

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Braille

IT was three years ago that we started the braille competitions for which the Arthur Pearson Memorial Prizes are given. The idea was to encourage a high standard of braille reading by introducing an element of competition, and it has been very successful. Various standards were set, some to encourage those who had let their braille lapse to take it up again, others for those who had attained higher degrees of proficiency to record their progress and improve their performance. Braille reading is like shorthand—you can learn the system very easily and very quickly, but it takes a lot of practice and continuous use of the method before speed and fluency are attained. Since we started these what I might call post-graduate courses of competition, in 1945, just over a hundred St. Dunstaners have passed the Advanced Braille Reading Test, and forty-eight have attained the highest award of all, the Senior Braille Reading Test.

I wonder how the St. Dunstaners of the Second World War are getting on with their braille? My experience was that during the first few years after I was blinded, having learnt braille at St. Dunstan's and passed the Elementary Test, I neglected it for a considerable time and only took it up again later on. And, indeed, it was not for many years that I became really proficient at it. I would remind the younger St. Dunstaners that these proficiency tests and prizes are available to them, and I would venture to encourage them to go in for these competitions. Few things are so rewarding to a blind man as the ability to read braille fluently; even if he is fairly busy he will find that there are times during the day when he has no ready and congenial occupations, and to be able to pick up his magazine or book and read a few pages is a splendid resource and pastime. Those who make speeches or attend meetings will find that a hand frame and the ability to write brief notes and to use them are of the greatest value; notes, for example, for an agenda paper or of any particular matter which is coming up, or notes for a speech.

I had two enquiries recently about braille, to which I think it is worth while making reference. One St. Dunstaner asked me if the Royal Air Force Quarterly could be put into braille as it specially interested him; the other asked if some country life magazine, such as *The Field*, could be brailled. The answer to both these enquiries is that it would be impossible to print in braille a magazine of a specialist character which only has a small readership, for the cost would be much too great. The blind world is relatively small, and therefore its magazines and books must be of general appeal. Nevertheless, it is possible for St. Dunstan's to arrange for special books or articles or special studies to be put into

braille for individuals, and these are done by voluntary writers who undertake the special work for the particular individual. In order that the very great labour involved may be as useful as possible, we ask that the particular volume or pamphlet shall be returned after its use in order that it may be passed on to somebody else whom it may interest.

There is one other thing to be said about braille, namely, that St. Dunstan's provides free of charge to all St. Dunstaners any braille magazine which they may require, and if there are any St. Dunstaners who are not aware of this, they may like to know about it so that they may write to the Welfare Department and get what they want. This free gift of braille magazines involves a certain responsibility on the recipients, namely, that they shall only ask for and only continue to receive those which they really use, otherwise there is considerable wastage.

The Television Licence

I have recently been asked by a number of blind people whether they can receive a free television licence, in just the same way that they receive a free wireless licence. A variation of this request is as to whether a blind person who forgoes his free wireless licence may receive his television licence for £1 instead of £2. I have answered these enquiries in the negative, and have added that I do not think that St. Dunstan's ought to ask the Government to extend the free wireless licence to television, either partially or wholly. We receive many considerations from the State, including the free wireless licence, but it would be going too far. I venture to think, to ask that a form of entertainment such as television, which is designed primarily for those who can see, should be made free to us. We might as well ask for special consideration in the matter of the cinema because there is an oral element to it as well as a visual element, or for free beer because we can drink it with our eyes shut.

Show-Jumping Chairman

From time to time St. Dunstaners have undertaken activities which are unusual and perhaps even surprising. One of these has been brought to light by the award of a C.B.E. to Lieut. Colonel M. P. Ansell, D.S.O., a St. Dunstaner. Colonel Ansell, who was one of the youngest commanders of a cavalry regiment when the Second War broke out, was taken prisoner in the early days, and spent some time in the camp with other blinded St. Dunstaners in Germany. Before the war he had been a prominent member of the British Army Jumping Team, and was an outstanding horseman, and when he came back from the war he took up his old pursuit with enthusiasm and became a member of the Council of the British Show Jumping Association. His expert knowledge and reputation as well as his very great ability and personality, led to his being appointed Chairman, and he has occupied that post for the past five years. This Association has become the governing body in British jumping, and occupies a position similar in this field of sport to that which the Jockey Club occupies in the field of racing. It is not an exaggeration to say that the great success which the British Team has had in international jumping during recent years is largely due to Colonel Ansell's organisation and leadership. We congratulate our fellow St. Dunstaner on this unique success, and upon the honour which the King has conferred upon him, but the point that will be most interesting to us is that, in spite of blindness, a man should not merely have succeeded in making a real contribution to this national sport, but that he should have become an outstanding figure of authority. I am told that Colonel Ansell's advice is sought by promoters of big jumping events, such as the International Horse Show at the White City and the Harringay Horse of the Year Show, and that, under his Chairmanship, the British Show Jumping Association has developed from a society with a few hundred members to one having many thousands which commands the respect of all concerned. This goes to show that blindness in itself is not a handicap to many activities, some of which may be of a most unlikely nature, and that the qualities of determination, leadership, and the gifts of tact, persuasion and of commanding confidence and getting people to work together, are capable of expression even though the handicap of blindness has to be overcome.

