

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

ON another page in this REVIEW are some letters which I have received from St. Dunstaners regarding the Lord Mayor of London's Thanksgiving Fund for the gifts from overseas.

I recently had a report submitted to me by Mr. Mackay on the subject of food parcels which St. Dunstan's has received during the past year. This is what he said:—

This has been an exceptional year for food parcels, as we have received nearly 12,000 gift parcels from our friends overseas. Hoyt's Theatres, Ltd., of South Australia, gave us 2,500 parcels at Christmas, and this has been followed by a further gift of 5,000. The St. Dunstan's Committee in Buenos Aires sent over 2,000 parcels, one for every St. Dunstaner, and South Africa followed with a further 1,000 from the Victoria League, Johannesburg. Mr. Richardson, of Adelaide, Australia, despatched several hundred parcels during the year direct to the homes of our St. Dunstaners. His Committee in Adelaide have now sent a parcel to every man, the gifts being spread over the last three years. Mr. Richardson visited this country last summer and we were able to thank him personally for this great kindness.

In addition to these large gifts, we have received several hundred parcels from friends in America, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada and Australia. Not least welcome were six lovely sides of bacon from the Victoria League, Johannesburg. These were made available to Ovingdean, Blackpool and Park Crescent.

I am sure that nothing would give St. Dunstaners in this country more pleasure than to be able to express in some tangible form the deep gratitude and appreciation which we have all felt at the continued generosity of our friends from overseas. We have tried to express our thanks in our letters, but now the opportunity has come for us to show our gratitude in a more practical way. The gifts and parcels sent to us by our friends in the Dominions and Colonies have meant much to us in these days of austerity, and we shall always remember the understanding and kind thought which prompted them.

I therefore welcome the suggestion that St. Dunstaners should make their own special contribution to the Lord Mayor's Fund. As regards the amount, I think the suggestions made by two of our correspondents are excellent, namely, that St. Dunstaners' donations should vary from 1s. to 2s. 6d., as they think fit. Mr. Askew has kindly agreed to act as Treasurer, and subscriptions should be sent to him at 191 Marylebone Road. On a date to be announced, our own fund will close and we shall then formally hand over to the Lord Mayor for his general fund the gift which St. Dunstaners have made. The Thanksgiving

Fund, as St. Dunstaners will have heard on the radio or read in the newspapers, will be used to build a residential centre in London for students from overseas.

St. Dunstan's has many ties with the Dominions and Colonies, ties which become closer as the years go on. In the dark days of the war, and in the years since, they have shown with great insight how much they have understood our problems and difficulties, and in numberless ways have helped us to overcome them or bear them more easily. We in this country, and particularly the men of St. Dunstan's, welcome the opportunity we now have of saying thank you to our very good friends.

The Talking Book

It is nearly fifteen years since the first Talking Book was produced for St. Dunstaners and since then—despite the 50 per cent. reduction of the service during the period of the war—more than 600 books have been recorded for your pleasure in your own homes. Many changes and developments have, of course, taken place through the years and it is certain that the future holds still greater achievement in this field.

Looking back, it is interesting to recall now that with the original Talking Book Library of pre-war days, clockwork reproducers with internal horn and sound box had to be used for St. Dunstaners who had no electricity supply in their homes. For those with electricity, there were A.C. and D.C. machines, containing either Garrard or H.M.V. pickup, an amplifier and a small loudspeaker. These machines had facilities for using earphones instead of the speaker if desired. Now we are using a very fine groove in our records, just half the dimensions of the ordinary music record, and these original sound-boxes and pickups proved so heavy that the wear on Library records presented a real problem. In addition, dropping the pickup or sliding it across the record usually completely ruined it.

The development of new magnetic steels made it possible to make pickups having about one-eighth the weight on the needle, and more recent developments have produced an ultra light-weight pickup, having approximately one-thirtieth the weight on the needle. Our new machines are fitted with light-weight pickups, operated by means of lifter a and positioning device, the latter being designed at the Studios and produced in bakelite. Most of the pressing of the bakelite parts was carried out at Ovingdean, and a very good friend of the Talking Book Department, Mr. F. W. Bontor, made the original tools and presented them to us.

These new machines are naturally much kinder to the Library records, which will now give acceptable reproduction over a number of years. Unfortunately, we had a large number of records in the Library which were badly worn by the old machines, together with those manufactured during the war from inferior materials. These records will gradually be deleted from the catalogue, but in the meantime call for the use of the scratch filter or tone control fitted to the reproducing machine. The newer records will be found to have less surface or background noise, but the tone control should still be used because the records are made with what is termed a "rising characteristic." This means that more of the high frequencies are on the record than necessary for a good balance, and by using the tone control to reduce them the surface noise is further reduced.

Needles have always been a problem, and much research was carried out in pre-war days. With the introduction of the light-weight pickup, the use of precious stones and metals became possible, and needles of sapphire, ruby, diamond, tungsten-carbide, osmium, iridium, etc., were tested. At present we are using synthetic sapphire, which is regarded as a semi-permanent needle and will last from six to twelve months, according to the reader's use. After, however, all the old records are eventually replaced or deleted, these needles will have increased life. If, in the future, we develop the ultra light-weight pickups, undoubtedly the diamond point will be used and will probably last the life of the pickup, or longer.

