

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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(FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEM)

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

THREE old friends of St. Dunstan's are retiring from our service, Miss Marshall, Mr. White and Mr. Edwards.

Miss Marshall came to St. Dunstan's in 1915, having previously been employed on the *Daily Express*, which was founded by and, until a short time before the Great War, owned by Sir Arthur Pearson. She is thus one of the few surviving members of what might be called the original staff. For many years she was an assistant in our Appeals Department and later became second-in-charge, being responsible mainly for the Carol League, appeals by correspondence and the organisation of lectures; she also acted as secretary of the Appeals Committee. Miss Marshall never missed a day during all these years through illness. I do not think she ever missed a day at all, though I remember during the war when a bomb fell upon her house she was away for a few hours, and I had some difficulty in persuading her to take the necessary time off to look after her private affairs. She has one of the warmest hearts I have known and always spoke up for anyone who was in trouble or seemed to be undefended. It is hard to estimate the value of her services to St. Dunstan's, and her attainment of the age for retirement is a matter of deep regret.

Mr. George White, the head of the Basket Department, and Mr. F. H. Edwards, the Poultry Visitor, both came to us in 1919. They will be remembered by very many early St. Dunstaners as among the first of our After-Care staff who travelled the land visiting homes, workshops and farms, giving technical advice and acting as family friends. The success of our home workers is in very large measure due to the devoted work of After-Care visitors and none has served us better in this capacity than Mr. Edwards, while Mr. White's splendid efforts on behalf of our basket-makers have contributed tremendously to their welfare and success. Both had a particularly strenuous time during the war years when travelling was so difficult and materials were so hard to obtain. Mr. Edwards was one of the best practical poultry-farming experts in the country, and Mr. White was recognised as a leading figure in the world of basket-making and basket-making materials.

To all these three the Council of St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners themselves will say, "Thank you for the services you have rendered to us, for your friendship and help, and the best of good luck in your retirement."

### "Lights Out"

The other night I went to a film called "Lights Out." This is a film telling the story of what might be called the American St. Dunstan's, that is to say, the place in which American

blinded ex-Servicemen of the Second World War went for a period of training. Its name is the United States Army Hospital, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, but it is justifiable to describe it as the American St. Dunstan's, because many of the ideas and practical methods came or were adapted from our experience, for those who were at Church Stretton in the early days will remember that when the Americans first entered the European theatre of war, we had the pleasure of the presence in our midst of a number of young American blinded ex-Servicemen, and surgeons and other experts came to see them and to examine and report upon what we were doing. The training given in the American institution is very much briefer than at St. Dunstan's and does not go far beyond our early stages which we call "learning to be blind." This film is not a documentary but a feature film with a variation of the "eternal triangle" to carry the story forward. I thought it was well acted and told a courageous and interesting story without exaggeration and in good taste. I advise St. Dunstaners to go to this film and have learned that it will appear in London districts from April 23rd and in the provinces from May 28th.

I know that many St. Dunstaners go regularly to films and enjoy them. I personally prefer a straight play where there is more talk and less that requires to be seen and I do not think I have been to more than half-a-dozen films in the past thirty years. I am, therefore, not competent to judge whether this film is better than the average or worse, but can only say that I found it interesting and that I recommend it.

In spite of my ignorance, or perhaps because of it, I feel disposed to draw the fire of the fans by making some comments on one aspect of films, though it should be understood that these are not criticisms specially directed against "Lights Out."

It is distracting to me to hear a band playing when the young man and his girl are sitting on the balcony in the moonlight, obviously alone. Not only does the band make it more difficult to hear what they are saying, but it seems unnatural and out-of-place. The motor-cars make too much noise, very much more noise than a modern American motor-car really makes and even more noise than those which we hear in B.B.C. programmes. It gives me the impression that the fellows who are responsible for the noises are like children with toys and they must show them off. When people walk about they sound to me as if they have got clogs on their feet, and almost as if they are walking on the metal deck of a tanker or in a prison or a dungeon. Why is speech and other sounds reproduced on the sound-track so very much worse than radio sound? Another thought struck me, namely, how difficult it is to hear what they say. It is not entirely on account of the American accent but is, I think, due to the inferior speech reproduction by comparison with radio, or to the fact that the recording is done in surroundings which are not treated acoustically with the same care as broadcasting studios. I do not know that this is so but only hazard a guess from what I heard or failed to hear. I am surprised that the audience will tolerate such a high degree of unintelligibility, but it may be that sighted people do a lot of lip-reading in their cinema, or that they know what the characters are going to say by the actions which they see.

I should judge that "Lights Out" will be shown widely in Britain and, no doubt, in the United States, and it seems to me a pity that it was not made here in this country, with St. Dunstan's as the inspiration. This is not for lack of suggestion on our part to various makers of films during the long life of St. Dunstan's, but rather, I suppose, to lack of initiative on the part of directors and studio authorities. Perhaps they thought that the Americans would not go to see a film about British blinded soldiers and that it was not worth making it for home circulation alone.

IAN FRASER.

