

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

BLINDNESS presents many handicaps besides the obvious ones met with in reading and moving about. To overcome them, life has to be planned in very considerable detail. The telephone operator, for example, must think in advance when his roll of shorthand tape is likely to run out. If he could see, this would not worry him, for if his shorthand book was suddenly to become full, he could always pick up a spare piece of paper and make do for an hour or two. The blind man who occupies an executive or administrative post must plan and time his day to fit in with the work that his secretary has to do. If he could see, he could fill in an odd ten minutes or quarter of an hour himself reading papers or writing notes, but, being blind, he may be idle if he does not plan his time to fit in with that of the person who helps him. And all blind people must plan every aspect of their daily routine of getting up and shaving and dressing. If they did not do this, putting tidily in a familiar place each article as it was used, they would not be able to find them the next morning. And every blind craftsman or home worker must keep his tools and materials in the right place so that he can quickly lay his hands on them.

Of course it becomes second nature to plan these details of one's daily life, but nevertheless it adds considerably to the mental strain of living, and for successful accomplishment demands an orderly mind.

Friendship is a tender plant which can only grow out of understanding and common interest, but even this delicate relationship must be thought about and to some extent planned. I do not mean to suggest that you can calculate a friendship in advance or plan to make one, but I do mean that you cannot enjoy the company of your friends, or to do the things with them that are agreeable to both of you, unless you think about them and to some extent arrange them beforehand. It is a handicap to some blind people whom I know not to realise this, or to be too shy to give it a thought and make it part of their way of life. If you can see, you can enter a group freely, taking advantage of the right opportunity to begin a conversation with the person with whom you want to speak. Or you can watch for the conclusion of a rubber of bridge or a game of bowls and join in at the appropriate time, or catch your friend's eye, or be available so that you are brought in and become one of the group. If you enter a club or a pub and you can see, you can stand for a moment or two at the door and look around at the various groups talking, playing or drinking, and make up your mind which to join. If you are blind and enter a room in similar circumstances, you start with the great disadvantage of not knowing who is there, of not being able to enter easily into the company

of the others, and unless you have thought about this matter and developed the art of overcoming your own particular difficulty, you must either be left out altogether or be drawn into a group that is incompatible, unfriendly, awkward or boring.

I cannot pretend to have become very expert at overcoming these difficulties, but a long period of public life in which I have had to meet all kinds of people and as far as possible, mix with them, has taught me some lessons which I pass on for what they are worth.

The most important lesson of all is not to be shy about your blindness or embarrassed by your own difficulties. If you are either of these, then you will most certainly communicate the shyness or the embarrassment to others. The first requisite is to assume that in normal circumstances most people will be glad to see you, to talk to you, and to bring you in as part of their group. This is not always true and depends to some extent upon not taking advantage of any kindness that is shown to you. For if you become a bore or a trouble to the others, if you hold up the activity which they want to undertake, or if you do it in a way that spoils their fun, then the best will in the world will not overcome the reluctance with which they greet your approach. In general, however, most people will welcome you. Blindness of itself is no bar to good conversation.

A cause of difficulty that often presents itself is that of not knowing to whom you are talking. I have found in this connection that the simplest way of dealing with it is to ask a direct question. You will enter a group and someone will say, "Hallo, Joe." Nine times out of ten you will know who it is and conversation will flow freely, but at the tenth time you will be at a loss to know who is speaking to you. If you let that moment pass in the hope that further information will solve the mystery, you will probably be sunk. As often as not you will find conversation drying up or you will make some remark that is inappropriate. The best thing to do is to say immediately, "Who is this?" or "Who is speaking to me?" Even if, in itself, the question causes some embarrassment (and it often does because people are very shy about saying their own names), it will nevertheless clear the air and enable you to adjust yourself to the person you are with. Next I would say, never fail to ask the person you are with to do the thing that you want. By this I do not mean impose any task upon your friend or acquaintance. Sometimes, however, the other person wants to help but does not know how to do it. My advice is to leave him in no doubt but tell him exactly what you want done and the way you want it done. You will find then that a happy and agreeable friendship follows. If it is a question of walking together, tell the person quietly on which side you prefer to walk and whether you wish to hold his or her arm or vice versa. If it is a question of being read to, explain what you want to read and how you want it read. The assumption that you should make is that the person wants to do the job as well as possible and that any awkwardness is caused by lack of knowledge rather than by lack of willingness.

It amounts to this—that blindness is an embarrassing handicap and can become inhibitory of friendship. On the other hand, there is abundant sympathy which is very widespread and if this is properly guided, it will express itself in warm friendship which is enjoyed as much by the blind person as by his friend.

IAN FRASER.

To Ex-R.A.F.

The members of the Sergeants' Mess, Royal Air Force, Martlesham Heath, Suffolk have very kindly offered to give a free week's holiday at their Station to four St. Dunstaners who served in the R.A.F. They suggest a week in October so if you are interested, please drop me a line and I will let you have further particulars.

A. MACKAY,
Welfare Superintendent.

Bowls

A well-known bowler who was recently in Australia has told us of the skill of Australian blind men at bowls and suggests that St. Dunstaners might also take up this sport.