The next step might well be using the ultra light-weight pickup, and going as high as three hundred grooves to the inch, instead of the present two hundred. On the other hand, we have, since the inception of the Talking Book, kept a close watch on other sound

recording systems, such as the sound film, the Phillips Miller system, magnetic wire and magnetic tape. These "wrapped up systems," as they are termed, offer certain advantages over the disc method, particularly where we are concerned, and magnetic tape copies can be made in the Studio rapidly and to meet Library demand. When the demand for any particular book falls, the tape material can be magnetically wiped clear of the previous recording and a new recording can be made on it, and even if the reader in the Studio makes a mistake, it can be immediately deleted and the sentence started afresh. Research work on the tape Talking Book is still going on, and prototype machines are being manufactured. The magnetic tape will be totally enclosed in containers or cassettes, and so arranged that no threading, etc., is necessary. There will be a number of sound tracks recorded side by side, and when the reader comes to the end of each track he will be told to turn the cassette over for the new track, just as he does with his present record, and so on to the end of the book.

But before we commit ourselves to a new system, extensive tests will be made. Machines in cassettes will be sent by rail and post to prove their robustness, etc.; extensive wear tests of machines and tapes will be made and, finally, tests by blind users under their normal conditions and their reactions noted. All this, of course, takes time, and it may well be perhaps two years before a definite decision will be made; even then the cost may be the deciding factor. Two major points in its favour—particularly if the Library is extended—are the amount of Library space saved and the elimination of transit breakages.

All this is for the future, however, but I thought you would like to know something about the research that is taking place all the time to improve your listening at home and to produce a still more efficient Talking Book service in the years to come.

Black and White Sticks ?

Mr. Anthony Nutting, M.P. for Melton, writes to me pointing out the difficulty which a blind constituent of his experiences in crossing roads when motor cars are following each other very closely. The blind man says you cannot tell by hearing when one motor has passed whether there is another immediately behind, and asks if the motor cars could be compelled to leave more space between them. Mr. Nutting makes the obvious comment that this is impossible, especially on crowded roads, but enquires whether a black and white stick would not show up better than an ordinary white stick.

I pass the suggestion on for what it is worth, and would be glad to know if anyone in the blind world has any view about this matter.

IAN FRASER.

Placements

B. H. Briggs, as a telephonist with Messrs. Harper & Tunstall, Ltd., Edgware; J. Fenny, Durham, on deburring with Steel's Engineering Products, Sunderland; W. Howarth on industrial work with Messrs. Shipton & Co., Northwood Hills; J. E. Brown, of Cambridge, as telephonist with the Eastern Electricity Board, Cambridge; J. Blakeley, as telephonist with Thomas Nuthall & Sons, Ltd., Farnworth; G. A. Jacobs, as telephonist with the Essex County Council; N. F. Nolde, temporarily with Rolls Razor, Ltd., Cricklewood; A. E. Hurl, in a shop at Margate.

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W. Storer, of Rugby, is on the committee of the local Royal and Ancient Order of Buffaloes, and takes the chair at meetings, etc.

Derby Sweepstake

We remind St. Dunstaners that the closing date of our Derby Sweepstake is *Friday, May 12th*. Application should be made to the Editor, St. Dunstan's REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each. Only St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees may apply.

The draw will take place in the Club Room at St. Dunstan's Headquarters on the evening of Friday, May 19th. All those drawing a horse will be notified.

Grandfathers

H. T. A. Pearce, Leighton Buzzard (not Leicester, as given last month).

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A grandfather for the second time—C. Durkin, of Orpington.

London Club Notes

On March 24th, the London Club held the Founder's Day Dance at Chelsea. A bouquet to "Tiny" Fleming and his sub-committee, and to Major Curtis, and a word of thanks to Mr. Willis, our Club Steward, for a simply grand evening.

The sun, it is said, shines on the righteous. It certainly shone for the 7 miles All England Championship Walk. The large crowd which turned up were well rewarded in seeing a field of fourteen competitors, who were started by Wilfred Pickles, "have a go."

Off to a good pace, the first eight kept well together; at six miles, the leaders and times were: Gaygan, 53.21; Williamson, 54.48; Brown, 54.52; Cryan, 56.54; Morgan, 56.56; Miller 57.23; Bradley, 59.31; Denmead, 59.56. All these gained special R.W.A. certificates for walking six miles within the hour. Good show, chaps!

From this point, Brown overhauled Williamson to finish second, 2.52 behind Gaygan. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were there to welcome them at the finish.

The presentation of awards was made at the Club by Wilfred Pickles, then Archie Brown presented a small table, made by a St. Dunstaner, to Mrs. Pickles, who made a charming reply. Then followed a presentation on behalf of the walkers and escorts by Mr. W. J. Harris to Archie Brown, to mark the 25th anniversary of his activities in St. Dunstan's athletics, especially his efforts during the past year which had made this day possible. The whole proceedings were wound up by a witty and able speech from Alf Bradley, to which Wilfred Pickles replied by expressing his appreciation of all he had seen and heard, and promising to visit us again. Congratulations to the London team on winning both Cups. We were pleased to see F. Dickerson up in Handicap.