### First Reunions of 1951

On April 4th, the first Reunion of the year took place at the Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone. Lt. Col. C. Gordon Larking, C.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Maidstone, and former National Chairman of the British Legion, was the guest of honour. Nearly fifty St. Dunstaners were present at this enjoyable meeting.

### Derby Sweepstake

The closing date of our Derby Sweepstake is **Friday, May 18th**. Application should be made to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each.

The draw will take place in the Club Room at 191 Marylebone Road, on the evening of Friday, May 25th. All those drawing a horse will be notified.

### London Club Notes

At the March meeting of the Central Committee, Mr. Frank A. Rhodes tendered his resignation, as he is leaving London to take up residence at the coast. The committee voted a special vote of thanks to him, not only for the work he has done while chairman of the Indoor Section, but also for the work and support he has given the committee since its inception. All Club members join in wishing him every good fortune and happiness in his retirement.

Mr. C. J. W. Walker was co-opted to the committee, and elected as chairman of the Indoor section, and will continue with the same sub-committee, i.e., Mr. J. Mudge and Mr. C. Brampton, and we have no doubt that this team will carry the club to further successes.

P. ASHTON.

### Bridge

In the London Business Houses League, our team came top of our section, losing 1, drawing 1 and winning 6. This entitled us to play in the final with eight other teams. In this event we finished fourth, so while we could have done better, we were not disgraced. Our team throughout was P. Nuyens, H. Gover, R. Coles and F. Winter, and P. Nuyens was captain.

On March 3rd, eight St. Dunstaners North of the Thames played eight members South of the River, and the South won by 1,080. There is now a cup for this event, but the teams have to meet twice, so we must wait until September when South starts with a lead of 1,080.

March 10th, and our old friend, Jack Callow, with us and his team of eight. This was a loss by 880.

On March 17th eight of our members visited Messrs. Lyons and Cadby Hall. This we won by the narrow margin of 230 mainly because of a wonderful 4 Spades by F. King and Van. Congratulations.

H. GOVER.

### Outdoor Section

"The sun shines on the righteous," but not on March 31st for the 10 miles handicap walk; ten stalwarts faced Mr. W. G. Askew, the starter, but the elements failed to damp their ardour. The start was fast and furious. Tommy Gaygan established a lead of 100 yards in the first mile; the most interesting development was between the second to fourth places, great judgment

being shown in a steady pace development up to about four miles, when Archie, closely followed by Dusty Miller, passed C. Williamson, the latter passing Dusty after a further quarter of a mile. Tommy Denmead, who has improved greatly, passed Dusty at about seven miles, and in this order they finished. A remarkable feature of the handicap was that the five faster men took the four handicap prizes and the fastest loser prize, the handicapper's dream of perfection. Mr. Askew followed the race throughout and returned to Headquarters with us to present the prizes.

	Actual Time	H'cap All.	H'cp Time	H'cp Pos.
T. Gaygan ...	89.20		89.20	1
A. Brown ...	94.48	4.30	90.18	2
C. Williamson ...	96.13	4.20	91.53	4
T. Denmead...	96.53	6.10	90.43	3
W. Miller ...	98.56	6.30	92.26	5
P. Cryan ...	104.24	6.20	98.04	8
C. Stafford ...	106.07	13.00	93.07	6
A. Bradley ...	109.37	9.30	100.07	10
W. Scott ...	113.42	17.00	96.42	7
S. Tutton ...	115.18	17.00	98.18	9

*Prizewinners:* 1st Handicap, T. Gaygan; 2nd Handicap, A. Brown; 3rd Handicap, T. Denmead; 4th Handicap, C. Williamson; Fastest Loser, W. Miller.

*Future Walks:* 7-mile, 21st April, Regent's Park—All England Championship.

7-mile, May 19th, Brighton.

Please send entries as soon as possible.

T. GAYGAN.

### Points Awarded

#### to London Walkers to Date

S.S. Section	Pts.	T.B. Section	Pts.
A. Brown ...	84	S. Tutton ...	82
W. Miller ...	78	T. Gaygan ...	79
A. G. Bradley ...	64	C. Stafford ...	77
P. J. Cryan ...	51	J. Fairgrieve ...	70
W. T. Scott ...	14	C. Williamson ...	51

### Placements

T. H. Moorley as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Rowditch Engineering Co., Ltd., Derby; E. Barber, York, with Messrs. Rowntree and Co., Ltd., operating a bean coding machine; H. R. Biggs as a tobacconist and confectioner at Manor Lane, Lee; G. McKay, of Manor Park, as a telephone operator with Messrs. G. E. Gray, Ltd., Ilford.

### War Pensions Concessions

Following the announcement in the House of Commons on Tuesday, April 17th, of certain pensions improvements, the Chairman visited Brighton on Wednesday, April 18th, and attended the Reading Reunion on Friday, the 20th, to explain the proposals.

In the big lounge at Ovingdean were gathered trainees, a contingent from West House, a number who live in Brighton, and men on holiday from all over the country.

