

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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The British Legion Conference

SPEAKING at the British Legion Conference at the Royal Albert Hall at Whitsun, the Duke of Gloucester said:

“A great part of the Legion's strength lies in its being above party politics or other sectarian struggles, and it is important that you should guard this tradition most jealously.

“The fact that we are non-political does not and should not prevent us from harrying the Government in power, whatever its colour, when we consider it necessary in the interest of our members.”

In his Presidential Address, Sir Ian Fraser, referring to party politics, said:

“May I suggest a clear line of thought, namely, that we go out strongly for what we think is right and are not influenced or deflected or even concerned with its political effect on Government or Opposition. That was, and is, the mind of the Legion, and it was soon understood and that is why the criticism from right or left that we were engaging in party politics soon died out. Let us go forward then, united with other ex-Service men's and women's organisations, to demand redress of our grievances without fear or favour.”

Dealing with war pensions, Sir Ian said:

“There is in the Ministry a new spirit of helpfulness which is exemplified by the attitude of the staff towards the pensioner and their desire to help him to secure all his rights rather than to make it difficult for him to get them. We welcome this and thank the Ministry for it.

“In particular, special allowances have been introduced or improved which have greatly helped the more seriously disabled, so that in spite of the rise in the cost of living they have not suffered too badly. We should still like to see the pensions and allowances which are received by the most seriously disabled reconsidered and some rates increased.

Nor had the case for the partially disabled been met, he said. “In February, 1946, the basic rate of disability pension was fixed at 45s. The purchasing power of the pound has dropped since then so that a true equivalent of this amount should now be 55s. 6d. Between the same dates, in spite of the wage freeze, the average wage of some six million men has risen by 21s. 11d. per week.

“Many are beginning to find that the strain of carrying their disabilities through life into middle and older age is almost too great for them. Merely to carry an artificial leg and harness around, for example, is one thing when you are young but far more of a strain when you are older. Great efforts have been made by employers, trade unions and by the men themselves to secure and retain employment and every one of us admires the man who hides

his disability and gets on with his job, but as they get into their sixties—and bear in mind that the average age of these men is now 59 years and 10 months—more and more are becoming unemployed, and it is a real problem to know how best to care for them. I suggest both to the Ministry of Pensions and to the Legion that a serious study of this problem would be one of the best services they could render.”

Continuing, Sir Ian said the best solution may be a rise in the basic rate, for this avoids a Means Test or an Employment Test, but failing this they still thought that the Government ought to set up an independent enquiry to look into it. It would be a source of great satisfaction to the nation to know that after a second world war, the whole question of how our ex-Service men who are disabled are faring had been thoroughly looked into and reported upon.

“We shall continue to work and campaign for this and we hope that we shall receive increased support from all quarters.

“My travels up and down the country and my life's experience have taught me two things about the disabled. One is that they are courageous and hard-working—when this is possible—but often lonely. The other is how much they appreciate what the Legion and its associated Societies can do for them.

“I know of branches who have listed every disabled man and know what he is doing and how he is progressing. I know of voluntary workers in the Legion who make sure that every disabled man in their territory is employed or occupied according to his capability, and who go along to fetch him out to the Club or the Branch Meeting so that he is not left out of the ex-Service community because of his disability. It may be that he is blind or crippled and wants physical help to get to the meeting or the local football match. Or it may be that, if left alone, he would become psychologically home-bound, hiding himself away from his fellows and lonely instead of enjoying warm-hearted friendship. Many Legionnaires, some of whom I know are here to-day, have devoted their whole lives to this task and I commend it to every branch to consider and organise and to the British Legion Service Committee to inspire. It would be a fine thing if we could say that every disabled ex-Service man and woman in the land has our active friendship or encouragement in his successes or help in his difficulties or comfort in his old age.”

Concluding, Sir Ian said:

“Can we of the British Legion, a million strong, and the millions of others who served King and Country, not make some special contribution to help our land once again to recover from the malaise of peace, as we defended it from all assaults of the enemy in time of war? We learned, during our service, partly from tradition and partly from our natural common-sense, to be courteous and considerate, to be disciplined and orderly, to move together, and above all, to care for each other in life and death, which was never far away. We learned to think more of the show and the cause than of ourselves.

“May it not be that something of this spirit—alive in all our people throughout the King's Dominions, but especially vital in the British Legion—can awake to save Britain and all that she stands for; and may it not be the honour and trust under God and the King for this loyal body of men and women to be once again this nation's most devoted servants and the inspiration of a new and better world?”

St. Dunstaner Ordained

Michael Norman was, on June 4th, ordained by the Bishop of Dover in Canterbury Cathedral and has taken up a curacy at the Church of St. Peter-in-Thamet, Kent. The Archbishop of Canterbury was present at the ordination.

The Rev. Norman took his B.A. degree at Queen's College, Cambridge, after he was blinded, and has studied for his ordination

at Wescott House Theological College, Cambridge.

The good wishes of all St. Dunstaners will go out to him in his chosen calling.

Placements

Philip Forster, as an assembler with Messrs. Morphy Richards, Ltd., St. Mary Cray; A. W. Heritage, as a capstan lathe operator with the Farnborough Engineering Co., Ltd.