Sir Ian Fraser's feeling is that if a St. Dunstaner took up bowling in his district, he could derive a great deal of pleasure from the companionship of other bowlers even although, because of his blindness, he could not take part competitively in the games.

London Club Notes

The London Club will close for the August holiday after the whist drive on Tuesday, 31st July, and will re-open on Saturday, September 1st, *except* for the three Saturdays, August 11th, 18th and 25th, when the club will open from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m. for Bridge, Dominoes and Whist. Tea and cakes will be served.

We hope that all who have had their holidays have had a good time, and that all those who are looking forward to one will have good weather and a happy time.

P. ASHTON.

Indoor Section

The summer is making itself apparent in the Club. A few less are there in the evenings and as they return, the sun is shown on their faces and tales are told of wonderful times on holiday. Despite this, lively times are still had with the whist, dominoes and bridge. Darts are now of course less active, but the autumn will see the arrows flying again. The preliminary rounds of the Sir Arthur Pearson Trophy competitions are going ahead and in some cases the finalists for Brighton are already decided.

Thirty ladies—wives and escorts of London St. Dunstaners—coached away on June 28th for Eastbourne. They had a lovely day and the return twelve hours later at once made the Club a scene of laughter and fun. It was, however, ozone that had raised them to this pitch, and all were loud in praise of the day.

It is good to say that Charlie Walker, chairman of the Indoor Sub-Committee, is regaining his old self, after gastro enteritis, and will no doubt be in full harness by the opening of the autumn session.

JOHN A. MUDGE.

Outdoor Section

Although the Club will be closed for August, boats will be available on the lake at Regent's Park, and swimming at the Seymour Baths for those who would like to "have a go." Tickets from Mr. Dawkins.

Congratulations to C. Williamson who competed with the Surrey Walking Club and completed the 20 mile course at Poole, Dorset, in 3 hours, 18 mins., being 10th of 24. Good show, Charles!

Bridge

On June 2nd, twenty members of the Bridge Club paid a visit to the headquarters

of the London County Contract Bridge Association. A very pleasant afternoon was spent playing against all the leading British international players. We played five pairs, North—South, and five pairs, East—West. The top pair North—South was H. Gover and P. Nuyens, while the top pair East—West was L. Douglas and A. Wiltshire.

Our fixture on June 16th with Sperry's was a success, the club winning by 2,000, but we lost our fixture with John Waller's team by 2,400.

H. GOVER.

Retirement Pensions

From September 1st the standard rate of Retirement Pension for men of 70 and women of 65 will be increased from 26s. to 30s., and from October 1st the increase will also apply to men who, on that date, are between the ages of 65 and 70 and women between 60 and 65. There will also be an increase from 16s. to 20s. in the Retirement Pension payable to a wife by reason of her husband's insurance.

If any St. Dunstaner is receiving a Retirement Pension and is 70 or over (men) and 65 or over (women) they should send or take their Order Book to the Local National Insurance Office in the following order:—

England and Scotland	<	IF YOU LIVE IN	>	Wales
		between		
If your surname begins with letters	A-C D-H I-N O-S T-Z	Fri. 20 July & Fri. 27 July & Fri. 3 Aug. & Fri. 10 Aug. & Fri. 17 Aug. &	Wed. 25 July Wed. 1 Aug. Wed. 8 Aug. Wed. 15 Aug. Wed. 22 Aug.	A-D E-I J-L M-R S-Z

Men between 65 and 70, and women between 60 and 65 should not do anything at present, but should wait for a further notice in the REVIEW.

Men who became 65 and women who become 60 after October 1st will not be entitled to the increase and must wait until they are 70 (men) and 65 (women) before they will get the extra amount.

Ovingdean Sports

St. Dunstan's Sports are taking place at Ovingdean on Saturday, July 21st, when a good turnout is expected, and Sir Neville and Lady Pearson will be present. Full report in the next "Review."

Ban on Football Broadcasts

In the House of Commons on July 16th, Sir Ian Fraser raised the question of the Football League's ban on broadcasts of Saturday matches.

Mr. Charles Hobson, Assistant Postmaster General, informed the House that a meeting of the Football League and the B.B.C. was being called by the Football Association to discuss the ban. The Government would deplore a failure to reach agreement, the consequences of which would deprive large numbers of people, particularly the sick and disabled, of enjoying what they have been in the habit of doing—listening to broadcasts of football matches.

Speaking at a rally of the British Legion at Banbury on July 1st, Sir Ian Fraser said: "Let the bed-ridden, the halt and the blind hear their favourite football match by their fireside, and let those who can walk and see, go to the field."

The football managers depended on their gate money, but the unfortunate depended on the pleasure at home.

The B.B.C. could easily make up for the lost gate money by calling attention to matches in advance. The Corporation were squeamish about advertising, but if their conscience did not allow them to advertise, they could call this a public service. Here was the basis of a bargain fair to both sides and beneficial to all.

In a letter to Sir Ian from the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs, Mr. Leslie W. Davis, the General Secretary, writes:

"I do assure you, sir, and all the grand members of St. Dunstan's, men and women, that the Federation is giving its full weight in the attempts that are being made to ensure that the ban on football broadcasts shall be withdrawn. May I convey to all your branches our deepest sympathy that they should have been given so much anxiety in a matter which has caused world-wide resentment."

