

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

**C**AN a blind person have a banking account and operate it, including the signing of cheques, without assistance? The answer is most certainly yes. The law does not prevent it and in practice the banks are ready to open an account for any person unless he is an infant or a lunatic, for such people are, of course, unable to enter into a contract.

The question has been raised by a correspondent who writes to me to say that a friend of his has been refused by a local bank manager. Of course, it is open to a bank to refuse to operate a banking account for any person if they think that the circumstances justify the refusal. In the case to which my attention has been drawn I do not know the circumstances, but it may be that the bank manager thinks the person concerned is unable to operate the account or that there is a risk involved which he would not be justified in taking. To check on this matter, I have written to the five big banks and they all tell me that, in principle, they do not bar the opening of accounts by blind persons, but in some cases they would consider it the duty of their managers to call attention to the risks involved, but, at the same time, to give the blind person every possible help and assistance.

If a blind person is really going to operate a banking account entirely by himself, then he must have a stencil cut to fit his particular cheque book, so that he can write the necessary words and figures in the right place on the cheque. This has been done by many individuals, and I remember long years ago calling attention to such stencils for the use of St. Dunstaners. It would not be possible for St. Dunstan's or the N.I.B. to provide stencils, because the cheque books of the different banks are of different sizes and each stencil must be cut to fit the individual book.

I myself operate one banking account, upon which I alone can sign the cheques, though I do not go to the trouble of filling in the cheques myself. Instead I trust somebody else to do so. There is, theoretically, some risk here, but it is for each blind person to judge the extent of the risk having regard to the relationship between himself and the person who fills in the cheque and the confidence he has in that person.

I also operate another account personally, and quite a number of public or semi-public or trust accounts in company with others. In such a case, two or more signatures are required on a cheque and there is thus a safeguard against accident or fraud.

So far as our day-to-day expenditure, housekeeping, etc., is concerned, my wife and I have what is called a joint account. This means that either of us can sign the cheques, and normally she signs them all, for this is not only more convenient but also saves me from undertaking a task which I dislike.

The blind man, or a sighted man for that matter, may operate a banking account even if he cannot write, simply by making his mark, but in such a case the mark must be witnessed.

I most strongly advise any blind person who has more than a few shillings or few pounds to handle to open a banking account, for it is a safe way of keeping your money, and it is also very convenient, and I am certain that you will find that the local bank manager will give you every possible help and advice.

An alternative, of course, is the Post Office Savings Bank account. There is no risk attached to this because you have to attend in person to draw the money out.

The general question of writing by a blind person is an interesting one. Practically without exception all St. Dunstaners have learned to typewrite and have their own machines, supplied and kept in order by our organisation, and this is the normal way in which they carry out their correspondence. I receive hundreds of letters typed by blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen, and it is a matter for congratulation to them that they maintain such a good standard over the years, even though many do not write very much. But I also receive letters which are hand-written, and there are a number of devices to make this easier, such as a frame with elastic lines, which allow the pencil to go up and down and yet give guidance, or paper with ridges embossed on it. No doubt some blind people who practise handwriting a good deal maintain a high standard, but my experience is that handwriting deteriorates as the years pass. I can still write legibly and readably, but I have to concentrate very hard indeed, for I find that I tend to forget to move my hand forward, thus doing one letter upon another. Even writing so familiar a thing as my own signature I have to concentrate upon the job, but up to the present my bank manager has not refused to honour my cheques or fail to recognise my signature. A typewriter is, of course, ideal because it never forgets to space as each letter is written, and it is only very seldom that one writes one line upon another. There is, however, the tragic case which occasionally arises when a blind person typewrites a whole page of interesting material and puts it in an envelope and sends it off, not knowing that there is an entirely blank page owing to the fact that the ribbon has slipped. In some cases, this is very irritating; in others no doubt the old saying that what the eye doesn't see the heart does not grieve about applies.

I use a ball-point pen, for the good reason that you do not have to worry about which way up the nib is placed. I know that all ball-point pens have some disadvantage, especially in that they deprive handwriting of some of its character, but the advantages of not having to worry about the nib are considerable, as is also the fact that you do not have to blot the writing and cannot smudge it.

Incidentally, it is interesting to remind ourselves that one of the best-known ball-point pens, namely, the Biro, owes much of its efficiency to a St. Dunstaner, Dick Dufton, who is the Chief Designer to this firm, and who has made some most valuable inventions which are incorporated in the product.

IAN FRASER.

### Local Elections

Congratulations to George Price, of Minehead, who was returned at the district Council Elections on May 8th. Standing as an Independent candidate, he secured fourth place among six vacancies. There were ten candidates.

We had hoped also to include the name of H. White, who was standing again for Stalybridge Town Council, but he was unsuccessful. However, disappointed but undismayed, he means to have another go next May. Good luck to him.

### Placements

A. H. Carpenter, as a telephonist with the Eastern Counties Farmers' Co-operative Association, Ipswich; B. Dunkley, as capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Benton and Stone, Ltd., Birmingham.

### Travel Agent

John Proctor is running a travel agency at Marine Drive, Rottingdean, and would welcome enquiries. He covers world travel, Continental tours, and is an agent for the main steamship and airway companies and of British Railways.