Australian Honours

The New Year Honours List also contained an O.B.E. for Captain Gilbert Nobbs. He is a St. Dunstaner of the First World War who went out to Australia for his firm, Holbrook's Sauce, Ltd., and built up a branch of that organisation which, after twenty years or so under his chairmanship, became even more important than its parent in the Old Country. On his retirement a few years ago, he became active in the welfare of the blind in New South Wales, and when the war broke out took charge of a Committee which undertook the care of New South Wales blinded ex-Servicemen. It was for this work that he has been honoured, and St. Dunstaners throughout the world as well as those who came under his care in New South Wales will rejoice and offer their congratulations. Mr. Kippax, the instructor who worked under Captain Nobbs, training and helping New South Wales blinded ex-servicemen, received an M.B.E., and we offer our congratulations to him also.

Another Australian has distinguished himself, namely, Eric Hailes, who came over from the Commonwealth to St. Dunstan's in Britain for training as our guest, under the scheme which we introduced a couple of years ago. He specialised in piano-tuning and has now finished his course. He has passed his Finals, has become a Member of the Institute of Musical Instrument Technology, and has received a Gold Medal for taking first place in the examinations in 1950. We wish him every success when he returns to Australia next month.

IAN FRASER

The King's Birthday

On December 14th the following telegram was sent to our Patron, His Majesty King George:—

"The blinded men and women of St. Dunstan's throughout the Empire send loyal greetings on the occasion of your birthday.

IAN FRASER."

The following message was received from His Majesty:—

"I send to you, and the blinded men and women of St. Dunstan's throughout the Empire, my sincere thanks for your kind congratulations on my birthday.

GEORGE R."

Christmas and New Year Greetings

A message of greeting for Christmas and the New Year was sent to our friends at Newington House, Edinburgh, at Christmas time. The following message was received by Sir Ian from Mr. John Gavin: "Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year from the men of Newington House to all St. Dunstaners. Our greetings to you and Lady Fraser."

From France came the following message, which was read to St. Dunstaners at Ovingdean on Christmas Day:—

"Best wishes to all St. Dunstaners from French war-blinded. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year.

IZAAC AMBLARD."

Placements

Colin Fraser as a telephone operator with the University of London Institute of Education; M. Wesley as a telephone operator at the Military Hospital, Shorncliffe; Sobhi Khabbazi as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Brighton Engineering Ltd., Portslade; Leslie Thompson, Durham, until recently employed in his father's building business, and now trading as a shopkeeper in Gateshead; W. W. Burns, as a telephonist with British Celanese, Ltd., Jarrow.

"Thirty Years Ago"

From "St. Dunstan's Review," January, 1921:

The Arsenal Play St. Dunstan's

"The second game between the First League team and our eleven was most exciting. Our opponents had practically their full team, except Pagnam and Dr. Rutherford, and in spite of being blindfolded, shot with surprising accuracy. Although Williamson kept a splendid goal, his colleagues put four shots past him—scored by Messrs. Baker, Bradshaw, Blyth and Hutchens. Unfortunately, our team seemed to be suffering from "stage fright," for their shooting was not nearly up to their usual standard. However, the goalie had to play well to keep our boys out, but we were beaten by 4—0."

London Club Notes

The London Club held its Annual General Meeting at Headquarters on January 6th. The Central Committee for the ensuing year was elected as follows: Messrs. P. Ashton (Chairman), H. Gover, J. Muir, T. Gaygan, C. Stafford, F. Rhodes and J. Mudge. Mr. W. G. Askew attended and took the chair for the latter half of the meeting.

The Chairman's report for the past year and the accounts were favourably received. All Talks have had to be cancelled owing to the poor attendances. During discussion the request was put forward that the Club should be opened for three Saturdays during August, and Mr. Askew promised to look into this matter.

It is gratifying to see more new St. Dunstaners attending the Club, and a warm welcome awaits all newcomers.

The Club is open from 5 to 10 p.m. Monday (Institute of Magicians), Tuesday (Whist Drive), closed Wednesday, Thursday (Dominoes), Friday (free night), Saturday, 2 p.m. until 10 p.m., Bridge and Whist.

A Grand Dance will be held on February 2nd at the Chelsea Town Hall, 7.30 p.m., when the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophies will be competed for in old-fashioned waltz and fox trot. Bar and light refreshments. Tickets may be obtained from the Club, 2s. 6d.

The remainder of the Walks Programme for 1951 is:—

Jan. 27—6 mile Handicap.

Feb. 17—7 mile Handicap and Style prize.
— —10 mile Handicap (date to be fixed).

Apr. 21—7 mile All England Championship.

