

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

ALL blind people are handicapped in walking alone. That is why in St. Dunstan's we have always emphasised the importance of acquiring and practising this difficult art. Many young men, especially those who had been in the Royal Air Force, wondered, as I did, if the marvellous powers of radar could do anything to help us. During the past few years we have made a serious and prolonged investigation of this matter. It has ended in the negative finding that good ears, good sense and a bit of courage are better than any mechanical or electrical devices. Clever ones will say "We knew this already." I think the investigation has been well worth while and the whole subject seems to me of sufficient interest to reprint in this Review an article written by Mr. R. L. Beurle, the scientist who undertook the work. He has now left us to go to the Ministry of Supply as a Government scientist and we wish him good luck.

The Advisory Committee of eminent scientists, under the chairmanship of Professor E. D. Adrian, O.M., F.R.S., who is now President of the Royal Society, will continue to advise St. Dunstan's on scientific matters generally, and we are grateful to them for their help. In addition to studying guiding devices, the Committee and its small staff have for some time been working on the new method of producing Talking Books by magnetic recording on paper strip, which would run for ten to fifteen hours. The experiment is nearing the point at which a field test will be made.

### Helen Keller

Dr. Helen Keller has a world-wide reputation as scholar, writer and publicist. This is very remarkable considering that she has been both deaf and blind since she was a baby. She and her friend and secretary, Miss Polly Thompson, are old friends of mine and I had the pleasure of entertaining them when they passed through London recently on their way to South Africa. We were all astonished at the extraordinary speed, almost equal to that of ordinary conversation, with which Miss Thompson and Dr. Keller talked to each other on their fingers.

I am glad to hear from many of my deaf and blind friends amongst St. Dunstaners that there is some increase in the numbers of our community who have learned to talk to them by this method.

IAN FRASER.

### 1951 Derby Sweepstake

According to present arrangements, the Derby will be run on Wednesday, May 30th, and we invite applications from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in our own Derby Sweepstake. No other person is eligible to hold them.

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and application for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 18th**. Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered.

The total amount of the money subscribed after the cost of printing and postage has been deducted will be distributed as follows:

50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse;

20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse;

10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse;

The remaining 20% will be divided equally amongst those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

### Holiday Camp—Morecambe

The Middleton Tower Holiday Camp, Ltd., of Middleton Sands, near Morecambe, Lancs., have generously offered to give twenty-five St. Dunstaners and their wives a free holiday for one week at their camp. The directors of the camp have very kindly agreed to make available twenty-five chalets for this purpose. The date suggested is the week commencing Saturday, May 19th.

The holiday will be completely free except that those taking part will be required to meet the cost of return train fares from their home town to Morecambe. Arrangements will be made by the camp for St. Dunstaners and their wives to be met at the station and conveyed to the chalets.

Please let me know without fail by *Monday, 16th April*, if you wish to join this holiday party. It may well be that we will receive more than twenty-five applications, and if this is so it will be necessary to hold a ballot.

ALEX MACKAY,  
Welfare Superintendent.

### National Library Catalogue

The braille edition of the first part of the Library's new Catalogue, in three volumes, is now available on loan, or can be purchased at a special price of 3s. per volume.

Volumes 1 and 2 contain all the Fiction and Short Stories in the Library.

Volume 3 contains all the Juvenile Books, and all books in Uncontracted Braille, in Grade III and Grade 1½.

The address of the Library is 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, and 5 St. John Street, Deansgate, Manchester.

### Standardised Braille for Five Million People

A standardised braille alphabet to serve five million blind persons in Asia and Africa has been agreed upon at a UNESCO Conference just concluded in Beirut, Lebanon.

Sir Clutha Mackenzie was Unesco's principal representative at the Conference, and also present was Major R. Bridges.

### Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," March, 1921:

"March 26th will be the sixth anniversary of the opening of the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel at St. Dunstan's, in Regent's Park. Our readers will remember that for some months before this date the first half-dozen men who lost their sight in the war had been accommodated and were receiving training in a temporary establishment in Bayswater Road, but it was on March 26th, 1915, that Regent's Park became the headquarters of the organisation that now celebrates its sixth birthday. How strange it must be for Sir Arthur Pearson and the few members of his staff who recollect these early days to look back upon the milestones that have been passed . . . how proud must the Chief feel that the seed which his genius created, and which he and his assistants so devotedly cared for, has brought forth such splendid fruit. For what will posterity say of St. Dunstan's? They will refer to it as the outstanding piece of creative work undertaken by any nation on behalf of its disabled men . . . They will say that Sir Arthur Pearson taught his men to face the limitations of blindness as courageously as they faced their enemy in battle . . ."

### London Club Notes

The 7 miles Walk on February 17th seemed in danger of being a swimming contest as the rain continued until shortly before the start, but fortunately held off until a few minutes before the last man arrived home.