London Club Notes

On September 26th, the Whist Drive competitions for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial prizes will start, and will continue until October 31st. The Dance competitions for the same Trophies will be held on February 2nd, 1951.

The 10-mile Walk was held on May 6th and was marred by the heavy rainstorm of the morning which deterred all but the most hardy. T. Gaygan, having opened up a good lead at six miles, left the place issue to be fought out by C. Williamson and A. Brown. The tussle between E. Hailes and C. Stafford brought back memories of 1927 and the then terrible twins of walking.

The handicap points went to T. Gaygan and A. Bradley, and it was good to see J. Lynch up in the handicap.

On May 20th a cheery party journeyed to Brighton for the Farmer Cup race—7 miles. Great disappointment was felt at the lack of support from the Rest of England, but owing to the sporting spirit of the Brighton Stalwarts, Denmead and Crynan, and W. Miller's sacrifice of a certain chance of a replica cup, to represent the Rest of England, a good team race was arranged, one of the best contests to date.

After the race, the cups were presented by the Mayor of Brighton, and we were entertained to tea and general prize-giving at Ovingdean.

This is the finish of the road walking season. We should certainly like to see some more young blood turning up on Tuesday evenings, and more opposition from other centres. So don't be fright, chaps, come and try it! P. ASHTON.

Bridge.—The highlight for May was an invitation from Lyons Club for twelve of our Club to have a day out at Dorking. So on Sunday, the 14th, at 11 a.m., four cars turned up at H.Q. and the party set off in brilliant sunshine which stayed with them all day. After lunch they had a match at bridge, which we managed to lose. A visit was then paid to the Rev. and Mrs. Spurway, who live near Dorking, and after a very pleasant day the party arrived home somewhere about 10 p.m.

On Saturday, May 20th, we again tried to beat John Waller's team but again we failed by over 3,000. His is a very strong team; and with the Derby taking up the remaining Saturday, we finish the month.

J. MUIR.

Outdoor Section.—It is proposed to hold the following events in the Inner Circle, Regent's Park, on Saturday, July 29th next, starting at 2.30 p.m.:

Three Miles Walking Race for Veterans over 45 years.

Two Miles Novices Race.

Half-Mile Running Race.

Prizes will be awarded according to the number of entries and the minimum number of entries necessary for the events to take place will be six in each event. Entries will close on Monday, July 10th, and should be sent to Jack Dawkins, at Headquarters.

Swimming.—St. Dunstaners are reminded that the Marylebone Baths in Seymour Place, Marylebone, are open to them on Monday evenings from 7 until 8. Payment will be made for each member attending if he will ring Headquarters before he goes to the Baths.

Rowing.—Rowing facilities have been placed at our disposal by Twickenham Rowing Club at Eel Pie Island Ferry, Twickenham. Mr. George Plumtree, who is a senior blade, has kindly consented to act as coach. No previous rowing experience is necessary; most of the members will be starting from scratch. Details from Mr. M. Burns, 2 Melvinshaw, Epsom Road, Leatherhead, Surrey (Tel.: Leatherhead 2892).

7 mile Sealed Handicap and Scratch Race Walk for the Farmer Cup, May 20th

London Team Actual H'cap H'cap Pos.
Time Time All.

1.*A. Brown ...	62.42	60.12	2.30	3
2. A. G. Bradley	Did not walk			
3.*W. T. Scott ...	71.50	60.20	11.30	9
4.*T. Gaygan ...	60.00	60.00	Scr.	1
5.*C. Williamson	62.32	59.32	3.00	2
6. F. Dickerson...	Did not walk			

Rest of England Team

1. W. Miller ...	62.56	57.26	5.30	4
2. P. G. Cryan ...	63.34	59.34	4.00	5
3. T. Denmead ...	65.27	58.27	7.00	6
4. E. Hailes ...	68.08	59.08	8.00	7
5. C. Stafford ...	68.57	57.57	11.00	8
6. E. Cookson ...	Did not walk			

Prize-winners:

1st S.S. Handicap: W. Miller.

2nd S.S. Handicap: T. Denmead.

1st T.B. Handicap: C. Stafford.

2nd T.B. Handicap: E. Hailes.

*Replica Cup.

Liverpool Club

A number of St. Dunstaners, their wives and escorts spent a very enjoyable day on Saturday, May 27th, when they had a trip to Knaresborough. Starting out at 9 a.m. in very nice weather, they went through Clithero and on to Chatburn, where it was time to stop for a "cuppa"; embarking again they stopped at Ilkley for a substantial dinner. Then on the coach again when suddenly, for no reason at all, the engine stopped, and all were amazed to find that it was right, nay, almost on the doorstep of the "Spotted Dog," and of course, it was impossible to be at such an historic hostelry without sampling the beverages which were retailed by Master Boniface. The journey was then resumed in pouring rain, which, however, was quite unable to damp the spirits of the happy crowd. In due time, Knaresborough was reached, when some of the hardier members braved the rain to make some purchases. Tea was then enjoyed by all and at 6 o'clock the coach was again invaded and started on the homeward journey. The landscape was scanned for a likely place for a breakdown and after several false alarms, this suddenly happened. The inn was found to have an abundant supply of the necessary refreshment, samples were up to standard, and after this halt all returned to the coach for the last lap home.