### London Club Notes

**Bridge.**—April has been rather a quiet month for the Club, owing to the Easter holiday. Nevertheless, we managed to get in some matches, the first being an uproarious match between North and South, South winning by a good margin. The main feature of this match was an excellent tea provided, as usual, by Miss Ibbetson. We were then narrowly beaten by Lyons Club, but on that occasion we had to go into the highways and byways to find players. The 22nd was a much better result, as we beat Jock Henry's team by two thousand odd. I think congratulations are due for a good piece of work to Mr. G. Jolly for getting his feet firmly planted in a bridge club at Blackpool, and so giving any members of the Club a chance of a good game if and when they should visit up there. The Civil Service Club also provided a team of ours with a very good match up there. J. M.

**Indoor Section.**—We are again able to express our pleasure at a number of new faces in the Club. We hope they will enjoy it and also join in the various competitions for the Sir Arthur Pearson Trophies. With reference to these activities, all entries for the different events must be in by June 15th, and all ties played off by October 7th. The lists are on the notice board in the entrance hall of the Club.

We put on record the visit of the B.R.S.S. from Camden Town, and have to record this as our first defeat at the hands of these friends. We can only surmise that our darts form is still good, but our rivals' has undoubtedly improved.

A small party composed of some of our concert group visited the Sports Pavilion of the G.E.C., Wembley, to support the Club chairman, Percy Ashton, when he presented the trophies to the G.E.C. Darts Club. A very pleasant evening was spent in the Pavilion, and in between dances we gave a song, a story, and some magic.

Remember the suggestion box. It's your Club—let's have your suggestions. The better you make it for yourself, the more it will appeal to others. TINY FLEMING.

**Outdoor Section.**—The ten-mile Walk took place from Bedford College, on May 6th. Full results in the next column.

**Magic.**—Members of the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians,

together with their tutors, still have lots of fun during practice each Monday night. Would any St. Dunstaners care to have a good laugh, and join us at Headquarters at about 7.30? Phone or write to Mr. Mackay for full particulars.

A. J. WILTSHIRE.

### Ten Miles Sealed Handicap and Scratch Race Walk, May 6th, 1950

S.S. Section	Time			Scr. Pos.
	All'ce	Actual	Hcp.	
A. Brown ...	4.15	95.11	90.56	3
W. Miller ...	Retired			
A. G. Bradley ...	10.45	104.52	94.07	8
W. T. Scott ...	17.15	113.03	95.48	10
J. Lynch ...	25.25	110.14	84.49	9
T. Denmead ...	10.25	99.00	88.35	5
P. J. Cryan ...	6.15	97.46	91.31	4
<b>T.B. Section</b>				
T. Gaygan ...	Scr.	87.57	Scr.	1
C. Williamson ...	4.45	92.33	87.48	2
E. Hailes ...	18.45	102.34	83.49	6
F. Dickerson ...	Retired			
C. Stafford ...	16.35	103.35	87.00	7
E. Cookson ...	30.45	116.49	86.04	11

### Prize-Winners

**S.S. Section:** 1st—J. Lynch  
2nd—T. Denmead  
Fastest Loser—A. Brown

**T.B. Section:** 1st—E. Hailes  
2nd—E. Cookson  
Fastest Loser—T. Gaygan

### Aggregate Points awarded to London Club Walkers, Season 1949-50

S.S.	Miles							Total
	1	2	3	5	7	10		
A. Bradley ...	5	1	1	4	3	1	15	
J. Lynch ...	1	4	1	1	2	4	13	
W. Miller ...	2	1	4	—	1	—	8	
W. T. Scott ...	1	1	2	1	1	1	7	
A. Brown ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
H. M. Steel ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
<b>T.B.</b>								
T. Gaygan ...	4	3	5	1	1	1	15	
C. Williamson ...	—	5	3	2	1	1	12	
C. Stafford ...	—	—	1	5	4	2	12	
E. Cookson ...	3	2	—	—	1	3	9	
E. Haile ...	—	—	1	3	—	5	9	
F. Dickerson ...	—	—	—	1	5	—	6	
M. Burns ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
<b>Cup Winners:</b> S.S.—A. B. Bradley T.B.—T. Gaygan								

### Liverpool Club

The First Annual General Meeting of the Liverpool Club was held on Saturday, April 22nd, at the British Legion Hall, and was very well attended. The Chairman opened the meeting with an account of the Club's activities during the past year and expressed thanks, on behalf of the Committee, to all members for their whole-hearted support in all its undertakings. The Treasurer then presented a full Statement of Accounts, after which the election of the new Committee was proceeded with. The following were re-elected:

*President:* Capt. E. Halloway  
*Chairman:* L. Jackson  
*Secretary:* T. Milner  
*Vice-Chairman:* J. C. Owen  
*Treasurer:* A. Wright  
*Assistant Secretaries:* E. Watts and T. Kinder.

Our two new Committee members were Violet Formstone and J. Shaw.

At the close of the meeting the President congratulated the Club on its success and thanked the ladies (wives) for the splendid service they had rendered during the past year. T. M.

