

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Benefits for Widows

HERE is some news for St. Dunstaners about widows. When a St. Dunstaner dies, St. Dunstan's makes a contribution towards his funeral expenses, in most cases paying the whole of the account. We also make a substantial grant during early widowhood to help to establish the widow in her new way of life, the average total of these grants having risen over the years with the fall in the value of money until it is now round about £125 in each case.

We are now offering to all St. Dunstaners in the United Kingdom and Ireland who are under 55 years of age a new scheme, as follows:—

All St. Dunstaners who are not in the present St. Dunstan's Widows' Insurance Scheme can leave things alone, which means that their widows will qualify for the grant I have mentioned, or they can enter a new contributory scheme which will ensure a sum of £500 for their widows. If the St. Dunstaner joins the new scheme, St. Dunstan's will put in a contribution equal to the present value of the widow's benefit and the St. Dunstaner will pay an annual contribution until he reaches the age of 65. Here are some examples:—

<i>Age next birthday</i>	<i>Annual Premium ceasing at age 65</i>		
	£	s.	d.
25	3	19	8
30	4	14	5
35	5	15	1
40	7	4	0
45	9	6	0
50	12	16	0
55	19	10	10

For those men whose ages fall between the above groups, premiums would, of course, be between the amounts stated, depending on individual ages.

St. Dunstan's will act as Trustee and when the St. Dunstaner dies, we will receive the £500 from the insurance company and pay the funeral expenses out of it, together with any other charges, and we will then, at our discretion, either pay over the balance to the widow or use it in such manner as seems best for her and her family. If the wife should die before the husband, then the husband will receive an insurance policy related to the payments which he has made, but the contribution that has been made by St. Dunstan's will go back into St. Dunstan's for the benefit of all.

If premiums are not paid by the St. Dunstaner regularly, we reserve the right to deduct them from any allowances or gifts which are due or may become payable to the St. Dunstaner.

I am sorry this scheme is only applicable to those who are under 55 years of age, but that is the way with insurance for, as you get older, the cost of cover becomes too expensive to be practicable. But there are some St. Dunstaners who are already in our pre-war Scheme.

Before the war we introduced a similar scheme for the older generation, and invited all St. Dunstaners to go into it, and many did. This scheme was based upon the attainment of a sum of approximately £300, and involved St. Dunstan's in putting up an average of some £75. In order to be fair to those men who went into the pre-war scheme, we now offer to make an additional grant of £50 to their widows when they die, in addition to the lump sum received from the insurance company. Or, alternatively, we would be willing to consider helping them to take out an additional policy, to which we would contribute about £50, and to which they would contribute proportionately. Since this can only apply to men who are round about the early fifties, it will probably be very expensive for the man, but we could at any rate look into each case.

It has always been our aim to do what we can for our widows as part of our great family, and very many years ago we offered to pay the employer's share of the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Pension Scheme, and we have done so ever since.

We carried the same policy forward when the new Government all-in insurance was introduced, and are now paying a proportion of the contribution which falls upon every citizen. In addition, we introduced a little Widows' Scheme of our own for the small number of widows in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland who were not eligible for any Government scheme. Thus, St. Dunstan's has done what it can within the terms of its constitution and trusteeship to make provision for the widows of our men.

The members of our Welfare Staff and the Technical and Social Visitors have all been fully informed of this matter and will be available to give information. Those who wish to enter the Scheme or to consider it should write to the Chief Accountant at 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

An Important Report

Mr. Askew's ripe experience and ability makes him a leading authority in the blind world, and it is not surprising, therefore, that when the Minister of Labour set up a Working Party on the Employment of Blind Persons, in June, 1948, he should be asked to serve. The Working Party has now produced its Report, which is a most valuable document, and if its recommendations are carried out, the blind people of the future will greatly benefit.

The principal recommendation is that the St. Dunstan's method of general training should be applied more widely.

An interesting note on the Report appears on another page.

IAN FRASER.

First Wedding in the Ovingdean Chapel

On February 10th, the first wedding ever to be held at St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, took place. The bridegroom was John Simpson, of Waddington, Lincolnshire, and his bride was Miss Esther Ellison, of Bingley, Yorkshire. The Reverend Crane (Chaplain at Ovingdean) officiated, and the best man was Charles Redford, who is also a St. Dunstaner and a trainee.

Departures

G. K. Unny, of Travancore State, South India, returned home by the S.S. *Jal-Azad* on January 20th. He had brilliantly completed his training, and had passed the

Matriculation examination and obtained the Diploma of Public Administration. We send him our very best wishes for a most successful future in his own country and look forward to receiving news from him from time to time.

★ ★ ★

Eric Hailes, our Australian, left England for Melbourne by the S.S. *Strathnaver* on February 1st. He came to Ovingdean in September, 1948, and after preliminary training entered the Northern Polytechnic as a student piano-tuner. He most successfully completed his course and was awarded the Silver Medal of the Institute of Musical Technology, attaining first place in the final Terminal Report. Our good wishes for his success and happiness in Australia go to him.