Charles Durkin, of Orpington, writes:—

"The belief that the broadcasting of the second half of any given football match interferes with the attendance at other matches is to my mind a fallacy. Whether the weather is wet or fine, the supporters of the teams will go to football matches, and in many cases travel many miles to do so. I can go farther than that and say that many people

support two clubs so that they can go to a match each week. They will say most definitely that a broadcast of a match is nothing nearly as good as being present at the actual match.

"Turning to the suggestion of recording a broadcast of the second half of a match and then broadcasting it after the match has finished, I would point out that the full time results are published in the evening papers within a few minutes of the game being completed. Even the wireless has a programme at 5.30 p.m. called 'Sports Report,' wherein all the main results are given.

"What is going to be the use of broadcasting a recorded account of part of a match after listeners already know the result?

George Fallowfield writes:

"May I as a supporter and not a listener voice my opinion? The keen follower of any sport is really only interested in the activities of his own club. A man in London isn't sitting at home to listen to a match between, say, Everton and Newcastle when he can go and see a London club, and a man in Birmingham isn't interested in a game between Arsenal and Pompey. This is further proved by the thousands who travel from one end of the country to the other to cheer their own club.

"If there is any decrease in the attendance at any league matches, and I doubt it, then it's up to the F.A. and the league to get busy and instead of paying £25,000 transfer fees for players who only do pretty things, spend the money on improved accommodation, get busy with floodlighting and have evening games, and challenge the speedways and greyhound racing."

Widows' Scheme

In the February issue of the "Review," Sir Ian Fraser mentioned a new scheme to benefit the widow of a St. Dunstan when he dies. This is an insurance scheme to which both St. Dunstan's and the St. Dunstan contribute and will ensure the sum of £500 being available to the widow. Many St. Dunstaners have applied but there is still time to enter and we strongly urge all married St. Dunstaners who are under the age of 55 who have not yet done so to consider the Scheme and enter it. Your Welfare or Technical Visitor will be able to give you full information or you can write to the Chief Accountant at 191, Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

Manchester Club

Report for year ending June, 1951

The past twelve months have given us many pleasant times, but we should like to see more young St. Dunstaners amongst us.

We wonder if we arranged our meeting for Saturday afternoon we could count on their support?

In August we took our summer outing at Chester and much enjoyed our trip by motor launch up the Dee, and the visit to places of interest. We hope to return this summer.

November was quite a busy month; Mrs. Lang organised a Hot Pot Supper at the "Swan with Two Necks" and we had an enjoyable evening discovering talent in our ranks.

The highlight was, of course, our visit to the Blackpool Home on Armistice Day. Matron Vaughan Davies as usual gave us a wonderful time and wonderful food. We much appreciated meeting the Liverpool Club there. On our way we were entertained to "elevenses" by our St. Dunstaner, T. Woods, who keeps the Hillmore Café at Euxton.

We sent up a team to Brighton to the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial competitions, and though we did not bring home the cup, our Sports Organiser, Mrs. Eaton, assured us that Maxi and Jack Greaves gave the winners something to think about.

Our Christmas Party at the Clarence Café was followed by a visit to the pantomime. A most enjoyable evening was spent at the Club when Mr. Holland brought his gramophone and recording machine—it was great fun to hear ourselves as others hear us.

In April our sparring partners from the Liverpool Club joined us for a Hot Pot Supper at the "Swan with Two Necks"; we enjoyed this evening and hope to meet them on their own ground shortly.

The Manchester Club will be pleased to welcome any St. Dunstaner who finds himself in the Manchester area.

Test Results

Preliminary.—J. Robson, A. Robinson.

Writing.—F. Lipscombe, R. Mendham, J. Fraser.

Typing.—F. Nunn, F. Beard, J. P. Dixon, R. Preece, L. Price.

Advanced.—E. Gaigne.

Lord Normanby's Reunion

On July 9th, Lord Normanby invited to a dinner party at the Café Royal, London, those St. Dunstaners who had been prisoners of war with him in Germany, and fourteen guests, including three from Scotland, and their escorts enjoyed a most happy reunion. The Marquess of Normanby introduced the Marchioness, and Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were also present. It was three years since most of the ex-p.o.w.'s had met and they came from the West Country, from East Anglia, the Midlands, Scotland, and London.

In an after-dinner speech, Lord Normanby welcomed his guests, and expressed the thanks of Lady Normanby and himself for the wedding gift which his "lads" had made to them. It was a great pleasure to them all to be together once again. Jimmy Legge, of Bristol, in an excellent speech, thanked Lord Normanby for giving them the opportunity of meeting once again, and wished their hosts long life and great happiness. This was seconded by J. Rogers, of Newington House, and greeted with pleasure and applause by the company.

Sir Ian paid warm tribute to the fine work which Lord Normanby had done for his p.o.w.'s in Germany. None knew better than they how much they owed to him. Sir Ian wished Lord and Lady Normanby many years of deserved happiness, and on that note the guests rose and the rest of the evening was devoted to reminiscences. It was a night long to be remembered.