Sir Ian Fraser said: The improvements which have been announced will not affect the basic rate of pension, but the supplementary allowances payable to men who only undertake hobby work are to be improved. The Unemployability Allowance will be increased from 30s. per week to 35s. per week, and if a St. Dunstaner entitled to this Unemployability Supplement has a pensioned child or children, then there will be an addition of 2s. 6d. per week for the first or only child. There will be no addition for other children. The Attendance Allowance will remain unaltered, but if a St. Dunstaner is receiving both the Attendance Allowance and the Unemployability Allowance, then he will be entitled to a new allowance in addition, which is called the "Comforts Allowance," of 10s. per week. This Comforts Allowance of 10s. per week is also payable to St. Dunstaners with multiple wounds, even though they are not drawing the Unemployability Allowance.

Sir Ian said that a precise definition had not yet been given of what constituted multiple wounds, although obviously the totally blinded St. Dunstaner who had lost both hands will be eligible. It might be that a totally blinded man who had lost one hand will also be eligible, but the position would be clarified at an early date and Headquarters will advise all men who will be eligible for this allowance.

The following table shows the old and the new rate in a typical case:—

	Present Rates		New Rates	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Basic Pension ... ..	45	0	45	0
Unemployability Supplement ... ..	30	0	35	0
Wife's Allowance ... ..	16	0	16	0
Attendance Allowance ... ..	20	0	20	0
Comforts Allowance ... ..	—	—	10	0
Total ... ..	£5	11	£6	6

Where there is a child or children, there will be a further increase of 2s. 6d. If Attendance Allowance of 10s. is at present in payment, this will continue and there will, of course, be a corresponding reduction in the Table shown above.

Sir Ian pointed out that persons entitled to the Unemployability Supplement would still be permitted to earn no more than £1 per week. The amount of £2 per week which persons in receipt of Retirement Pensions can now earn will not apply to disabled Service men in receipt of the Unemployability Supplement. The new rates would come into operation with effect from the first pay day in June.

Sir Ian also pointed out that the small number of St. Dunstan's men of the First World War who receive the special pension called the "Alternative Pension" can change this Alternative Pension to the pension detailed above if they are unemployable and it is more advantageous for them to do so.

Concluding, Sir Ian Fraser said: These improvements are the result of a review of war pensions made by the Minister of Pensions, Mr. Isaacs, after prolonged representations and discussion with the British Legion and other ex-Servicemen's organisations, of which St. Dunstan's is one. I have thanked the Minister on your behalf for proposals which benefit a great many St. Dunstaners, but have pointed out that all ex-Servicemen, including the majority of St. Dunstaners who are employed, much regret that he was unable to get a larger sum of money from the Chancellor of the Exchequer which would have enabled him to raise the basic rate. A rise in the basic rate remains the policy of the British Legion and I have no doubt it will be vigorously pursued, said Sir Ian.

The Chairman answered a number of questions, and Mr. Askew, who visited Brighton with him, said that it would not be necessary for any St. Dunstaner to make application for the increased rates. The Ministry of Pensions had all the necessary information in their possession which would enable them to make the appropriate adjustments. Much work would, of course, be involved, but he felt sure that the majority of the men would receive the increased pensions early in June, but if any St. Dunstaner had not received the increased rates by July 1st, he should write to Mr. Banks, at Ovingdean, or Mr. Rice, at 1 South Audley Street.

### Calling All Sportsmen

Elsewhere in this edition you can see some of the results of walking races. As these words are written, one knows not who will show as prize-winners in the teams representing the London and provincial clubs, but the names will not be unusual or strange to the columns of the REVIEW.

These short paragraphs are really an invitation to other St. Dunstaners to take an active part in different events which take place from time to time in walking, swimming, rowing and general sports.

You who read these lines—you are personally asked to take some part. You too can walk, run, put a weight, or jump. Remember, the men of 1914 did it, and did it well. Let them see that we of 1939 can also do the same things, even do them better, whether we took an active part in sport pre-war or not.

Would you like to be able to say, "I won that set of carvers," or "That little shield shows I helped to win the 'Sir Arthur Pearson' cup for the club'?"

It is not necessary to be good at the start; practice will make perfect, and as you become more enthusiastic so will you too put more enthusiasm into others, and develop once again that spirit of competition so well shown in the first-war men. Just to get the feeling, why not come along one day to a walking race and shout the winners in? It will give you the feeling already there of good companionship, and of friends all ready and waiting to help and compete with you.

Do it now, make the initial effort; the first time will not be the last, as immediately you meet the others you will find the blood-warming and the longing created to be one of the Sporting Boys.

Are you satisfied to let the other fellows win when you could do better, are you content to sit around and let the only sport you take part in be the Saturday afternoon broadcast from some professional stadium? Remember, the finest sportsmen are the amateurs from whom the professionals come. Remember, we at the clubs are there waiting for you to roll up, and please have a go.

JOHN MUDGE and TOMMY GAYGAN.

### From the Chairman's Post-bag

"Many St. Dunstaners, as well as the civilian blind, will be visiting the Festival of Britain.