Bridge.—On Saturday, March 18th, we had a very successful Bridge Drive with forty people taking part—one of the biggest yet held. We overflowed up to the staff canteen; the drawback to these large rooms is the very bad echo.

The knock-out competition is well under way and, after the drive on Saturday, we had a visit from an old friend—Mr. Ottaway—who presented the prizes, the first going to Messrs. Gover and Webster for winning the knock-out for 1949, Mr. Jackson and

partner winning the Bridge Drive, with Mr. Douglas second, and Mr. Coles and partner third. Mr. J. Carrow was M.C.

Indoor Section.—The Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize Competitions will soon be in full swing. *Darts, Dominoes, Crib:* Copies of these Rules can be obtained from the Club. They will be sent to Club Secretaries. *Whist and Dancing:* Details to be announced later.

Derby Trip (Indoor Section, London Club).—Will any member wishing to make this trip please forward 25s. It will cover sandwich lunch, bottle of beer, tea on the return journey, and admission to No. 1 Upper Enclosure.

Ladies' Outing, June.—Names and suggestions as to place welcomed.

TINY FLEMING.

7 Miles Sealed Handicap and Scratch Race, March 11th, 1950

S.S. Section		Scr.	Time	Time
		Race	All.	Act.
A. Brown	... 2nd	1.00	64.00	65.00
W. Miller	... 6th	5.45	61.43	67.28
A. G. Bradley	... 8th	8.15	61.17	69.32
W. T. Scott	... 10th	10.45	63.25	74.10
J. Lynch	... 12th	18.15	61.39	79.54
T. Denmead	... 7th	8.45	60.41	69.26
P. J. Cryan	... 5th	1.30	75.01	66.31
T.B. Section				
T. Gaygan	... 1st	Scr.	62.08	62.08
C. Williamson	... 3rd	1.35	63.38	65.13
S. V. Tutton	... 11th	15.15	64.10	79.25
F. Dickerson	... 13th	22.25	58.53	81.18
C. Stafford	... 9th	13.45	60.00	73.45
E. Cookson	... 14th	21.25	61.54	83.39
A. Morgan	... 4th	6.45	59.15	66.00

Prize-winners:

1st in Championship for Challenge Cup:

A. Brown. 2nd, P. Cryan.

T.B. Section Challenge Cup and prize:

T. Gaygan. 2nd, C. Williamson.

1st prize in Handicap, S.S.:

T. Denmead. 2nd, A. Bradley.

1st prize in Handicap, T.B.:

F. Dickerson. 2nd, A. Morgan.

Aggregate Points to date

S.S.		T.B.	
A. G. Bradley	14	T. Gaygan	14
J. Lynch	9	C. Williamson	11
W. Miller	8	C. Stafford	16
W. T. Scott	6	E. Cookson	6
A. Brown	5	F. Dickerson	6
H. M. Steel	1	E. Hailes	4
		M. Burns	1

Birmingham Club

We want first of all to extend to all St. Dunstaners a cordial invitation to come to Birmingham in September to take part in our Annual Swimming Gala. We hope to welcome at least one team from each Club. Any other entrant will be formed into a Rest of England team. The more the merrier. We invite you therefore to keep free September 16th (the date will be confirmed later). Again, Messrs. Cadbury Bros. will probably be our hosts, so we can look forward to a really enjoyable gathering, even improving on that of last year.

Lanes will be laid this year and every facility provided. Arrangements will be made to meet all entrants. Tea will be provided for all, at which the Birmingham Cup will be presented to the winners. Some of our most loyal supporters are 1914-1918 men, so don't be left out if you can swim at all. Probable events:—

Beginners' 2-width race.

1 length free style First War men.

1 length free style Open.

1 length back stroke.

1 length style competition (own choice stroke).

1 length under water race.

Diving.

Plate diving.

Obstacle race.

Relay team race.

In addition to the Gala, Birmingham have several interesting summer events. In June we hope to return the hospitality of the Walsall Limbless ex-Service Club and entertain them at our Red Cross Headquarters. In July we plan an outing, which even our long distance members attend. This outing last year was a record, both for attendance and enjoyment. This year will be even better.

A river trip and sports seem to have become permanent items on this programme. We are indeed fortunate in having the Voluntary Transport Service Friends to help us on these occasions.

At our September meeting the handicraft exhibits will be judged, and prizes awarded in the various classes. With typical St. Dunstan's generosity these articles will then be given to the Red Cross, who are such good friends of ours, to help with their October Sale and money-raising efforts.

Our monthly meetings continually bring us new members. We are proud and delighted that they and the older pioneers find the Club so satisfying.

Shall I see you at Camp? I hope so.

P. M. FAIRHEAD,

Hon. Secretary.