The Farmer Cup race will be held at Brighton, probably in May.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge

A Christmas Bridge Drive was held at Headquarters on December 16th. It was a bright, cheery afternoon with free and easy bridge, and a special tea well and ably prepared by Miss Ibbetson and her band of helpers. The first prize was won by T. Roden and partner, with F. King and partner second, and H. van Niekerk and partner third. A special mystery prize was won by Blodwen Simon and her partner.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyds made our party just perfect, and Mrs. Lloyds presented the prizes.

Our team playing in the London Business Houses League scored another success on January 4th, this time against London Transport Executive.

H. GOVER.

Five Miles Handicap and Team Match v. Polytechnic Juniors, November 18th

Order	Finish	Name	Club	Time	All.	Hp.	Pos.
							Time in H'cp.
1	T. Gaygan	St. D.	43.09	Scr.	43.09	10	
2	P. Lyon	P.Jn.	43.49	1.40	42.09	3	
3	F. Bailey	P.Jn.	44.00	2.10	41.50	2	
4	V. Payne	P.Jn.	44.35	2.15	42.20	4	
5	R. Gulmin	P.Jn.	45.15	1.50	43.24	11	
6	A. Brown	St. D.	45.28	2.20	43.08	9	
7	W. Miller	St. D.	46.04	2.35	43.29	12	
8	G. Johnson	P.Jn.	46.45	4.10	42.35	5	
9	T. Denmead	St. D.	48.07	5.15	42.52	8	
10	P. Cryan	St. D.	48.52	5.20	43.32	13	
11	E. Hailes	St. D.	48.56	6.10	42.46	7	
12	C. Stafford	St. D.	51.09	7.15	43.54	14	
13	S. Tutton	St. D.	52.16	9.40	42.36	6	
14	J. Fairgreave	St. D.	52.17	10.40	41.37	1	

1st Handicap, J. Fairgreave.

2nd Handicap, F. Bailey.

3rd Handicap, P. Lyon.

Fastest Loser, T. Gaygan.

Polytechnic Juniors, 14 points.

St. Dunstan's, 23 points.

Points awarded to London Walkers to date:

S.S. Section—

A. Brown	34 points
W. Miller	33 "
P. J. Cryan	27 "
A. G. Bradley	19 "

T.B. Section—

S. Tutton	39 points
E. Hailes	33 "
J. Fairgreave	32 "
T. Gaygan	32 "
C. Stafford	27 "

Stalag 9 A/H

A Christmas card was sent to us from an old friend, T. (Taffy) Rowe, addressed to "the boys of Stalag 9 A/H, Closter Haina, now at St. Dunstan's." New Year greetings to you, too, Taffy.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. A. Jones, Hove, December 25th.

Liverpool Club

This year the Liverpool Club held its Christmas Party on Saturday, December 9th, at its headquarters, Sefton Hall, when members with their wives and families came along in real festive mood. Our guests of honour were Matron B. Vaughan Davies and Mrs. E. Dunphy, late Welfare Visitor for this area.

After tea a happy little ceremony was enacted when both Matron and Mrs. Dunphy were presented with a Christmas gift from Club members by our President, Captain Holloway, and Mrs. Violet Formstone. This was followed by a magnificent entertainment, given by Mr. J. C. Reason, well-known Merseyside pianist, and his friends. Our next item on the programme was the distribution of gifts to the children, and this was charmingly done by Mrs. Holloway. The kiddies were thrilled no end and this was undoubtedly the highlight of the evening for them.

Dancing and games was now the order of the evening, and much amusement was caused when Teddy and Mrs. Cooper won the Jelly Feeding contest; Alec Wright held his last year's title of Baby Bottle Sucking champion; and Alf Lincoln won the Slow Walking Race. In the women's section, Mrs. Ellis secured the title of Baby Bottle Sucking champion.

A surprise draw for ladies only was won by Mrs. Moorcroft, who received an embroidered cushion.

NOTE.—The Club meets next on Saturday, January 6th, and afterwards fortnightly.

TOMMY MILNER.

Look Out for This

A film is at present running at the Leicester Square Cinema, in London, entitled "The Undeclared." It was made under the auspices of the Ministry of Pensions, and it deals with the physical and social adjustment of disabled ex-Servicemen and women and other handicapped people. The hero is a legless ex-glider pilot, but also seen in the film are Sir Ian Fraser and other St. Dunstaners.

The film is not yet released so that it is not possible to give dates, but it will probably be shown at cinemas on the A.B.C. circuit.

The Honours List

The New Year Honours contained several names of interest to St. Dunstaners, in addition to those mentioned by Sir Ian in his "Notes."

Sir Norman Mighell, Deputy High Commissioner for Australia in London, who has been to many of our functions, received the C.M.G.

Miss E. M. Acton, Comptroller of Lord Roberts' Workshops, becomes a D.B.E.

Lt.-Col. C. Gordon Larking, late Chairman of the British Legion, received a C.B.E.

Miss Ellen Roberts, who was Matron at Stoke Mandeville in the war years and after, received an O.B.E.

Major Aldred Huskisson, Managing Director of Simpsons, Ltd., who has entertained St. Dunstaners often, also has an O.B.E.

