this profession without going through the long physiotherapy course in England, and he acts as consultant in Physical Medicine to the Durban Hospital.

The Talking Book is being more widely used in South Africa than it was, now that supplies are becoming more readily available. I was asked by a civilian school for the blind if we could make Talking Books in Afrikaans. As Chairman of the Sound Recording Committee and myself a South African, I was in a position to use my influence to gratify this desire, but I had to explain that the cost of Talking Books is so great that it would not be practicable to record books in this language owing to the limited number who could use them. I added, however, that we would be willing to record a passage from the Bible, or some nationalist pamphlet or declaration, as a sign of our regard for this important Commonwealth language.

As we anticipated, we were called back by the news of the General Election and we flew home. We hear and read so much about fast travel that there is nothing new in it,

but the experience is nevertheless astonishing. We had breakfast in Johannesburg on Tuesday, January 24th, and lunch in London the very next day, Wednesday, the 25th. We flew high above the weather at 20,000 feet and as the cabin was partially pressurised, we suffered no inconvenience. Indeed, it was a most comfortable journey.

I addressed fifty meetings in fifteen days and found this very exhausting. Sometimes there were three or four meetings in one evening and they were often five or ten miles apart. One speech would specialise in matters of interest to farmers and farm workers; another would deal with fishermen; yet another related to holiday and seaside resorts, transportation and petrol; and a fourth would make special reference to old or retired people or to those who work in the shipyard or in industry. But every speech would contain much of the same general material and one of the problems for the speaker himself is not to get bored with what he is saying. Sometimes I got so tired of the theme that I had the greatest difficulty in keeping myself awake. I certainly give full marks to my wife, who listened to every speech as if she had never heard it before, laughing at the right places and setting a perfect example to the rest of the audience.

Mr. Marquand, the Minister of Pensions, came to my constituency to speak against me, and I went, amongst others, to Ashton-under-Lyne to speak against Mr. Harvey Rhodes, who was his Parliamentary Private Secretary in the last Parliament. I did not know that I was put down to visit Ashton-under-Lyne. It just turned up in my tour of duty and I learned afterwards from Mr. Marquand that he was not sent deliberately to my constituency. Nor, as a matter of fact, did either of us mention war pensions in these speeches and I did not mention the subject at all in any speech in my constituency or nationally. The reason for this was that we who are connected with St. Dunstan's and the British Legion did not want to make war pensions a party political issue.

Nevertheless, a few candidates, particularly those with less experience than others, or whose majorities are very narrow and chances slim, indulged in some party recrimination and some echoes of these speeches have been heard in Parliament this last week; but all this froth blows away in good time and we settled down to consider in a sensible manner what is our duty to ex-Servicemen who have been disabled in the country's service.

I should like to thank my friends of all political parties who have sent me messages expressing pleasure at my return to Parliament. This was my seventh Election and I have been much gratified by the number of messages I have received from this country and from many distant parts.

The present House of Commons is a slave driver and I shall have to be there all day and half the night during every weekday of the session, and this will, of course, mean that I have to crowd all my outside engagements into week-ends; if, therefore, I am unable to keep as many engagements in the country as I would like, I am sure my friends in the ex-Service world will understand.

St. Dunstan's Birthday

On March 26th we celebrate the 35th birthday of St. Dunstan's. There was, of course, a small beginning a few weeks before that, but officially we look upon March 26th as the date when St. Dunstan's really began in earnest at the big house in Regent's Park with about twenty blinded soldiers of the first war. My wife, my secretary, Miss Goole, and Mrs. Chadwick Bates, the secretary of St. Dunstan's in South Africa, are I think, the only survivors still with us of those early days. Few societies have made such an impact upon public opinion; few are so well known or have been so generously supported. None in the world, to my knowledge, has so completely taken care of every need and aspiration of every member of its family. With hardly an exception, save for those Scots who went to Newington House, the blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen, including the women, of the two wars, and of the years between, have come under the direct care or the influence of St. Dunstan's. Almost all of them have been trained and settled in some occupation or profession or with some pastime or hobby, and even for those whose wounds or ill-health make activity very difficult there is the spirit of St. Dunstan's and encouragement to carry on. We are all very proud of St. Dunstan's and cherish its good name and the name of its Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson.

IAN FRASER.

London Club Notes

The London Club will be closed for the Easter holiday from Friday, April 7th, to the 10th, inclusive, and will also be closed on March 24th next for the Founder's Day Dance.

The following Sub-Committees have been appointed:

Bridge.—J. Muir (Chairman), S. Webster and N. Downs.

Indoor Section.—F. G. Fleming (Chairman), J. Mudge and Eddie Edwards.