### Birmingham Club

There was a good bit of business on the agenda of the April meeting of the Birmingham St. Dunstan's Sports and Social Club. One of the items was the summer outing and it was decided that this should take place at Evesham in June, if the necessary arrangements can be made. Failing this, we shall go to the old stalwart, Stratford-on-Avon, where we have so many good friends. The journey will be made by charabanc or V.T.S.

Another item was a challenge to the Walsall Limbless Association to play them at darts, dominoes and card games, in the open if the weather is fine; this to take place early in July.

I should like to thank the sisters and V.A.D.s of the Birmingham Red Cross for attending to our lunch and tea on our summer outing, and also for attending to our teas at all our meetings.

I wish to make a special appeal to all young St. Dunstaners in the Birmingham district to come along and help us with

our sports, such as walking, running, swimming, etc., and the field events also, such as putting the weight, jumping, throwing the cricket ball. We older St. Dunstaners are getting a little past this. Our hearts are good enough, but our feet will not let us do what we did some thirty years ago. So to you, young St. Dunstaners, once again—please come along. You will be made very welcome and we shall all be pleased to see you.

We had a grand attendance at the April meeting and no one was more pleased than Miss Fairhead, our secretary, and Miss Gough. This is their reward for all their services.

JOHN H. NEW.

### Talking Book Library

#### April's Apple

After last month's blank, it is surprising to find only a solitary release for this month. However, that solitary book is one with plenty of reading, and *Coningsby*, for that's its name, is a last century "near classic."

*Coningsby*, by Benjamin Disraeli, read Richard Wessell, is romance heavily shrouded in politics or vice versa. Coningsby himself is the hero, tall, fair, handsome, and accomplished, who goes through Eton and Oxford and so to politics. "Dizzy" had tremendous fun with his subsidiary political characters, and the political background is akin to that of to-day. There is a small point which interested me and that was a complaint that Paris, in 1843 or thereabouts, could not produce a hot dinner because the plates and dishes of French pottery could not stand up to the necessary pre-heating. To me that sounds like personal reminiscence, and if it is as true as I think, it is unkind to the French to revive such a memory in this era of export drives!

And so to May!

"NELSON."

#### For Sale

Two Pedigree Cocker Spaniel puppies, born March 9th, 1950; one black and one golden; bitches. £3 each, £2 10s. to a St. Dunstaner.—A. Relf, 250 Farnham Road, Slough, Bucks.

### Derby Sweepstake Draw

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake took place at the London Club on Friday evening, May 19th. Messrs. Frank Rhodes and Alf Wiltshire made the actual draw, Mr. Willis calling out the names as they were drawn from the drum. Miss Ibbetson and a number of St. Dunstaners and their wives and friends were there to witness the drawing.

Here is the result:—

Babu's Pet	... Drummer DOWNS, W.1	2032
Bilbrough	... G. H. RICHARDS	1833
	Manchester	
Billiter Street	... T. TUNFORD, Ovingdean	2232
Bright Society	... P. BAGWELL, Sherborne	2500
Castle Rock	... W. HORSNELL, Taunton	277
Double Eclipse	... C. PENNALLS, Brighton...	2780
Eclat	... A. ROBINSON (MICKY),	2229
	Ovingdean	
Exodus	... L. T. ELLAWAY	2520
	Monmouth	
Galcador	... W. G. MORRIS,...	1063
	Bournemouth	
Glaicul	... G. F. SMITH, Guildford	954
Grand Seigneur	... J. V. TWEEDY, S.W.19	584
High Bandit	... S. A. BELSHAM	1030
	Broadway, Worcs.	
Indian Empire	... T. MILLIGAN, W.2	27
Indigo II	... H. KING, Luton	2483
Khorassan	... F. W. WALKER, Gosport	1387
L'Amiral	... F. H. HUGHES, Norwich	526
Main Road	... H. PUGH, N.3	1039
Mattygainmal	... R. G. SHERIFF, Leicester	1699
Napoleon	... J. C. WILLIAMS	2819
	Bonaparte	
	Haywards Heath	
New Pioneer	... D. O. EVANS	1564
	Llansamlet, Swansea	
Paradiso	... E. LAKE, Scarborough...	1264
Perigucux	... T. W. WALTER, Rochester	836
Persia	... G. H. RICHARDS,	1834
	Manchester	
Peter Fox II	... THELMA MEREDITH	752
	Chester	
Pewter Platter	... C. H. SMITH,	1272
	Bury St. Edmunds	
Port O'Light	... W. CANNING, Wallasey...	2044
Prince's Choice	... S. CATLOW, Nelson	255
Prince Simon	... J. TAYLOR, Swinton	1822
Rising Flame	... J. KNIGHTS, Romford...	1287
Route Napoleon	... W. REED, Barry	2794
Stenigot	... L. WILLIAMS, Birmingham	614
Telegram II	... G. BURNETT, Sutton	1406
Tramper	... R. GIFFIN, Crewe	2593
Vieux Manoir	... J. BEATTIE, Moberley...	822
Volnay II	... A. G. BRIGGS, Norwich	2823
Welsh View	... G. SOUTHEN, Folkestone	326
The Field	... T. JONES, Wellington	2671

### Braille Review

Owing to the fact that the printed REVIEW has been held up to include the result of the Derby Sweepstake draw, it has been possible to include a number of items in the printed REVIEW which will not be found in the braille issue. These will be printed in the braille REVIEW next month.