Another Fine Record

T. J. C. Parrish, of Finedon, tells us that he joined the South African Corps, commonly known as Baden-Powell's Mounted Police, at Modderfontein in February, 1901, and served with them for five years. He left South Africa the same year and joined the Hunts. and Bedfords. Yeomanry in 1908. In August, 1914, he was called up for active service and served as a sergeant in England until March, 1916, when he retired, but in September of the same year he rejoined as Corporal and was transferred to the 21st Bedfordshire Infantry. He was wounded and lost his sight at Hill 60, in June, 1917.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Loveridge, North Harrow, April 2nd; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Higginson, Eastcote, April 12th. Congratulations.

Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Overill, Bexley Heath, celebrated their Ruby Wedding (forty years) on March 28th.

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Thomas, Cardiff, were married forty-four years on November 6th last. Mrs. Thomas's notification of her ruby wedding four years earlier did not reach us.

Thirty Years Ago

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

"On another page of this issue appears an account of a fire which took place at the College Annexe early on the morning of the 26th March. Though considerable damage was done to a part of the building, and most of the linen of the Annexe destroyed, fortunately there were no serious casualties. Everyone behaved splendidly, and we offer our heartiest congratulations to Miss Power and the V.A.D. staff, as well as to the men and orderlies, and last, but by no means least, that very gallant body of men—the London Fire Brigade."

Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIR,

I wonder how many white stick users have the same trouble as myself? Here in Southampton there are iron grids in front of shops and houses, which are a danger to every blind man who carries a white stick. When crossing these grids, either the stick is wrenched out of one's hand or it drops through, and it is a job to recover it, sometimes impossible.

Here is an idea I have thought out. Get a stout round of rubber or leather, big enough to bridge the bars; cut a hole in the centre to allow the stick to fit tightly. That will, I think, help to solve the problem.

Yours sincerely,

H. F. BEED.

Southampton.

DEAR SIR,

Doubtless there are many St. Dunstaners who have received the new Talking Book. I found at first a little difficulty in remembering the correct way to turn the back right-hand top knob for the pickup, so to save damaging the set, we evolved the following little jingle:—

"Turn it away and on you go.

"Turn it towards you and stop the show."

Yours very truly,

C. E. ("GRANDPA") BEAUFOY.

Dover.

DEAR SIR,

I agree with Paul Baker that the braille alarm clock is inconvenient. The alarm dial is too small and, being on the face of the clock, is liable to be masked by the time hands. The trouble arises from a wrong approach to the problem, inasmuch as the N.I.B., instead of designing an alarm clock, has merely taken an existing mass-produced clock and fixed on an embossed dial; this results in a braille alarm clock of sorts at little or no addition to the original cost of the clock, but very little imagination has been exercised.

The question arises: Are the blind ready to pay the much greater cost of a clock designed for their use, which would probably not be mass-produced?

I do not need my braille clock for telling me the time of day—I use my watch for that—so I have overcome the dial setting problem as follows: I choose an average

time for rising—7.30—and I have the alarm hand set permanently at that time. If I wish the alarm to ring earlier or later than 7.30, I set the time hands fast or slow accordingly. That is to say, if I wish the alarm to ring at 8, I set the time hands half an hour slow; if to ring at 7 o'clock, I set them half an hour fast, and so on. You soon get used to it. This method has the advantage that it is always accurate. In fact, one can time the ringing of the alarm to the exact minute practically because the time dial is big enough to make accurate settings of the hands easy. I admit that this is in the nature of a makeshift method and liable to confuse a sighted member of the family, but it is a very easy way of obtaining accurate alarm settings.

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS FLOYD.

Teignmouth.

DEAR SIR,

I regret that I have found it impossible to acknowledge individually the receipt of each package of razor blades, therefore I would like to take this opportunity to thank the readers of the REVIEW who have kindly forwarded their old razor blades, and in doing so have contributed towards the funds for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

According to the correspondence I have received, I am assured of a steady supply during the coming months, but I would like to appeal to those who have not yet contributed to start collecting from to-day. With no sacrifice and very little effort we can turn old metal into good money, which in a small way will help the association to fulfil its great obligation to the blind people of this country.

Yours sincerely, CHRIS WILLIAMS.

36 Tudor Road, Kingston Hill.

DEAR EDITOR,

In the past, I have read many letters in the REVIEW, concerning the deaf and blind of St. Dunstan's. I am one of those St. Dunstaners who has the misfortune to have his name included in the deaf-blind list. I am writing now to make a few points clear to St. Dunstaners, St. Dunstaners' wives, and escorts. First and very foremost, there is a vast increase in the amount of people who can speak the hand language. I have noticed this increase every time I have visited Ovingdean. I would like to take this opportunity

Helping the Malayan Blind

Back in this country on a flying visit from Malaya has been Major Ronald Bridges, formerly of the 7th Gurkha Rifles, who is doing a big job in the Far East in helping to rehabilitate the blind. He has been attending the UNESCO International Conference on Braille, in Paris.

Two and a half years ago, Major Bridges went to Malaya to join the Department of Social Welfare in Kuala Lumpur as Welfare Officer for the Blind. Previously he had worked under Sir Clutha Mackenzie, the Commandant of St. Dunstan's at Degra Dun, and Advisor to the Government on Indian Blind Welfare.