Tommy Gaygan took the lead from the start and was never really in danger. The style of walking, encouraged by a special prize presented by Mr. Charles Harrison, and forced by the bullying of the escorts, was the best all-round performance to date. The prize went to C. Williamson, who also finished first in the handicap.

Again the handicap times of the nine competitors covered 3 min. 21 sec., and in spite of his penalty "Wee Macgregor" Fairgrieve finished in fourth position.

His Worship the Mayor of St. Pancras started the race and returned to Marylebone Road to present the prizes, and his friendly speech and manner were appreciated by all.

It would be pleasing to see some more young members turning out for training at Bedford College, Regent's Park, on Tuesday evenings, 6.30, and to hear of like activity in other centres, and to opposition to London in future events.

### 7-Mile Race Result

	Act. time	All. time	H'cap time	H'cap Pos.
1. T. Gaygan	64:00	scr.	64:00	8
2. C. Williamson	65:37	4:30	61:07	1
3. A. Brown	66:04	3:40	62:24	6
4. T. Denmead	67:02	5:10	61:52	3
5. W. Miller...	67:19	5:10	62:09	5
6. A. Bradley	69:52	6:20	63:32	7
7. J. Fairgrieve	71:19	9:15	62:04	4
8. C. Stafford	73:44	12:05	61:39	2
9. S. Tutton...	76:18	11:50	64:28	9

Prizewinners: 1st Handicap, C. Williamson.  
2nd Handicap, C. Stafford.  
3rd Handicap, T. Denmead.  
Fastest loser, T. Gaygan.  
Style Prize, C. Williamson.

### POINTS TO DATE

S.S. Section	T.B. Section
A. Brown 65 points	S. Tutton 70 points
W. Miller 62 "	J. Fairgrieve 70 "
A. G. Bradley 53 "	C. Stafford 62 "
P. J. Cryan 38 "	T. Gaygan 59 "
	C. Williamson 34 "

### Bridge

On February 10th, eight of our members paid a visit to the Purley Ladies' Bridge Club. Our "A" team won by 750 points and our "B" team won by 620 points, thus

winning the aggregate match by 1,370. On February 24th we had the pleasure of entertaining our old friend, Mr. A. E. Field, and his team of twelve. Our "A" team lost by 2,200 points, the "B" team won by 500, and the "C" team won by the small margin of 20 points. This means that although winning two legs, we lost the aggregate match by 1,680. In the Business Houses League, our team has won two more matches, and are now top, even if they lose the last match. There are nine sections of this League in London, and the winners of each section meet on March 20th for one great struggle for a Shield, to be held for one year.

Harrogate has been fixed for six days, commencing September 30th; the Brighton week-end has been fixed for November 3rd.

H. GOVER.

### Indoor Section

Will all those who wish to enter for the Sir Arthur Pearson Trophy events please give their names to their respective Club organisers as soon as possible, and in any case not later than April 14th. Those in the London Club area should give their names to Mr. Willis.

FRANK A. RHODES.

### From All Quarters

H. Marsden, of Fordingbridge, had the honour of being accepted as an Associate of the Kennel Club at their meeting on February 13th. He believes he is the only St. Dunstaner ever to have become an Associate of the Club. He is known as a dog judge and breeder of great repute.

\* \* \*

When Sir Frederick West, G.B.E., gave a talk and film show to Manchester Rotary Club recently on "Disabled Persons at Work," he introduced to his guests our telephonist, J. McNicholl, who was one of those appearing in the films.

\* \* \*

Percy Norris, of Nedlands, West Australia, sends greetings to all St. Dunstaners. In a cheery letter he tells us that he conducts three radio sessions weekly, called "Dedication to the Blind and the Voice of the Blind," for the Braille Society of Western Australia. He introduced the same radio session in Queensland, when he was there in March and April.

## Electronic Guiding Aids for Blind People

By R. L. BEURLE

*The following article appeared in "Electronic Engineering," January, 1951:*

The purpose of this article is to place on record the results of experiments carried out at St. Dunstan's on electronic guiding aids. When, at the end of the war, the principles of radar became known, many people felt that there might be some possibility of applying the same principles in a portable device. If this enabled blind people both to detect and avoid obstacles they might be able to find their way about without escort to a greater extent than before. There had been earlier attempts to construct such a device. One of these made by Fournier d'Albe in 1918, failed because it merely indicated the presence of light and shade in any direction and, as it could not give any indication of range, obstacles could not readily be avoided.

After the recent war experimental work was started both in this country and in the United States, with the idea of investigating fairly thoroughly all the various possibilities. The aim was to discover whether any of the wartime advances in technique could be applied and, if not, what further advances would be necessary before a practical guiding device could be made.

The character of a radar beam, and in particular the wavelength, makes it unsuitable for locating small objects at ranges of a few feet. Because of this it is necessary to consider some other form of exploring beam, the most promising alternatives being beams of light and beams of sound and ultrasonic energy. The wavelengths associated with these media are shorter than radar wavelengths and the difficulties which would be encountered in trying to use a radar beam are thereby lessened. The basic principle of any guiding device would be similar to that of a radar equipment, that is, when the exploring beam is intercepted by an object the latter reflects some of the energy in the beam back to the instrument, where it is detected, and thus informs the user of the presence of an obstacle.