### Mr. W. T. Curtis-Willson

One of the highest honours in the newspaper world—the Presidency of the Newspaper Society—has gone to a St. Dunstaner, Mr. W. T. Curtis-Willson, M.B.E., J.P. The Newspaper Society is the proprietors' organisation embracing the whole of the Provincial Press of the country.

Mr. Curtis-Willson has controlled the old-established *Brighton and Hove Herald* since January 1st, 1933, and has done much important work for printing and its allied trades. He was a founder member and was elected the first vice-president of the International Federation of the Press. He is at present leading the British delegation to the third conference of the International Organisation in Rome, and at the end of May he goes with the British delegation to the seventh Imperial Press Conference in Canada.

His numerous other activities include politics—for eleven years he was Conservative Parliamentary Agent at Brighton to Major (afterwards Lord) Tryon and Sir Cooper Rawson—and local government, where he has served for ten years as a Justice of the Peace. He holds the rank of Wing Commander in the Air Training Corps and is the senior A.T.C. officer of Reserve Command, R.A.F.

### Thirty Years Ago

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

"I am very glad to hear so often as I do from men who have left St. Dunstan's, that they find so great an interest in reading braille. . . . When St. Dunstan's was started neither Miss Pain nor I had any idea that so many men would become proficient braillists as has proved to be the case. I think that a very important factor in acquiring the art of reading braille swiftly and easily is to get thoroughly into one's head the fact that one really reads with the brain. The eye is simply the mechanical means by which the words and letters on a printed book are conveyed to the brain, just in the same way as the mechanism of the ear conveys impressions of sound to it. . . . Anyone who takes the trouble to master the braille system can become a swift and proficient reader if he will only stick to it. A little practice every day is far better than a longer spell at greater intervals."—Sir Arthur Pearson, in "Notes by the Chief."

## Reunions Again

The 1950 Reunions have begun. On Wednesday, April 19th, a happy gathering at the Oxford Hall, Reading, began the series of meetings which will go on now until late summer. The guest of honour at Reading was Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, who welcomed the members of what he described as "the great family of St. Dunstan's."

The Brighton Reunion two days later took a different form this year. Instead of an afternoon meeting, the guests arrived at the Grand Hotel at 7 p.m., where Sir Ian Fraser, with Lady Fraser, welcomed them. It was altogether a most enjoyable night. Nearly a hundred men were present and the many old friends there included Matron Pain, Matron Vaughan Davies, Miss Lloyd, Miss Bamberger, Mrs. Giorgi, Miss Meldrum, Mrs. Ouseley and Mr. Ottaway. The Grocers' Federation, the Freemasons, the Butchers' Association and the Brighton Yacht Club were also represented.

Sir Neville Pearson again presided when Colchester had its meeting on April 26th. This also was a most friendly and enjoyable occasion. Miss Hensley was there and many friends from Headquarters staff.

Sir Neville said: "I do not think St. Dunstan's has changed much during the years. We have maintained a great tradition. And there is one thing I have particularly noticed at these reunions . . . something which my father would have liked tremendously. Everyone is so neatly dressed. He always stressed the importance of personal appearance . . ."

At Norwich, on April 27th, Colonel Eric Ball welcomed the guests to a party, which although small was a very happy one.

The Grimsby meeting was at the Town Hall, where the Lady Mayoress, Councillor Mrs. Margaret Larmour, now an old friend of St. Dunstan's, received the guests with Mrs. Watson.

Col. Gordon Larking, National Chairman of the British Legion, was the guest of honour at Maidstone, who coupled the toast to St. Dunstan's with the name of Sir Ian Fraser, with whom he worked in friendly co-operation. Sir Ian himself was prevented from attending the Reunion, but Lady Fraser replied on his behalf.

At all of these Reunions the guests were able to meet Mr. Mackay, and Miss Outing was another welcome visitor to the Southern area meetings. Other visitors included members of Headquarters and technical staff.

## The Irish Meetings

### A Tribute to Sir Arthur

The three Reunions held in Ireland this year—at Cork, Dublin and Belfast, on the 9th, 11th and 12th May—were a great success and were attended by some fifty St. Dunstaners, their wives and friends. At Dublin the function was honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor, who spoke in great appreciation of the work of St. Dunstan's over the past thirty-five years. When Mr. B. Martin, of Bray, replied on behalf of St. Dunstaners, he recited a poem which he had composed himself as a tribute to the work of the late Sir Arthur Pearson. The poem reads as follows:—

*Founded by Sir Arthur Pearson five-and-thirty years ago,*

*The war-blinded soldiers' hero,*

*And that we all well know,*

*Since he dwelt among his people, nine-and-twenty years have passed,*

*But the memory of our noble chief*

*Will be with us to the last.*

*He led us with his kindly hand*

*To that hostel in Regent's Park,*

*He opened a brighter road through life for us*

*Though his own was dark,*

*And in after-care to watch over us.*

*Yes! proud men sure are we,*

*God rest his soul,*

*It was Sir Arthur Pearson who taught the blind to see.*

At Belfast Lady Turner, a former Lady Mayoress of the city, was present, and Colonel Eric Ball, the Deputy Chairman, who presided over the three Irish Reunions, made mention of her valuable work on behalf of St. Dunstan's. Others present at the Irish Reunions included Mr. A. Mackay (Welfare Superintendent), Mr. Macauley, Mr. Roberts, representing the Industrial Section, and Major Basil Curtis, Public Relations Officer.

## Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIR,

May I through the medium of the REVIEW thank the Matron and Staff of Northgate House for the excellent way in which they all looked after our triplets—Robert, Pamela and Brian.

They have just arrived home after spending their annual fortnight at Northgate, and I cannot speak too highly of the excellent care and attention they have received from Matron Reeve and her staff.

Again, "thank you," Northgate, for a lovely holiday for the "Bilcliff Triplets."

G. BILCLIFF.

Grays.

DEAR SIR,

En passant as a regular reader of the REVIEW, which I read "à bout à bout" (French for end-to-end) I must admit that I enjoy it much and am interested in all its items. Being of the younger generation, I do not know so much about the first war chappies, but all the same am interested in their doings, givings, or misgivings. Dear me! Seldom are misgivings published. I should like to read in "Test Results": "P. Smith, whose home is in Ashton-under-Lyme, took two hours and twenty-two minutes to read one page of braille, thus failing his Advanced Test. It is a wonder how he passed his first."

Never mind. I might be the first to appear in that column.

Yours sincerely,  
GEORGE MORTIMER.

Witham.

DEAR EDITOR,

### Old Contemptibles

Just to add to your records of "Old Contemptibles," I submit the following particulars of my service.

In the autumn of 1906 I overheard our doctor telling my mother that if she could send me for a long sea trip to a warm climate I might live. At that time a 5s. trip would have been out of the question. So in the afternoon, with a small bundle and my life's savings (17s.), I stole out of the house and took a ticket for Liverpool (6s. 1d.). Two days later I had signed on as ordinary seaman in the schooner "Pearl," of Gloucester. There were a crew of five, including the skipper. She was a fore-and-aft'er, and a coaster.

In February I found myself in Plymouth and, to see how fit I was, went to the Recruiting Office and, without quite knowing how, found myself a private in the 2nd Bn. Durham Light Infantry, on February 19th, 1907.

My period of service was uneventful, as most of it was spent in Ireland, and I transferred to the Reserve on June 19th, 1912. On August 4th, 1914, I rejoined my regiment and, proceeding to France, was wounded on the Aisne on September 19th, 1914. On September 4th, 1916, I became eligible for St. Dunstan's because of a bombing accident while acting as instructor to the Regiment.

Yours sincerely,

A. M. NICHOLS.

Portslade.

DEAR EDITOR,

When I go away (not often these days) I carry my belongings on my back in a rucksack—a good quality article in which I can get an overcoat (or raincoat), spare suit, boots and slippers, change of underwear with additional shirts and so on. There are three pockets outside. In one I get shaving gear, boot brushes, etc., in another grub for a day's journey, and, if you like, fags, pipe and tobacco in the other.

I took to using the rucksack after my first visit to Blackpool because with your luggage on your back, you have a free hand to talk with. Also, we were often met by a one-armed orderly. Then again, it is less trouble in a crowd than a bag, and if the tube train or bus happens to start with a jerk, you have a free hand to grab hold of something. It is very simple too to unhook one strap and swing the article on your knee.

Now it has occurred to me that the rucksack would be a good idea for our one-armed men and those without hands.

Yours sincerely,  
Southwick. G. FALLOWFIELD.

★ ★ ★

Following Mrs. Robinson's letter last month as to the realisation of blindness by small children, T. E. Skelly says: "My little grandson, John, showed that he realised his grandfather's blindness, and always led me by the hand when he wanted me to play with him, at the age of eighteen months."

### Ten Months in Australia

Returning to England after ten months in Australia, several St. Dunstaners have suggested that an account of my experiences would be of interest to others and give them news of many old friends. As an ex-St. Dunstan's V.A.D. myself, the reason for my journey was the fulfilment of a long-standing promise to the blinded Australians of the 1914-1918 war. So that it was to see them primarily that my great adventure was undertaken. For it was an adventure. I could not do it the easy way with "money to burn" and knew that I should have to work out there if I was to be able to stay away any length of time.

I sailed from Tilbury on the P. & O. liner *Strathaird* in March, 1949, leaving on a grey day of mist and rain. The voyage was cold, comfortable and pleasant to a certain degree. We sailed past the Fleet, exercising at Gibraltar; we saw snow on the peaks of North Africa; we called at Port Said and Suez and Aden. We came to Bombay—then on to Colombo, Ceylon, loveliest of islands. On we sailed until in the end we came to Australia. The faint, fragrant scent of it reached us a day or two before the sight of land. It is peculiar to Australia and comprises many things—the eucalyptus and pines, bush fires, and the scents of many flowers. So we came to Fremantle; and Adelaide; and then on an evening we docked at Port Melbourne and after a few minutes I found Watson standing beside a tall daughter and was welcomed to Australia by him and his wife. Then there began for me an almost continuous round of reunions and hospitality, of wonderful kindness and generosity by the old College boys, to their ex-Aunt, or Dusty, as they called me.