When Major Bridges first went to Malaya there was little being done for the civilian blind, and he has since devoted much of his time to educating Malayan and Chinese children, many of whom have been blind since birth. Already he has got one school going in Jahore Bohru, and when he returns, hopes to organise more schools and centres in spite of the many difficulties.

The education of the blind native children presents a very great problem, especially in these days of terrorist attacks in Malaya, and there is no doubt that a tremendous task still lies ahead for our St. Dunstaner, to whom our best wishes go in his magnificent work.

Young St. Dunstaners

Leslie Storer, of Rugby, who is now a Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy, was awarded the B.E.M. in the New Year Honours.

Alice Dickinson, Wigan, is now a State Registered Nurse.

Marriages

On February 15th, James Woodhouse, Hulland, to Miss Emily Mould.

On March 18th, Audrey Joan Scott, Winsford, to Mr. Dennis Manley Whittaker. Her twin sister, Muriel, was a bridesmaid, and Matron Vaughan Davies was among the guests.

On March 25th, Henry James Howes, Montrose, to Miss Elizabeth Paton.

On April 1st, Ernest Moore, Folkestone, to Miss Phyllis Jarvis.

On April 1st, Winifred Moeller, Dagenham, to Mr. W. Edmonds.

On March 18th, George Shayler, Liverpool, to Miss June Barbara Wright.

to thank all those people very much indeed. It has been extremely kind of you all, and I more than appreciate your friendship. To those people who cannot speak the deaf and dumb language, let me point out one or two things. It only takes 15 minutes to learn the hand-alphabet. When learning, bear in mind the fact that there is no hurry; just take your time. Secondly, don't worry about mistakes, and, thirdly, don't worry about spelling mistakes. Some of you may think I am talking hokus pokus, so I will tell you of two cases this year. I was in hospital at the beginning of the year; there was a little boy in the ward only eight years old. He came to my bedside and saw on my locker the card showing people how to speak our language. He borrowed it. About twenty minutes later he returned the card and, without the assistance of the card, started talking to me. The lad was a Cockney from Bow; he only had an elementary education; what's more, he had missed a lot of education on account of being in hospital. When I was discharged from hospital I went to Ovingdean. Whilst at Ovingdean I met a totally blind Greek officer called Mr. Alexopoulos, and known by all as Alex. He has only been in this country six months and was blinded whilst serving with the Greek Army. He asked if he could be taught the deaf and dumb language. It took him just over ten minutes to learn it, after which we had some interesting talks about different things. And Alex's Greek escort learnt the alphabet too.

I hope with what I have written that I have been able to convince you that the deaf and dumb language is very easy. I haven't written these lines entirely on my own behalf. I have written them with the hope that they may help other deaf-blind St. Dunstaners as well.

Yours very sincerely,

Saltdean. WALLY THOMAS.

★ ★ ★ Camp Notice

Please note change of date for the Lee-on-Solent Camp.

Friday, August 11th to Saturday, August 19th.

Shawbury (R.A.F.) Camp: Saturday, July 1st to July 8th.

Closing date for entries for both Camps: May 10th.

From the Chairman's Postbag

The Lord Mayor's Thanksgiving Fund

DEAR SIR IAN,

During the past few years, members of St. Dunstan's have been the recipients of useful and excellent parcels from various parts of the Empire and America. I am sure that we have all greatly appreciated these timely gifts, for they have helped in no small way our somewhat monotonous diet.

The Lord Mayor of London's Fund, launched last week, is a grand idea and I do feel that a large number of my colleagues would like to associate themselves with the project.

May I suggest that in next month's REVIEW you put a paragraph asking for subscriptions from those who would care to participate, and I would suggest that a sum of 2s. 6d. be nominated. I think that a round sum coming from St. Dunstan's would meet with the highest approval from the authorities—especially if it was known to them that the sum is contributed by the members of the organisation.

Yours sincerely,

Redhill.

REGINALD P. COLES.

DEAR SIR IAN,

I have been hearing quite a lot about the Lord Mayor's Fund. I suggest that it might be quite a good idea to have a voluntary collection amongst St. Dunstaners and forward to the Lord Mayor whatever is collected as a gift from the members of St. Dunstan's.

If you think anything of this suggestion perhaps you would set the machinery in motion; the subscription need only be small—a shilling or two.

Yours sincerely,

Sanderstead.

P. GARRITY.

Points from other Letters

"On hearing the appeal made by the Lord Mayor in connection with a Thanksgiving Fund, I wondered whether this is not an opportunity for St. Dunstaners to pool together and make a joint contribution to show their gratitude and appreciation of the many parcels we have received from the various Dominions and Colonies."

N.W.8.

P. NUYENS.

"May I warmly support the suggestion that St. Dunstaners make their own contribution towards the Lord Mayor's Fund. I think it is an ideal way of expressing our gratitude."

Harrow Weald.

B. M. T. S. LEETE.

"I should like to suggest that a collection be started among the men of St. Dunstan's towards the Lord Mayor's Thanksgiving Fund, just to show how much we have appreciated the food parcels sent to us from our friends overseas."

JOCK MUIR.