### Essential Requirements for Guiding Aid

In attempting to design satisfactory guiding devices the following were taken to be the essential requirements:—

It should give the user sufficient information to enable him to walk, freely, at a moderate speed along the pavement or about the house. In order to do so it must detect and indicate the distance and direction of any obstacle within 6ft. in front sufficiently rapidly to allow him to avoid it. By "obstacle" is meant any object which he may walk into or any major depression or rise in the ground or floor. The device should be portable, i.e., it should not weigh more than about 4lb., and anything that has to be carried in the hand should not be greater than about 4in. cube. The device must be inconspicuous and must not make any noise which is likely to attract attention. If the device is operated by batteries, the replacement or charging of these must not involve great expense or be so frequent that it becomes a nuisance to the user. The device must work reliably under all normal conditions of use and must not be adversely affected by the presence of daylight or traffic noise. If possible a guiding device should do more, but these were thought to be the minimum requirements necessary in order to make the device acceptable to a blind user.

The design of any guiding device is inevitably a compromise between the conflicting requirements set out above. For example, it is desirable to use a reasonably wide beam, since an unduly narrow beam requires very careful scanning from side to side to ensure that obstacles are not missed. This takes time and can render progress very slow. Unfortunately, to detect objects at a given distance within a wide beam requires more power than is necessary with a narrow beam and this means increasing battery weight. Another disadvantage of a wide beam is that it is less easy to estimate the direction of any object because, for obvious reasons, a well-defined sharp beam is required for accurate location. In an acoustic guiding device this latter objection to a wide beam may be overcome because it is possible to determine the direction of an obstacle by using the normal direction-finding ability of the two ears used in conjunction. The choice of the most suitable design is also affected by factors such as the efficiency of the various types of transmitter and receiver, which may be used at different frequencies for beams of different widths. Because it was difficult to estimate

the practical effect of such factors it was decided that a number of devices of different types should be constructed. Thus, several ultrasonic devices of different types and two light transmitting devices were made and tested out over a period of several months with the co-operation of a number of blind people.

### Light Transmitting Guiding Aid

Of the two light transmitting devices one employed a torch bulb as the source of light and the other employed miniature arc lamps, each of which sent out a regular series of pulses of light. The outgoing beam of light was split into a number of individual sections. The direction in which each section of the beam pointed was adjusted so that each section crossed the field of view of the detector at a different distance. Thus, when an object intercepted the beam at any given distance, only the light from one section was returned to the detector. In order to distinguish the various sections of the beam so as to indicate the distance of an object, the light in each section was interrupted at a different frequency. This was done in the case of one device by rotating a sectored disc in front of the torch bulb, while in the other the separate arc sources were arranged to emit pulses of light at different repetition rates, the light from each arc forming one section of the beam. The result in each case is the same. The presence of an object is indicated either by a note or by a series of clicks heard in an earphone which receives the amplified output of the photocell detector and the pitch of the note or the "click" rate indicates the range of the object.

All the acoustic devices employed the same method of range indication. It involved transmitting regular pulses of sound and arranging, in the case of the ultrasonic devices, that both the outgoing pulse and the returning pulse of sound reflected from an obstacle should be heard at about the same level in an earphone. In this way if an obstacle is present two "clicks" are produced in the earphone each time a pulse is transmitted. The time which elapses between the two clicks is the time taken by the sound to go to the obstacle and back, and is therefore proportional to the range of the obstacle. It has been found that the variation of this

time separation as the range of an obstacle varies can be detected quite easily and serves as a useful indication of the range. Thus, when an obstacle comes within the range of the beam, the succession of pairs of "clicks" is heard as a "buzz" and this buzz has a characteristic pitch which rises higher as the obstacle is approached by the person carrying the instrument.

This is, of course, only one of many ways in which the range may be indicated aurally. The reason for adopting the method described above was that the circuits involved were the simplest and the tolerance on supply voltages was less critical than in other cases, an important factor where battery supplies are used.

### Ultrasonic Guiding Aid

In three of the ultrasonic devices the beam was made narrow enough for the direction of the object to be found by scanning the beam from side to side. These three devices, although otherwise similar, worked at widely different frequencies. The purpose of this was to enable the characteristics of different wavelengths used in a guiding device to be investigated. In another ultrasonic device a wide beam was transmitted. Reflections from obstacles were received on two separate pickup transducers. The transducer output passed through a two-path amplifier, incorporating a detector stage, to two separate earphones so that the natural direction-finding ability of the two ears could be utilised.