War Pensions Debated in the House

As we go to press, a Debate on War Pensions has just taken place in the House of Commons. On Friday, February 16th, Brigadier Head (Conservative, Carshalton) in a Private Member's motion, asked the Government to review the rate of war pensions to conform with the national obligations, bearing in mind the increase in the cost of living.

Brigadier Head said that although much had been done in the matter of disablement pensions, this country had lagged behind other countries, such as Canada, Australia and France. He advocated a rise in the basic rate of 45s., dependent upon what the Minister of Pensions could pull out of the Treasury.

Mr. Paget (Labour, Northampton) seconded the motion.

In the debate which followed, Sir Ian Fraser dealt with the method of assessing the basic rate. Parliament and Governments of all parties had, until recently, taken the view that medical assessment was the right way and that hardship tests, etc., should be avoided. Now the old-fashioned means test was beginning to creep back. We must not go too far in the direction of making war pensions into a dole. Sir Ian referred to men with additional disabilities but who still got the same basic pension as the other man. He asked for a special basic rate for these men, or a special augmented attendant allowance. In many cases pensions and allowances had been practically doubled. He thought all ought to have been doubled compared with pre-war.

The Minister of Pensions, Mr. Isaacs, said the difficulties of the present financial situation must have full consideration in his approach to the points which had been made. He could satisfy the hope expressed in the motion that the Government should review the question of war pensions and allowances.

★ ★ ★

R. Gadsby, of Oakwood, Leeds, is a fishing enthusiast—he has special permission to fish in the grounds of Harewood House and in the waters of another estate near Wakefield. Last week-end he caught four three-pound pike, but his best catch was some months ago, when he secured a pike weighing ten pounds.

London Club Notes

The following Sub-Committees have been elected:—

Bridge.—Messrs. H. Gover (chairman), R. P. Coles and G. Brown.

Indoor Section.—Messrs. F. A. Rhodes (chairman), John Mudge and C. Brampton.

Outdoor Section.—Messrs. T. Gaygan (chairman), C. Stafford and A. Brown.

The Institute of Magicians has been merged into the Indoor Section.

On January 29th the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians held their annual Tea Party, followed by a Concert. The artistes in order of appearing were P. Ashton, H. Manning (ventriloquist), C. Luker and Smudger Smith. Our guest artiste was Rex Dainer, who seemed to produce everything from nothing; Oscar Oswald made an excellent compère, and John Bradbury played incidental music on the piano. At the end of the show, Madam Zomah, the President of the Institute, in a nicely-worded speech, congratulated the performers on the standard of excellence they had attained. They all hoped that more St. Dunstaners would take up this interesting and fascinating art.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge.—The Club has had one match this month, which was against Mr. Crane, of the Post Office, and we played three teams of four, making a match of twelve. The Club won all three sections and, of course, the entire match, the plus score being 3,780.

Our team in the Business Houses League won another match on January 26th. This makes five played, four won and one drawn.

For those who can manage Fridays, at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Miss Shammon and Mr. Fox come along to talk and teach bridge.

H. GOVER.

Indoor Section

If sufficient support is forthcoming it is proposed to have a coach trip to the Derby on May 30th. The price will be approximately £1, and will include coach to Epsom, admission to enclosure, picnic lunch and tea. Will all those interested please notify Mr. Willis, at the Club, as soon as possible and not later than Monday, March 5th.

On February 2nd the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophies dance competitions were held at the Chelsea Town Hall, when

our very good friends, Bob Henderson and Eileen Henshall, the world's undefeated professional ballroom champions, once again came along and judged the competitions for us. They then gave a most delightful exhibition of dancing. The successful entrants in the competitions were:—

Old-fashioned Waltz—E. H. Carpenter, Winner of Cup; C. Stafford, runner-up and £5 prize.

Foxtrot—C. Stafford, Winner of Cup and £5 prize; E. H. Carpenter, runner-up.

Congratulations to the winners and runners-up on their success, and upon the high standard of their performances.

This annual event was a great success, and we owe this in very large measure to Major Curtis (Public Relations and Publicity Department), who also acted as M.C., and Mr. Bob Willis, our esteemed Club Steward.

A Talk will be given at Headquarters on Friday, March 16th, at 7.30 p.m., by Major Geoffrey Harbord. His subject: 1951 Flat Racing.

FRANK A. RHODES.

Outdoor Section

With our usual good luck, the 6 miles Walk on January 27th brought bright weather and the field of eleven starters enjoyed the best race we have seen so far.

Billy Miller, leading for the first mile, surprised us, and although, due to lack of training, he fell back to fourth place, it showed that he will provide a danger in the near future. Our newest recruit, J. Fairgrieve, upset the handicapper; his improvement has been phenomenal. It was gratifying to all concerned with training to see seven of the competitors gain the coveted R.W.A. badges of merit for Walking 6 miles in the hour, especially Eric Hailes, who returned to Australia on February 1st. His speech of appreciation to his fellow sportsmen will be long remembered.