To Teach the Blind in Greece

As a result of the help St. Dunstan's has been able to give him during the past six months, a war-blinded Greek officer is now on his way back to Athens where he will teach braille and typing to other Greek servicemen who were blinded. He is Major Demetrios Alexopoulos, who was blinded by an Italian mortar bomb while serving with the 2nd Greek Division in Albania in 1941.

It was H.R.H. Princess Eugenie of Greece who first led the enquiries into the training of blinded ex-servicemen. Her Royal Highness's interest in the welfare of the blind goes back to the time when she served as a V.A.D. attached to "Tembani," South Africa, during the war. The Princess suggested to Sir Ian Fraser that Major Alexopoulos might undergo special training in England to help her countrymen, and the Major shortly afterwards came to St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, to study our methods.

There are to-day about 150 blinded ex-Servicemen in Athens requiring training and rehabilitation.

Public Affairs

G. Price, of Minehead, has just completed his year of office as Chairman of the Rate-payers' Association. He is standing as an Independent Candidate at the Local Council Elections on May 8th.

★ ★ ★

H. White, of Stalybridge, is another St. Dunstaner interested in public affairs. He, too, is standing for the Borough Council at the May elections. We wish them the best of luck.

Founder's Day Dance

The London Club celebrated Founder's Day (March 26th) with a Dance at Chelsea Town Hall on the 24th, and the function was marked by the presence of Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, Col. Eric Ball and Mr. Askew. The Ballroom presented a colourful scene, the walls and stage being draped with the flags of the British Empire and Colonies.

The company of more than three hundred enjoyed dancing to the music of Ralph Parkins and his band, and the highlight of the evening was provided by the cabaret, which included Elizabeth Welch, the coloured singer of stage, screen and radio; Michael Howard, the B.B.C. star of "Here's Howard"; Jean Cavall, the well-known French singer; and Elizabeth James, who had three days previously appeared as the guest artiste in Lester Ferguson's "Your Song Parade."

Major Basil Curtis was M.C. for the evening and he introduced Mr. Percy Ashton, the Chairman of the London Club, who, after a few appropriate words, introduced Sir Ian. Sir Ian congratulated the London Club on their series of successful functions during the past year, especially the contribution made by Mr. Ashton and Mr. Tiny Fleming, the Hon. Secretary of the Indoor Section. He then called upon Sir Neville to say a few words, who made mention of the early work carried out by his father, and said how privileged he felt in being given the opportunity of playing a part in the continuance and extension of this great work.

Numerous novelty and spot dances were introduced during the evening, and Mr. Fleming organised a raffle.

Garden of Remembrance

Sergt. Alan Nichols has had laid out opposite his home at Portslade, a delightful trellised garden which, on March 26th, the anniversary of the founding of St. Dunstan's, was opened in memory of Sir Arthur Pearson. Near the entrance to the garden is a wooden plaque bearing the Torch of St. Dunstan's. Above the torch are the initials, "C.A.P.," and beneath it the words "Lest we forget."

Great Grandfather

J. Ryan, Forest Gate.

Blackpool Notes

Time flies far too quickly for us to realise in time that the REVIEW notes are due, and so we missed mention in the March issue.

February, in spite of being called "fill-dyke," dealt very kindly with us, and on the 18th a trip to Scorton was enjoyed by a party of "troops" and escorts. As we had a few seats spare in the coach, we were able to invite six of the BLESMA convalescent men.

The British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association have their home quite near here, and we have been pleased to be able to invite them to join us, as we did again on March 27th, when we went to Bleasdale Fells.

On March 21st we challenged five BLESMA men to "fives and threes," but our home team lost. We are now waiting for the return match to retrieve our laurels.

On March 27th we realised that we were a day late in celebrating the birthday of St. Dunstan's, but our port and cigarettes tasted just as good as if we had had them on the 26th.

Many people think that our deaf-blind cannot appreciate sports of any kind, but R. J. Williams managed a thrill recently when he was taken to Ansdell to a Rugby match. Mr. Blythe came along with a friend who has an open racing car. A very much muffed and muffled party climbed into it—the only part showing of the anatomy of R.J.W. was the end of his nose. The car whizzed along one part of the sea front at about 80 miles an hour—the vibration terrific—excitement high—noise deafening. A few minutes later another terrific noise whizzed over the Blackpool Home. At first we thought it was the return of the Rugby enthusiasts—but it was *only a jet plane*. R.J.W. is still talking of the happy afternoon he had and hopes for further thrills.

"WALRUS."

First for One Hundred Years

The little daughter just born to S. Kempe, of Porkellis, Cornwall, was the first child to be born in their old farmhouse for over a hundred years.

Our St. Dunstaner has seventeen surviving children of his first marriage and four of the second.

Ovingdean Notes

Debating has become increasingly popular at Ovingdean and this term has provided us with some excellent speakers. A particularly interesting and amusing debate was held on March 21st, when Roedean School Debating Society chose the subject "That an emigrant is a rat leaving a sinking ship." There were very able speakers for both sides, but there was no doubt as to the outcome of the debate—Roedean was unable to carry the motion.