### The "Clicker" Device

When a practical comparison of the various devices was made it was found that one device in particular stood out as being more likely to achieve popularity. This was a relatively simple device in which a source emitting audible clicks was placed near the focus of a parabolic reflector to produce a fairly wide beam with a concentration of sound towards the centre of the beam. No internal sound detector was provided, the intention being that the user should listen directly to the sound reflected from any obstacle. This made possible a device with a relatively low bulk and weight and a longer battery life than the others. It is probably these two factors, as much as anything, which counted against the other devices, all of which incorporated internal detectors for the reflected energy. Another

advantage of omitting the internal detector and amplifier system is that all the information which may be obtained from the nature of the reflections is preserved intact. Much of this is lost if the echo is heard through an amplifier, in which some distortion is unavoidable because the power consumption must be reduced to a minimum and the sensitivity kept high.

The choice of a succession of clicks as the best form of sound to employ in this device was based on a series of tests in which a number of blind people were asked to detect certain objects with the assistance of a variety of different sounds. Although the clicks were not the best under all circumstances they did give the greater amount of assistance under a wide range of different conditions. The composition of the sound beam, i.e., a wide beam with a concentration of sound on the centre line, was also chosen as a result of tests with various types of beam. It was found that the concentration of sound in the centre of the beam made it possible to pick out objects such as trees, pillar boxes, etc., some way ahead on the line of advance in the presence of larger objects close beside the user. On the other hand, the presence of at least some sound radiated towards each side made it possible to estimate the position of, for example, a wall beside which the user was walking, so that he could keep his distance from it without the necessity of continuously swinging the beam round towards it. These factors did not greatly alter the reliability or the accuracy with which an object could be located. They affected rather the speed with which an object could be detected and by rendering a complex scanning technique unnecessary made it possible to move at a reasonable walking pace. This simple acoustic device, which became known as the "Clicker," had two marked disadvantages when considered as a guiding device. One was that when the device was used in heavy traffic the noise drowned the sound emitted by the device and made it quite impossible to hear echoes from any obstacle. The other disadvantage was that the device, because it made an audible sound, occasionally drew the attention of some passer-by.

#### Results with the "Clicker"

To reduce the considerable expenditure of time which thorough training in the

use of the devices involves, it was decided to test only the clicker device extensively. The object being to ascertain the reaction of blind people to using such devices, care was taken to minimise the known disadvantages of the clicker, e.g., by avoiding heavy traffic noise. Three groups of totally blind people, ex-Servicemen at St. Dunstan's, a number of adults who had been blind since childhood and children from three schools in the London area, were given training in its use.

The results of the tests were at first very encouraging. Blind men who already had some experience in getting about alone found that the clicker device could pick up many objects of whose presence they had previously been ignorant. People with less experience were surprised not so much at the information provided by the clicker which they were initially less able to appreciate, but at the fact that they could walk about unaided at all. Nearly all were keen on using the device and many inquired about the possibility of having one for personal use. Later the attitude of many changed. The more experienced found that the extra information provided by the clicker, though useful in strange surroundings, did not make much difference on routes which were familiar. The less experienced also, as they learned to use the device, learned in addition much about their surroundings which enabled them to move more freely even without the clicker than they had been able to do previously. As they thus gained in experience their outlook tended more towards that of the blind man who always had been able to find his way around. Thus, the device, while apparently useful in initiating people into the appreciation of echoes, would very probably be discarded later.

The period of training at the three schools culminated in a test in which the children were allowed to find their way, under supervision, but without assistance, along an unknown route. The results are interesting in that they show how the speed with which a route is traversed increases as the route becomes familiar even if, as in this case, the route is only being traversed for the second time and in the opposite direction. The average speed at which test routes were covered with the clicker on the outward journey was 2.0 m.p.h., while without any form of aid it was 1.6

m.p.h. On the return journey, when the children knew the route because of their experience on the outward journey, the average times were 2.5 m.p.h. with the clicker and 3.0 m.p.h. without the clicker. It seems significant that the differences between outward and inward speeds, with and without the clicker, showed the same trend at all three schools. These speeds show clearly that, as far as speed alone is concerned, the device was only of assistance when the route was unfamiliar.

#### Conclusion

When these tests were complete the conclusion was reached that neither the clicker device nor any other device which could be envisaged at the present time is likely to become popular among blind people. The principal reason for this adverse conclusion about guiding devices is that not all blind people have the ability and inclination to learn to use them. A man who has can usually learn to find his way about unassisted to a far greater extent than the average blind person does. With the aid of nothing more than a walking stick he can find his way to and from work or to a friend's house in the evening, or on any similar journey which he knows well. It is thought that the percentage of blind people who can do this is not as high as it might be, principally because many of the blind people who do not find their way around to any extent were never encouraged to do so, and in many cases were actively discouraged. Many are vaguely aware that they can "sense" a large obstacle, but do not realise they are detecting it by means of echoes of their own footfalls. Few of them know how best to put this faculty to use.