"This has caused me to wonder whether anything is being done to help us to get the maximum amount of pleasure and interest from such visits. I suggest that the authorities might be approached officially to see if any arrangements might be made to help us."

H. V. KERR.

Saltdean, Brighton.

Sir Ian writes:—

"Thank you for your letter in which you ask me if the authorities at the Festival of Britain should be invited to make special arrangements to enable blind people to enjoy a visit to the Festival. A variation of this request might be as to whether St. Dunstan's might be able to make special arrangements for St. Dunstaners.

"Both of these are attractive suggestions and I should much like to be able to say that I think something useful could be done; after a good deal of thought, however, I have come to the conclusion that there is really nothing practicable that the Festival authorities could be asked to do, or that St. Dunstan's could do.

"There will be an enormous staff at the Festival, and a great number of different things to see and learn about, varying from Halls of Science and Engineering to swings and roundabouts. It would not, I think, be reasonable to ask the authorities to provide special guides, and anything in the way of a braille programme would be clumsy and difficult to read.

"When a blind man goes to an exhibition, what he needs essentially is to go with someone who is in sympathy with him and can see for him what will interest him, and then explain it. St. Dunstan's could not arrange for members of the staff to do this, and I think it must be a case where each man makes his own arrangements with a member of his family or a friend.

"I will, however, see that an intelligent member of the staff who has some idea of what things St. Dunstaners might be interested in, goes round the Exhibition and writes a brief note for the REVIEW on things to look out for, as this may be some help to those who decide to go."

### From All Quarters

Ted Miller was presented to the King and Queen when Their Majesties recently visited Warwick Castle. Ted, who is handless, is a guide at the Castle.

★ ★ ★

When H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent visited the factory of Parker-Knoll, Limited, furniture manufacturers, she was particularly interested in the upholstery department where she was introduced to St. Dunstaners William Carr and William Crabbe, and complimented them upon their skill.

★ ★ ★

E. Williams, of Shipley, has been awarded the Bronze Badge for blood transfusion services.

★ ★ ★

Mentioned in the Press—Legionnaire Ernest Russell, for an excellent talk on St. Dunstan's to the York Road, Leeds, branch of the British Legion, and a three-column article, with photograph, about James Blakeley, of Farnworth, and his guide-dog, Rebecca.

★ ★ ★

Robert Lloyd, of Bournemouth, has recently been elected to the Chair of the Westbourne Young Conservatives' Association.

★ ★ ★

J. T. Daborn, who has been a member of Bexley Heath and District Angling Society for a year now, has been voted a member of the committee for the coming year. At the annual dinner of the society he received a tremendous reception when he went forward to receive the Coronation cup for the heaviest dogfish landed, and the Novices' cup for the heaviest catch for a beginner.

★ ★ ★

George Reed, of Weybridge, is a skilful ventriloquist, and on March 14th he attended the N.U.R.T. dinner, and later gave a show with Percy, his "doll." Later he was M.C. at a party for old folks given by Toc H, and again he and Percy did their act.

★ ★ ★

Ted Barton, who is employed as a research engineer with I.C.I., writes: "Work is going reasonably well for me. I spend half my time these days finding ways of

economising in fuel on the works. Soon I should have a patent to my name for a plant design; it should save us money and we will probably earn royalties from other countries. Last November I presented a paper to the Northern Branch of the Institute of Chemical Engineers at Manchester on some work we have been doing on heat transfer fluids. I spoke non-stop for about forty minutes and enjoyed myself thoroughly."

★ ★ ★

George Merriman, who last year went to New Zealand with his wife and son (they have since had another boy), is now happily settled in New Plymouth, where he has a post as Telephone Repair Engineer with the New Zealand Post Office Department. He is an expert and most successful amateur radio transmitter, and keeps constant conversation contact with amateurs in Great Britain.

### Anniversary Year

Captain William Appleby, O.B.E., member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council, this year celebrates his 30th year on the British Legion National Executive Council, his golden wedding anniversary, his daughter's silver wedding, and his grandson's 21st year. Captain Appleby is also the "father" of the N.E.C. of the British Legion, for he is the only man who has been elected a member of it since its foundation.

### Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," April, 1921.

"On the evening of the 22nd March a meeting was held at St. Dunstan's at which was discussed the advisability of forming a committee to look after the affairs of men who had left. Mr. Harrison and Sir Arthur Pearson were the principal speakers, and when a vote was taken the figures were:

For the formation of such a body as had been suggested	... ..	43
Against the formation of such a body	... ..	68

The matter is obviously one which does not nearly so much concern the men at present at St. Dunstan's as it concerns the men who have left, and who throughout the country are working with the assistance of the present After-Care arrangements. If, therefore, the matter is carried further, the opinions of men who have left St. Dunstan's will be taken with regard to it."

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Referring to the Chairman's Notes *re* artificial aids, one can only endorse his remarks that getting about alone requires skill and courage. We men in the country are, I think, luckier than the city men, for with that skill and courage we can travel fairly normally many miles at fairly normal speed. One has got to rely on one's own ability to adapt oneself.