1951 Walks Programme

Mar. 31—10 miles Handicap Walk.

Apr. 21—7 miles Handicap and Championship Walk, open to All England, for Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prizes. Entries close April 7th.

Brighton—

May 19—"Farmer Cup," 7 miles Team Race and Handicap competition. Open to teams from London, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool. Entries close May 1st.

Points awarded to London Walkers to date:—

S.S. Section		T.B. Section	
A. Brown ...	49 points	S. Tutton ...	57 points
W. Miller ...	45 "	J. Fairgrieve	52 "
P. J. Cryan	38 "	E. Hailes ...	50 "
A. G. Bradley	38 "	T. Gaygan ...	45 "
		C. Stafford ...	43 "
		C. Williamson	14 "

St. Dunstan's 6 Mile Walk Regent's Park, January 27th, 1951

Order of Finish	Time	H'cp All.	H'cp Time in H'cp.	Posn.
*T. Gaygan ...	54:00	Scr.	54:00	9
*A. Brown ...	55:42	3:00	52:42	7
*C. Williamson	56:03	3:20	52:43	8
*T. Denmead	56:54	6:10	50:44	3
*A. Bradley ...	57:58	7:40	50:18	2
*W. Miller ...	58:06	3:50	54:16	10
*E. Hailes ...	59:55	7:30	52:25	5
J. Fairgrieve	60:30	11:10	49:20	1
P. Cryan ...	61:44	7:15	54:29	11
S. Tutton ...	62:20	11:10	51:10	4
C. Stafford ...	62:34	9:55	52:39	6

1st Handicap: J. Fairgrieve.

2nd Handicap: A. G. Bradley.

3rd Handicap: T. Denmead.

Fastest Loser: T. Gaygan.

Starter and Timekeeper: G. G. Swan.

Handicapper: W. J. Harris.

*First seven qualified for R.W.A. badge of merit.

A Racecourse Concession for the Deaf

We hear from St. Dunstaner W. E. Brookes, of Southampton, that a special concession has been granted by the Racecourse Betting Control Board to allow deaf people to hand in written bets at the "Tote" on race tracks, both horse and greyhound. "Brookie," who has been campaigning for this for some time, has now received the following letter from the Director of Operations, the Racecourse Betting Control Board:—

DEAR SIR,

Messrs. Wetherby's have forwarded your letter of the 31st January to my Board, and I am to state in reply that every facility will be given to any member of the public who suffers from deafness to hand in written bets to the totalisator operatives. I trust this decision will remove any difficulty which hitherto may have arisen.

Yours truly,

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS.

February 8th, 1951.

This is a welcome concession to deaf people. It ensures privacy and makes it easier for the "Tote" operators and those waiting to place their bets.

The Blind in New Zealand

After the first war, Sir Clutha Mackenzie, a New Zealand St. Dunstaner, raised the Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund for the benefit of all the blind in that Dominion. Leading figures in New Zealand public life, including the Prime Minister, are now backing a great new appeal. An influential member of the Appeal Committee is Donald McPhee, a physiotherapist in Auckland, New Zealand, who has taken a leading part in blind welfare for more than a generation. Sir Ian Fraser has sent the following message:—

"Despite the beneficent activities of the State to improve the lot of the blind, there still remains much to be done to give them a fuller and better life, and there are still many people who are willing to make voluntary gifts for such a purpose. I therefore welcome the news, sent me by my St. Dunstan's friend, Donald McPhee, that a great new Appeal for all the blind is to be made in New Zealand, and I wish it all success. Those who do not see the sunlight deserve our help, but they can also serve the people if they are given the chance. A gift for the blind is, therefore, not only a Christian act of love, but also a means of bringing idle hands to the task of increasing the nation's wealth. Good luck to all blind people in New Zealand. IAN FRASER."

In view of the fact that this appeal is for all the blind in New Zealand, including blinded ex-Servicemen who will benefit by certain general services and the representation to Government and public opinion of the needs of the blind generally, Sir Neville Pearson, our President, suggested, and the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's approved a donation of one hundred guineas to the Fund.

Fishing Tackle Wanted

T. Daborn, of Bexley Heath, is a very keen fisherman and he is anxious to obtain some secondhand deep-sea tackle (diameter of reel required, 6in. or over). If anyone can help, will he please get in touch with our St. Dunstaner. His address is 25 Pickford Lane, Bexley Heath, Kent.

Placement

W. J. A. Edwards, Brighton, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. C.V.A., Coombe Road, Brighton.

"The New Beacon" in Braille

As from January, 1951, "The New Beacon," the monthly journal published by the National Institute for the Blind, is being published in braille as well as in inkprint.