I stayed with many of them and met their wives and sons and daughters, and heard the stories of their early "pioneering" days when, as newly-blinded Australians, they had to make a way for themselves.

They gave dinners and parties; they took me to the club in Melbourne and to the weekly dance. At this dance all the old College men in Victoria had made an effort to be present. Here also I met many other than College men, as the delegates from all the other States were there that night. Of the College men I met Vernon Mullin, now a widower and living with his

sister; Tom Corboy, very much the family man and little changed in appearance; Bill Clifton, non-smoker and non-drinker and still with five horses in his paddocks; Bob Archer, busy secretary and Masonic member; Tom Cook, out recently from England starting afresh in a new-country. There also the Fordyces and the Tregents came to the Watsons' to see me, as did MacConnell and his wife. Mac, still whispering, still smiling and beloved by everyone.

I stayed with the Tregents, who offered to be my H.Q. during my stay in Australia, and were goodness itself to me. Many will remember Mrs. Tregent as Miss Sharp, or "Sharpy." Later on I went to stay in the Dandenong Ranges, about thirty miles from Melbourne, with Fordy and his wife and sister. Fordy is a tremendous worker and spends all day and half the night with his flowers and his bulbs, running a gladioli farm. It was Fordy who, with his sister, sent me in search of the lyre-bird, so that one unforgettable day, we trekked through wet mists, through forest and jungle, until within a few feet of us we saw this beautiful bird dancing and singing on his mound through his delicate veil of pale grey feathers. One of the moments that even many Australians have envied, as the birds are very rare.

Then I flew north to Brisbane. Everyone flies in Australia. I arrived late at night on a lovely tropic night. Brisbane is a thousand miles from Melbourne and is called the "city of the seven hills." Here I met Frank Clark, another of the College boys; it seemed unbelievable that after thirty years I should be sitting talking to him in his own home town. Together we stood and watched the Eternal Flame which burns day and night in the Memorial, and spoke of the only College Queenslander I had come too late to see, Ben Stafford, who had died four years ago.

Then I flew north again to Cairns, another thousand miles, then to the Tablelands—and the last trip of all, to the islands of the Barrier Reef. It was with real regret that I left Queensland and began to think about getting down to work. Once in Sydney I was soon plunged in work and into the coal strike. I nursed, washed and ironed, mended, cleaned and did a thousand jobs I never would have

attempted in England, but I was amongst some of the kindest, simplest and saintliest of Australians. I learnt to know Sydney, in spite of its strikers, and to love its glorious surrounding country.

From Sydney I travelled by bus back to Melbourne. The Tregents again shared their lovely home life with me until I put myself in hospital and began nursing Australian mothers and babies.

My time in Australia was growing short, as I had booked my passage on a cargo boat due to sail shortly after Christmas, via America and the Panama. Before I left, the College got together and gave me a wonderful farewell party. Willie Watson gathered the troops to her house and we all sat and talked into the night. In the midst of it all, Tregent gave me a letter which had arrived for me that day. Most strangely and most appropriately it was from Guy Foster in Canada, a belated Christmas letter.

Then there were the last farewells and I was on my way once more. Flying to Sydney again, but this time over Canberra. Then waiting around Sydney whilst my cargo boat dallied to its loading, until at last, we left the heat of Sydney and plunged almost immediately into rough weather until we were well past New Zealand.

Then began the long, lonely voyage across the Pacific (twelve passengers and a crew of about seventy-three) passing only whales and flying fishes and seeing only rainbows in the spray, yet never a ship until, nearing the Panama Canal, we took our place in the line of ships waiting to pass through it.

We stopped for a day at colourful Balbao. Then eight and a half hours sailing with a black crew through the Canal itself. Then on to Curacao. The sudden change from heat to cold and then to great cold; the boiling seas and frost and snow, until (a snow ship in a blizzard) we entered Boston Harbour and, like a ghost ship, continued to New York and Virginia, leaving it all again to cross a comparatively calm Atlantic. Then our eager watch for Bishop's Rock Light, the shadowed outline of the Isle of Wight, and the white cliffs of Dover, coming eventually, with our many cargoes, to the brown sails of the fishing fleets and the busy stream of shipping in the grey dusk of evening in old Thames River—our journey ended. V. C. MILLER.

### From All Quarters

Charles Gover and Freddy Winter won third place in the Overcliff Cup for the Southend Bridge Pairs Championship in April. Thirty-two pairs took part. Last year they were second.

★ ★ ★

J. H. New, of Wolverhampton, has had a busy time lately attending presentations on behalf of St. Dunstan's to a number of darts and domino leagues which he organised some years ago. With a recent presentation of £100 by the Butlers (Wolverhampton) League, £925 had been raised for St. Dunstan's.

★ ★ ★

F. H. Kirkbright, of Deal, and Harry Tomkinson, of Dalston, have been the latest St. Dunstaners to receive Ministry of Pensions cars.

★ ★ ★

A competitor won £5 in a "John Bull" competition with this bullet: "A grand job—St. Dunstan's did—craftsmen."