It is with this in mind that we would stress the value of the opportunity for the blind to learn route finding as children if possible, and of deliberate instruction of children and newly-blinded adults with the co-operation of blind adults who are experienced in this. It is considered that if such instruction was given the clicker device would probably be useful initially as an aid in teaching blind people to appreciate the significance of echoes if they were not already able to do so. It is anticipated that in most cases the clicker would be discarded once the person concerned had made good progress, but it is possible that a small percentage would retain one if given the opportunity. Most

would, no doubt, make use of the usual white walking stick which, besides aiding balance, acts as a guard in case of a collision, and draws attention when its owner wants assistance in, say, crossing a road.

#### Just Thoughts

On record, in the premature twilight of my years, I thank God,  
And thank him for Sir Arthur, Sir Arthur's way of doing good.  
Our Founder who, through love and thought, St. Dunstan's created  
And proved that in this life the blinded could be reinstated.  
I thank, too, Sir Ian, and all his happy band  
For continuing the work so well—all those who understand.  
And now thank you, St. Dunstan's, for what you've done for me.  
Thank you, my wife, now doing the work of two, and sometimes three.

REES WARREN.

#### Happy Childhood

Oh, what happiness is yours, unsought,  
Passed down the ages from time untaught,  
When nature's joy was easily caught,  
And pleasure gained without being bought.  
God ne'er made a sight more fair  
Than joyful children free from care,  
Playing games in His fresh air  
With happy parents watching there.  
Each childish face an open flower,  
Eyes sparkling like the dewdrops' shower  
Not yet touched by those desires  
Which drag poor humans through the mire.  
List to that entrancing sound  
In country lane or busy town,  
Like cadenc'd water seaward bound,  
'Tis heaven's echo reaching ground.  
Now darkening shadows bring the night  
And tired senses steal the light.  
For you Aladdin's lamp burns bright  
And fairy princes show their might.  
When of sleep, you've had your fill,  
And sun's bright gold tops the hill,  
Awake, sweet ones, and do God's will,  
Bring solace to a world that's ill.  
Oh, what happiness is yours, unsought,  
Passed down the ages from time untaught,  
When nature's joy was easily caught  
And pleasure gained without being bought.

T. ROGERS.

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

This being the 36th anniversary of the foundation of St. Dunstan's I would like to pay a personal tribute to the memory of our beloved Chief, Sir Arthur, and to all those who have passed over who played such a wonderful part in the formation of our great organisation.

In those far-off days of the House, College and Bungalow, pictures were created in my mind of grand exhibitions of friendship amongst those voluntary workers, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those friends who are still with us for all they meant to me, and I wish them a very happy Easter.

A year ago I made a Garden of Remembrance to Sir Arthur, and in June a Memorial Garden to celebrate the anniversary of Sir Arthur being created a Baronet. I would like to invite all friends visiting Brighton to come along, where there will be a welcome and a cup of tea at Rose Bungalow. The gardens are ablaze with spring flowers, and will receive constant attention during my lifetime.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN NICHOLS.

Rose Bungalow,  
97 Mile Oak Road,  
Portslade, Sussex.

Sergt. Alan Nichols will be glad to send a free copy of his poem, "St. Dunstan's," written in January, 1918, to any reader who cares to apply for it.

DEAR EDITOR,

While I do not want to put obstacles in the way of those interested in handwriting for the blind, there is a point to be remembered, a vital point, and that is that a blind person cannot tell when a pen has run dry and a pencil has worn down. I am, of course, speaking of a fountain pen. I can put you in touch with sighted deaf people who have had a headache presented to them in the form of a handwritten letter by a blind person.

I am aware, of course, that a typewriting ribbon can both wear and break, but if you want to be perfectly sure when alone, you can use a sheet of carbon paper for either the typewriter or a pencil.

Yours sincerely,  
GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

### Talking Book Library

#### February's Five

A fine mixed nap hand of books was reduced to grooves this month as we all sneezed and cursed the weather. "Tschiffeley's Ride," "Dancers in Mourning," H. G. Wells' "Short Stories," "Vision Ahead," and "An Anthology of English Verse," are the titles of this better than average batch.

"Tschiffeley's Ride," by the rider himself, reader Gordon Little, is an account of a perilous journey over land from Buenos Aires to Washington with two Patagonian horses only. Ten thousand miles of every variety of foulest possible going command the respect and admiration of all for horses and rider alike. The book is interesting, rich in anecdote and incident, but for myself I would have preferred an abridged version.

"Dancers in Mourning," by Marjorie Allingham, reader Gordon Little, is a thriller set amidst the private lives of a ballet group, and Mr. Campion is to the fore as usual in solving the problems presented by several sudden deaths. Good entertainment!

H. G. Wells' "Short Stories," reader Norman Shelley, are good, diverse examples of fine, literary craftsmanship. They are all complete stories, and H.G.W. does not, as the modern short-story writer often does, leave the reader suspended in the middle to finish the yarn by his own imagination. Some pleasant, some thrilling, but all full of pith and power!