The National Institute also announces a change in its policy regarding braille "Pandas." Since 1939, these popular braille books have been issued at the extremely modest price of 6d. net per volume. During the war years, when conditions prevented to any great degree the publication of new braille books, the Panda Series proved a great boon to braille readers, although the number printed had to be strictly limited. Since then, this "limited edition" policy has remained in force, but the Institute's Council has now decided that, although light and topical literature at a cheap price will be maintained, the books in this series will from now on be treated as other braille books. This means that readers may now select the titles they prefer without binding themselves to buy books which may not suit their tastes. Secondly, each Panda will now be a permanent addition to available braille literature—hitherto it has not been possible to reprint them. Thirdly, the price per volume will be based, as with other braille books, on cost of production, and will not exceed the maximum net price of 1s. 3d. per volume.

Thirty Years Ago

Extract from the "St. Dunstan's Review," February, 1921:—

"Although men at present in training at St. Dunstan's are now getting familiar with the new headquarters and workshops in the Inner Circle, nevertheless much of their surroundings must still seem strange to them. . . Let us enter the open gate and have a look round. Wheeling to the left we are face to face with the house, and there is our old friend Hetherington at the door ready to welcome us. Passing through the entrance hall we enter a very fine square inner hall, which acts as the centrepiece of this hive of industry. Directly in front of us is Mrs. Fraser's office, to our left front Sir Arthur's, and to our right front Captain Fraser's. . . Through the lobbies we arrive at what is known as the Library, facing which is the Stationery Department. To the left are the Treasury Offices, to the right the Secretarial Offices. . ."

Report of the Working Party on the Employment of the Blind

The Minister of Labour and National Service appointed a Working Party in June, 1948, to investigate the facilities existing for the employment of blind persons in industry and in public and other services, and its Report has just been published.

The Working Party consisted of seven members, two of whom were blind men, under the Chairmanship of an Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Mr. Askew was a member of the Working Party.

The Report deals with the history of blind welfare in Great Britain since the setting up, in 1791, of the first Training Establishment for the blind, and refers to the contribution Sir Arthur Pearson made in founding St. Dunstan's for the care of soldiers, sailors, and airmen blinded in the First World War. Public opinion was focussed for the first time on the fact that something should be done to unify and standardise help given to all blind people, and this found expression in 1920 in the first Blind Persons Act.

The Working Party have not felt it necessary to consider the position of the war blinded in any detail, in view of the complete responsibility assumed for their training, settlement and after-care by St. Dunstan's and the Scottish National Institution, although a chapter in the Report is devoted to the work done for the war blinded and pays tribute to St. Dunstan's in regard to the results achieved by its men.

The Report stresses the fundamental fact that blindness is a handicap which can be, and in innumerable instances is, overcome, and goes on to say that employment is both a part of the process and its reward. The value of employment to the blind is that it enables them to enter fully, despite their handicap, into the life of the community—to live active, happy, cultured, and contributive lives of their own. On the other hand, the employer's position has to be considered, and the Report deals with this fully and frankly. It says: "We consider that when he engages a blind worker, an employer has the right to expect that it will be worth his while to do so. We do not wish to minimise the sympathy which is, and ought to be, extended to the blind

worker, but equally we do not wish to over-emphasize it. An employer has to make his business pay, and no plan for placing blind people in industrial employment can hope to succeed on any other basis than that the blind worker can and should do a full week's work in return for a full week's wage."

This is in fact the keynote of the Report. It contains recommendations for improvements in the existing methods of helping the civilian blind to help themselves, *e.g.*, by the expansion of facilities for their training in the wide range of vocations for which blind persons may be suitable; by intensive specialist services for their placing in occupations open to them; and by the breaking down of any prejudices which may still remain against their employment in "open" industry as distinct from employment in "sheltered" special workshops for the blind.

Frequent references are made in the Report to the work done by Local Authorities and Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of the civilian blind.

The Report shows that there are about 87,000 registered blind persons in Great Britain, of whom 36,400 are within the normal working age range of 16 to 65. Of these, about 11,000 are at present employed or training for employment. Among the remaining 25,000 of working age, it is estimated that about 3,000 would be capable of taking up employment if they were given the opportunity—that is to say, if the existing facilities for their rehabilitation, occupational training, and placing by specialist services were expanded and adapted to meet their needs.

The forms of employment followed by blind people in commercial and industrial occupations, in the professions and administration, in business, in rural occupations, and the public services, are explored fully.

The Report constitutes the first comprehensive study of the employment of the blind for some thirty years. It is likely to be regarded for some time to come as the standard textbook on a very human problem. The immense progress which has been made in the last thirty years or more is clearly evident from the Report.

The full report is available in ink print and braille. The former can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 1s. 9d., and the latter from the National Institute for the Blind, price 2s. 8d. (two volumes).

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I read with interest and complete agreement Sir Ian's Notes on braille. They must be most encouraging to many. I do feel that when we St. Dunstaners get our typewriters we forget the gentle art of handwriting. This is most useful on many occasions, *i.e.*, writing an address on a cigarette packet—only don't throw the packet away! Every letter can be written with or without the aid of a writing frame. I use a small writing frame, not unlike a child's abacus, and the pen I use is a Biro (designed by a St. Dunstaner). I write with my own hand all letters of congratulations and sympathy, and this extra trouble involved is, I know, appreciated. A few minutes' practice, with honest criticism, per week, and you can develop a hand of which you may be well proud. It must be remembered that we St. Dunstaners are lucky fellows. There are many blind persons in the country and they have never had a typewriter.