Outdoor Section.—T. Gaygan (Chairman), A. Brown and C. Williamson.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge

We have to congratulate C. Gover and S. Webster on winning the Pairs Competition for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Cup and also to offer our condolences to the runners-up for such a close match. We are hoping to have our annual trip to Harrogate but the date has not yet been confirmed, but in the meantime, will members give their names in so that we can get an idea as to numbers. We found the team brought to play us on the 17th just too much for us. Mr. Jolly paid us a visit from Blackpool and told us of the wonderful strides he has made in building up a bridge club in Blackpool. He has now got his own boards and so we should be sure of a duplicate game whenever we visit Blackpool. J. M.

Indoor Section

We are glad to report the indoor activities well set in their stride and now progressing with many pleasant evenings.

The Saturday Whist Drive is very popular with a growing number of regular attenders, amongst them being some whose occupation makes it impossible for them to come along on the Tuesday. Why not try it one Saturday when you feel like an entertaining evening?

The more the merrier and the greater the prize.

The Thursday Dancing Class is a great success under the expert guidance of Miss P. Barnes, F.I.S.T.D., and we anticipate a difficult time for our judges when the next competitions come along. Miss Barnes makes up two sections, A and B, so whether you have done a lot of dancing or are just

an ambler-round, you will soon be on the way to competing standards if you come along on Thursdays.

The Darts Team is still winning its matches, having three wins out of the last four matches. The team travels around quite a lot, so keep in touch with the Club and you may find the team is coming "down your way," when you can be there and help by throwing a nifty dart with them. In any case, you will have an exciting and pleasant time meeting many new folk in your own district.

We are very pleased to see a gradual increase in the attendance of the new war men, and already many of these are taking part in our teams for cribbage, dominoes and cards when we visit social clubs, which visits we hope to increase in the near future.

We would welcome, too, any fellows who can sing a song, tell a story or play a musical instrument, into the concert party. We cannot have too many of you as it is sometimes difficult to get a full show when it means a very long journey for someone.

Times to remember:—

Dancing: Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Dominoes: Thursdays, 7.30 p.m.

Whist: Tuesdays, 7.30 p.m., and Saturdays, 7.0 p.m. F. G. F.

Outdoor Section

The next walking race will be the 10-mile event, starting from Bedford College, Regent's Park, at 2.30, on May 6th. Entries should be sent in as soon as possible to the Club.

Swimming will commence on May 1st, so shake the moth out of your costumes and come along to the Seymour Baths, Seymour Place, N.W.

We are still anxious to have a running race, so let us have your enquiries and we will arrange escorts, etc.

In the meantime, the Gym is still at your service, and we hope a few rowing fellows will come along this year so that we can stage a regatta. T. G.

Institute of Magicians

On March 2nd the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians gave a display of magic at the Headquarters of the Institute. A report of this concert is given on another page.

St. Dunstan's Club, Liverpool

The first year of the Club is drawing to a close and we believe that we have justified our existence, if only because twenty-four St. Dunstaners scattered throughout Merseyside have become firm friends, all looking forward to our next meeting.

The outstanding events have been a coach trip to Blackpool, a very enjoyable day's outing made possible by the generous assistance of Matron Davies, who made us welcome in the true spirit of St. Dunstan's; and Christmas Party—and what a party!

We also sent a party to Brighton for the tournaments; they brought back a Cup, won by W. Shaylor. Not bad for a first try.

Now we are arranging a coach trip to Harrogate, etc., for Whit Saturday.

My job as Chairman has been made easy by the untiring efforts of T. Milner, our Secretary, and A. Wright, Treasurer, supported by a keen Committee.

We want more members. In fact, we want every St. Dunstaner within range of Sefton Hall, Rodney Street, Liverpool, to come along on Saturday, April 22nd, to appoint Officers and Committee.

May 1, before closing, express the thanks of the Club to all members who so generously gave donations and other gifts; these, without doubt, were the making of our efforts.

Last, but not least, our thanks to the Ladies, who have seen to it that we have a nice afternoon tea at our meetings, apart from providing markers for the games.

To all who have not joined the Club I say, if Blodwyn who comes from Ruthin can come once a fortnight (and Blodwyn, incidentally, was the winner of the Whist Tournament organised from London), then I am sure you who live nearer can make the effort. Come on, boys! Give your wife a break! A day out in Liverpool and spend the afternoon with us. We want to know you.

L. JACKSON, *Chairman*.

Manchester Club

The Manchester Club is anxious to enter a more representative team to compete in the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions than was possible last year when most of the competitors were of the 1914-1918 vintage (and a very good vintage it is), but we should like the younger generation to join us in upholding the

traditional sportsmanship of the North-West.

Then we should like to arrange Sports (swimming, etc.) for the summer months, providing we can get sufficient response from the younger St. Dunstaners. Will any of you who are interested write to the Secretary, Mrs. Dunphy, The Rough, Chester Road, Mere, Nr. Knutsford, letting us know what type of sport you are interested in and we will try to arrange facilities.