There have been a number of matches for the Darts Team during the month, both home and away, and on March 16th a number of St. Dunstaners and escorts thoroughly enjoyed another of the Dances organised by Mr. G. D. Cheesman, and held at the Arlington, Brighton.

Term ended on March 30th and the Trainees' End of Term Dance was held in the Lounge at Ovingdean on March 29th. It was a most enjoyable evening and a pleasant interlude in the dancing was provided by Margaret Stanway and Wilf Evans on accordions, Bert Dunkley (electric guitar), Johnny Cowan and Ernie Earnshaw (saxophones), George Ellis (drums), George McKay (banjo), Jim McCoy (spoons) and a trumpet solo from Bill Phillips.

A number of trainees left us this Term and we take this opportunity of sending them all our very best wishes for the future and the hope that we shall see them back at Ovingdean for holidays later on.

From Tuesday, April 4th, the holiday men began to arrive until by Good Friday morning the house was almost full. The weather had been excellent until then. Alas, on Saturday morning, in common with most of the country, we began to suffer from gales and showery weather. In spite of this, however, we continued to enjoy the Easter week-end. On Saturday evening, many of us having returned from spending the day at Plumpton Races, we were entertained by an amusing production by the Clairview Players, "Jane Steps Out." Reg. Coles expressed the feeling of us all when he thanked these kind folk for coming all the way from London to entertain us.

During the week-end there were several enjoyable drives arranged. On Good Friday afternoon we held a Treasure Hunt, after having motored to Storrington, and

had tea at the Manor House Hotel. On Easter Monday, for those of us who did not go racing again, there was a drive to Lindfield and tea at Araminta's. Only the beach picnic (which was to have been on Tuesday) had to be cancelled because of the weather.

On Good Friday evening we held a Concert in the Lounge. The first half of the programme was provided by St. Dunstaners Joe Walch, Charlie Thomas, Bob Osborne and his wife, and Miss J. Leeman, V.A.D. After a short interval we were then entertained by Ken Lyon and George Murrell. These two local artistes were appearing in "Variety Bandbox" on Easter Sunday night and so we were given a preview of their act for that Show.

A reminder to those interested in Sports Day at Ovingdean. Remember to get in touch with Mr. Jarrold not later than May 31st. The Sports Day will be held on Saturday, July 8th.

Shooting

The competition for March was won by J. Boyd who, incidentally, has only been taking part in these contests for about two months. This is a really fine effort on his part. The runner-up was J. Dix. Scores were: J. Boyd 48, and J. Dix, 47 plus 1.

Darts

Totally Blind: Winner, G. Killingbeck; Runner-up, W. Evans.

Semi-Sighted: Winner, T. Woods; Runner-up, R. Osborne.

Invitations

A short time ago, at the Dome, Brighton, I was provided with a welcome opportunity to thank the Mayor and Corporation, the Social Services, and the people of Brighton for their continued interest and help towards St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners in Brighton.

St. Dunstaners living locally in Brighton will agree that the good people of the town are always ready to provide excellent entertainment for St. Dunstaners. The functions organised by the various bodies in Brighton require much thought, and the expenses are often considerable. There have been numerous occasions recently when an entertainment for St. Dunstaners has been arranged and the Organisers have been disappointed that the numbers catered for have not turned up. In many cases the

absence of a St. Dunstaner was undoubtedly due to illness or other reasonable causes, but in some instances it is possible that a St. Dunstaner accepted his invitation but, having found himself unable to be present, omitted to inform the Organisers.

May I ask that when invitations are received they should be answered promptly, and if the recipient is unable, or does not wish to attend, he should make a suitable reply.

Our friends are always anxious to include as many St. Dunstaners as possible, and I know that your co-operation in this way would help them to contribute to your enjoyment more satisfactorily.

L. FAWCETT, *Commandant*.

Mr. Ben Purse

One of the outstanding personalities of the blind world—Mr. Ben Purse—died on March 31st at the age of 75. For fifty years he worked unceasingly for the cause of the blind, and although he had retired from active work for a long time, his wisdom and influence will be sadly missed.

A tribute in the *Times* says: "In his early years, when the blind had to fight for recognition and reasonable livelihood, he was a notable and effective agitator. Later, when largely owing to his indefatigable efforts their conditions were bettered, he played an important part in the administration of the National Institute for the Blind. Learning, ability of a high order, integrity of character and personal dignity made him in every setting of his varied and fruitful life a personality who triumphed equally over early poverty and total blindness."

Sir Ian Fraser, with Lady Fraser and Mr. Askew, represented St. Dunstan's at the Memorial Service, which was held on April 17th at Holy Trinity Church, St. Marylebone.

Births

CASHMORE.—On February 27th, to the wife of D. E. Cashmore, of Birmingham, a son.

HERBERT.—On March 3rd, to the wife of R. C. Herbert, of Bracknell, a son—Robert William.

KEMPE.—On March 10th, to the wife of S. Kempe, of Porkellis, Cornwall, a daughter—Elizabeth Sybil Dawn.

LOACH.—On February 25th, to the wife of J. Loach, of Brierley, a son—Robert Leslie.