From Holland

Rein Waas, whom many St. Dunstaners will remember at Church Stretton, sends his very best wishes of the season to all old friends at St. Dunstan's, and the boys he knew. Rein lives at Nijmegen now, and is a chief telephone operator of the Military Telephone Service. November 3rd was a proud day for him. The chief of the Military Telephone Service came specially to Rein's office from The Hague to award him the Bronze Medal for twelve years' service with the Dutch Army. Rein says: "When he pinned the medal on my uniform, it was next to my St. Dunstan's badge, of which I am very proud. In his speech, the Lieut.Colonel praised me on my work, and pointed to the excellent training I have had as a telephonist. In the near future I am to become in charge of a much bigger switchboard with an extra fourteen men under me. It made me also very thankful to St. Dunstan's, as from my twelve years' service in the Army I have been blind nine years."

Good wishes to you, Rein. We hope you will visit us soon.

Test Results

Typing.—T. Moorley, A. Lockhart.

Preliminary.—F. Lipscombe, G. Rignall.

Advanced (Interpoint).—H. Roberts, S. Blackmore.

Talking Book Library

November Newcomers

Another half-dozen releases this month brings a total of thirty new books in the last four months, some good, some bad, and some indifferent, but something to appeal to the taste of all. A mixed bag, including "A History of Europe, Vol. II," "The Ebb Tide," "Miss Josephine and the Colonel," "Trollope—a Commentary," "The Flying Saucer," and "Buried for Pleasure," I attempt to outline hereunder. "A History of Europe, Vol. II," by H. A. L. Fisher, reader Eric Gillett, is an interesting text-book which briefly covers the 17th and 18th centuries. Like most text-books, this has to be read several times if one's object is to learn a smattering of its contents.

"The Ebb-Tide," by R. L. Stevenson, reader Joseph McLeod, is a gloomy beach-comber's yarn of the South Seas which, though pleasant to read, hardly rises to the heights one expects it to reach, but the story remains full of promise right to the end, and when you take the last record off, you will feel that there must be more to come. The three main characters are easy to bring to life in the mind, and the lack of women is not a terrible loss, as they would be lost creatures indeed to throw in their lot with such a doubtful trio. Excellent, good i' faith!

"Miss Josephine and the Colonel," by Oriel Malet, reader Arthur Bush, begins with a bang in the form of an earthquake on the west coast of South America. The orphans resulting from this 'quake sally forth under the command of a fifteen year old to join relatives in France. This is a charming little story, and the children are happy after the first numbing shock and early upsets. Peaceful fun after the preliminary thunderbolt!

"Trollope—a Commentary," by M. Sadleir, reader Robert Gladwell, deals with Anthony, the novelist, and in the course of the commentary, turns the spotlight a little on the author's mother, a prolific writer. One gathers that Trollope travelled sufficiently, wrote largely, and hunted enormously, but the book is far too long and as dull as the period in which Trollope ruled as a literary giant. Read it, if you're a good stayer!

"The Flying Saucer," by Bernard Newman, reader John Marsh, is rather a favourite

topic nowadays, and in this fantastic thriller it is used as a means of securing peace on earth. The shifts and devices used are plausible, but just a wee bit "Ripley." This book is bracketed top of the month with "Buried for Pleasure," by E. Crispin, reader Robin Holmes, a thriller with Gervase Fenn, don-cum-investigator, officiating as hero in his spare time, whilst running as a candidate in an election. It is difficult to be sure which is the main thread of the story—the suspense part essential to thrillers, or the riotously funny sketches which make this yarn worth while without its two corpses.

December's Duet

1950 closed with a couple of additions to the Library, "Georgian Lady" and "The Garland"—both of which are period pieces.

"Georgian Lady," by Nerina Shute, reader Arthur Bush, is a biography of Fanny Burney, the novelist, who wrote "Emelina," "Cecilia," and many more novels of the kind. A shy, shrinking personality thrown into a smart, sophisticated literary set must inevitably be overshadowed by her companions until the final analysis is taken—so it was with this heroine. She became lady-in-waiting to Queen Charlotte, retired and married a penniless French emigré. A restful but unexciting work.

"The Garland" (Kristen Lavarens-datter), by S. Undsett, reader Joseph McLeod, is a third of a Norwegian 12th or 13th century saga, and this part is sufficiently absorbing to make one wish for the other two parts. The heroine is a wealthy farmer's daughter, and the story is too wild and eerie to condense coherently, but watch for the other two parts being recorded and then make a feast of the complete garland.

And now permit me to wish a very happy New Year to all who care to read this column, and I would add that if the books released in 1951 are as numerous and as good as those of 1950, there is plenty of entertainment ahead.

"NELSON."

Grandfathers

A. Lane, Cardiff; J. H. Parker, Oxford; W. Smith, Parbold, near Wigan (for the second time).

Blackpool Notes

December—and how grimly the month starts, and how warmly and friendly it gives place to January and the New Year.