It has been suggested that St. Dunstaners of all ages might be interested in Saturday afternoon rambles. Will you let us know if you would like to join us? By the way, the Club meets at The Red Cross House, Milton Place, Broad Street, Pendleton, on the second and fourth Friday in the month, from 6 to 9 p.m. We shall be pleased to see any St. Dunstaner and it does not matter if you cannot arrive early. Milton Place is opposite Pendleton Baths bus stop.

We have spent many happy times during the past six months, the highlight of which was the occasion of our visit to the Blackpool Home on the invitation of Matron, where we attended the Armistice Memorial Service in the Lounge, and were entertained to lunch at the Bourn Hotel and to tea at the Home by Matron. What a lunch! what a tea! and what a Matron!

Then our friend, Mrs. Jackson, who has entertained many St. Dunstaners in her home from time to time, gave us a most enjoyable party and entertainment at the Longsight Liberal Club, which over 70 men and escorts from the Manchester Area attended.

Our Club Party was held early in the New Year, 70 St. Dunstaners attending. Mrs. Irvine was the guest of honour and was received with great enthusiasm by those St. Dunstaners who were members of her original Club.

Mr. Hilton, Vice-Chairman of the East Lancashire Red Cross, to whom we owe our sincere thanks for granting us the use of the Red Cross House for our meetings, was also present, and we were pleased to welcome six members of the King's Roll of Ex-Servicemen. Our one regret was that Matron Vaughan Davies was prevented by sickness from being with us, so our Glee Party had no opportunity of embarking on "Nellie Dean," which is reputed to be Matron's signature tune.

1950 Derby Sweepstake

The Derby will be run on Saturday, May 27th, and we invite applications from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in our own Derby Sweepstake. No other person is eligible to hold them.

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and application for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 12th**. Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered.

The total amount of the money subscribed after the cost of printing and postage has been deducted will be distributed as follows:—

50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse;

20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse;

10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse;

The remaining 20% will be divided equally amongst those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

Colonel Baker Honoured

Col. E. A. Baker, Managing Director of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, who came to St. Dunstan's during the First World War, was recently elected a Trustee of the American Foundation for the Blind in New York in recognition of his outstanding leadership in work for the blind. This is the first occasion on which anyone living outside the United States has been accorded this honour. The Foundation's Board of Trustees consists of sixteen outstanding leaders in work for the blind from all parts of the United States. About twenty-five per cent. of them are themselves blind.

Ministry of Pensions Cars

The following St. Dunstaners have received their Ministry of Pensions cars:— Messrs. R. H. Brett, Brighton; J. Irvine, Glasgow; G. H. Orrow, Chingford; J. Swann, Cosby, Leicestershire; R. L. Vincent, Cricklewood; M. Golding, Greenwich.

Old Contemptibles

W. A. Robinson, of Grimsby, is added to the list. He arrived at Le Havre on August 14th, 1914, and was later wounded in the left hand (which is now disabled). He went back and served until October, 1917, when he was shot through the head and both eyes. He had enlisted as a trumpeter in 1901, was transferred to the Lincolnshire Regiment in 1904, and served with the regiment until Mons. Then he served with the 3rd Div., 9th Brigade. After his first wounding he went back to the 1st Lincolnshire Regiment and served with them until he was blinded.

Edward Butler, of Hayes, is another who served in the South African War. He joined the North Staffs. Regiment in October, 1899, went to South Africa in 1900 and was there for two years. After service in India he was transferred to Reserve, but joined up again in 1911 and went to France in 1914. He won the D.C.M. the following March and was wounded three months later.

Correction

C. T. Condon was blinded in March, 1917, and not 1937 as printed in the REVIEW.

Thirty Years Ago

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

"An Association of Women Workers of St. Dunstan's has been formed, open to all past and present workers of any department. The objects are (1) To enable former workers of St. Dunstan's to keep in touch with each other and keep alive the spirit of St. Dunstan's; (2) For purposes of re-union; (3) To further any plans for the maintenance and development of the work among the blinded soldiers and sailors in the future. The Association was formed in December, 1919, before the closing of the House, and a General Meeting was called, when it was decided to run the Association with a Committee of ten. The following were elected to serve on the Committee: Miss Power, Miss Bell, Miss Evers, Miss Fitt, Miss Wilson, Miss Pain, Miss Gregg, Miss McAndrew, Miss McCullough and Miss Witherby. Miss Whatley was elected Hon. Treasurer and Miss M. Phillips, Hon. Secretary."

Camps

The Royal Navy, Lee-on-Solent, once again invites St. Dunstaners to spend a wonderful holiday week as their guests.

This year's Camp will be from Wednesday, August 2nd, until Wednesday, August 9th. (The Bank Holiday and other circumstances have made it necessary for the Camp to be from Wednesday until Wednesday this year.)