I think that the period in training should be largely devoted to instructing men to take walks alone, but followed by an orderly or escort. Not merely along a straight wall without obstructions, but along unfamiliar country roads, learning to find obstacles by sound and the skilful use of the stick. Hoping for artificial Radar aids to locomotion and sound reflexes is, to my mind, mere wishful thinking. We do not want confusing; we require confidence, and that can only be gained by long periods of actual independence of action. I feel as safe when walking along with my dog as if I was on a horse's back, but absolutely alone my mobility is reduced to no miles per hour, and a nerve-racking listening for approaching footsteps and the dodging of steps, garbage cans, etc.

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

I always read the Braille REVIEW with interest, and have often been tempted to make comments through this column—now I am giving in to the temptation by "writing" what I feel with regard to penmanship for the blinded.

In the Braille room in 1920, I remember the teacher at the next table spoke to my teacher and the two pupils about a frame that had been brought to her notice which had rubber bands so that blind people could "write" between these bands, thus keeping the written lines in order. I had had a fair experience in writing before being blind, and naturally felt that rubber bands would be an encumbrance rather than a help to me: I stated this and added that, if the need arose, I believed I could write a letter without such help.

My first attempt at "writing" was three to four years later when on holiday at what is now known as West House—what I "wrote" there was quite legible to the recipient.

Later on, when I was placed in a job in East London, a very old friend gave me a writing frame which was much more to my liking, and I occasionally used it to write home (being in digs) by way of a change from typewriting—I think my mother appreciated the effort. Then, when London was bombed during the last war, I knew it comforted my mother, so I "wrote" her a weekly letter so long as she lived.

I know my penmanship is not anywhere so clean or clear as it was before my blindness, and I don't think blind people should think of "writing" all their communications. On the other hand, if a blind person is interested, I think his family, or a close friend, would certainly be made happy with an occasional effort from him.

With regard to the headache referred to by my friend George—well, some fully-sighted people's handwriting is impossible to fully decipher.

Lancing.

REES WARREN.

DEAR SIR,

I wonder how many of your readers find the same difficulty in the Braille *Radio Times* as I do. I use the *Radio Times* as a guide, to indicate what is on at any particular moment when I find I have the time to sit and listen. Set out as it is, this often involves a longer time spent in reading than I have to spare for the listening.

I would suggest that if the paper were paragraphed, say, every two hours, it would be a great help, but I am sure that the Editor would say that it would involve too great a loss of space. I am so certain that it would be of such value to all but the most expert readers that I venture to ask whether there are not many like me who would rather have less information more easily available, than the present arrangement which to most of us destroys to a large extent the value of the whole publication.

I hesitate to give examples, but I think there are far too many sub-titles: thus, in an item called "Saving and Spending," wisecracks may be fine in the printed version, but I, personally, could do without the sub-title, "Keep something for the road back." I could go on quoting these sub-titles, but I think I have said enough to show what I mean. In any case, all these sub-titles are given at the commencement of the actual broadcast.

Again, do we need all the names that are given? In certain cases they are essential to deciding whether to listen or not. Although I listen to "The Critics" regularly, I do not need to know their names beforehand. Even in community singing, I doubt whether one needs to know the names of the organist and introducer in order to decide whether to listen or not.

A great deal of space, too, is taken up by such phrases as "adapted for broadcasting by . . ." and "followed by an interval of . . ."

Are there others who feel as I do about it, and have they better suggestions to offer for its improvement?

Temple Guiting.

J. A. ORIEL.

DEAR EDITOR,

There are very many good sportsmen among our lads and even those who do not bother with the gee-gee must at some time or other have listened to a commentary by Raymond Glendenning on racing, football, etc., and derived great pleasure from his voice through the loudspeaker.

I want to suggest to the boys that we have a small fund to make a presentation to the person in question to show our appreciation as a body of St. Dunstaners. Manchester.

BERT GAFFNEY.

(The Editor asked Sir Ian if he had any comment to make on this letter and he said, "I am very pleased to read this tribute, which, I am sure, will be echoed by many. I do not think, however, that Mr. Glendenning would wish a presentation to be made to him, but I will send him a copy of the REVIEW with our best thanks.")

### Young St. Dunstaners

#### Marriages

Yvonne Coulson, to Mr. Denis Wright, on March 24th.

William Irvine (Glasgow), on March 30th, to Miss Eddamson.

Hugh Printie (Edinburgh), on March 31st.

Edward Holland (Heswall), on March 3rd, to Miss Isabella McLeod.

Mavis Randall (Hove), on March 31st.

### Talking Book Library

#### March's Mite

Two rather gloomy books are all that there is to offer to assuage the appetite of enthusiastic readers this month. "The American" and the classic "Jane Eyre" are the two, and they seem to get on well with the month's weather.

"The American," by Henry James, reader Alvar Lidell, is the yarn of a successful bachelor of commerce who runs up against a wall of exaggerated etiquette when he tries to woo the daughter of a noble French family. He is depicted as far too ingenuous to have been a successful business man and, as usual, "faint heart ne'er won fair lady." In my opinion the story has no guts, but is reasonably readable.