The outing was made much more enjoyable by several of our sighted friends—Harry Formstone being to the fore as always, Mr. Snape, the genial son-in-law of our old friend, Joe Blakely, and we must not forget Peggy Watts, who is always at hand if anything is needed. It was nice, too, to have Blodwyn and her sister with us. We also had the life of the party with us. Not George Doonan, but Joe Daly, who, by his antics and quips, kept everyone in stitches, and the oldest member of the party, Micky Mouse, was in the best of spirits right up to the end.

N.B.—The meetings of the Liverpool Club are held every other Saturday afternoon from 3 to 7, starting from July 1st (July 15th, 29th, etc.) and onwards to the end of September, when a further notice will be inserted in the REVIEW. Make a note of the dates and come along and spend a pleasant afternoon with your old friends.

J. C. OWEN, *Vice-Chairman*.

Derby Sweepstake, 1950

The Derby is over and nearly forgotten—but not by the 25 St. Dunstaners who each anxiously waited for their horse to come home first, nor by the Editorial Department who sent out no fewer than 2,845 tickets, nearly five hundred more than last year.

After deducting the sum of £16 for printing and postage expenses, a sum of £339 12s. 6d. was left to be distributed in accordance with the printed rules. The result was as follows:

1st—*Galador*. W. G. MORRIS, Bourne-mouth (1063): £169 16s. 0d.

2nd—*Prince Simon*. J. TAYLOR, Swinton (1822): £67 18s. 6d.

3rd—*Double Eclipse*. C. J. PENNELLS, Brighton (2780): £33 19s. 3d.

£67 18s. 6d. was divided among 22 other starters and the holders of these tickets received £3 1s. 9d. each. They were:

N. Downs, W.1.	<i>Babu's Pet</i>	2032
G. H. Richards, Manchester	<i>Billbrough</i>	1833
T. Tuxford, Ovingdean	<i>Billiter Street</i>	2232
P. Bagwell, Sherborne	<i>Bright Society</i>	2500
W. Horsnell, Taunton	<i>Castle Rock</i>	277
F. W. Walker, Gosport	<i>Khorassan</i>	1387
F. H. Hughes, Norwich	<i>L'Amiral</i>	526
H. Pugh, N.3.	<i>Main Road</i>	1039
R. G. Sheriff, Leicester	<i>Mattygainmal</i>	1699
J. C. Williams, Haywards Heath	<i>Napoleon Bonaparte</i>	2819
D. O. Evans, Swansea	<i>New Pioneer</i>	1564
E. Lake, Scarborough	<i>Paradiso</i>	1264
G. R. Richards, Manchester	<i>Persia</i>	1834
Thelma Meredith, Chester	<i>Peter Fox II</i>	752
C. H. Smith, Bury St. Edmunds	<i>Pewter Platter</i>	1272
W. Canning, Wallasey	<i>Port O'Light</i>	2044
J. Knights, Romford	<i>Rising Flame</i>	1287
L. Williams, Birmingham	<i>Stenigot</i>	614
G. Burnett, Sutton	<i>Telegram II</i>	1406
R. Giffin, Crewe	<i>Tramper</i>	2593
J. Beattie, Mobberley	<i>Vieux Manoir</i>	822
G. Southen, Folkestone	<i>Welsh View</i>	326

The remainder of the horses listed in last month's REVIEW did not start.

Board Residence

When visiting London, St. Dunstaners, their wives, families and guide dogs (if any) are cordially invited to stay at Mernay House Private Hotel, 53 Pembridge Villas, Notting Hill Gate, London, W.11. Telephone Bayswater 8118. This house is owned and managed by St. Dunstaner John Martin.

Royal Birthdays

His Majesty the King's Official Birthday fell on June 8th and this telegram was sent by Sir Ian to Sir Alan Lascelles, Private Secretary to the King:

"On behalf of blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen throughout the Commonwealth, please convey congratulations and loyal wishes on His Majesty's Official Birthday.—Ian Fraser, *Chairman*."

The following message was received from His Majesty:—

"SIR IAN FRASER,

"I send you and the blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen sincere thanks for your kind message on the celebration of my birthday.

GEORGE R."

Queen Mary celebrated her eighty-third birthday on May 26th. The following telegram was sent to Her Majesty:

"On behalf of the blinded men and women of St. Dunstan's in whom you have always taken so keen an interest, I send you congratulations and wishes for many happy returns of the day.—Ian Fraser, *Chairman*."

The following reply was received by Sir Ian from Marlborough House:

"Queen Mary greatly appreciates the touching words of your message from the blinded men and women and Her Majesty wishes me to express her warm thanks.—*Private Secretary*."

St. Dunstaner Has First Memorial House

Early last year, Princess Elizabeth laid the foundation stone of Derby's war memorial village. On May 22nd, at a public ceremony, a St. Dunstaner, Mr. Harold Bridgman, was handed the key by the Mayor of Derby and became the tenant of the first house, named by Royal consent "Edinburgh House."

Angling Success

Mr. T. Daborn, of Bexley Heath, one of our totally blind shopkeepers, is a keen angler. He has joined the Bexley Heath and District Angling Society and on his first outing as a member of the society he won the Coronation Cup with the largest dogfish. In July he goes salmon fishing in Wales.