Fares over 15s. repaid. £1 7s. 6d. fee payable in Camp.

Please send your names in as soon as possible to Mrs. Spurway, Holmwood Vicarage, Nr. Dorking, Surrey (Tel.: Dorking 73191).

The Royal Air Force have also kindly promised to have a Camp, probably in July; the date in next month's REVIEW. Will anyone wanting earlier confirmation of the date write to Mrs. Spurway.

Impartiality of Voters

The following results of the General Election will interest ex-Servicemen and women.

MIDDLESBROUGH, EAST			
Mr. H. Marquand, Minister of Pensions (Lab.)	...	...	29,185
Edwards, A (C.)	...	...	12,402
Thomas, Dr. W. S. Russell (L.)	...	...	4,540
Levy, Dr. N. (Comm.)	...	...	367
Majority	...	...	16,783

MORECAMBE AND LONSDALE			
Sir Ian Fraser, President, British Legion, Chairman of St. Dunstan's (C.)	...	...	28,041
Gaskell, A. (Lab.)	...	...	12,768
Leeming, G. (L.)	...	...	5,723
Majority	...	...	15,273

KINGSTON-UPON-HULL, EAST			
Commander H. Pursey, R.N., journalist and critic (Lab.)	...	...	26,903
Heyting, J. W. (C.)	...	...	13,988
Dalton, T. E. (L.)	...	...	6,981
Majority	...	...	12,915

CARDIGAN			
Captain E. R. Bowen, Chairman, House of Commons Branch, British Legion (L.)	...	...	17,093
Morgan, I. (Lab.)	...	...	9,055
Little, Dr. G. S. R. (C.)	...	...	6,618
Majority	...	...	8,038

Wilfred Pickles and Tommy Gaygan

Wilfred Pickles (who needs no introduction to St. Dunstaners, or to anyone for that matter), contributes a column from time to time in the *Daily Express*, and on March 9th he wrote in the course of it:—

"Humanity has more troubles than those that reach the headlines. I wonder if they can be mended? I wonder if that desperately worried London mother who wrote to me will find happiness soon?"

"I feel sure she will when I think of some folk I know. Like Tommy Gaygan. I met Tommy Gaygan, a 29-year-old Londoner, when I went to record readings of my autobiography for St. Dunstan's.

"Tommy works on the switchboard there in Hinde Street, London—and a fine operator he is, too. No wrong numbers with him.

"So I got quite a shock when I found that during the war he lost both his hands and both eyes.

"Tommy tells me he has entered for the seven-mile St. Dunstaners' walk round the Inner Circle in Regent's Park next Saturday.

"(I'm going to be the official starter. And my eyes will be on Tommy). What about closing yours for just two minutes and trying to walk across the room?"

"Then think of what John Masefield wrote:—

'Best trust the happy moments.

What they gave

*Makes man less fearful of the certain grave,
And gives his work compassion and new eyes;
The days that make us happy make us wise.'*

"And remember Tommy Gaygan. 'Number, please?' In his voice is proof that beyond despair can lie happiness."

Scripture Union Notes in Braille

The DAILY NOTES which are written for the Scripture Union by leading Evangelical writers and scholars and have a wide circulation at home and abroad, are now published in braille by the N.I.B. and are available in bi-monthly volumes, published on the 20th of the month preceding the month when they come into use. The annual subscription is 8s., post free. All enquiries in connection with the Notes should be sent to the National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

South African News

During the last few weeks we have had the pleasure of welcoming our London Chairman and two other St. Dunstaners from Britain. For Sir Ian, it is of course a return home. Many of us are apt to forget that our London Chairman, strictly speaking, is a South African St. Dunstaner, and so we were glad to welcome him to the land of his early childhood once more. Although Sir Ian has to attend to the affairs of his private business interests when here, nevertheless we know he does enjoy the sunshine and a well-earned breathing space from his many public duties in England. Alas, on this occasion his spell of relaxation was short-lived, as he had to curtail his visit and get back quickly to limber up ready for the fray of the British Election. We are sorry he had to leave us in a hurry, and while not knowing a thing about British politics or any other politics for that matter, we sent every good wish to Sir Ian for his success in the knowledge that all his efforts are guided by high motives. We know him as the champion of ex-Servicemen, St. Dunstaners and disabled ex-Servicemen in particular.

It is splendid news that he was returned to Parliament with such an overwhelming majority.

At the same time we were very pleased to welcome Beryl Sleigh on a return visit to South Africa. Beryl was out here two years ago and we regard it as a compliment to our country that she is back again so soon. We also knew that we would be in for some musical treats in the course of Beryl's concert tour.