"Vision Ahead," by Air Commodore Huskinson, reader Arthur Bush, is the story of the development of armaments and munitions in the R.A.F. Although the Air Commodore lost his sight in 1941, he remained head of his department to the end of the war; his book is clear and informative.

"An Anthology of English Verse," by various poets and involving various readers, is a masterpiece of reading, recording, arrangement and selection. Poems of affection, laments, lyrics, songs, sonnets, in fact, every kind of poem, are included in this little eight-record triumph. Library members are permitted to purchase this. Catalogue number, 688, and all details from the Librarian.

N.B.—To wives: The Anthology might settle your birthday worries for the old boy!  
"NELSON."

### A Word to the Wide

I was getting fatter. Buttons on my coat and waistcoat were flying around like popcorn. A tailor put in gussets, inserts, and wedges, which stopped the decapitation of the buttons, and I laughed at the world. But my daughter severed my jocular veins and demanded that I do some slimming.

Rebelling at the constant reiteration of the unhappy truth of my girth, I went to Ovingdean, and our M.O. prescribed a slow, palatable, effective diet, which I applied steadily at home. In five months I shed eighteen pounds of avoirdupois, and my clothes hung upon my frame like a deflated bladder; more, my trousers were now too long and the turn-ups slid under my heels, so that I walked on them. I called on my married daughter and asked would she cut off the turn-ups and make new ones. She was busy, but promised her aid in a day or so. Home again, I pleaded with my daughter who ministers to our wants, and she said she'd do it during the evening, which she did. My married daughter called the next day while we were out and, ever dutiful, gathered tools and my trousers, cut off the turn-ups, made new ones, brushed, damped and pressed, and replaced them in the drawer. She then returned to her own home. I had walked through torrential, spearing rain, and needed to change my clothes. I did so. I stretched a hand forward to feel where my toes had gone to so quickly, and discovered that I now had a pair of knickerbockers with turn-ups! Back to the tailor who, with praiseworthy dexterity and camouflage, handed me back my trousers with no trace of a turn-up.

To my friends of lumbering corpulence, who feel they would like a little medical, internal spoke-shaving, get it done, certainly, but do not buy new outer garments until you have completed your dethickening gastronomic course.

W. E. BROOKES.

### Braille Correspondent Wanted

A young Australian service man who has been studying braille has asked, through the Lord Mayor, to be put in touch with blind persons of his own age (twenty-five). The Editor will be glad to send his address to anyone interested.

### Underneath the Stand

After a football match, the players and officials trot away down through a tunnel to some unexplored place, strictly private, not to be frequented by all those "fans," who only see the green rectangle and white lines.

A short while ago it was my chance to visit these places when, on a wet, blowy Sunday morning, I was escorted by Len Duquemin over, or should I say under, the 'Spurs ground.

Being Sunday there was very little activity—just an assistant trainer or two, and a couple of "nursery lads" chatting and tidying up from the previous day's game.

Passing beneath a very old horsehoe, nailed over the home team's door, which shoe is touched by all players ere they run on to the field for a game, we entered the dressing room. It was large, airy, and yet, despite the austerity of a dressing room, warm and comfortable. From this room entry can be obtained to all the other parts of the training quarters. I visited the bathroom, where there are two normal slipper baths, two showers, and the communal baths, these latter being three feet deep, and may be best described as one large bath about twenty feet by ten feet, divided centrally by a tiled wall. Here the players can, after a match or hard training, just slip out of the shorts and sweater and plunge straight into the warm, soothing water, splash around, swim, or just wallow, then, if the desire is present, pop over the division wall into a cold plunge. These baths are white tiled and are not sunken, but built up on floor level.

The player can then pass into the dressing room direct and immediately dress; thus risk of chill or cold is avoided. Having dressed, the player takes his gear into the locker room, with its rows of lockers, open fronted, and a small table in the centre for the trainers to clean the boots, prior to hanging them up on hooks high over warm pipes, which enables the boots to dry slowly, and the oils to work into the leather. Each locker contains running shoes, gym shoes, and a track suit. Beyond this locker room is the drying room, where the shorts, shirts, etc., can be dried in a sort of airing cupboard. This avoids chill or dampness when the togs are worn next. The laces, stocking tapes, etc., are all hung separately, and so when the laces are placed in the

boots it is easy to see if they need renewing. A broken lace in a match may mean defeat.

From this point we pass the referee's room, the visitors' room, and so on to the gymnasium. Like all gyms, it is large, very airy, and equipped with all the paraphernalia of such places, punch balls, medicine balls, rowing machines, ropes, etc. On this cold, wet Sunday it did not appeal!