Mr. Cheesman's London Outing

Mr. G. D. Cheesman, who is well known for the many outings he arranges for Brighton folk, took about a dozen London men and their escorts for a grand run to Brighton on Sunday, May 21st.

The party travelled by coach with refreshments at Lowfield, and lunch and tea at the Arlington Hotel, Brighton. After tea there was a dance at the Arlington, which included some Ovingdean men and a party from the Plastic Unit, East Grinstead, with our own Dickie Richardson. They left for the return journey after an early buffet supper. Some of Mr. Cheesman's friends came along with a variety of musical instruments, so it was a merry party indeed.

Thirty Years Ago

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

*In Paradise we will not fail
To find all those who taught us Braille,
Nor those who took us for a walk
Nor those who sat with us to talk
On subjects varied and serene,
Whose sympathy, though blind, we've seen,
We'll wait on them in Paradise.*

*There we will sound the breakfast gong,
And when the sisters troop along
'Tis we who'll stand upon our legs
And hand around the breakfast eggs;
Their tea and coffee will be sweet;
Of sugar they will have surfeit;
'Tis we who'll stint ourselves up there
That they may have the better fare.*

*We won't need a dispensary,
But we'll let "Auntie" have her way,
And, should she wish our eyes to mop,
She'll sit us down and there we'll stop,
And think it part of all the fun
To have our sightless sockets done.
And should she wish, well! sure she may
Keep singing out, "Dispensary!"*

*In some big lounge, 'tis my belief,
We'll dance and sing before the Chief,
And we will chant some heavenly tune
Each time we hear, "Good afternoon."
And we will play before the staff
Who used to take us to the gaff
If all you boys take my advice
We'll "stand and serve" in Paradise.*

THIRD RESERVE.

Letters to the Editor

Braille Alarm Clocks

DEAR EDITOR,

I bought one, had it fitted, set it for 7 a.m., went to sleep. Awoke to the buzz of the alarm at 12 noon the next day, too late to go to work. Went to bed at 11 p.m., again set the alarm for 7 a.m. and awoke to its beautiful buzz at 12 midnight. If you pay a guinea for letters, it will pay for my lost day's work.

Yours sincerely,

Londonderry. J. HUMPHREY.
[Sorry, Paddy, we don't.—ED.]

Givings and Misgivings

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to be permitted space to reply to George Mortimer. I have, *en passant*, read his letter *a bout, a bout*, and wonder whether to classify it as Old English humour or the satire of a Voltaire. Truly, the misgivings and misdeeds of many of us chappies of World War I would require more volumes of a Review of Reviews than any chappie of either war will ever have time to read. Let us, therefore, raise our voices and give thanks to high authority that by the mercy of St. Dunstan's, those misdeeds and misgivings are never published and only broadcast in the watches of the night when the old chappies talk when they should be wrapt in slumber.

I do hope George will never grace the columns as he says, but he might be mentally relieved if he realises that many who fail in their advanced tests have lost the touch they had for their first. If George, or any other youngster wants to become proficient in braille, may I, as one who has retained the touch and the zest, give a few tips.

Don't read for reading's sake. Make up your mind what you are definitely interested in and then get the braille literature you need and which suits your taste. Don't say your hands are too hard by reason of your work—keep them soft and supple by washing in hot water with a good lather and rubbing in either Glymiel jelly or any other good cream. When sitting down for an hour or two's reading, carefully wash and treat your hands as a soldier treats his feet for marching—don't carry on reading when your fingers are tired. Wear a glove or fingerstall in bed and see the difference of touch in the morning.

Nobody with sight reads papers from end to end, just to prove they can see, so Georgie Porgie, when you are also an old chappie, I hope you and all your comrades have learned that braille is not just a quaint and unique method by which the poor blind laboriously pick out words in order to pass tests. I have just returned from the reading competition at the National Library, and it is thrilling to know and hear how easily and fluently the blind can read and enjoy that which they read.

Yours sincerely,

Castle Cary. A. J. RADFORD.

P.S.—A test failure list would be interesting to all except the failures.

DEAR EDITOR,

Having only received an elementary education, I am not able to use any French, and as a bit of Welsh would not serve any useful purpose, I would like to reply to Mr. Mortimer's letter in the May issue in plain English.

As a St. Dunstaner of the younger generation myself, I would like to point out that the first war men have been instrumental in building up this wonderful organisation to which we now belong, and that by their example they have set a high standard of everything we should try to be.

Let us pray to God that there will not be another generation of St. Dunstaners, but if there should be, don't forget we will be the old boys then and perhaps not so bright at braille and many other things.

Let us hope, however, that before *anno domini* catches up with us, we will all learn from experience to applaud the "givings" and overlook the "misgivings" in our fellow-men. It is more sporting, don't you think?

Yours sincerely,

Braunton, Devon VIC DAVIES.

[In fairness to George, we must point out that his light-hearted remarks referred to all St. Dunstaners. This was apparent from his last paragraph.—Ed.]

Talking Book Carriers

DEAR EDITOR,

No doubt many readers find, like myself, that when they want to take the machine into another room, there seems such a lot to see to that it is hardly worth while moving it. Why not try an old tea trolley?