Physiotherapist Attends Wimbledon Players

Douglas Calder, whom many St. Dunstaners will remember at Church Stretton (he was the first blinded serviceman of the last war to qualify as a physiotherapist), attended players at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships again this year. Douglas was there in a similar capacity last year and the American women tennis stars had particularly asked that he should attend them again this year.

It is of interest to note that Miss Doris Hart, who won the triple crown by her success in the women's singles, the mixed doubles and the women's doubles, was severely handicapped by a knee infection when she was a child and at one time it was feared that she would never walk. In 1949 she was unable to take part in the championships because of eye trouble.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Thank you very much for your courtesy in sending me the copies of the "Review" in which you publish the letters from Bert Gaffney and George Crook.

Perhaps you would spare me a little of your valuable space to say how very much I appreciate the thought which prompted them both to write, and thank them sincerely. May I steal a little more to add that one of my great pleasures is to realise that my job makes it possible for me to fill the gap—as adequately as I can—between the great sporting events of the day and so many St. Dunstaners. After all they have given to their country far more than I can ever hope to. I hope I may long be privileged to help.

Yours sincerely,

London, N.W.1. RAYMOND GLENDENNING
DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to verify Mr. Crabtree's statement of the deduction by the Ministry of National Insurance in deducting 10s. from his sick pay because he is unfortunate enough to be a disabled pensioner. The same thing would apply if he was out of employment. His benefit instead of being £2 2s. 0d. would be £1 12s. 0d.

All we see nowadays is old age pensioners who say they cannot live on their allowance, and anything done is done for them every time. I myself will be one next year, but I shall always support anyone who is prepared to help a man whose only crime was being loyal to his country.

Yours sincerely,

Grimsby. W. A. ROBINSON.

DEAR EDITOR,

May I give a little time-saving advice (if space permits) to Mr. Oriel and others who use the *Radio Times*. There is no need to read all the detail you do not require. A large number of blind people, not St. Dunstaners, like to know who are the pianists, organists, artistes and speakers in the various programmes. Most people know the regular features, so there is no need to read the items in the Thursday symphony if you really want to listen to the Light Programme, or "Ray's a Laugh." Just think what the regular feature for the day is, then skip the regulars you do not want, and take full advantage of the space before the News and Radio News Reel, etc. Get the habit of looking for the "Time" sign. For instance, with a long symphony

or prom., with items, names, etc. there will be approximately six lines, so slip to the seventh for the next time sign. It would be a blessing for the inexperienced to just have a marginal time sign on the left hand, but he will find that he also will soon be looking to see who is on Music Hall, etc., like the others, and the *Radio Times* will increase his braille speed and touch if he learns to feel for what he wants, and skips everything else.

Yours sincerely,

Castle Cary. A. J. RADFORD.

From All Quarters

Robert Bridger has won the Festival of Britain National Trophy for Elocution. He was the only blind competitor. Well done, Bob!

★ ★ ★

Margaret Stanway won two prizes, a first and a fourth, in the North West Gas Board's Festival Fare cookery competition at Morecambe. There were 150 entries.

★ ★ ★

At the same time, not so very far away, the work of another girl St. Dunstaner was attracting much attention. Maureen V. Lees, of Birkenhead, was exhibiting handicraft work including rugs, bath mats, curtains, and cot blankets, in the Ministry of Pensions' first regional exhibition in Manchester by North West disabled pensioners.

★ ★ ★

John Straughton, of Workington, on June 6th, celebrated his 30 years' service with the United Steel Company (Cumberland Group) as telephonist.

Tribute was paid to him in the "Sunday Graphic," the "Lancashire Evening Post," and the "Cumberland Evening News," as well as the firm's "Bulletin," which said, "his cheerfulness and brave spirits make him a great favourite and he is one of our most respected men. The grandest fellow in the office."

Flying St. Dunstaners

St. Dunstan's history was made on May 9th when four St. Dunstaners, Messrs. A. E. Baldwin, H. Costigan, J. McFarlane and A. Wiltshire, flew to Jersey to take part, with prominent filmstars, in the Island's Liberation Fête, the proceeds of which were to be given to St. Dunstan's.

The Festival of Britain

I visited the South Bank to report for St. Dunstaners on the Festival Exhibition with considerable misgiving. An exhibition of this kind is something upon which everyone must form his own opinion. However, with a notebook, pencil and an otherwise open mind, I went.

I should like to be able to say, "This is a grand show. No St. Dunstaner should miss it," but I am not going to. Personally, I feel that the exhibition is below standard. On the other hand, a party of St. Dunstaners went from Ovingdean and thoroughly enjoyed their day. Of course the fact that they were having a day off from training may have contributed something to their enjoyment, but whatever the reason, I am glad that their impressions are given on another page, so that other St. Dunstaners may have a fair picture of the whole thing.

The theme of the Festival is "The Land and the People," and each of the seven pavilions is concerned with some aspect of this development. The first two, "The Land of Britain" and "The Natural Scene," show something of what we know about our island itself. Then, following the order suggested by the guide-book, we are shown what we have made of it—"The Country," "Minerals," "Power and Production," "Sea and Ships" and "Transport and Communications." All these sections are in what are described as the Upstream Circuit. (Remember that the Exhibition is on the Bank of the River Thames—this is one of its most delightful features, especially if the weather is kind.)