"Jane Eyre," by Charlotte Brontë, reader Jean Metcalfe, is a literary classic calculated to extract tears from its readers. The plot is good, the story interesting. The writer always strikes me more as a poet than a novelist, but I presume the nineteenth century style tends to help that impression. We must be careful to appreciate the tragedy of Mr. Rochester's blindness, but I fear that had he been one of ourselves he would have thrown poor Jane into a pond on one of their descriptive walks together. It is a book one should read, but do not depress yourself further if you have heard about it!

Depression moving rapidly East!

NELSON.

#### For James Bewick\*

*Let not to-morrow's manhood disendow*

*Of love this evening's child. Those native parts*

*Of temper, mind and form are perfect now*

*And must be when his time of testing starts,*

*The infant man in Paradise again.*

*For life is love in action: it is more*

*Than just the sum of living's joy and pain,*

*The mighty voice of Bach's angelic score,*

*And awful vision of a Florentine*

*Brooding in Tuscan shade. True life outstrips*

*Almost the zest of mountain discipline,*

*The cracking sinews and the comradeships,*

*And self-fulfilment presupposes this,*

*That love shall balance all the faculties.*

W. SYDNEY SCROGGIE.

\*(A son—James Bewick—was born on February 8th to Mr. and Mrs. Scroggie).

### "Or Any Police Station"

Entering a doorway in close proximity of Cannon Row, I produced my letter of introduction. I was escorted into a small warm, cosy office, asked to take a seat, and after a short conversation by the officer in charge I was taken down a spiral staircase, along a sub-basement corridor, through a door, and as a gentle bubbling of soft voices came to my ears, realised I had entered the room which deals with that mystery telephone number, 999, with its more normal brother, Whitehall 1212.

Inspector Law, officer on duty, at once took me under his care and thus I am able to tell you what I heard and learned of "Information Room, Scotland Yard."

Three rooms make up this nerve centre of the most efficient police force in the world—the large central room where all the voices are humming, and a smaller room at each end, one containing clacking teleprinters, the other just a softly-burring morse key and a tapping typewriter.

The central room is flanked on one side by a long switchboard. Here sit six to ten police officers, according to time of day. Facing them on the wall is a light panel, with flashing lights, the first ten of which are the same as the top line in Braille, A to J, the remainder just numerals. A to J deal exclusively with calls via the 999 Emergency service, and as a letter lights up an officer plugs in, and he writes the message down upon a pad, with carbon copies. He writes fully the name and address of caller, but the information is put down in a code, this saving seconds which may be vital in dealing with the message. The original message is handed to the radio operator the opposite side of the room, the copies going to files and to the officer in charge. In the centre of the room on a large table is a large map showing the 740 square miles of the Metropolitan Police area. Upon this map stand little groups of tallies, some yellow, some red. These denote radio cars and the area in which they are serving. Each tally is numbered both sides, and upon one side is a black line, showing this car is not working or is temporarily not available.

The radio operator takes his message, and at once, if necessary, gets in touch with a car by code number, "DMO to 5Y, DMO to 5Y, over." Back comes the

answer, "5Y to DMO, over." "DMO to 5Y, message 18.51. Strange noise in flats 193 Mosterly Court, W.C.1, suspect believed to be still on premises. Over." "5Y to DMO, message understood. Over." The operator notes on message, "5Y instructed, advise L.S." The messenger takes this to the teleprinter room and at once the clacking starts, and within seconds the tape is running into the local station. The local station can thus send its own car to assist or by means of the police street boxes notify the beat or patrol foot policeman in the vicinity.

Should the need arise, a car can be sent from one area to another.

Every hour an All Stations goes out. This is a long teleprinter message giving details of cars stolen and still not located, cases of calls previously made and since the last A.S. cleared up.

I stood in the Information Room for some time, and during that time all kinds of calls came in. "Strange noises and breaking glass in bank premises heard by next-door occupiers." "Street fight, Harrow Road area." "Invalid chair broken down Oxford Street, passenger unable to walk, lives in Poplar." "Shadows seen on window covering of known to be unoccupied flat." "Street accidents, two."

So it goes on. As one job finishes, another begins. They never know when it will be rush hour: they are always ready for it. They only know that it is quieter between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. than any other part of the day.

The third room is the quiet one with the buzzer, the International Room, where news is taken and given of little things which may mean much. Maybe a known man is on his way to our shores by air, he can be welcomed. Maybe one is leaving us for a Continental change. He must be kept under observation. Maybe a person is on a motor tour on the Continent, and a near relation is very ill. A few minutes is all that is necessary to contact the person needed.

It seems a long cry from the large, bearded "Bobby" of my youth to these alert men who, in a few minutes, can hear of a "job" in Notting Hill and the "boys" being "knocked off" at Tottenham Court Road. Yes, I shall thrill a little in future when I hear those words, "Whitehall 1212, or any police station."

JOHN A. MUDGE.

## Blackpool News

From the *Lancashire Evening Post*, April 2nd:—

"One often hears grumbles about British Railways. People think that trains are either too late, or too packed, or that the staff is insufficient and the catering bad.