RUSSELL.—On March 13th, to the wife of N. Russell, of Leicester, a daughter—Deirdre Annette.

TAYLOR.—On March 20th, to the wife of T. Taylor, of Farington, near Preston, a daughter.

TODD.—On March 20th, to the wife of J. Todd, of Dollis Hill, a son—Philip.

Deaths

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

EDWICKER.—To E. Edwicker, of Fittleworth, whose wife died on March 15th.

LOWNDES.—To Nellie Lowndes, of Stoke-on-Trent, whose sister, Kathleen, has died after a long illness.

PRATT.—To Eric Pratt, of Sheffield, who lost his father recently, after a long and painful illness. Eric lived with his parents.

PUDDEFOOT.—To E. Puddefoot, of Worthing, whose wife passed away on March 28th, after a long illness.

Marriage

MORGAN.—On April 8th, W. W. Morgan, of Brighton.

"In Memory"

Private William John McQuirk, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. J. McQuirk, of Minehead. He was in his sixtieth year.

He was blinded as a result of a severe gas attack at the Messines Ridge, and he came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1920, where he trained as a telephonist. For twenty-five years he was employed by the Ministry of Labour at their Walham Green branch, but retired in 1948 owing to his ill-health. He moved to Minehead, in Somerset, and quickly created many friends, for "Mac" was a genial soul. Another St. Dunstaner with whom he trained, Mr. George Price, also lived in Minehead, and there was a close friendship between them. For twelve months "Mac" has been practically helpless, but he was always patient, smiling and cheerful.

Following a Requiem Mass, the burial took place at Minehead Cemetery, when Mr. George Price and Mrs. Price represented St. Dunstan's and Mr. C. G. Davey, the British Legion. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and the many flowers included a wreath of poppies from Sir Ian Fraser on behalf of his friends at St. Dunstan's.

He leaves a widow and six children; three are grown up and there are three girls under sixteen. Our deep sympathy goes out to the family.

“ In Memory ”

Private Frederick H. Parsons, *Australian Army Medical Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of F. H. Parsons, of Egham, Surrey, at the age of fifty-eight. He served with the Australian Imperial Forces during the 1914—1918 war, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until September, 1948. His ill health prevented him undertaking any serious training, but he did a little netting. He had recently been admitted to hospital, but his death on March 22nd was nevertheless a great shock.

Wreaths from Sir Ian Fraser and from St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, were among the flowers at the funeral. He leaves a widow and three children, to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

William McCullough, *Merchant Navy*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. McCullough, of Millisle, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. He was 76.

He served in the Merchant Navy for many years, being discharged in 1941. He came to us in April, 1946, but he was then too old for training.

For many months he had been in great pain, which he bore with a marvellous spirit, and he passed away at his home on March 24th.

The funeral was largely attended by his many friends in the countryside, many of whom came long distances to be present. The coffin was covered by the Union Jack. Among other flowers was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

We extend our deep sympathy to his daughter, Mrs. McKeown, who has nursed him devotedly, and to his grand-daughter, Nessie.

Private George William Clarkson, *Royal Army Service Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of G. W. Clarkson, of Leeds, who served from March, 1915, until March, 1919, but who only came under our care in 1948. He entered training at Ovingdean, but he died there on March 4th.

When the 1914—1918 war broke out he was an undergraduate at Leeds University, but he gave up his career to join the “Leeds Pals.” He was wounded on the Somme.

His body was taken home to Leeds, where he was cremated. Our St. Dunstaner, Mr. E. Russell, attended the funeral with some of his colleagues from the British Legion. Sir Ian's wreath was among the many flowers.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow.

Pioneer Thomas Edward Gidney, *Royal Engineers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of T. E. Gidney, of Morden. He was sixty-five.

He was discharged from the Army in November, 1917, and came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1927, where he trained in boot-repairing, baskets and mats. His health in recent times, however, had not been good; he bore his last painful illness with fortitude.

There were many floral tributes at the funeral, which took place after a Requiem Mass at St. Teresa's Church; they included poppy wreaths from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends, and from the St. Helier and Morden Branches of the British Legion, and a floral wreath from a St. Dunstaner, Capt. H. Luckman, and Mrs. Luckman.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Gidney and her two children.

Private Clayton Albert Stracey, *5th Middlesex Regiment*

With deep regret we have to record the death of C. A. Stracey, of Edmonton, which took place at Ovingdean on March 20th.

He came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1918, and trained as a shop-keeper, but he gave this up in 1940 to take up basket-making and string bags. He had been in failing health for some years, but he bore his suffering well. At his own wish he was buried at Edmonton Cemetery; a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Stracey in her loss.

Sergeant Fred Eastwood, *Royal Northumberland Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of F. Eastwood, of Middlesbrough.

He served in the Army from February, 1932, until August, 1945, and was blinded as a result of his service in the last war. He came to us in May, 1948, but never undertook any serious training. He was a very sick man during the whole of his time with us; he was devotedly nursed by his wife. He died at home on February 25th as a direct result of his war service.

Flowers at the funeral included a poppy wreath from our Chairman, and from other friends in the British Legion, the Red Cross, and District Nursing Association.

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