The Downstream Circuit is illustrated by sections devoted to "Homes and Gardens," "New Schools," "Health," "Sport," "Seaside," with a pavilion, "The Lion and the Unicorn," intended to show the diversity of our national character. My own recollection here is of spoken excerpts from Shakespearean plays, competing with voices at the end of the same gallery announcing "what they said and how they said it," while at the same time downstairs Alice in Wonderland monotonously intoned to the White Knight that "you are wonderful. . ." "you are wonderful. . ." "you are wonderful" . . . Diversity certainly—but not all at once!

Then there was the Dome of Discovery, the pièce de résistance, so to speak, but which I explored as soon as I arrived, determined

to see it before I was tired, weary and foot-sore. My personal discovery was that there were far too many stairs.

The Dome has been called one of the most remarkable buildings in the world. It is like an immense aluminium-framed umbrella built on concrete pylons, each like the rudder of the ship. In the Dome are eight sections, "The Land," "The Sea," "Polar," "The Earth," "The Sky," "Outer Space," "The Living World," and "The Physical World." These sections are very interesting, telling the story of achievement in all these fields; they are well captioned too. But I must confess that much of the modern scientific material was far above my head.

Of the other sections, I liked "Transport and Communications," with its exhibits of ancient and modern locomotives, and its beautifully modern aircraft and ships. I liked "The Natural Scene," showing how our land has taken its shape, and the animals and plants which occupy it. I was depressed, however, in this room by some unearthly music which all the time accompanied a film called "Earth in Labour."

Noise, I found, was one of the features of the Exhibition. I liked the loud murmur of the fountains by the Embankment in which torches spouted flames; I did not like the sudden roar of trains passing to and from Waterloo Station, or the "popular" music coming through the amplifiers. As I heard one visitor remark, "If only the noise-makers would go on strike!"

I thought that the sections could have been marked more clearly. It is easy to say "Follow this Circuit, or that," but not everyone has a guide and my experience was that one could be easily lost—not for long, certainly, but long enough to make walking around rather tiring. But on the other hand I am glad to report that there are many restaurants, cafés and cloakrooms, and gaily coloured seats and benches everywhere.

To sum up, I felt that the Exhibition lacked life and that the exhibits were not inspired; that too much was left unexplained.

In my opinion, the Sports Section, of which so much could have been made, was a particularly dull affair, while as for "Seaside," the only sign of life here was a model of a man asleep in a deck chair, whose chest heaved up and down as he dozed!

No, I am sorry, but I think Britain could have done better than this. E. W.

Brighton Notes

Ovingdean

Without a doubt the most interesting event for the trainees at Ovingdean during June was the visit to the Festival of Britain South Bank Exhibition. The trip was confined to trainees and staff escorts and on Tuesday, 26th June, two Southdown coaches left Ovingdean shortly after 8 a.m. on that lovely sunny day on the South Coast to proceed to London.

The journey was comfortable but to our dismay, the further we left Brighton behind so the weather became more overcast until, when we reached the South Bank Exhibition site, there was already a light rain falling.

Thanks to the special arrangements made by the police for the parking of our buses, we were able to use them as our headquarters, returning to them for lunch.

At lunch-time you can imagine the chatter! It seemed most of the party had visited the Dome of Discovery and had been interested by the exhibits. Those with the more technical turn of mind, were naturally more impressed than others and there was much discussion on the "Ship Section," correct in every detail from electric winches and windlasses, stockless anchors weighing several tons and capable of holding the largest vessel safely at anchor under average weather conditions. This and "The Bridge of a Modern Vessel" particularly interested some of the ex-Navy fellows in the party. The Sports Section (showing cricket bats and balls being made), the Polar Section designed to re-create the conditions there, and, of course the Transport Section, where those interested in machinery found much to attract them in the display of the Merlin, Rolls Royce and other aero-engines—all these are just a few of the many different sections we visited.

The morning went by all too quickly and after refreshment—so welcome—and so good—we returned, refreshed, to track down those exhibits we had missed during the morning. The rain had by this time increased to a steady downpour!

Many of us made our way to the "Royal Mint" where the special Festival Five-Shilling Pieces were being made. At the time we were there, the machine was turning out the coins at the rate of one hundred a minute—and they were being sold almost as rapidly!

Four o'clock came, the time we had to embark on to our coaches, and we set off back home. There was a welcome halt for tea on the way back and we reached Ovingdean, tired and weary but with a day behind us we will long remember.

Whilst several of the trainees had been a little sceptical about going to the Exhibition, they all said on their return how much satisfaction and enjoyment they had got out of the visit.

Having said so much on that one subject, we are not going to have space for much other news this month, but there has been one addition to Ovingdean—not to be compared with anything on show at the South Bank, of course,—but which nevertheless has created much interest here. It is our "Mechanical Horse," a gift from Mr. Meeson of Loughton! It is electrically controlled with switches enabling it to give the movements of a canter, trot and gallop. In fact the "rider" is said to get precisely the same amount of exercise that would be obtained from riding a horse. No protests from horse lovers please—we know all about the pleasures of the saddle! It seems our robot produces all the same aches after a while in the saddle and if he can never win a race, he can certainly give anyone a fine shaking up—so good for the liver! He is becoming so popular that at last the rifle range has a serious rival. He is "stabled" in the Gynasium—so come on you holiday-makers! Our warmest thanks to Mr. Meeson for his generosity which is already appreciated by many St. Dunstaners.