"Now it gives me pleasure to record words of appreciation which arrived at Blackpool South station from St. Dunstan's. Blind men and women have to travel, and they often do so by train. They, too, enjoy a holiday at the seaside—but what chance would they have on a crowded platform, among bustling holidaymakers, if it were not for the railway staff?"

"Sir Ian Fraser has sent this message to Stationmaster E. Harris: 'You and your staff have been extremely kind in taking a special interest in the journeys and lives of St. Dunstaners who come through the station. This makes a great deal of difference to the happiness of blinded men when travelling alone.'"

From the *West Lancashire Evening Gazette*, April 5th:—

"Thought for to-day comes from South Promenade private hotel chef, Mr. Don Leo.

"Travelling by tram on his way to work at half past seven, Mr. Leo has found comfort and consolation the last few mornings in the example set by three men walking arm-in-arm along the sea-front.

"The men, says Mr. Leo, are blind.

"They walk with heads held high and a smile of contentment brightening their serene faces—an example of real comradeship and brotherly understanding."

"What made Mr. Leo observe them so closely was that he was on a tramcar 'filled,' he told me, 'with so many solemn faces. So solemn that they might have been on their way to the scaffold.'

"Instead of worrying ourselves to death—and showing it—what a glorious thing it would be if more people would emulate the three blind men."

(Comment by Messrs. A. Pimm, C. Williams and A. Rees, the Three Musketeers concerned: "Ah well, they were going to work; we were not!")

## Test Results

*Advanced and Senior Braille-Reading Tests:* R. Pringle.

*Senior Braille-Reading Test:* A. Pointon.

## "Blinded, but Unbeaten"

Captain Gilbert Nobbs was blinded in the war of 1914-1918 and came to St. Dunstan's. He was a business man and he built his firm (Holbrook's) into one of the most important companies in Australia. Captain Nobbs is, therefore, a successful St. Dunstaner himself. He became Chairman of the Repatriation Committee and was given the task of organising and caring for the war-blinded Australians of the second war in 1939. Now he has written a book, "Blinded, but Unbeaten," which tells the story of the training and placement of blinded Servicemen in New South Wales. His book covers familiar ground. With the conquest of blindness as its theme, it recalls much of the spirit of St. Dunstan's, for he tells it from his own experience of St. Dunstan's in the early days, and he has communicated it to these young Australians.

In 1914-1918 it was natural for an Australian blinded in France to come to St. Dunstan's in England, but in the second war the casualties were mainly in the Middle and Far East and it would have meant sending them halfway round the world. The Australian Government and people, however, greatly appreciated Sir Ian Fraser's offer to welcome them here if they so desired.

One point is of special interest. As in the Old Country they enjoy most sports; in Australia cricket and bowls are particularly popular. Cricket is played in season, but bowls all the year round. Even a handless Australian blinded Serviceman takes his turn at the nets, and is pictured in Capt. Nobbs' book batting by means of special adjustments to his metal arms.

## Camps

**Lee-on-Solent:** Friday, August 10th to Saturday, August 18th.

**Shawbury:** Saturday, July 7th to July 14th. Camp fee, 30s. Fares over £1 refunded. Last date for entries, May 4th.

AVIS SPURWAY.

The Vicarage,  
Holmwood, Nr. Derking.

## Marriage

BRIDGES—MACKENZIE.—On April 7th, Major Ronald Bridges, to Miss Helen Elizabeth Mackenzie, daughter of Sir Clutha and Lady Mackenzie.

## Ovingdean Notes

Amongst our visitors to the Training Centre before the end of the spring term, we were pleased to welcome Miss Koula Kanelli, who has been awarded a United Nations Social Welfare Fellowship, and is visiting Great Britain for the purpose of studying methods of teaching blind persons. She is herself blind, and upon her return to her own country she will become a teacher at the School for the Blind, at Salonika. On her return to Greece she intends to visit Major Alexopoulos—some of our ex-trainees will remember this blinded Greek soldier who came to Ovingdean a short time ago and who is now in charge of a Blind School at Athens. Miss Kanelli carries our good wishes to Major Alexopoulos.

Term ended during mid-March and a delightful end-of-term concert was organised by a group of Staff and trainees. The concert took place on March 12th, and we were very glad indeed that Sir Ian and Lady Fraser found it possible to spare the time to come down to Ovingdean for the performance. Our compère was Tommy Rogers, and new talent included Johnny Cowan, Jim Fraser, George McKay, Fred Lipscombe and Charlie Phillips. They were aided and abetted by George Killingbeck, Les White, Bob Osborne and staff representatives George Short (House Steward), Orderly L. Mason, Miss Carlton and Miss Smith (V.A.D. staff). Combined together they offered us a most entertaining evening. To Mr. Redmond and the band and to all those who took part we expressed our pleasure.

On March 20th the trainees set off for an Easter holiday at home and Ovingdean began to receive a large number of holiday-makers from north, south, east and west, so that by Good Friday the house was almost full.