Before I close, if your typewriter goes wrong, you can write to St. Dunstan's about it and save your wife the trouble. Lord knows, she has enough to do these days.

Good luck. Good writing.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE MORTIMER.

Witham, Essex.

(George's letter was written perfectly legibly. Our Appeals Department would be happy if all their subscribers wrote as clearly. In a PS. he added that it was not checked by anyone as, obviously, the idea would be useless if someone had to dot the "i's" and cross the "t's"—Ed.)

DEAR EDITOR,

The comments in the REVIEW of our Chairman, Sir Ian Fraser, concerning braille, were surely very wise, for braille makes a great wealth of literature accessible once again. Many treasures are to be found in the large library of the N.I.B. Then there are fine publications like "World Digest," "Reader's Digest," etc., with their often topical and interesting articles. These I thoroughly enjoy, but nevertheless I look forward eagerly to my copy of "Nuggets" arriving each month. Here is something

more intimate, for, with "Nuggets," one finds another link with St. Dunstan's. For example, an old friend may be named the winner of the monthly competition. One such was Johnny Loach, a good pal to me in my early days at Ovingdean. The competitions are a stimulus to the mind, and there's more in it than the welcome guinea which (sometimes) comes along. The articles themselves I have found to treat a wide range of subjects, but never too long. I have been adventuring in the Antarctic, I have shared in the thrill of capturing a large python alive; I have dipped into London's past and learned of the founding of the Polytechnic in the "not so good old days." Rested awhile at the Holborn Theatre and revived a memory of the "Gaiety" days. Went to the provinces and learned something of how Jesse Boot (the chemist) began, and back to London to hear how Chelsea F.C. gained admission to the Football League.

I have found adventure, thrill, knowledge and recreation. As a Methodist lay preacher, I have gathered more than one illustration from "Nuggets."

I should like to commend "Nuggets" to those St. Dunstaners who, as yet, do not read it. Besides giving enjoyable reading, its size makes it easy to carry on a 'bus, or short rail journey. And some new reader may have suggestions to offer, which I know the Editor will be glad to consider. Keep going, "Nuggets," and may the number of your readers increase!

Yours sincerely,

HERBERT DUXBURY.

East Didsbury, Manchester.

DEAR EDITOR,

Christmas was the first time that the girls have taken part in the festivities at St. Dunstan's, and I should like to send a thousand thanks to the Staff, and especially Matron Babineau, of Port Hall, for making our visit such a happy one. We joined in all the entertainments at the Centre and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Thanks to Matron Pain and the Commandant, who must have put in many hours of hard work to make the holiday such a success. We greatly appreciated it.

Yours sincerely,

BLODWYN B. SIMON.

Ruthin.

DEAR EDITOR,

Can you find a little space for a Turf Adviser, as I sometimes get information straight from the horse's mouth.

For those interested in the Sport of Kings, I have got one for 1951 which is a stonewall certainty. It is "Individuality" by "Confidence out of Determination," and cannot be beaten for the Go Get It Stakes. I recommend punters to have their maximum on this one and bet without fear.

For a long time I have been out early watching the candidates for the "Hangover Handicap." Self-pity can never win this handicap, but there is one that sticks out a mile and will always "go by." Back Moderation and adopt the "limit system" if you want really big dividends this year.

The best of luck to all!

Yours sincerely,

ALAN NICHOLS.

Portslade.

DEAR EDITOR,

I have for many years been interested in Dramatic and Theatre Clubs, and have had an offer made to St. Dunstaners.

The opportunity is given for a St. Dunstaner to take part in a London Theatre Club's production, and should any of our St. Dunstaners in comparatively easy reach of the Elephant and Castle area of London wish further particulars, would they get in touch with me?

Experience of amateur show business would be an asset, but is not essential. Of course, I must point out that this opportunity is primarily for the younger men, as the group in the Club are mostly in the twenties. Further, should someone come along fairly quickly, there is the chance of a small part in the very next production. This part is rather a good chance, in some respects with the advantage on the St. Dunstaners' side. It is the part of a blind man.

I would point out that such things have been done in the past, and what the first war men did the second war men can do.

I would take an active part myself, but other activities bar me, and I am also suffering slightly from anno domini.

I would add that one of the main producers is not unconnected with St. Dunstan's, and, in fact, was at one time a Sister.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN MUDGE.

2 Trulock Villas,
Trulock Rd., Tottenham, N.17.

Talking Book Library

January's Jackpot

Five rather interesting new volumes appear this month to give this year a good send-off for keen readers. The releases are "Bridie Steen," "The Gamester," "Even as the Sun," "Kim," and "The Day's Work."