Yours sincerely,

J. MUIR.

Handwriting

DEAR EDITOR,

Sir Ian's remarks on handwriting interested me considerably. I recalled my own laborious efforts in Stoke Mandeville hospital to recover the old facility, and my experiments with paper with braille lines, a plastic stencil, the N.I.B. elastic frame, and other aids. It was all very laborious until I decided that it might be a lot easier if I did not think about the operation consciously, but allowed it to become one controlled by the subconscious mind. In my own case this worked with amazing success, possibly because I had done a good deal of writing in my studies before I was blinded.

When I was at Church Stretton I set aside a few minutes each day for writing by hand, and have been glad that I did so. I now find it much quicker and easier to write memo. notes on the small cards I had prepared for use with the braille pocket writer, and have almost completely discarded using the latter in consequence. I do, of course, need sighted assistance when having the cards read back to me, but I know that I can dispense with this assistance whenever necessary.

Doubtless my writing will go worse as time passes, but I reckon it will be a number of years before it becomes illegible. Meantime I get periodic checks made of my writing and have thus been able to avoid developing serious writing faults.

Probably the majority of St. Dunstaners do not need to make frequent memo. notes in the course of their work, but the facility to make quick, short memo. notes is invaluable to one like myself, whose work involves dealing with a lot of people whose queries, etc., may be comparatively trivial but who expect them to be dealt with without omission.

In the case of the first war St. Dunstaners, it is probably too late for them to develop their ability to write easily, legibly and quickly, unless they have kept up the facility. In the case of the new St. Dunstaners it should still be possible. I feel that it would not have been a bad thing if handwriting had been included as one of the basic subjects at the Training Centre.

Yours sincerely,

Birmingham. WALTER THORNTON.

Far East Ex-P.O.W.s

DEAR EDITOR,

I am writing to you on behalf of several of the trainees and myself who were P.O.W.s in the Far East.

We have received a letter and circular from the Fellowship of ex-P.O.W.s (Far East), asking for our support in their campaign to obtain from the Japanese a sum of money in lieu of the rations which were denied to us during the period we were in captivity. The circular refers to the fact that the Americans are going to pay all their nationals who were prisoners of the Japanese one dollar per day for each day of captivity.

The trainees concerned here at Ovingdean have met and have talked this matter over, and they are very enthusiastic about it.

The object of this letter is to ask if it could be printed in the REVIEW, thereby bringing the campaign to the notice of other St. Dunstaners who were P.O.W.s so that they too can give their support.

The Fellowship of ex-P.O.W.s (Far East) has its Headquarters in Glasgow, and I am sure the Secretary would be glad to send all details of the campaign to anyone who is interested. Membership of the Fellowship costs a subscription of five shillings, and applications for membership, with the fee, should be sent to the Treasurer, who is Mr. W. Eskdale, 12 Denbrae Street, Glasgow, E.2.

Yours sincerely, M. WESLEY.

On behalf of the undersigned:—

J. McCoy, J. Fraser, R. Bickley, G. McKay, W. Flower, K. Farrow.

The Young Idea

DEAR EDITOR,

This is a perfectly true story.

About a month ago, finding our thermos flask had gone phut, I telephoned to ask our chemist if he had one in stock. He had, but it was too late to send it up that evening; however, he promised that it would be delivered by his boy at 9 the following morning.

Promptly at 9 the next day, the flask was delivered, and as I was paying the boy I observed more civility and respect than I had noticed in years. I invited him to have a cup of tea, but he said he must hurry back to the shop. I sauntered down to the gate with him; he remarked that it was a good

old climb up to our bungalow; then, popping on his bike he merrily free-wheeled off.

I was so impressed that I telephoned Mr. George, the chemist, to thank him for so promptly delivering the thermos flask and to congratulate him on having the best-mannered boy I had struck for many moons. Mr. George then gave me a shock, and told me that his "boy" would be 82 next birthday.

Yesterday I was in the chemist's shop talking to Mr. George when the "boy" came in. I promptly asked him if his father had been my way the night before as some young monkey had barged into my trellis-work on his scooter; without hesitation he replied, "It couldn't have been my dad as he was at home looking after grand-dad; he slipped popping round to the local without his crutches."

Yours sincerely,

Portslade.

ALAN M. NICHOLS.

★ ★ ★

S. Heys, of Manchester, heartily agrees with George Fallowfield that the easiest way to carry personal luggage is in a rucksack. This is particularly useful to a man with only one hand.

A. Taylor, of Stourbridge, says his little grandchild of only eighteen months already realises his grandfather's handicap. The child invariably points to anything he wishes sighted people to see but always hands it to his "granfer" to examine. He frequently closes his eyes, pretending to be blind, thus proving that even babes know the difference between a sighted and a blinded person.

For Wives Only

In a letter to the Editor, John Mudge suggests a Wives' Column in the REVIEW. This is not practicable as a regular feature, but it has possibilities. We invite St. Dunstaners' wives to pass on to us any little tip which they have found useful in helping their husbands, and which they think would be of interest to other wives.

★ ★ ★

H. Richardson, of Ingoldmells, Skegness, who is a keen member of the British Legion, has been responsible for the formation of the branch of the Legion now known as the Ingoldmells and Addlethorpe Branch.