Forthcoming Events

We shall be pleased to welcome local St. Dunstaners to the following events at Ovingdean during July and August:—

July 26th, Concert.—St. Dunstan's trainees and staff are presenting a Concert at Ovingdean, the proceeds of which will be sent to the "H.M.S. Affray Fund." Admission will be by programme priced 1s. obtainable in advance from Miss Guilbert, Ovingdean.

Friday, August, 3rd.—Dance from 8 to 10 p.m. *Saturday, 4th.*—Whist and Domino Tournament, 7.45 p.m. *Sunday, 5th.*—Concert in Ovingdean Lounge, 8 p.m. *Monday, 6th.*—Gala Dance, 8 to 11 p.m.

West House

Our "red letter" day this month was June 20th, when the majority of West House men, joined by holiday men from Ovingdean

St. Dunstan's (South Africa) Review

We extend a very warm welcome to "St. Dunstan's (S.A.) Review," the first number of which has just reached us. It will be issued quarterly, and our old friend, Jimmy Ellis, is part editor. It is hoped that South African St. Dunstaners will respond to the invitation to send along contributions and thus make the new "Review" truly representative.

From this first number we learn that one of the most coveted honours available to blind physiotherapists, the Myrtle Vaughan Cowell Prize, for 1950 has been awarded to John Verster, of Somerset West, who after qualifying in England returned to South Africa in 1948. Among arrivals from Britain are Bill and Mrs. Megson, en route for Rhodesia for a long holiday; Roy and Mrs. French, who after qualifying as a physiotherapist has taken up an appointment at the hospital in Krugersdorp, and "Pollie" (J. M.) Botha, who is settling down happily as physiotherapist at the Germiston Hospital. A Cape Town Reunion on February 1st to meet Bill Muller and his family, on holiday there, brought together Mr. and Mrs. Wilf. Helm, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ellis, Miss Stuart William, Mrs. Swan and Mrs. Fletcher. The absence of Mrs. Chadwick Bates, through indisposition, was keenly regretted. The Reunion was at "The Round House" and "Mine Host" none other than our own Bill Riley.

From the list of South African St. Dunstaners given at the end of the magazine, it was interesting to find a stonemason and wood-turner (L. A. Higgo), a wholesale merchant (G. J. Kavonic), a sock maker (W. Meaker), a University lecturer (Ken McIntyre), and a cartage contractor (W. J. Van der Merwe), among the physiotherapists, shopkeepers, telephonists and basket-makers, but it was with regret that we noticed that F. Ashworth, of Johannesburg, E. Bass, of Sea Point, E. Denny, of Pretoria, F. Kayne, of Durban, and H. H. Young (Krugersdorp) were listed as "invalids." Our very good wishes go out to all our friends in South Africa. We look forward to having more news through our South African namesake.

Grandfather

G. Power, Filton, Bristol.

and St. Dunstaners living locally, went on the annual summer outing arranged by the Brighton and Hove Grocers' Association.

Ten coaches lined up to take the party—numbering, with escorts and members of the Association, more than three hundred—to Maidstone. The return journey was made via Tunbridge Wells, where the historic Pump Room was placed at the party's disposal.

Mr. Finlay, secretary of the Brighton Association, who took over his duties only this year, worked very hard to ensure the success of the outing.

On June 2nd the Toc H Civilian Blind came to play dominoes, and later in the month, eight of our men were invited to play a return tournament at the Toc H Club.

We joined with Ovingdean for the race meetings at Lewes and Brighton, and there have been several afternoon drives during the month.

On the warm, sunny days, we have taken full advantage of the garden, and the terrace outside the sick ward has been a very popular sun-trap—the french windows enabling the bed cases to be wheeled out to enjoy the summer weather.

Miss N. Gough

Miss N. Gough, one of our Welfare Visitors in the Midlands since 1924, is retiring at the end of July on reaching the age limit observed by St. Dunstan's. Miss Gough has been associated with St. Dunstan's since 1918 and her many friends will join in wishing her the very best of health and happiness in her retirement. We are losing an old friend who has given years of devoted and loyal service to St. Dunstaners and their families living in the Midlands. We sincerely hope, however, that we will have the pleasure of Miss Gough's company at the Birmingham Reunion for many years to come.

Several of Miss Gough's men have already suggested to me that they would like to make her a little presentation. I shall be very happy to act as Honorary Treasurer if contributions are sent to me at Headquarters.

Mrs. E. M. King, who is already covering part of the Midland area, will take over Miss Gough's men on August 1st. We extend to her our very best wishes in this new appointment.