"Bridie Steen," by Anne Crone, reader Anthony Macdonald, is a story of Fermanagh, in Ireland, and the crux of the plot is the strong religious feeling prevalent in many Irish districts. Bridie, the heroine, is a poverty-stricken Catholic, whilst her lover is a reasonably "heeled" Protestant. The story takes place on the farm of Bridie's grandmother who, a staunch Protestant, is ambitious to "turn" Bridie before she, the grandmother, dies and leaves the property to her. Those are the rough bones of the yarn; the whole makes pleasant reading.

"The Gamester," by Rafael Sabatini, reader Jack de Manio, has the early 18th century in Paris as a background. The gamester plays to control the finances of the kingdom and fails by only a hair's breadth. The book is full of disturbing and exciting incidents.

"Even as the Sun," by Elizabeth Doylay, reader Richard Wessell, is the story of Henry of Derby, eventually Henry IV, and during his ups and downs from childhood to coronation, he is depicted here as a popular hero, such as Denis Compton or Bobbie Smith are to-day. The atmosphere is cheerful and colourful, full of intrigue and underground discontent, and the overall entertainment is good.

"Kim," by Rudyard Kipling, reader Norman Shelley, is the story of an Irish boy brought up "native" in India, and of his attachment to a wandering Tibetan lama. The boy has enthralling adventures and finishes up happily at the side of his master. A grand, gripping and powerful recital which I would have put as the book of the month had not

"The Day's Work," also by Rudyard Kipling, reader Eric Gillett, been released this month. This is a book of short stories which bears the mark of an inspired master craftsman in practically every single story. To read this book will nearly enable one to pay fuel bills without a tear.

Happier days!

"NELSON."

Notes from South Africa

Time marches on, and the general opinion is that it is marching in double quick time, in keeping with all our other 20th century bids for speed in everything. Here we are at the beginning of another New Year, and although these Notes will not arrive in time for the January REVIEW, nevertheless it is not too late for us to send to St. Dunstaners everywhere our very best wishes for all happiness and prosperity throughout the coming year.

During the past year we have received into our South African ranks six new St. Dunstaners. Whilst it is unfortunate that deterioration of sight made it necessary for them to come to St. Dunstan's, we are nevertheless glad to welcome them into our family. Two of these are now in training at Ovingdean, and we follow with keen interest the reports of their progress and achievements which appear in the Ovingdean Notes from time to time.

In Cape Town last month, we welcomed Polly Botha on his return to the Union and congratulated him on his achieving membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. We knew that he was glad to see us all again, but he could hardly wait for the departure of his train, which was to take him back to his beloved Transvaal. He has now taken up an appointment at the Germiston Hospital, and we all wish him the very best of luck in his future career.

In our country, where distances are so great, it is quite an event when two St. Dunstaners from distant parts meet away from their home towns. This happened when Jim Ellis and Johannes Dupreez, better known as "Dupe," met when they represented St. Dunstan's at the annual bazaar held in aid of St. Dunstan's by our East London Committee. Dupe demonstrated his skill at weaving before a very interested crowd of onlookers, and Jim kept many audiences enthralled with his addresses on St. Dunstan's.

Whilst in East London they met Colonel Woon, an old friend of St. Dunstan's. Colonel E. W. Woon will be well remembered with affection by all those who were at Tembani during the war. He was a very active member of the Board and is now a life member of St. Dunstan's, South Africa. All his old friends will be sorry to learn that the Colonel himself is having trouble with his sight. An operation for cataract

on one eye a few months ago was unsuccessful, and he is now quite blind in that eye, and the tragedy is that a cataract is forming over the remaining good eye. All his St. Dunstan's friends will wish to extend to Colonel Woon their sincere sympathy and wish him better luck when it comes to removing the next cataract.

Dupe explains that there are many advantages in being a "Ham," or amateur radio enthusiast, quite apart from transmitting and receiving messages. It seems that the "Hams" all over the country have quite a fraternal spirit prevailing amongst them. On a journey between Johannesburg and Durban, Dupe's train became derailed just outside a little country station, and the passengers were informed that they would be held up for several hours. Dupe suddenly remembered that a fellow "Ham" operated from this district, looked up the fellow's address in the telephone directory at the station and rang him up. The local "Ham" said he would come down to the station right away, and a few minutes later Dupe heard a familiar "calling-up" sign tooted out in morse code on a motor horn. He was taken to the man's home where he enjoyed a good meal and a very pleasant evening, and when he arrived back to the marooned train he had not long to wait before it was able to get under way again. He was spared that tedious and seemingly interminable boredom which one always experiences when confined in a broken-down train. It must be remembered that Dupe had never met his radio colleague, except on the air; a wonderful thing, wireless!

We are asking "Pop" Marais, whom many St. Dunstaners in England, as well as all South Africans, will remember, to write an article on "Hams" for our South African News Sheet, the first number of which will be issued early in April, and thereafter quarterly, and a copy of his article will be sent to the REVIEW in the hope that it may be of interest to other "Ham" and wireless enthusiasts.