By December 22nd all seemed set for the Christmas festivities. Most of the "dear boys" were with us, and the Christmas spirit—not of the liquid variety—had entered the hearts of all. That evening the Red Cross cadets came to sing carols. Their sweet young voices gave joy to all.

On December 23rd a large party went to the Grand Theatre. "Harvey" was the play, and we noticed that very soon after the return of the party, the dining room was crowded with invisible rabbits.

Christmas Eve—Sunday—was a fairly quiet day, but St. Cecilia's Mixed Adult Choir came along in the evening to sing carols.

Christmas Day was spent, as always, in true party spirit. Father Christmas called at 11 a.m. and handed out the bursting stockings from the tree. The lounge was crowded with visitors. Our young/old friend, John Gott, acted as M.C., and our new/older friend, Mr. Bell, was Father Christmas. A large party, which included wives and staff, sat down to dinner, after which letters, telegrams and cards were read from friends all over the country.

We enjoyed listening to the King's speech and in the evening we had a very gay party—so merry that we could not close down until after 1 a.m.

On Boxing Day a large party went to Elswick by coach. On Wednesday, a happy party went to the Grand Theatre in the afternoon, and a small party went to the Under 30 Club in the evening. Walking home a policeman called us to order. We discovered the hour was after midnight—we were breaking the law!

Tommy Milner, representing the northern area, Albert Pimm representing the south, and Vi Formstone, representing our girls, were the first-footers on New Year's Day.

We had many gifts and our appetites were whetted by the gift of poultry and ham from George and Beryl Formby. The account: stood:—

Received: 1 turkey, 1 goose, 1 ham.

Despatched: 1,000 thanks, 3 hearty cheers, 30 offers to clean your windows.

May we wish our comrades and their families, wherever they may be, a happy New Year. E. D.

From the Chairman's Postbag

From the Rev. Michael Norman, who was ordained by the Bishop of Dover, and is now Curate at the Church of St. Peter-in-Thanel, Broadstairs:

"We have now got well into our stride here. I find that I am able to get round visiting in the Parish quite well on my own. So far I have explored one part of the Parish very well and feel confident in going to any house in that area."

Other News

Micky Fulbrook's red cocker spaniel won a certificate in the Kensington Championship at the Olympia Show.

★ ★ ★

Cyril Womack had a good write-up in the local paper recently describing his work at the shoe factory.

★ ★ ★

Bert Farnen is another who was in the news recently. Nice things were said about him in the *Manchester Evening Chronicle*. It began "Everything about Bert Farnen is big. His height (6ft. 2in.), his weight (14 stone) and the grin that's rarely off his big, amiable face."

★ ★ ★

Leonard and Mrs. Arnold, who have been respectively secretary and chairman of the Wanstead-Woodford Circle for the Blind since its inception many years ago, were presented last month with a cigarette box and table lighter to mark appreciation of their work.

★ ★ ★

S. Purvis, of Seghill, won fourth prize in a leek competition—a very nice clock.

★ ★ ★

Alan Hold, of Yeovil, broadcast on the West of England programme on December 14th, with the Yeovil Temple Salvation Army Band.

Board Residence

St. Dunstaners visiting London for the Festival of Britain are cordially invited to stay at Mernay House Private Hotel, 53 Bembridge Villas, Notting Hill Gate, London, W.11. (Owned and managed by St. Dunstaner John Martin).

Ovingdean Notes

Once again this year our Christmas festivities began early. On December 18th the Trainees' Christmas Dinner and End-of-Term Dance was held, and the house had already been suitably decorated by that time.

We were very pleased to have Sir Ian Fraser with us on this occasion. Sir Ian, Commandant and Matron Pain all made short speeches, and the vote of thanks was proposed by Billy Burns—one of the several trainees who left us at the end of term and will be commencing work in the early part of January.

To all those trainees who are now taking up their new employment we send greetings and best wishes from Ovingdean for every success this New Year.

Towards the end of that same week the trainees having departed homewards, we began to receive the first of the men coming in for the holiday break—and so it went on until finally there were about 80 St. Dunstaners with us.

The Hall, Dining Room and Lounge were all most attractively decorated in completely contrasting ways—and a programme of entertainments lasting the whole of Christmas week began!

West House Notes

Our first Christmas back at West House was not spent quietly at all! The decorations began immediately one entered the front door, and the large Christmas Tree in the Hall helped—if any help was needed—to put everyone into a festive mood. All the main rooms were decorated—even the Sick Ward—and most effectively too.

On Christmas morning presents were distributed in the Lounge and in the evening we had a most enjoyable party.

The largest crowd crammed themselves into the Lounge on Wednesday, December 27th, when our Dance included an invitation to St. Dunstaners staying at Ovingdean—indeed the Lounge was not big enough to hold everyone and so a few "sat out" in the Hall. It was an evening we all enjoyed.

On New Year's Eve a fairly large audience was present at the Concert, at which the artistes were St. Dunstaners Harry Costigan and W. Robinson, from West House, and G. Killingbeck from Ovingdean, George Ball (West House Staff), Miss Carlton and Miss Smith (V.A.D. Staff, Ovingdean), and Miss Joyce Watson. After the Concert

refreshments, cigarettes and beer were served, and so we passed a happy evening until midnight, when we drank to the New Year.