Passing back to the dressing room centre spot, one passes the dining room, where the single players living in lodgings, and the training staff desirous of so doing may have a good midday meal, on all days of the week. Beyond the bathrooms, one enters the medical room. Here a physio-therapist would be indeed happy. Warm, comfortable, carpeted, and decorated I understand, in a gentle green. In the centre stand two plinths, modern, with all the linen, blankets, etc., ready on the top. Around the walls stand deep ray equipment, short wave, sun lamps, and so forth. By the side of the heat room is the "kennel," the heat treatment arch which can be placed over the back or legs to assist treatment of injury. The next corner holds the bicycle, with its hydraulic braking to make the pedalling harder; this instrument of torture is used for knee injuries, to gradually strengthen and strengthen. The last corner houses a shallow foot bath, with a hose attachment, fitted with a patent nozzle, which enables one to alternate hot and cold water direct on to a bruise or very local injury. In this room are smaller cupboards, holding all the emergency bandages, splints, etc.

I left the training quarters with a softly playing radio dispensing music and, crossing the perimeter running track, passed the recreation room, with its table tennis, billiards, etc., and remarked to one trainer, "The players should be all right, all the stuff in there must have cost something." He replied, "Well, you can buy a racehorse for a few hundreds, but a good soccer player may be worth £20,000."

JOHN A. MUDGE.

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The REVIEW in braille would be very much appreciated by Mr. Lenny W. Veysey, who is President of the Michigan Council of the Blind, 403 S. Bond Street, Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.A. Would some St. Dunstaner care to send it on to him each month?

## Ovingdean Notes

### Easter Programme at Ovingdean

We shall be very pleased to see any St. Dunstaners who would like to come along to any of the following items during our Easter programme:—

Good Friday, 23rd March—8 p.m., Play  
Reading by Staff.

Easter Sunday, 25th March—7.30 p.m.,  
Concert.

Easter Monday, 26th March—8-11 p.m.,  
Gala Dance.

Friday, 30th March—8-10 p.m., Dance.

Saturday, 31st March—Whist Drive and  
Domino Tournament for local St. Dun-  
staners, 8 p.m.

Sunday, 1st April—Informal Concert,  
8 p.m.

Monday, 2nd April—8-10 p.m., Dance.

### Chapel Services during Easter

Good Friday, 5.15 p.m.

Easter Sunday, 10 a.m., Communion.  
5.15 p.m., Evensong.

### Sports Day, Ovingdean

We are pleased to tell you that the date for Sports Day has now been fixed for Saturday, 21st July. The events will be publicised later and it is hoped that we shall have record entries from the Clubs and individual St. Dunstaners this year.

## Camps

The R.N. Barracks (Lee-on-Solent) Camp will be held from Friday, August 10th, until Saturday, August 18th.

The R.A.F. (Shawbury) Camp will be held from Saturday, July 7th, until Saturday, July 14th.

Will you please send your entries as soon as possible, and in any case not later than May 4th, to Miss MacRae, St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, when there will be a draw for beds at Lee. Those lucky in the draw will be notified as soon as possible.

## Holiday Accommodation

Margaret Stanway and her mother have opened a boarding house at Morecambe and would be glad to welcome other St. Dunstaners for a holiday. There is room for children too. Margaret's address is 13 Grove Street, Morecambe.

## Births

BAGWELL.—On February 24th, to the wife of P. Bagwell, of Charlton Mackerell, Somerset, a daughter.

BARTON.—On February 15th, to the wife of S. Barton, of Liverpool, a son.

BEKHRADNIA.—On February 4th, to the wife of S. Bekhradnia ("Shahri"), a daughter—Ravan.

FOWLER.—To the wife of S. Fowler, of Beeston, Notts., a daughter—Valerie Mary.

FOYLE.—On February 23rd, to the wife of S. Foyle, of Southampton, a son—David John.

SCROGGIE.—On February 8th, to the wife of W. Sydney Scroggie, a son—James Bewick. (Mrs. Scroggie will be remembered as Sister Barbara Ingram, at Ovingdean).

SHEEHAN.—On February 24th, to the wife of P. Sheehan, of Chislehurst, a son—Rodney Patrick.

SIMPSON.—On March 1st, to the wife of A. Simpson, of Belle Vue, Doncaster, a son—John Robert.

## Marriage

WILLIAMS—HARDS.—On February 27th, C. Williams, of Kingston-on-Thames, to Miss K. Hards.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

PAULSON.—To A. Paulson, of Higher Crumpsall, Manchester, who has recently suffered the loss of his mother.

ROUGHLEY.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Roughley, of Bridlington, whose little grandson has died in hospital.

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Those who met him at St. Mark's in the old days will hear with regret of the death of Mr. F. Read, father-in-law of our St. Dunstaner, W. Robinson, of Harringay. He was nearly 87. He will be remembered by 1914-1918 St. Dunstaners in connection with the Smithfield Market outings and concerts at St. Mark's College.

## Grandfathers

J. Dennick, of Evesham; A. Dean, of Hawkhurst, Kent; G. C. Jackson, of Ashford, Kent (for the second time).

## Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. L. Arnold, Wanstead, March 25th.