Christmas and New Year Greetings.— On behalf of all South African St. Dunstaners, we want to thank Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, and "All at West House," for their delightful messages received by cable, and all other St. Dunstaners in the Old Country for their greetings by letters and cards. It is delightful to us all to be remembered.

Brighton Notes

After the hurry and bustle of Christmas we, at Ovingdean, had expected a somewhat more peaceful month in January—but we most certainly had not reckoned on things being as quiet as they turned out to be.

On New Year's Day it all began with everyone in the building being advised to be vaccinated—and it was the same at West House. The first two cases of smallpox had been reported in Brighton. That, then, was the first step, but as the outbreak grew more serious it was decided that all holiday and convalescent visits to Ovingdean should be temporarily cancelled.

Brighton itself became quiet, and those of us who continued to visit the places of entertainment found them all half empty. According to the local press, the outbreak has cost the town almost £1,000,000 in loss of business.

The trainees came back from their Christmas holidays on January 9th, and as the term progressed so more and more entertainments were held in the house. A very interesting lecture was given on January 11th by Miss Sheila McKay on "The Defence of the West," and this was well attended. On most Sunday evenings we have had either a Concert or a Gramophone Recital.

On January 24th a small number of holiday men from Ovingdean, and some of the residents from West House, went off to Plumpton for our first trip to the races this year. They had a picnic lunch and, apart from getting stuck in the mud for a while, had an enjoyable day.

Mr. Cheesman entertained St. Dunstaners at another Dance at the Arlington Hotel on January 25th, and the usual Monday and Friday night dances have been held at Ovingdean.

Shooting

Here are the results of the last Team Shooting Tournament for 1950:—

No. 7 Team wins with 7 wins, no losses, followed by

No. 4 Team with 5 wins and 2 losses.

No. 6 Team was 3rd with 4 wins and 3 losses.

Highest aggregate individual score was obtained by W. Pollock (B/L) with 340 points and 9 pluses out of a possible 350. Runners up were W. Flowers and R. Osborne, both scoring 337 with 6 pluses.

The highest aggregate score for one team

was by No. 1 scoring 148 plus 2 against No. 8, out of a possible 150.

Congratulations to G. Robson, who scored a possible 50 plus 5 during his shooting. This has previously only been achieved once before, by J. Boyd.

The actual aggregate for each team during the whole competition is as follows:—

No. 1 Team 994 with 17 pluses.

" 2 " 963 " 16 "

" 3 " 984 " 15 "

" 4 " 993 " 18 "

" 5 " 982 " 19 "

" 6 " 849 " 19 "

" 7 " 1003 " 19 "

" 8 " 964 " 12 "

The possible for any team being 1050.

Sports Day, Ovingdean

It may seem a trifle early to mention 1951 Sports Day, but this advance notice is to let our readers know that we are hoping to hold the event in July this year. Further details will be advised in these columns as soon as possible.

Camp

There will be a Camp at Lee again this year, but the date cannot be settled until Naval Leave period is announced.

I have also written to the R.A.F. about another camp. I hope the dates will appear in next month's REVIEW.

A. SPURWAY.

The Deaf-Blind Reunion

George Fallowfield has written to us about his article, "The Muffled Drums' Reunion," in the November REVIEW. It appears that some confusion has arisen because he mentioned in that article that deaf St. Dunstaners were to have two *holidays* each year. He wishes to make it clear that he should have said two *Reunions* and not two holidays.

Ask and Ye Shall Receive

This fellow, North, is a wonderful geezer.

Not only solutions, but on into rhyme.

To me they were all the devil of a teaser,

Good luck, well done, "Gen," 'twas an

effort most fine.

And now it remains, Sir, to take off my hat

To Competition Corner's new Poet Laureate.

H. A. H.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. T. Devlin, St. Helen's, January 9th; Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Fox, Horndean, January 21st.

Heralds of Spring

"Tea," chirruped the night orderly, "and the sun's blazing in at the window—like Spring, it is." I told him I had no biscuits. "Biscuits with your tea! Put a spring in it! Good morning."

I felt bellicose. Biscuits I wanted. Spring would come in handy later on. Miss de Fray was coming up as I was going downstairs. "It's quite springlike, Brookie; nice for the bees," she said. On the next floor Miss Carlton looked like "Spring had a'cum in," and the Sick Ward were in for bottles of it. In the lounge someone was singing "Springtime in the Rockies." Peevishly I toddled away to get my biscuits.

I passed a lorry standing before a fruiterer's shop; its driver craved my aid. A lady assistant had been standing on an upturned empty apple barrel, setting flowers on a shelf, when the barrel top caved in and she was now squealing and performing the hairpin trick inside it. We lifted the barrel, shook it, and the lady came and sat on the spring greens, thanking us breathlessly. Clutching my biscuits, I returned to Ovingdean. Meeting Fred Richardson and Bert Clevett in the vestibule, they told me I had to be vaccinated—at once. I linked myself to the tail of the "conga" line and was duly punctured. While awaiting my turn I discovered that my biscuits were not the sort to go mad about, and were quite uneatable. Everything seemed out of joint. It set me wondering whether the Heralds of Spring had, in a spirit of mischief, grabbed Gabriel's trumpet and tootled on that by way of a change.