Talking Book Library

Middling May

Four new books of good average interest grace the shelves with their shining grooves as a result of the industry of earlier months. The library is considerably enriched by one release, "Sailing Alone Around the World," but of the four, my favourite is "No Highway." The other two are "Bernard Shaw," and "A Belgian Manor in Two Wars."

"Sailing Alone Around the World," by Joshua Slocum, read Alvar Lidell, is two books in one. The first book is the voyage of the "Spray," a 30-footer, with only the author aboard, completely round the globe, and, according to this written account, it was as easy as falling off a log—you see, for myself, shelling peas is *ex*, I said *extremely* difficult. The second voyage is really the greater feat because Slocum and his family were shipwrecked in Brazil and built themselves a sea-going canoe with no money or tools to speak of. However, it was all good fun and their journey back to North America made my hair one mass of tight curls. Read it once, think a little, then read it again.

"A Belgian Manor in Two Wars," by C. D'ydewalle, read Arthur Bush, is a translation from the French, or maybe Flemish, concerning a house near Bruges honoured by the Belgian king during the last two wars. If the beginning should bore you, move to page fifteen when the author warms to his task. Unfortunately, half the book is impressions of childhood and creation of atmosphere, and that eventually leads to a staccato of adult experience. First impression bad, but plough on and be entertained.

"Bernard Shaw," by Hesketh Pearson, read Gordon Little, is also an historical novel. This book shows G.B.S. as a great man over a great period, as he himself has told the world many times. Be the old so-and-so what he may, he has apparently got what it takes. Read it and reconsider your opinion.

"No Highway," by Nevil Shute, read John Marsh, is a good up-to-the-minute yarn about scientific research into metal fatigue in aircraft. The story is told by the chief of the Research Department, Dr. Scott, and concerns a mild little genius, Mr.

Honey, who, among other things, is a British Israelite. There is a good love interest, a few odd twists, tension, and a great deal of satisfaction. The highest recommendation—the end came too soon.

Thus do I write and having writ, move on!

NELSON.

Reunions

On May 25th, a most enjoyable Reunion was held at the Polygon Hotel, Southampton, in spite of the fact that rain fell steadily and unceasingly outside. Sir Neville Pearson was the guest of honour and he extended a warm welcome to the St. Dunstaners from the surrounding district who were present.

On June 1st, Colonel Eric Ball welcomed some thirty St. Dunstaners at Dujohn's Restaurant, Bedford. A feature of this meeting was the number of old friends and staff who had come along to meet the guests, including Mrs. Askew and Sister Lloyd.

At Salisbury, on the following Tuesday, the Mayor, Councillor H. E. Randall, J.P., was a most popular guest of honour. With the Lady Mayoress, he welcomed St. Dunstaners to the first Reunion held in the City.

Colonel Ball was the guest of honour again at Plymouth, on June 8th, when St. Dunstaners from Devon and Cornwall met at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel. An enterprising newspaper reported discovered that no fewer than sixteen different branches of the three Services were represented.

The Bristol meeting on June 10th brought to an end what might be called the southern half of the Reunions. There is a lull now until July 4th, when Birmingham opens the series for the North of England.

Greetings and good wishes from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser for "a most enjoyable Reunion" were read by Mr. Mackay at Bristol, as were similar messages at the other meetings.

St. Dunstaners at Butlin's

At the special invitation of Mr. W. E. Butlin, some twenty St. Dunstaners and their escorts spent a most enjoyable week's holiday in May at the well-known Holiday Camp at Clacton-on-Sea.

It was the particular wish of Mr. Butlin that we should send representatives of both

wars, with various occupations and from different parts of the country. Although with the limited time at our disposal it was not too easy to do this, we were in the end fortunate in being able to gather together a little band of St. Dunstaners who fulfilled these conditions. We are only sorry that time did not permit us to make the invitation known to all St. Dunstaners and to hold ballots for places.

On May 20th, the St. Dunstan's party met at Headquarters, where a fleet of cars took them to Hyde Park. Here Major General John Hay Beith ("Ian Hay"), representing St. Dunstan's Executive Council, greeted them, and many stage, film and sporting celebrities were waiting to give them a send-off. Then the contingent, led by Esmond Knight, the well-known actor and himself a St. Dunstaner, moved off to Clacton.

During the week at the Camp, stars of the first magnitude entertained the holiday-makers. There were braille programmes for our men and braille playing cards and dominoes for those who were eager for a game. Several St. Dunstaners excelled themselves in competitions and in other activities in which they joined with the ordinary guests. In fact, it was a wonderful week for everyone and we thank that grand host, Mr. Billy Butlin, for his happy gesture.

Blackpool Notes

April—May—and Spring was not in the air! Especially during Easter, when storms cheated holiday makers of a much needed holiday. Blackpool, having the highest tower, the longest promenade, the largest theatre, the largest ballroom, the largest pleasure beach—must have the largest hurricane. The holiday troops were very long suffering, but they had our sympathy.

During the months we have had visits to Scorton, to the Lakes, and to Cleveleys to enjoy an amateur performance of "Outward Bound."