To all our old friends everywhere we send greetings from West House for a happy and prosperous 1951.

Crisp Christmas at Ovingdean

It's going to be difficult to frame words to describe the unforgettable Christmas of 1950. Take the Regatta dinners at the Connaught Rooms, part of a Drury Lane pantomime, snow and winter sunshine, and a very merry company and then you might get some idea. The pantomime, "Smith's Crisps," written by Miss Smith and rendered by the staff, brought to light unsuspected histrionic ability. Miss Carlton as the Fairy Queen has no peer. It was great stuff. That was on Christmas Eve. Later, in the lounge, Jimmy Edwards, the comedian, rounded off the evening with peals of laughter. Christmas morning, and Jack Reeves at the piano, "Farmer" leading the singing, and for four hours the place rang with the hearty singing of a hundred men. Then dinner. What a scene the dining room presented. A vast expanse of snow-white naperies, glass, cutlery, fruit, crackers, nuts, and what a feast! This, with the beautifully decorated room—particularly must I mention the painted wall decorations executed by Orderly Frank Bickerton—will long live in our memory. In the forenoon the presents were distributed by Commandant Fawcett. What busy people Matron Pain and he were. Max Miller entertained us on Christmas night. The Fancy Dress Ball on Boxing Night was a great and gay revel. There are occasions in life when events soar to star-chipping heights. This night was one of them.

The Ball on New Year's Night found us all very pleasantly tired, but we got through it and rounded off one of the finest Christmastides in the history of St. Dunstan's—this was generally agreed. It looks like we shall have to book a bed for a long time before next Christmas arrives. I can think of only one adjective that will adequately describe those festive days—*smashing*.

From Matron Pain and Commandant Fawcett, down through the staff, right to the kitchen cat—thanks a million.

W. E. BROOKES.

The Grocers Entertain Us Again

At the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on December 5th, was held what must surely have been the most successful of the Winter Entertainments organised by the Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' Association.

The occasion also marked the retirement of Miss Beatrice Morley, for so many years Secretary of the Association. A gift of a travelling clock was presented on behalf of St. Dunstan's by our President, Sir Neville Pearson, who was accompanied by Lady Pearson.

Miss Morley, replying to Sir Neville's speech, expressed her thanks for the gift and reminded those present at the dinner of the occasion of the first Grocers' Outing, organised in 1928. Many St. Dunstaners present remembered this, and many have, of course, attended the two annual entertainments arranged ever since that time by the Grocers' Association.

To Miss Morley, in her forthcoming retirement, we offer our best wishes and the hope that she will often find time to visit our Homes in Brighton, and to the Grocers' Association we say thank you for another most enjoyable evening for St. Dunstan's men in the Brighton area.

Matron Pain writes

"My sincerest thanks to all those who have so kindly sent me such beautiful Christmas greetings. Each one has brought memories and I would have wished to write to each sender, but owing to the number received I will ask each one of you to look upon this little notice as a personal message of thanks and greeting."

January, 1951.

"Please Do Touch"

An Exhibition, entitled "Please do Touch," opened at Leicester Museum on December 19th, and continued until January 21st. It was designed to illustrate blind welfare and the place of the blind in the community, and also to appeal to blind members of the public. St. Dunstan's had taken a large part in the organisation of this Exhibition. Many photographs of St. Dunstaners at work were on show, as well as exhibits of many kinds of apparatus.

News from South Africa

A donation of £300 has just been received from a lady in the Cape Province. As is usual with such gifts, the generous donor wishes to remain anonymous, but we do know that this donation means something much more than just a sum of money. This dear lady is now in the evening of her life, and for many years has been a subscriber and active worker for St. Dunstan's and the Red Cross, raising money from the sale of her beautiful knitting, crochet and needlework. Such fine work required not only keen eyesight, but also deft and nimble fingers; alas, these fingers are crippled by the terrible scourge of arthritis, which has indeed crippled her whole body, so that she is now permanently chair-ridden. The once agile fingers are now twisted and deformed, but, undaunted, this little old lady still plies her busy needle. Her generous donation constitutes her life's savings, which were to have been used for a long-awaited trip to England to visit her relatives. Unfortunately, she is now too ill to make the trip, and so she has given these hard-earned savings to St. Dunstan's. We know that all St. Dunstaners wish her all the peace of mind and inner happiness which such kind deeds must surely bring.

Mrs. Chadwick-Bates tells me that the gift will be utilised only for special help to those St. Dunstaners who have lost a hand or have maimed hands.

JAMES ELLIS.

Laying Test Results

Second Period of Four Weeks,
November 5th to December 3rd

	Score
	Value
1. Woodcock, W. J.	222
2. Gregory, T. D.	188
3. { Smith, W. Alan	166
{ Taylor, Tom	166
5. Clarke, T.	155
6. Jarvis, Albert	152
7. Jackson, G. C.	108
8. Holmes, Percy	97

Total 1388

Average per bird to date, 28.92.