In writing Ovingdean Notes this month we must not forget to add how pleased we have been to have had such a good representation from the Girls' Home at Port Hall, Ovingdean, present at most of the entertainments arranged. Port Hall has been full during the Easter holiday—and it has been really nice having the girls with us—ask the boys! We hope they enjoyed their holiday in every way.

## Feeling Tired?

Cortez and his tough He-men awoke the old world when they saw the vast Pacific from that peak in Darien. The restless urge which those men had yet shakes the peaceful scene. My heart bleeds for those smitten ones on a peak in Ovingdean. There's lots of folks rise with the lark, millions never do, those who smile on the alb of day I greet with a hearty—Phoo! Are cold baths sweet, with early jerks, and a whistle on winding-up? Sweeter's the thing I'd love to do when He-men yell—"Get up!"

I like to walk abroad, of course, when the world has had some warming; for all I care it can freeze alone on a cold and frosty morning. My horse was winning—a hundred to one; it streaked like a frightened pup, then came that ice-cold He-man, yelling: "Come on—you get up!" Why walk in tangled woodland ways, when sunny days have fled; 'neath dripping fingers of the trees on which green life lies dead? We won the final, and the King was handing me the cup; again that mud-stained He-man bellowed: "Come on—you get up!"

Maybe there'll come a time when I shall think up something great, to stop these He-men coaxing me to do things which I hate. Why don't they let us sleep and dream? I'll have it well worked up, and grin if all at Ovingdean yell, "COME ON—YOU GET UP!"

W. E. BROOKES.

## Births

BAGWELL.—On February 24th, to the wife of P. Bagwell, of Somerton, a daughter—*Sylvia Joy*.

FREER.—On October 17th, to the wife of R.A.F. Freer, of Ilfracombe, a daughter—*Patricia Mary*.

MILLER.—On April 5th, to the wife of W. Miller, of Perivale (until recently telephonist at 1 South Audley Street), twin daughters—*Angela Christine* and *Valerie Denise*.

PERFECT.—On April 1st, to the wife of J. W. Perfect, of Grindon, Sunderland, a son—*Stephen Jeremy*.

QUINN.—On March 22nd, to the wife of E. Quinn, of Offaly, Eire, a daughter—*Rosaleen*.

SIMMONS.—On March 14th, to the wife of T. J. Simmons, of Northwood, Ramsgate, a son—*Robert Christie*.

## "In Memory"

### Private David Fenton, 16th South Lancs. Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of David Fenton, of Bridgend, Glamorgan. David came to St. Dunstan's in 1919. He was trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker and carried on with mats for a long time, but for a number of years he had been living a quiet life. His death was unexpected—all arrangements had been made for him to come to Ovingdean for a long holiday. At the funeral the coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and a poppy wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers. Representatives of the British Legion were among those present.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his family and particularly to Mrs. Burnard, his niece, who has cared for him for many years.

### Corporal Arthur Brown, 1st Gloucestershire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of Arthur Brown, of Pennsylvania, Exeter. He was eighty-one. Wounded in France in September, 1916, he was admitted to St. Dunstan's that year and trained in basket-making, which he carried on for many years. He did, however, give this up four years ago. He had been ill for a long time and was admitted to hospital on February 13th, where he died on March 29th.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Brown and her daughter.

### Private William John Galloway, 5th Oxford and Bucks Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of W. J. Galloway, of Oxford, at the age of sixty-eight. He came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1918—he had been wounded the previous October—and he trained with us in baskets, netting and wool rugs. He had, however, been ill for a long time and he died on March 25th.

Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:

**DOUGLASS.**—To J. L. Douglass, of Barking, whose mother's death has followed shortly upon the death of his father.

**HALLIDAY.**—To L. Halliday, of Saltdean, whose father has recently died.

**HENDERSON.**—To Brenda Henderson, of Enfield, in the loss of her mother on February 26th.

**HENRY.**—To W. Henry, of Putney, whose father died on January 16th.

**NOBLE.**—To R. Noble, of Middlesbrough, whose wife died on April 4th, after many years of suffering.

**SIMPSON.**—To J. W. Simpson, of Osmondthorpe, and Mrs. Simpson, whose little granddaughter, aged three, was drowned whilst playing with her four-year-old sister.

**WILLIAMS.**—To E. Williams, of Shipley, and Mrs. Williams, in the loss of their little granddaughter.

**WILLIAMSON.**—To C. Williamson, of Tulse Hill, who has recently lost his father.

**WHITE.**—To R. White, of Wembley, whose mother died on March 8th.

\* \* \*

We have heard with regret of the death of Mrs. Horgan, of Cork, widow of our late St. Dunstaner, D. Horgan. She leaves several young children.

## Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. G. Tibbs, Holloway, were married fifty years on March 30th. Congratulations!

## Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. E. Arnold, Wanstead, March 25th; Mr. and Mrs. E. Astbury, Saltdean, April 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pearce, Hendon, April 3rd.

## Grandfathers

J. Boyd, Brighton (Derek's wife has had a daughter); J. C. Brown, Wellington, Salop (a daughter for his son, Harry); S. Worlidge, London, W.2.