Next to arrive was Jim Ellis and family. Jimmy is another who is by no means a stranger to South Africa, having spent nearly two years under training at "Tem-bani." It is a happy thought that Jimmy, who began his new life at St. Dunstan's (S.A.) is back again to take up the appointment of Appeals Representative for the Union and Rhodesia, working under the supervision of Mrs. Chadwick Bates, who, as we all know, has been the philosopher and guide to so many St. Dunstaners of both wars. Together with Jimmy were Mrs. Jimmy and baby, Linda Mary. For Mrs. Ellis this is also a return home, and we all join in wishing the Ellis family all happiness and success in their new future in South Africa.

On Sunday, February 12th, several St. Dunstaners together with Mr. Alers Hankey, the Chairman, and other members of the St. Dunstan's Committee for South Africa, and many other friends, all foregathered at the City Hall to hear Beryl sing with the City Orchestra. The concert was good, and Beryl sang beautifully. The audience gave her a splendid reception and we were all very proud of Beryl when she came on to the stage again amid rounds of applause, to receive masses of beautiful flowers.

The following evening Mr. Hankey and members of the Committee gave a cocktail party in honour of Beryl's success and to welcome Jim Ellis and his wife back. More than seventy St. Dunstaners and friends of St. Dunstan's assembled there. Many old acquaintances were renewed and the name of "Tem-bani" was very much in evidence. This was a little reunion that we did not expect and was greatly enjoyed. *Cape Town.* "ST. DUNSTANER."

St. Dunstaners Entertain Magicians

On the evening of March 2nd, the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians gave yet another grand display of magic at the Headquarters of the Institute, Denison House, Victoria, in front of a large audience which included many of the "Big Boys" of the conjuring world, as well as several representatives of the general Press.

Each performer must have felt elated by the big ovation he received. The artistes appeared in the following order—Charlie Luker, Alf Wiltshire, Percy Ashton, Tiny Fleming (bass baritone), Horace Manning and his doll, Bruce Ingrey, and Smudger Smith.

At the end of the show, the artistes, together with their tutors, all came on to the stage, and I felt I had to pass a few words of grateful thanks and admiration for the St. Dunstaners and their tutors for the wonderful way they had carried out one of my husband's last wishes.

Madame ZOMAH,
President of the Institute of Magicians.

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Sergt. Alan Nichols thanks all those St. Dunstaners who have sent letters to him. He hopes to acknowledge these personally at the end of the month.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIR,

Some years ago—about fifteen—it was suggested that as the deaf-blind couldn't hear people around them, their sticks be fitted with a bicycle or other bell. It was pointed out people would think it a bicycle or telephone bell and not trouble to make sure, so a whistle was suggested. As this, however, might bring a policeman or a taxi, that idea was thrown out, and the idea of carrying toy balloons in our pockets and blowing 'em up till they went "bang!" was suggested. But that could be mistaken for a busted tyre and, after all, it was thought the schoolboy who liked a practical joke would be the first to be attracted, so the idea of audible appeals was abandoned.

Yours sincerely,

Southwick,

G. FALLOWFIELD.

DEAR SIR,

As the wife of a St. Dunstaner, may I encroach on the space in the REVIEW and ask a question which has intrigued me for some time. At what age do most St. Dunstaners' children realise that their daddy cannot see? Some time ago there was a case in the paper about blind parents whose child of fourteen months *knew* its parents were blind. As my baby was then nearly three and still unable to grasp the fact about my husband not seeing, I wondered if this was just paper talk. Barry, our boy, who was well over three before he understood, is intelligent and quick at grasping things and now he does understand and it is amazing how thoughtful he is and how quickly things are moved out of his father's way.

Yours sincerely,

Rayleigh, Essex. (Mrs.) A. H. ROBINSON

DEAR SIR,

I am writing about the Alarm Clocks, about which there was a recent reference in the REVIEW.

This clock is an idea but it does not seem to be well thought out. Firstly, the face is not well designed; one has to cover miles to find the spots, and these are ill-defined for such a large face. The hands would be better, I think, if tubular and solid. Then the alarm setter is not marked in braille, so it is not possible for us to set it at all. Finally, the said "arrow" which indicates which way the wheel which sets the clock in motion turns is also not

readable, and unless one commits this to mind, one might damage the clock.

I point out these factors for I feel that if things are going to be produced for our use, they should be done in such a way as to be of full value to us. I feel, in its present state, it is rather a waste of money, and wonder if this is a reasonably general opinion and if anything could be done to make it more perfect for the blinded.

Yours very sincerely,

Aston Clinton, Bucks.

PAUL BAKER.