A. MACKAY,
Welfare Superintendent.

Blackpool Notes

At last—after eleven years of waiting—the Blackpool Home can claim “Our Grocers’ Outing.” It took place on Wednesday, June 20th, the same day as the Grocers’ Outing in Brighton. It was a wonderful day. Leaving the Home at 9.30 we went to the Lakes, calling en route at the Royal Hotel, Bolton-le-Sands, for coffee. As we left the Hotel a coach load of Boer War veterans arrived—medals clanging. We were proud to introduce a Boer War veteran of our own—H. Chadwick of St. Helen’s. We had an excellent lunch at the Chestnut Tree Cafe, then went down the hill to Lake Windermere. This time we reversed the trip, going from Bowness to Ambleside. To Coniston and on to Green-odd, then all aboard for the Royal Hotel. The singing greatly improved after the visit to the Royal.

Mr. Bayley organised the outing, ably assisted by “Conductor Taylor” and Mr. Doxey, but we were told that the really hard work—that of raising funds—had been done by the *ladies*.

It was such a great success that we were assured that it would not be the last. Our thoughts went over the air to the Brighton party but as we did not know where they were having meals we could not send them more tangible greetings.

On June 1st, Messrs. Woods, of Seagull Transport, lent us two coaches and we were pleased to invite all St. Dunstaners living in Blackpool, to join us on an outing. We were able also to invite two BLESMA men and two miners who acted as excellent escorts. We went to the Lakes.

After further outings the month ended with a visit to Haydock Park races where little money was won but experience gained.

S. E.

Presented to Princess Elizabeth

George H. Richards of Manchester, late of the Grenadier Guards, was presented to H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth when she visited Manchester on the laying-up of the Colours of the 3rd Battalion of the Regiment on June 21st. George writes: “The Princess asked me what battalion I had served with and when I was blinded. She was so friendly and then asked what work I had taken up. I told her I had trained at St. Dunstan’s and had worked as

a telephone operator with the same firm for thirty years.

News from Australia

We were delighted to have a letter from Alec Craigie after many years. Alec says that he is unable to use the typewriter these days as his finger sinews are troublesome. He writes:

“You may remember Andy Davidson, my West Australian cobbler who was with us in the flat at Primrose Hill—well, the Gosnells, Andy and the Craigies spent last Christmas together. Starting down at 1 o’clock we finished at 4.30 a.m.! What with eating, drinking, and chatting over London and St. Dunstan’s we had a glorious day. All the old St. D’s staff were recalled time and time again. It was like the old Inner Circle days to have a meal like this.

“It pleased me very much when I met the McConnells in Perth on their way to England. I’m afraid that when I am in Perth I don’t see many of the old St. Dunstaners, for outside Billy James and myself, these old stagers don’t seem to congregate these days. But I still feel that I *am* a St. Dunstaner and want to remain so.

“My greetings to all St. Dunstaners and to any member of the staff who may remember me.”

From Mr. George White

I wish to thank all those St. Dunstaner friends and my colleagues on the staff who have so generously contributed towards the fund for my retirement presentation gift. I suggested both these amounts be combined in order to enable me to obtain a present which would provide me with many happy hours (and, I hope, years) of pleasure, and I am happy to have been able to obtain a television set. I am also very grateful for the many kind letters I have received from my St. Dunstaner basket-making friends. This is a very great source of pleasure and will provide me with happy memories for the rest of my years.

GEO. ED. WHITE.

Silver Weddings

Mrs. and Mrs. W. Clamp, Bletchley, September 10th, 1947 (notice only now received); Mr. and Mrs. W. Rickaby, Battersea, May 22nd.

Homework

Numbers of my St. Dunstaner pals have told me that they often did a bit of sloshing about at home. After experimenting, I am half inclined to think that it is a “bit,” but I am fully prepared to agree that it is a washy job. A vacancy occurred in my home recently. I applied for the job and got it. An egg was left for my breakfast, with instructions for poaching it. I broke the shell professionally, tipped the contents into a half-filled saucepan, and in ten minutes was eating a curd of rainbow-hued bubbles. My first washing-up bore traces of the previous meal—that was a clear water effort. Dinner crocks had a soapy scrub and I set the plate-rack in the sun to dry. At supper the food had a “sunlight” flavour. In the butcher’s shop I felt in the same category as the newly-wed lady who asked to be supplied with a joint to match a blue-and-white dinner service. A neighbour’s dog stropped his teeth on most of what I bought. Cooking a cabbage beat me. It was a small, cannon-ball variety; in the pot it looked like a field with its back up. The more I prodded the taller it grew. I put a flat-iron on it and slipped the pot lid over. Tea order was—water boiling by five o’clock. My daughter arrived to find the kettle’s spout and handle melted from their setting—and no water. She surveyed the relic dismally, and said “What use is it now?” I suggested that she put it amongst the sideshows at a garden fete as an old Water ‘Otter. She cooled this idea with heat. Would experienced St. Dunstaners collaborate in producing a “Cook and wash-up” home work help? Don’t ask me to contribute.

W. E. BROOKES.

Reunions

Everyone was delighted to welcome Sir Neville Pearson at the Birmingham Reunion on June 13th, and nearly fifty St. Dunstaners and their escorts made this a particularly happy gathering.

On July 4th it was the Brighton meeting, and Sir Ian and Lady Fraser came on to the Reunion after a visit to Ovingdean and West House. They talked with many old friends who were present, and Sir Ian, in a speech, welcomed St. Dunstaners and staff, past and present, and expressed thanks to the towns of Brighton and Hove and many societies and individuals who gave most valuable services to St. Dunstan’s.