On Friday, May 26th, we drank—in port—to the health of our much loved and admired Queen Mary. We sent a telegram to Her Majesty which was graciously acknowledged
B.V.D.

Ovingdean Notes

Amongst our visitors to Ovingdean this month was Mr. K. Sellberg, from Sweden. Mr. Sellberg has been awarded a United Nations Social Welfare Fellowship and is visiting this country to study the welfare of the disabled here. He spent two days with us and was most interested in the training facilities offered at Ovingdean.

We have also welcomed many visitors from various branches of the British Legion, Women's Institutes and other organisations. Some of these people have come to see the work being done at Ovingdean at the suggestion of a St. Dunstaner friend, and this is very pleasing. We should like to tell those of you who do not already know, that our visiting days are confined to Tuesday and Wednesday of each week, and when you let your friends know this it is suggested that you should ask them to write to us as much in advance as possible so that we may be able to fit them in on the date they wish to come.

The number of St. Dunstaners coming to us for holidays is increasing and so our entertainment programme is expanding. This month, the weather having been kind to us, we have been able to arrange for several drives through Sussex and a party of holiday-makers went on the first trip of the season to the Isle of Wight.

Highlight of the month for both holiday men and trainees was, of course, Derby Day. Three coachloads went from Ovingdean this year. Though not many of us found the Derby winner, we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves that day.

On May 19th, a party of four trainees and holiday men went to the Chelsea Town Hall as the guests of the Far East Prisoner-of-War Social Club. These "Tenko Nights," as they are called, take place approximately every three months and have provided St. Dunstaners who were Far East P.O.W.s with a fine opportunity of meeting once again men with whom they had lost touch since the end of the War.

The 7-mile road walk which took place at Brighton on May 20th is being reported on elsewhere in the REVIEW. Sufficient for us to offer our congratulations to all those who were sporting enough to take part and particularly to Tommy Gaygan who was, once again, the winner.

We have received one or two enquiries about Sports Day, so here are some details.

It will be held at Ovingdean on Saturday, July 8th, commencing at 2.30 p.m. Invitations will again be sent to St. Dunstaners living within reasonable travelling distance of Ovingdean but, of course, any St. Dunstaner who may happen to be spending a few days down this way will be welcomed and they can obtain a tea ticket on application to Miss Guilbert at Ovingdean not later than July 4th.

We were pleased to welcome Miss Chaddock (now Mrs. A. Ryan) when she came down to see some of her old friends from West House recently.

Our good wishes go to two members of the staff who have recently left us. Many St. Dunstaners will be sorry to hear of the resignation for medical reasons of Miss Heap, who was with us as a Typing Teacher during the last two years at Church Stretton and became Escort Sister at Ovingdean. On our return to Brighton she established the Escort department here and gathered together a group of people who have proved such good friends to St. Dunstan's. The success of that department was largely due to her enthusiasm and understanding and we feel sure many trainees remembering her will join in wishing her every success and happiness in the future. Miss Holland, who left us to get married at the beginning of June, had only been at Ovingdean since the closing of West House last October. During that short time she has made many friends here both on the staff and amongst the men and those St. Dunstaners who remember her from spending their holidays at West House will want to add their sincere good wishes for her future happiness to those we send from this House.

Shooting for May:

Winners: J. Boyd, G. Killingbeck.

In the final shoot, J. Boyd won by scoring a plus, the scores being 49 with 1 plus to 49.

Darts—T.B.:

Winner: W. Edwards.

Runner-up: W. Thomas.

Darts—S.S.:

Winner: E. Deaville.

Runner-up: R. Osborne.

Test Results

Typing—A. Heritage (Bor.); J. Fraser (Bor.)

Moon—J. French (Bor.)

Advanced—R. W. Fullard.

The British Legion Conference Other Points of Interest

The British Legion Conference at the Royal Albert Hall had many facets of interest to St. Dunstaners, quite apart from Sir Ian Fraser's speech as President, which is reported on page 1.

The national newspapers, without exception, and the B.B.C., gave prominence to the proceedings, which were attended on the Sunday morning by the Duke of Gloucester. A number of both London and provincial dailies made editorial comment in leading articles.

The Times, in an editorial headed "Debt to the Disabled," said Sir Ian, in a few moving sentences on the added burdens brought by middle and old age to partly disabled men, said more than all the pages of statistics about pensions and pensioners.

The Legion Conference demanded that ex-Servicemen's housing problems should be dealt with nationally, not locally; that something should be done immediately for families living in huts which leaked.

Delegates felt strongly that the employers' quota of disabled men should be more strictly enforced, and that some standard of wages be set up for them. It was urged that Government Remploy factories were not giving ex-Servicemen an altogether fair deal.

The Legion has since April operated a revised benevolent scheme, by which local Service Committees are empowered to give help for longer periods. Conference endorsed this decentralisation of the spending of Poppy Day money.

Among the resolutions carried was one that blind ex-Servicemen should be allowed to travel free on British Railways and London Transport, either in parties or individually, if accompanied by a fare-paying adult.

A request was also made that compartments labelled "Disabled only," be provided on trains. Other resolutions dealt with free motor cars for 100 per cent. disabled, and running expenses for those who had bought their own cars.