★ ★ ★

When Miss Pease visited Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Tindall, of Scarborough, recently, she and Mrs. Tindall were fascinated by three strange birds eating berries in a neighbouring garden. They were smaller than starlings, very tame, with reddish grey plumage, black on head, tail and wings, and yellow and red tips to some of the flight feathers. They surmised, correctly, that they were Waxwings, who only make their appearance in the British Isles when the Arctic winter is unusually severe.

★ ★ ★

We had news the other day of an old friend, Miss Reynolds. Alan Nichols tells us that in spite of poor health, Miss Reynolds, who now lives in a Convent in Kensington, still continues her work and takes the keenest interest in her old friends at St. Dunstan's. Many St. Dunstaners have appreciated her letters to them since her retirement.

## Ovingdean Notes

The Easter holiday over, the Summer training term commenced on April 18th, and on the 20th another of Mr. Cheesman's popular dances was held at the Arlington Hotel, Brighton.

Amongst our visitors to Ovingdean this month has been a group of London County Council Blind Welfare Visitors, and a representative from the B.B.C. Facilities Unit, here to obtain material for a broadcast to the Middle and Far East. From now until the end of the Summer term, at the end of July, parties of visitors will be coming to Ovingdean at the rate of approximately forty a week.

For the holiday men staying with us there have been a number of drives arranged round Sussex, visiting such places as Ockenden Manor, Cuckfield, Arundel and "Drusilla's," in addition to the usual entertainments available in Brighton itself.

On April 29th we entertained the local civilian blind, and after playing a domino tournament in the afternoon, they heard a play-reading by a group of students from the Florence Moore Studio, which was much enjoyed.

The Debating Society have met once this month, when the subject under discussion was "That sport has become too commercialised." Voting went for the motion and the debate was well attended.

A small party from amongst the "permanents" attended a most enjoyable dinner and evening's entertainment, given by the Sussex Freemasons, at which our President, Sir Neville Pearson, was also present. This was held at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, on April 18th.

Matron Pain and one or two other members of Ovingdean Staff were present at the Brighton Reunion, held this year at the Grand Hotel, on April 21st. It was a most enjoyable evening.

On Anzac Day our two remaining Australian trainees (K. Farrar and J. Pottage) attended the Service held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and they were also present at the Australian ex-Service Association Annual Dinner, held at the Connaught Rooms on April 22nd.

There will be further details about Ovingdean Sports Day next month.

## Test Results

**Typing.**—D. Alexopoulos (Greek officer), A. Whitthorn, H. Roberts.

**Advanced.**—A. Carpenter.

**Preliminary.**—J. Cowan, T. Harrison.

**Senior.**—C. Beaumont-Edmonds, P. Johns, V. Kennard.

**Writing.**—M. Wesley, T. Woods, T. Partington.

## Young St. Dunstaners

Thomas L. Salter, D.F.M. (London), who is a Flight Engineer with the R.A.F., has been on a photograph tour of Africa since November. The expedition is covering East, West and South Africa by plane and the survey is being made for record purposes.

★ ★ ★

Jean Jolly, of Sheffield, has won her Elocution Bronze Medal.

★ ★ ★

The son of F. Fishwick played forward for Warrington, the winning team, in the Rugby League Cup Final at Wembley on May 6th.

★ ★ ★

Ian Walden (Norbury) played his third cup match on Crystal Palace ground on May 1st. This time it was against Sutton Common in the Croydon Minor League. Ian, who is 17, plays centre-forward and is training to be a quantity surveyor.

★ ★ ★

Paddy Coleman has had a picture accepted for the Kettering Art Exhibition and has sold another which she painted in the Easter holiday. She takes her Finals examination at the Art School in July.

## Marriages

Tom Oldfield, Sheffield, on March 25th, to Miss Marjorie Leigh.

On March 30th, Wilfrid Smith, Golcar, to Miss Doreen Margaret Oxley.

## R.A.O.B. News

On Thursday, April 27th, Bro. Edward Williams, of Shipley, was exalted to the Third Degree at the Pride of Windmill Lodge.

## Presented to Princess Royal

Mrs. Maureen V. Lees, a former member of the A.T.S., who lost her sight as a result of her war service, was formally presented to H.R.H. the Princess Royal at the annual reunion of the A.T.S. at the Royal Albert Hall last month.

Maureen has received from the War Office her T.A. Efficiency Medal, granted for at least twelve years' good service. It is silver, and inscribed, and a coveted award in the A.T.S. Maureen is at present studying at the School of Weaving, Kensington, and was also presented to H.R.H. the Princess Royal there on the 18th March. Her Royal Highness chatted with her for about ten minutes.

## Honour for our Poultry-Keepers

From the "Poultry World," April 27th:—

"The only section at the National Test in which no death has been recorded in the first six months is that restricted to St. Dunstan's breeders. That the latter are first-class handlers of stock is proved by the 102.66 eggs per bird as the average to date. Only the Two-year (104.8 eggs), Rhode I. Red (104.55 eggs) and White Leghorns (103.4 eggs) sections have higher sectional averages."

## In the News

The *Rugby Advertiser* of April 21st devoted half a column to our St. Dunstaner, Bill Storer, who is switchboard operator at the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby.