He'd only Murmur "Ting-a-ling"

*It's wise to use a nice white stick,
It pays to advertise
That you wish to cross the road
And need a stranger's eyes.
Halt at the spot you wish to cross
Is the best thing for we chaps,
And upon the kerb where you stand
Give two or three sharp taps.
A passer-by will soon come up,
They all know this old rule,
And for the assistance, just say, "Thanks,"
The word you learnt at school.
But if we start to ring out bells
Or some other kind of din,
Folk will think we're on the phone,
Or selling fresh muffin.*

*This trend of scientific thought
Has set my mind a'-racing.
Of many kinds of different things
We blind chaps could be embracing.
We could have crepe rubber pads
Upon our heads and shoulders,
This would save us scratching walls
Or hitting folk like boulders.
Then could we not walk on stilts,
My mind is not all muddles,
To save us getting our feet wet
By treading in big puddles?
I'm glad that someone rang a bell
It's sent my mind delighting,
What about a night-time stick
Made of fluorescent lighting?*

*I've just had an amazing thought—
I think it is a pearl.
Why ever use a stick at all
When you can find a girl.
A moral to these lines of verse
I give to you in greeting.
If you can think and laugh and joke,
Then blindness you're defeating.*

N.17.

J. A. MUDGE.

Talking Book Library

Fertile February

This month the hotch-potch of half a dozen books is offered to the all-devouring reader, but one or two of the volumes one might read for a penance instead of enjoyment.

"The Death of the Heart," by Elizabeth Bowen, read Eric Gillett, is a study of innocence, an orphan, obliged to live with a step-brother and wife (sophistication) in London. The orphan girl somehow never commands the reader's sympathy, mainly because the action in the book is negligible, the plot non-existent and the characters shadowy and unreal. Penance.

"The Hampdenshire Wonder," by J. F. Beresford, read F. P. Bayley, is the story of a superhuman intellectual freak who was drowned at the age of seven by the village idiot. The ups and downs of his short life make an interesting little book. Horrible, but readable.

"Sir Nigel," by A. Conan Doyle, read Joseph McLeod, is the forerunner of "The White Company." Set in the 14th century, the yarn is correct in the detail of the times but it's possible the author has overdone the chivalry of the age. However, the book shows clearly where modern sportsmanship originated. Fine story, well told, all adding up to enjoyment.

"Inheritance," by Phyllis Bentley, read Eric Gillett, is a Yorkshire mill story of a family feud from early in the last century to the twenties of this. Exciting events and a coherent plot give good entertainment.

"Total War at Haverington," by J. Bell, read Mary O'Farrel, is concerned mainly with the mechanics of evacuation in a small town during the London blitz. The prominent people are the M.O.H., members of the W.V.S., evacuees and various local and county councillors. The main features include love, real and physical, graft, bereavement, spite and condemned buildings. People and features all interwoven produce quite a tasty dish.

"Everybody's Political What's What," by Bernard Shaw, read Gordon Little, leaves me gasping and doubtful as to what is what. G.B.S. was 88 when he wrote this and I suspect that he has treated many of the subjects he covers several times

before. A mass of closely argued half-truths and bags of prejudice, or is it experience? In any case, the book is worth reading for the anecdotal humour and the irrepressible twinkle of the author. Read it—and tell me all about it!

Over to you!

NELSON.

Braille-Reading Competition

We have heard from the National Library for the Blind that the twenty-first meeting of the "E. W. Austin" Memorial Reading Competition will be held at the National Library on Saturday, June 3rd. St. Dunstaners would be most welcome at the competition.

Unseen passages will be read and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression. (Should the entries in any class be very limited, prizes will only be awarded if merited).

The Adult Section will be divided into three classes:—

Class A.—Advanced readers in competition for the "Blanesburgh" Cup;

Class B.—Other readers;

Class C.—Readers who have learnt to read braille since the age of 16 and who do not feel competent to enter the more advanced classes. This Class will be divided into:

1.—Readers who lost their sight before 1938.

2.—Readers who have lost their sight since 1938.

There will also be an Open Event, for which everyone is eligible, including all previous winners in any Class, for the reading of a poem from Palgrave's "Golden Treasury."

Intending competitors should send in their names to the Secretary, National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, not later than Tuesday, May 23rd, stating in which Class they wish to enter.

Grandfathers

H. A. Perrett, Devizes; H. A. T. Pearce, Leicester.

★ ★ ★

L. Jackson, of Heswall, who became grandfather to a pair of twins sixteen months ago, has now become great-uncle to another pair.

Ovingdean Notes

February, many times called the gateway of the year, was not too promising at the beginning of the month and there was heavy and prolonged rain, which kept many of us indoors more than we would have wished.

In the house the Debating Society met twice during the month and on both occasions there was a large audience of trainees and Staff. Possibly the most successful debate for a long time was held at Christ's Hospital, Horsham, on February 25th. The subject was, "That Euthanasia should be practised in this country." St. Dunstan's opposed the motion and carried the debate. Those who took part were most impressed by the kind hospitality they received and it is our earnest hope that the boys of Christ's Hospital will visit Ovingdean again shortly.