W. E. BROOKES.

Miss Peacock writes—

DEAR MATRON AND SISTERS,

May I, through St. Dunstan's REVIEW, take this opportunity to say how very proud and happy I am to have been allowed to give my services to St. Dunstan's again, after so many years have elapsed, and I feel I cannot let this pass without saying how much I have appreciated all your kindness to me in every way during my short stay. If, at any time, you should need me again, I am always ready and willing to help.

Yours very sincerely,

West House.

L. PEACOCK.

Young St. Dunstaners

Kathleen Alderson has passed the Final Examination of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors, and is now an Incorporated Accountant.

★ ★ ★

Dennis Coles won a £5 prize, awarded by Jonah Barrington in the *Sunday Chronicle* for correctly forecasting five of the seven chosen B.B.C. news-readers. No reader forecast the seven, or even six, but three tied for first place with five. Summing up, Mr. Barrington said "As this was a competition not only for a correct forecast but for the best reasons for those forecasts, I unhesitatingly choose Mr. Dennis R. Coles, of Woking, as the winner."

Marriages

Jim Davies, Sandbach, on January 27th, to Miss Josie Pemberton.

James Murphy, Glasgow, on February 3rd, to Miss Mary Beattie.

Births

DAVIES.—On February 9th, to the wife of L. Davies, of Purley, a daughter—Christine Anne Margaret.

RYAN.—On February 8th, to the wife of A. Ryan (of Australia, and at present at London University), a son—Paul Walter John. Mrs. Ryan will be remembered as Miss Chaddock.

Marriages

BOWER.—GOUCHER.—On January 24th, W. Bower, of Sheffield, to Miss Martha Goucher.

BRIGHT—BURDEN.—On February 10th, B. Bright, of Birmingham, to Miss Doreen Burden.

SIMPSON—ELLISON.—On February 10th, in the St. Dunstan's Chapel, John Simpson, to Miss Esther Ellison.

TAYLOR—BATHAM.—On February 3rd, Richard Taylor, of Bushbury, Wolverhampton, to Miss Ann Batham.

Death

ALLEN.—Our deep sympathy is extended to W. Allen, of Torrisholme, Morecambe, in the death of his mother on January 12th.

“ In Memory ”

Private Gilbert Wilkins, *Labour Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of Gilbert Wilkins, of Bristol, which occurred in hospital on February 4th. He was sixty.

He was discharged from the Army in February, 1919, but it was not until March, 1937, that he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained then in basket-making, but for some years now had done industrial work in a factory.

Although his health had not been good for some time, his death was nevertheless unexpected.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his daughters and to Mr. Conway with whom he lived, and who gave him so much care and attention.

Private Harry White, *29th Canadian Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Harry White, of Thornton Heath, at the age of seventy-two.

Wounded on the Somme in 1916, he came to us the following February and he trained at baskets for a time, then netting.

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

Among the flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian.

Private George W. Rickard, *Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of George Rickard, which occurred at West House, Brighton, on February 12th.

His discharge from the Army took effect in November, 1916, but he had come to St. Dunstan's the previous month. He trained with us in mats and netting. For a long time his health had not been good and he was a resident at West House for some time.

Wreaths from the Chairman, and from his friends at Brighton, were among the flowers at the funeral.

Our sympathy is offered to his relatives.

Private Joseph Braithwaite, *King's Own Royal Lancashire Regt.*

We record with deep regret the death of J. Braithwaite, of Preston.

Although he saw service with his regiment from 1914 until 1918, he did not come under our care until the early part of 1948. His injuries in 1915, in addition to damaged vision, included a bad gunshot wound in his right thigh. His age made serious training impossible, but he stayed for a time at Ovingdean and was happily carrying on with netting and rug-making when his death occurred suddenly at his home on January 18th.

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

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

William Morris, *Loyal North Lancs. Regt.*

It is with deep regret we record the death of W. Morris, of Cowling, Chorley, who served in the Army from August, 1916, until May, 1919.

Although blinded and disabled as a result of gassing in 1918 he, too, did not come to us until many years later—in March, 1949. He was then a very sick man and training was out of the question.

After many years of suffering, he died at his home on January 17th.

A poppy wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral, at which Matron Davies was able to be present.

We offer our sincere sympathy to his wife and son.

Private Frank Fowler, *2nd West Yorkshire Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of F. Fowler, of York. He, too, suffered gassing in the 1914—1918 war after serving from May, 1916. He came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1918, but his ill-health made training impossible. For a number of years now he had been going slowly downhill, but nevertheless his last illness and death was a shock to us.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a wreath from Sir Ian. Miss Pease attended the Requiem Mass.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his wife and family.