Extract from "Comments" by the Management:—

"St. Dunstan's breeders have sent their usual neat and workmanlike teams, which will, as far as can be seen, carry on the high record established in this section last year."

"Arms and the Men"

At the request of the Government, a series of popular histories of the Second World War is being prepared by well-known authors. The first has now been published. It is entitled "Arms and the Men," and is by Ian Hay, who is Major General John Hay Beith, a member of St. Dunstan's Council.

The author records in his own way an account of the war fought by British soldiers in Europe, Asia and Africa, by the various auxiliaries, and by civilians at home. He discusses the qualities of the soldier, his arms and equipment, and the organisation that recruited, trained, armed, fed, clothed, equipped and moved him. His views on the modern British Army, which he describes as "the most efficient in our history," and his account of Army reform, going back to the days of Cromwell, will be of interest to every ex-Service man.

Christmas Competition Result

This competition proved most popular and many entries were received. The correct solution was as follows:—

1. HANDKERCHIEF (This be blowed).
2. INHERITANCE (Handed down).
3. REGISTRAR (Ties knots).
4. CONTRABAND (But this is banned).
5. SNAPDRAGON (Also has roots).

The winner was T. Floyd, of Teignmouth, who receives the guinea prize.

"Gen" North's entry was so good, however, that we make no apology for printing it. Here it is:—

"I Taut I Taw a Guinea Jig"

Just like Joe, I'll have a go,
This contest has me tickled.
I'll win the prize, then, you know,
I'll get like Wilfred, Pickled.
And when at last the puzzle's done,
Exhausted with my blarney,
You'll write and say "Good lad, you've won,
Give him the money, Barney."

"Fired hen hack"—this makes me scowl.
Sounds to me like business fowl.
Wilfred, Barney, Violet Carson,
Doing a spot of poultry arson?
Clue No. 1—"This be blowed,"
Sounds as if I'd god a code.
To rhyme with cunning gander, chief,
To stop nose running, "Handkerchief."

"Entire china," No. 2—
Naught to do with Mr. Wu.
I'd like to treat that guy severe
And put an end to his Korea.
The clue is given—"handed down,"
Could be big brother's trousers,
Or maybe mother's evening gown
Or elder sister's blouses.
On second thought I take a chance
And put the word "*Inheritance*."

"Sir Garter"—that is number three
Things that go above the knee.
Sure to give me great delight
To see a garter on a knight.
The clue is given just "Ties knots,"
Makes a guy break out in spots.
Varicose veins like outward dimples,
Addles brains and big goose pimples,
But I'll chance my lucky star
And say it is the "*Registrar*."

'Arf a mo, we have some more.
"Don't ban car," is number four.
"But this is banned" that is the clue.
All cars are banned for me and you.
O, setter of puzzles, don't be funny,
Us blind guys haven't got the money.
I'll make a bet, have I no takers?
This clue concerns the old moonrakers
Who searched the pool, long rakes in hand,
In search of hidden "*Contraband*."

"Pa Grandson" is number five.
From what can this tired brain derive?
The clue is given "Also has roots,"
So have my teeth, there's tongues in boots,
But I'm prepared to bet a flagon
The answer is just plain "*Snapdragon*."

No, Eddie dear, I'm fit to burst,
I'll meet you in the spinney,
Open up my letter first
And send me on that guinea.
What do I want this guinea for?
To buy the wife a pinafore,
Some lingerie of finest silk,
For puddy tat, a pint of milk.
To keep that feline's evil eye
From roving on poor "Sweetie Pie,"
Who has the feeling, most absurd,
That Puddy wants to get the bird.
"GEN."

(Our heart is wrung,
Although not out first
A guinea must award this outburst:—
"EDDIE DEAR.")

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Talking of West House, I went down into the basement one Saturday morning in February, 1936, and, chancing to meet the late Mr. Hawketts, commented upon the solidity of the foundations and stoutness of the brickwork down there. He said he would explain that later, and the following afternoon read me an account that had appeared in a local publication, which stated West House once collapsed and when nearly finished rebuilding, collapsed again. The crash could be heard as far away as Castle Square. Nobody was hurt, but a collection was made in Brighton and £40 raised to replace the workmen's tools. As a result, when the house was built the third time, special care was taken in extra strong foundations and walls.

Yours sincerely,

Southwick.

G. FALLOWFIELD.

DEAR EDITOR,

Please tell the world what a glad, mad Christmas we, nine St. Dunstaners' wives, had at Ovingdean. From the moment when we were all met, separately and fondly, by our Matron, until the moment when we had to say a regretful "cheerio," the time was packed with joyousness and gladness.

May we take the opportunity to thank Sir Ian and the other powers for the thought they must have taken to ensure such a time. Thanks a million, Comm. and Matron. Our hearts are too full to say much about her, but she surely knows what we all think of her.