With the General Election much in our minds, a good attendance was assured for the Labour and Conservative local candidates when they came along to speak on their Party Policy. Varied questions were put to Mr. Huddart (Labour) and to Mr. Johnson (Conservative) which made them very aware of the interest St. Dunstaners were taking in the Election. On Polling Day some St. Dunstaners went along to the Polling Stations but many had taken advantage of Postal Voting. On the 24th work was carried on to the accompaniment of the radio and surely excitement ran higher nowhere as we listened to the results coming in. On hearing of Sir Ian's re-election to Parliament a telegram of congratulations was sent to him from Ovingdean.

Our entertainments have taken us out a good deal. The first occasion was the Annual Dinner provided by the Brighton, Hove and District and the Southdown Bus Companies and held at the Black Lion, Patcham, and this was followed soon by an invitation from Sherry's Dance Hall for a party of St. Dunstaners and partners to attend a St. Valentine Dance. Both these events were much enjoyed as was Mr. Cheeseman's Dance at the Arlington, Brighton, when 30 St. Dunstaners and escorts went along.

Our Darts Team took part in a number of matches during February and they tell us they had a grand time wherever they went.

By the end of the month the weather had improved and that is, perhaps, why we began to think of our Summer Sports.

It is proposed to run the Annual Sports Meeting at Ovingdean early in July (possibly the second Saturday in the month—but the exact date will be announced later), and once more it is hoped that we shall receive many entrants from the St. Dunstan's Clubs and local St. Dunstaners. The events will be as follows:—

70 yards T.B.

70 yards S.S.

Standing Long Jump

Putting the Weight

Throwing the Discus

Throwing the Cricket Ball

Throwing the Medicine Ball

Team Relay

Walking Race

Tug-o'-War

Mr. Jarrold would like to hear from St. Dunstan's Clubs wishing to enter teams. Not more than two men should be entered for each event except the Tug-o'-War.

Anyone interested is asked to get in touch with Mr. Jarrold at Ovingdean not later than May 31st.

Darts

Totally Blind—11 entrants

Winner: H. Briggs;

Runner-up: J. Hiscock.

Semi-Sighted—18 Entrants

Winner: T. Woods;

Runner-up: E. Deaville.

Shooting

36 Entrants.

Winner: T. Denmead;

Runner-up: W. Evans.

Easter Programme at Ovingdean

We shall be very pleased indeed to see local St. Dunstaners (with escorts) at any of the following occasions at Ovingdean during Easter week:—

THURSDAY, APRIL 6TH, at 8 p.m. Dance (the usual Friday dance that week is cancelled).

FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH, at 8 p.m.—A Concert.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH, at 7.15 p.m.—"Jane Steps Out"—a comedy by Kenneth Horne, performed by The Clairview Players.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH, at 8 p.m.—A Party in the Lounge.

MONDAY, APRIL 10TH, at 8 p.m.—"Gala Dance" (until 11 p.m.).

Young St. Dunstaners

George Scrimgour, Middlesbrough, has been appointed Master in History, English and French, to the Senior Secondary Boys at Marton School, and his sister, Jacqueline, has passed with honours the first examination in the Theory of Music under Trinity College of Music, London.

★ ★ ★

Marriages

Richard Nolan, Market Drayton, on January 29th, to Miss Sheila Harvey.

Henry Hall, Chilton, on March 4th, to Miss Betty Scott.

Joyce Perrett, Devizes, on March 18th, to Norman L. Weston.

Heather, adopted daughter of W. Heushaw, Potters Bar, was married last September.

In the News

Extract from an article in "The People," London, 12th March, 1950:

"When Joe Doubler, serving in the Navy, was blinded by a German torpedo in 1917, he thought it was goodbye to his hopes of building a pigeon loft and racing the birds he had loved so much in his boyhood days near Cardiff.

"For Joe could not imagine how a successful career in the sport could be made without eyes to see and watch for the birds.

"But Joe's courage was indomitable. St. Dunstan's taught him braille and how to handle a telephone switchboard, and soon he had a job in London.

"He saved steadily and, with his brother, started a poultry farm on 12 acres of land Joe bought at Abbots Langley, Herts. And Joe had a bungalow there, too.

"Then Joe sat down to think about racing pigeons. Could a loft be designed so that he could know instantly where his birds were resting? Could he develop a sense of touch that would select a good, fit racer—without ever seeing it?

"Joe could and did. And now, fifty-six years old, he is one of the most skilful fanciers in the game, beating his clubmates year after year.

"During the last three seasons alone he has won 11 first prizes, 10 seconds, and many thirds and fourths."

R.A.O.B. News

Congratulations to W. Shayler, who has been raised to Third Degree, K.O.M. Aero Lodge, Liverpool.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH, at 8 p.m.—Domino and Whist Drive (Invitations will be sent for the Domino and Whist Drive. To help us with catering please reply promptly when you receive your invitation).