Births

DANIEL.—On June 18th, to the wife of Norman Daniel, of Burnham-on-Sea, a son—Stephen.

GRIMES.—On May 31st, to the wife of D. Grimes, of Eastbourne, a daughter—Susan Gillian.

LIPSCOMBE.—On June 2nd, to the wife of F. T. Lipscombe, of Exeter, a daughter.

McNAMARA.—On June 30th, to the wife of S. McNamara, of Dublin, a son.

McGOOHAN.—On June 21st, to the wife of D. McGoohan, of Watford, a son—Michael John.

OSBOURNE.—On November 25th, to the wife of R. H. Osbourne, of Brighton, a son—Keith Joseph. (A second grandchild for Joe Walch.)

SHONFIELD.—On July 7th, to the wife of J. Shonfield, of Reading, a daughter—Jacqueline.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

LEYLAND.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Leyland, of Newton-le-Willows, whose son has died in Trieste while serving with the South Lancashire Regiment. He was twenty years of age.

RANDALL.—To T. Randall, of Hove, whose wife died in hospital on July 7th.

Young St. Dunstaners

Valerie White, Stalybridge, has won a scholarship to enter the County Grammar School, Hyde.

Brian Appleby, Luton, late of the Irish Guards, is now a member of the police force and is stationed at Southend-on-Sea.

Brian Francis (Morley) has passed the examination of Dewsbury Technical College with four 1st Class awards.

Marriages

Alfred Scrimgeour, Middlesbrough, on June 9th, to Miss Beryl Hardey.

Bob Hotson, Brough, on June 30th.

Pamela Crabtree, of Leeds, on June 27th, to Fleet Officer D. W. Kirkby, at Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.

On June 9th, Mary Dembenki, to Charles Herrington.

Albert Lionel Hicks, Palmers Green, on June 9th, to Miss Audrey Wilson, and on June 23rd, Elsie Hicks to Douglas Walton.

The son of J. P. Dixon, of Bolton, was married on June 16th.

"In Memory"

Private George Willie Francis, 17th West Yorkshire Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. W. Francis, of Morley, Leeds. Serving from April, 1915, he came to us after he had been wounded in France in May, 1916. He trained as a basketmaker and in spite of ill-health over a number of years, was always keenly interested in his work. He had not been a fit man for some time before his death; he was discharged from hospital but died at his home a few weeks later.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral. Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and children.

Corporal John Thompson, Welch Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of one of our West House men, J. Thompson. He served with his regiment from September, 1914, until December, 1918. He was then badly wounded, his sight having been damaged and his leg amputated, but it was not until 1948 that he came to us, and his health then prevented any serious training. Upon the death of the friend who had cared for him, he came to Ovingdean, and later, West House. He died in hospital on May 28th.

A poppy wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers. He was buried in St. Dunstan's plot at Brighton.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his relatives.

Lance Corporal John McLean Colley, Royal Scots Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. M. Colley, of Luton. He was sixty-two. Upon his discharge from the Army in 1916 he came to St. Dunstan's and trained as a physiotherapist but he had retired from his profession for some years now. His health had deteriorated rapidly during the last two years, and he died on June 23rd.

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

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

Private Robert Young, 15th Highland Light Infantry

With deep regret we record the death of Robert Young, of Glasgow, which occurred at West House on May 19th.

Enlisting in November, 1914, he saw service until June, 1918, coming to us a year later. He then trained as a boot repairer, but for a great number of years he had been in very poor health and was forced to lead a very quiet life. He had been on an extended stay at West House and arrangements had actually been made for his return home when he passed away suddenly.

He was buried in St. Dunstan's plot at Brighton and a poppy wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers. Our deep sympathy is extended to his relatives and to Mrs. Harvey, who had cared for him for a long time.

Private Patrick Collins, Royal Irish Rifles

It is with deep regret that we record the death of P. Collins, of Skibbereen, Ireland.

He served with his regiment from November 3rd, 1915, until March 29th, 1918, but did not come under our care until December, 1939, when his poor health made it impossible for him to undertake any heavy work. He died on June 10th, after a long illness.

There were many wreaths at the funeral, among them one from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades. We offer our deep sympathy to his family.

Private Harry Tomkinson, 2nd South Lancashire Regiment

Harry Tomkinson, whose death was reported last month, served from August, 1914, and was wounded in August, 1918, at Armentieres. In addition to his blindness, his right arm was also disabled. He came to us immediately upon his discharge from the Army.

F. Melligan, 116th Canadians

L. S. Hitchcock, 49th Canadian

We have heard with deep regret of the death of two of our Canadians.

F. Melligan was wounded near Cambrai and came to us first in 1918 and again in 1924, when he was in England. He trained as a basket maker.

L. S. Hitchcock was also wounded at Cambrai and left us in 1919, after training as a poultry-farmer. Our deep sympathy is extended to their relatives.

Mrs. Vine wishes to express her sincere thanks to Matron Pain and Matron Avison and all at West House and at Ovingdean for their great kindness in her loss.

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As in past years there will be no "Review" for the month of August.