## Just a Few Lines— from Blackpool

'Twas a pity we missed the last REVIEW

With Blackpool news so bright and gay.

A visit to Elswick—Boot and Shoe,

For drinks on the eve of New Year's Day.

On Jan. the 5th—Seaford Hotel,

A dinner party to which Miss Lord

Invited local troops and wives

To join us at the festive board.

Jan. twenty-three we went by car

To Queen's Hotel—again to spree.

A seven-course dinner so rich and rare

Was followed by smokes and drinks—all  
free.

Variety entertainment after

Roused our laughter in mighty peals,

Good turns included Harry Korris and  
partner

And old-time songs by Ella Shields.

The month of Feb. was rather quiet,

Few days brought rain but many brought  
sun.

On twenty-seventh we went to Scorton,

First outing to tea in '51.

Forgive my writing our news in rhyme,

But strictly speaking, 'twixt you and me,  
Blackpool sea air is so like wine

It's gone to the head of B. V-D.

## Braille Reading Competition

The 22nd meeting of the "E. W. Austin" Memorial Reading Competition will be held at the National Library on Saturday, June 2nd. There will be three Adult Classes:—

Class A: Advanced readers in competition for the Blanesburgh Cup.

Class B: Other readers.

Class C: Readers who have learned to read braille since the age of 16 and who do not feel competent to enter the more advanced class. This class will be divided into

(1) Readers who lost their sight before 1938.

(2) Readers who have lost their sight since 1938.

Intending competitors should send in their names to the Secretary, National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, not later than Tuesday, May 22nd.

The Library will be delighted to welcome St. Dunstaners to the competition.

## "In Memory"

### Private William Waite, *North Staffordshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of W. Waite, of Didsbury, Manchester.

Although serving from 1917 until 1919 and receiving severe gassing, he did not come to us until 1948. He then trained in industrial work, but had only been in his job a short time when he was taken ill and admitted to hospital. On his discharge he was again taken ill and he died in hospital on January 30th.

A wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers at the funeral, which was attended by Mrs. Dunphy, Mrs. Lang (of the Liverpool Club), Messrs. A. F. Williamson and McCarthy, and Miss Doel.

Our sympathy is extended to his sons, Alan and Brian, and to Miss Emily Stevenson, whose wedding to our St. Dunstaner was postponed on account of his illness, and who devotedly nursed him.

### Private Edwin England Greenwood, *37th Labour Battalion, Royal Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of E. E. Greenwood, of Enfield. He was sixty-nine.

Wounded on the Somme in 1916, he came to us in April, 1917, where he trained in poultry-keeping and mat-making, but in recent weeks he had done little apart from keeping a few chickens. He had been ill with heart trouble for several years, but he bore this most courageously. He died on February 19th.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the flowers. Miss Cecil Wood attended the funeral at Mrs. Greenwood's request.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Greenwood and her family.

### Gunner Arthur Edward Bosley, *32nd Royal Garrison Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Arthur Bosley, of Tooting, London, S.W.17. He was seventy-five.

He came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1944, although he had served in the 1914-1918 war until January 1919. His health had been failing for some time and he passed away on February 19th.

At the funeral service at Lambeth Cemetery, the coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was among the numerous wreaths. The service was taken by his youngest son, the Rev. C. F. Bosley, from Tunbridge Wells. Miss Lloyd was among those present.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and grown-up family.

### Private John Edgar Elston, *Royal Irish Rifles*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of another soldier of the 1914-1918 war, J. E. Elston, of Bideford, who had only been one of our members for a month.

He was discharged from the Army in September, 1917. For some time past he had been ill, and he passed away on February 8th.

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

He leaves a widow and two children, to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

### Private James Alfred Russ, *Machine Gun Corps*

We deep regret we have to record the death of J. A. Russ, of Woodborough, Wiltshire, at the age of fifty-two. He passed away on February 14th.

He came to us in December, 1937, when he trained as a shop-keeper, and he kept the Post Office Stores at Woodborough most successfully.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Russ in her loss.

### Private Albert Chilton, *10th Yorks and Lancs. Regt.*

We record with deep regret the death of Albert Chilton, of Leighton Buzzard, at the age of fifty-six.

Discharged from the Army in November, 1916, he came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1918, where he trained in poultry, joinery, and later in boot-repairing. He continued the latter until quite recently, when his health broke down and prevented him continuing. He was admitted to hospital on February 28th and died there the following day.

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

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Chilton and her family.

### Driver Finton Dooley, *Royal Field Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Finton Dooley, of Dublin.

Finton Dooley served as a regular soldier from September, 1902, until April, 1917, but he did not come to us until 1932. He was then a sick man and not able to do a great deal of work. In spite of his poor health and badly damaged hand, he tried a little rug-making, but eventually had to give this up.

He died at his home on February 7th, and was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery. Many friends attended the funeral, at which Father Daly officiated. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the many flowers.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to his wife and family.