Dances on Friday, March 31st and Friday, April 14th will be cancelled.

Easter Services at Ovingdean

GOOD FRIDAY—Evensong at 5.15 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY—Communion Service at 10 a.m.; Evensong at 5.15 p.m.

Other News

As a drummer in a band and a keen gardener, R. Craddock, of Sankey, Warrington, doesn't have much spare time! He had a wonderful show in the garden last season. He does all his own digging, planting, sowing and raising of bedding plants.

★ ★ ★

Stanley Fowler, who operates a capstan lathe at Raleigh Industries, Nottingham, has been interviewed by B.B.C. commentator, Stephen Grenfell, for a new series, called "Export Jig-saw." A photograph of Stanley with Stephen Grenfell appeared in the local paper.

Now Stanley writes:—

"I have been in the news again. Two more photographs. Most people seem interested to see me at work since the newspapers said I cut more steel than the average sighted man, and now visitors are coming in droves—quite a side-show!"

Marriage

TANNER—GREENFIELD.—On March 11th, A. B. Tanner, of St. Ives, to Mrs. Rosetta Greenfield.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Cookson, Kendal, March 7th. Congratulations.

Ruby Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Collinge, of Blackpool, who recently celebrated 40 years of married life.

Placements

W. Morgan, as a capstan operator with C.V.A., Ltd., of Brighton; G. W. Elphick, in the tobacconist and confectionery business recently held by T. Shepherd, at Welling. The latter is emigrating to Australia next month.

FEBRUARY TEST RESULTS

The following are Test Results for February:—
Typing.—T. Partington, J. Shaw, G. McKay.
Writing.—J. G. Hill.

“In Memory”

Petty Officer Cook Fraser Thomas Reynolds, *Royal Navy*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. T. Reynolds, of Painswick. He was eighty-two. It was while serving with Patrol Ship “Zaida” in 1916 that he was wounded, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1927, when he trained as a netter.

He had been in failing health for some time and was admitted to Ovingdean, but he passed away there on February 17th.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his daughter, Mrs. Faux, in her loss.

Sergeant Robert William Stephen Bondy Horsley, *Rifle Brigade*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of “Bob” Horsley who was a familiar figure at Brighton for many years. He was 62.

Upon his discharge from the Army in January, 1916, he came to us at the end of that year, and he trained first as a mat-maker and basket-maker, and later as shorthand typist. He was not, however, able to take a job.

He had been in failing health for some time and at the beginning of the year he was admitted to the Sick Ward at Ovingdean. He passed away there on February 7th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and another from his friends at the Ovingdean Home were among the flowers at the funeral.

Steward David MacReady, *Merchant Navy*

With deepest regret we record the death of David MacReady, of Birmingham, at the early age of forty-nine.

Enlisting in 1914, he saw continual service through two wars and in the course of that service was torpedoed eleven times. As a result, his sight was so severely damaged that he came under St. Dunstan's care in December, 1948—three years after his discharge from the Service—but he did not train as he was already in employment. Many people will remember his broadcast in the Wilfred Pickles' show on October 26th.

During 1949 his health began to fail, and early this year he was admitted to Ovingdean, but he passed away there on February 24th. He was buried in the St. Dunstan's plot of the Brighton Cemetery.

We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. MacReady in her bereavement.

Edward Cameron, *Australia*

We have heard with regret of the death of E. Cameron, of New South Wales, Australia, who did not, however, come to St. Dunstan's. The news of his death came in a letter to Sir Ian from his widow, to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

Births

BAILEY.—On February 26th, to the wife of J. Bailey, of Guildford, a son—Terence Ronald.

DONELLY.—On February 12th, to the wife of T. D. Donnelly, of Birmingham, a daughter—Joyce Mary.

GORMAN.—On March 2nd, to Mrs. S. Gorman, of Maghull, near Liverpool, a son.

HUMPHREYS.—To the wife of J. Humphreys, of Londonderry, a daughter—Marilyn.

KEY.—On February 1st, to the wife of A. Key, of Stone, near Dartford, a son—Malcolm Stuart.

MINNAAR.—In November, to the wife of C. L. J. Minnaar, of Johannesburg, a daughter.

NICOL.—On February 10th, to the wife of J. Nicol, of Hebburn, Durham, a son—Leslie.

DU PLESSIS.—On January 25th, to the wife of M. A. du Plessis, of Johannesburg, a son.

DU PREEZ.—On January 12th, to the wife of J. G. du Preez, of Johannesburg, a son.

Death

WILKIE.—Our deep sympathy goes out to Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilkie, of Burton-on-Trent, whose second son, Edward, died in the military hospital at Hong Kong on February 28th as a result of injuries received in a railway accident. He was 23. He was only 17½ when he enlisted in the Regular Army, and saw active service in Holland and Germany in the last five months of the war.