One little word about our "sisters." Thanks, dears, for all that you do for our men in our absence, but oh, to be twenty or perhaps thirty at such times as Christmas.

Please, everyone, accept the deepest thanks of

NINE ST. DUNSTANERS' WIVES.

DEAR EDITOR,

As a wife I would like to convey many, many thanks to all concerned for the wonderful College reunion we had on November 25th. Men and wives alike had so much to talk about—old times of

College days were naturally the theme of the day. We all lived those happy days over again. I hope the suggestion of it becoming an annual feature will mature.

Miss Lloyd, Miss Miller and Mr. Scott certainly fulfilled one of their greatest ambitions with honours.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Woodley, Reading.

Holiday Accommodation

Mrs. McQuirk, of 24 Paganel Road, Minehead, Somerset, will be taking visitors for the summer season, and St. Dunstaners and old friends will be particularly welcomed. Further details and terms will gladly be sent on application.

Young St. Dunstaners

W. J. Harris, of Fareham, writes that his daughter gave birth to a son on December 9th, at the Holy Families Nursing Home, Karachi, Pakistan. Many St. Dunstaners will remember her at West House, with her son, "The little brancher."

Marriages

Rose Brewer, Hesketh Bank, to Mr. Raistrick, of Yorkshire.

Neville Evans, on December 16th, to Miss Maria John, both of Llansamlet.

Edward Payne, Cardiff, on September 2nd, to Miss E. V. Gay.

Birth

DODGSON.—On January 4th, to the wife of A. Dodgson, of Wimbledon Chase, a son—Paul.

Marriage

BOTLEY—VAN WIJK.—On September 20th, R. C. Botley, of Surbiton, to Eileen van Wijk.

Death

ROLL.—Our deep sympathy goes out to H. Rolt, of Eaton Bray, whose wife died on December 21st.

Personal

The Parents of Lilian Brown would like to thank everybody at St. Dunstan's, particularly Matron Pain and others at Ovingdean, for their kindness to Lilian and letters of sympathy.

“ In Memory ”

Private Edward T. W. Milliss, *Territorial Royal West Kent*

We record with deep regret the death of E. T. W. Milliss, of Sevenoaks. He was nearly sixty-six. Wounded at Gallipoli, he came to us in May, 1927, and was trained in wool-rugs and netting, but for a long time his health had been failing and he had done little work.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral, which was attended by Mr. Ritchie, who had for long visited our St. Dunstaner.

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

Corporal John Davies, *Cheshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Davies, of Wrexham.

He served with his regiment from March, 1912, until May, 1916. He came to us in 1921 as a result of shell shock and gassing, and he trained as a bootmaker and clog-maker. He also took up outside work, but for a great many months before his death he was a very sick man. He died in hospital on November 22nd.

A wreath was sent for the funeral from the Chairman.

He leaves a widow and large family, to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

Private Frederick Frank, *Royal Scots*

With deep regret we record the death, on December 29th, of F. Frank, of Brighton. He was fifty-seven.

He came to us in December, 1936, when he trained in baskets and netting, but his poor health had for long made it impossible for him to work.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the flowers at the funeral.

Sergeant James Williams, *King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of J. Williams, of Hampton, Middlesex, at the age of seventy-two.

He was transferred from the Middlesex Regiment to the King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment, and was severely wounded in 1917 as the result of a shell burst while he was attending a wounded comrade.

He came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1918, and trained first in boot-repairing and then took netting and backyard poultry-keeping. His health had for long been undermined and he died on January 1st after a long illness.

In spite of his poor health he made a hobby of his garden, from which he got much pleasure, and it was recognised as the best garden in the district. He was very proud of the interest it aroused in the Press and among his many friends and neighbours.

Sir Ian's wreath of poppies from his St. Dunstan's friends was amongst some forty sent for the funeral.

He leaves a widow, three sons and four daughters. All are married with the exception of one son, who is in the Merchant Navy and was a prisoner of war for nearly five years.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Williams and her family.

L.A.C.W. Lillian May Brown, *W.A.A.F.*

With deep regret we record the death of Lillian Brown, of Ilford. She was twenty-five.

Lillian's illness was brought on by exposure to intensely cold conditions when she was servicing planes. She had been ill for a long time, and for nearly the whole of last year was a patient in hospital, where she died. She became a St. Dunstaner in July, 1949, and her visits to Port Hall (by ambulance) and her connections with St. Dunstan's gave her tremendous pleasure. She was very brave throughout her long illness.

Her funeral was attended by representatives of the British Legion, Toc H, and the Red Cross, and a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the many flowers. Miss Cecil Wood attended the service at the express wish of her people.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Lillian's mother, father and brother in their great loss.

Lance Corporal Harry Nelson, *1st Somerset Light Infantry*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Harry Nelson, of Cheltenham, at the age of sixty.

Harry was wounded on the Somme in July, 1916, and came to us the same year. He trained first in poultry-keeping and mat-making, but later gave this up for basket-making. He had been in failing health, he never, for some time, so that he was forced to give up working, and he passed away on January 12th.

A poppy wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Nelson.