★ ★ ★

The *Oldham Evening Chronicle* has been running a series, "They Entertain You," and No. 22 was our own Gerry Brereton. With an excellent photograph of Gerry at the microphone was an article sketching his career. Hamilton Kennedy, assistant senior producer of the North Region, says that Gerry is the North's leading vocalist.

## Grandfathers

R. E. Hill, Tideswell; G. Lund, West Hartlepool; F. Green, Sunderland (on October 7th last year); J. C. Owen, of Liverpool; H. Blakeley, of Exmouth (for the second time); H. Bridgman, Derby.

## Silver Weddings

The Rev. and Mrs. Dennis Pettitt on April 19th last year; Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Lovett, of Enfield, May 14th.

## Commander Smyth

St. Dunstaners everywhere will learn with the deepest regret of the sudden death of Commander A. D. D. Smyth, D.S.O., R.N., which occurred at his home on April 25th. He was sixty-three.

Commander Smyth came to us in the spring of 1937 to take up the duties of Welfare Superintendent of the Northern Area, Mr. Ottaway at that time being Welfare Superintendent for the South. When war came, Commander Smyth was recalled to the Navy and saw much service at sea. He returned to us in 1944 to take over the duties of Welfare Superintendent for the whole country, Mr. Ottaway having retired, but in December, 1946, he reluctantly decided that his many duties were becoming a burden to him and he too left us.

During his years with us he made many friends. His kindly understanding and courteous manner will be remembered by all who came in contact with him and they will grieve at his death.

Commander Smyth leaves a widow and three daughters, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

## Death

BOWER.—Our deep sympathy is extended to W. Bower, of Sheffield, whose wife has passed away after a long illness.

## Births

CRABBE.—On April 18th, to the wife of W. Crabbe, of Wycombe, a son—Philip.

GIMBRERE.—On May 13th, to Alice Gimbere, a son—Edward Emile.

KIBBLER.—On April 18th, to the wife of L. Kibbler, of Birmingham, a son—Robert Levi.

MILLER.—On April 27th, to the wife of E. Miller, of Leamington Spa, a daughter—Angela Margaret.

TUCKER.—On April 19th, to the wife of E. Tucker, of Harlesden, a daughter—Patricia Margaret.

## Marriage

BAGWELL—COTTRILL.—On May 6th, Phil Bagwell, to Marjorie Cottrill, at Bradford Abbas, Dorset.

## “ In Memory ”

### Private Joseph B. Boyce, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. B. Boyce, of Weymouth. He was nearly fifty-eight. He was discharged from the Army in June, 1919, and came to St. Dunstan's in 1924, where he trained as a joiner, and he continued with this work until his death, which occurred very suddenly on April 29th. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral. He leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### Private Arthur Price, *Royal Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of A. Price, of Enfield. He was fifty-three. After service in the First War he was discharged in May, 1917, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until March, 1932. He then trained in poultry-keeping and mat-making, but later took up baskets, and he worked at this until his death. He died on April 24th and was buried in the family grave at Pontypool, Monmouthshire.

Among the flowers was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser.  
Our sincere sympathy goes out to his widow and two sons, Arthur and Bernard.

### Lance-Corporal George Lawty, *King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death of G. Lawty, of Bridlington, which occurred on Good Friday. This St. Dunstaner served with the 1/4 K.O.Y.L.I. from October, 1917, until June, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's that year after being wounded in France. He trained as a boot-repairer and had been most successful over a great many years. Some time ago he had a stroke but made a good recovery and he was carrying on with his work when he passed away suddenly.

Messrs. Cooper, Tindall and Roughley, all St. Dunstan's friends, with their wives, attended the funeral. Mr. and Mrs. Hopper were prevented from attending at the last moment.

The many flowers included a poppy wreath from Sir Ian.  
Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Lawty.

### Corporal Arthur W. Morris, *1st Dorset Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. W. Morris, of Pontypridd. Enlisting at the outbreak of the First World War, he was blinded at Ypres, and he came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1916. He trained in poultry farming and mat-making, but he was never able to undertake really heavy work. For some months past, he had been going steadily downhill and he passed peacefully away at his home on April 30th.

A wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers at the funeral.  
Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and family. Mr. and Mrs. Morris celebrated their golden wedding in 1949.

### Private Frank Openshaw, *23rd King's Liverpool Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of F. Openshaw, of Burnley, who served with his regiment from August, 1916, until May, 1917.

He came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1918, his sight having been destroyed as a result of his service, but he was never able to take up serious work. For a great number of years he had been a sick man and his death, on May 7th, occurred very shortly after the death of his wife, to whom he was devoted.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian.  
Our deep sympathy goes to his daughter who had cared for her father since the death of Mrs. Openshaw.

### Private George Perry, *2nd South Staffordshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. Perry, of Wolverhampton. He saw service from June, 1903, until June, 1917. Two months earlier, he had been wounded in France and he came to us in June of that year. He trained as a mat-maker and gained first class certificates. He carried on with this work until a year or so ago. His death was very sudden and occurred at his home on April 26th.

A wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers at the funeral.  
He leaves a large family, to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.