The conference approved a resolution to press the Government to pay compensation to British ex-Servicemen who suffered years of starvation while prisoners of war in Japanese hands.

In an interview with a *Daily Telegraph* reporter, Sir Ian Fraser said that the claim

was based on the action of the United States, which had recently decided to pay to its ex-prisoners of war in Japan and Germany a dollar for each day in prison. Sir Ian added "We shall investigate the position with a view to claiming similar treatment for our men."

The Birthday Honours

The following honours among ex-Service people or those who have been associated with St. Dunstan's will be of interest to many of our readers.

Captain W. A. Perrin, an Australian St. Dunstaner who came to Britain for training in 1936, receives the O.B.E. "for public services especially to the Red Cross."

Air Marshal Sir Philip Livingston, Director General of the Royal Air Forces Medical Service, who has been a member of St. Dunstan's Ophthalmic Advisory Committee since January, 1941, is now created a K.B.E.

Miss Hester Angove, Principal, Physiotherapy School of the National Institute for the Blind, receives the O.B.E.

Miss Marjorie Cox, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Pensions, becomes a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (D.B.E.).

Mr. T. W. Casey, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Pensions, receives the C.B.E.

Dr. Ludwig Guttman, Neurological Surgeon, Spinal Injuries Centre at the Ministry of Pensions Centre, Stoke Mandeville, is awarded the O.B.E.

Mr. S. W. Starling, Secretary and General Manager, Incorporated Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, receives the M.B.E.

NATIONAL LAYING TEST, 1949-50 Report for the Eighth Period of Four Weeks April 24th to May 21st.

Position	Name	Test Score
1	Chaffin, Albert	936
2	Bagwell, Philip	913
3	Jarvis, Albert	889
4	Gregory, T.	811
5	Taylor, Tom	801
6	Clarke, T.	779
7	Woodcock, W. J.	773
8	Dent, P.	761
9	Smith, W. Alan	756
10	Holmes, Percy	628

Average per bird, 144.80

Every bird in the St. Dunstan's section is still alive and well, and of the sixty birds comprising the entry here fifty-three were in full production at the end of the month.

“ In Memory ”

Private George Lomas, 2nd Border Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. Lomas, of Burnley, which occurred on March 10th. Our apologies are offered to Mrs. Lomas for the delay in this notice.

An old soldier, George Lomas served from August 14th, 1905, until May 18th, 1915. He came to us on October 25th, 1916, having been wounded at Ypres two years earlier.

For a number of years he was engaged in boot repairing and clog-making, but ill-health forced him to take things easily and his was always a quiet life. His death occurred suddenly at his home.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the flowers at the funeral.
Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Private Michael Monaghan, Labour Corps (R.F.A.)

It is with deep regret that we record also the death of Michael Monaghan.

This St. Dunstaner only came permanently under our care on March 8th, 1949, although he had been with us for a short time in 1926. In very bad health, he was admitted to Ovingdean on June 26th of last year.

He was buried in the St. Dunstan's Section of Brighton Cemetery.

A wreath was sent for the funeral from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

Births

ALLEN.—On April 30th, to the wife of W. Allen, of Aldershot, a son—Graham William.

CONSTABLE.—On June 2nd, to the wife of L. Constable, of Hemel Hempstead, a son—Robert Charles.

DICKERSON.—On June 1st, to the wife of F. Dickerson, of Thornton Heath, a daughter—Patricia Ann.

GRIMES.—On May 1st, to the wife of D. Grimes, of Eastbourne, a twin son and a daughter—Colin and Shirley.

ROWE.—On May 23rd, to the wife of E. Rowe, of Purley, a son—Martin Peter.

Marriage

DOW—NELSON. On May 27th, Robert Dow of Chessington, to Miss Pearl Nelson.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. G. Millen, Birchington, April 13th; Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Lloyd, Cardiff, June 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. H. Duxbury, Oldham, June 27th. Congratulations.

Grandfathers

J. Kempster, Hemel Hempstead; V. A. Clay, Nottingham.

Great-Grandfather

F. Johnson, Littleover, Derby.

Croydon Swimming Club for the Blind

Miss Woodcraft, a blind friend of St. Dunstan's, is anxious that St. Dunstaners should know of the Croydon Swimming Club for the Blind. The Club meets at present at Thornton Heath Baths on Thursday evenings, between 8 and 9 p.m. After July 27th, it will meet at the same time at Croydon Central Baths.

Guides, transport and coaches, etc., can readily be made available, and all St. Dunstaners, but particularly beginners, would be most welcome.

Miss Woodcraft is ready to receive enquiries at her home address, 47 Green Lane, Thornton Heath (Tel. Pollard 1929).

Young St. Dunstaners

Seventeen-year-old Harry Simpson (Margate), took seven wickets for four runs, playing against Ash Cricket Club on June 4th. One spell took four wickets with five balls; every one of his victims was clean bowled.

Philomena Sephton has passed, at her first attempt, the Intermediate Examination of the Royal Academy of Dancing. Dame Adeline Genee was one of the judges.

Marjorie Shaw (Ashton-in-Makerfield), has secured a first class pass for Theory of Harmony. In July she takes the examination for her A.L.C.M. diploma.

Marriage

Yvonne Pearce (Hendon), on May 13th, to John Fraser Durdin.