

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 390—VOLUME XXXV

JANUARY, 1952

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

AT the turn of the year we were reminded of two celebrations. 1951 was chosen as the year to celebrate the millenary, or thousandth year, since Dunstan was Archbishop of Canterbury, and 1952 is the hundredth year since the death of Louis Braille. These are two important names to us.

Dunstan was a draughtsman, a statesman, scientist and a cleric. I attended a banquet given by the Goldsmiths' Company, who consider him their patron saint, at which the present Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Fisher, proposed his immortal memory. Dr. Fisher praised Dunstan's service to the nation in bringing factious elements in the community together, and many legends and myths about him were recalled. For example, he pulled the Devil's nose with a long pair of iron tongs which he had himself made, for he was an expert blacksmith. Also, he sawed through the beams which upheld the floor of a council chamber, and arranged for the leading members of the opposition to assemble in this room before the others, so that they all fell through to a dungeon below and gave him no more trouble. Other politicians since his day have liquidated oppositions with similar efficiency. Thinking that the people were drinking too much and did not know how much they drank, he invented a beer pot which had a number of pegs in it at different levels, so that a man could measure his portion. Clearly, Dunstan was an ingenious fellow, fit to give his name to an organisation composed of so many ingenious fellows as we are.

A few months ago, Mr. Alfred Noyes, a famous poet, made Dunstan the saint of the blind. I see no reason why he should not be, so let us share him with the Goldsmiths' Company. Mr. Noyes' lines in the "Sunday Times" were so beautiful that I think they are worth repeating.

St. Dunstan's Prayer.

- "Thou who never canst err, for Thyself art the Way;
Thou whose infinite kingdom is flooded with day;
Thou whose eyes behold all, for Thyself art the Light,
Look down on us gently who journey by night.
- "By the pity revealed in Thy loneliest hour,
Forsaken, self-bound and self-emptied of power;
Thou who, even in death, hadst all heaven in sight,
Look down on us gently who journey by night.
- "On the road to Emmaus they thought Thou wast dead,
Yet they saw Thee and knew in the breaking of bread.
Though the day was far spent, in Thy face there was light.
Look down on us gently who journey by night."

Louis Braille

Louis Braille was a Frenchman who died in Paris on January 6th, 1851. He was himself blind and devoted much of his life to overcoming the difficulties of the blind, and amongst other things, devised a means of reading by touch. His system has survived for a hundred years with its essential characteristics unaltered. Different countries, notably the United States, tried other arrangements of dots and lines, but the original Braille system, as interpreted in the English standard Braille code, has become almost universal. I am a fairly good Braille reader for one who has lost his sight in adult life, and I can testify that it is possible to read the better known American Braille magazines just as easily as the English ones, without seriously noticing any difference to the touch.

The distinguished St. Dunstan, Sir Clutha Mackenzie, working as an adviser to the United Nations, is now spreading the use of Braille throughout Asia and Africa. It is hard to estimate the contribution which Louis Braille's invention made to the blind world. Reading is one of the gateways to the mind, and an improved and constantly refreshed mind is a great asset to any man. Nor is this all, for Braille is also of very real value to speakers, lecturers, businessmen, telephone operators, and a host of others who need notes or records. And then there are those who read to pass the time, and for pure pleasure; perhaps they are the most fortunate of all.

IAN FRASER.

War Pensions Concessions

St. Dunstaners will remember that in the article in the April REVIEW under the above heading, reference was made to the new "Comforts Allowance" of 10s. a week, which the Ministry of Pensions had agreed to give to War Pensioners who were either suffering from multiple war wounds or who were receiving the Unemployability Supplement and a Constant Attendance Allowance. At the time it was not thought that this Allowance would be issued to St. Dunstaners who did not come within these categories, although Sir Ian and Mr. Askew considered it should be more widely applied, and as a result of representations they have made, the Ministry have now agreed that all St. Dunstaners—whether in receipt of the Standard Rate of Pension or the Alternative Pension given to some men of the First World War—to whom they are paying a Constant Attendance Allowance of 20s. a week or over, are eligible, and they are awarding the Allowance on this basis and with effect from June 6th, 1951.

The majority of those St. Dunstaners who are entitled to the Allowance will already have received it by the time this article appears. If, however, there is any St. Dunstaner who feels he is entitled to the Allowance and who has not received it from the Ministry by the end of February, he should write to Mr. Banks at Ovingdean, or to Mr. Rice at 1 South Audley Street.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Williams, Sheringham, December 18th; Mr. and Mrs. R. Hobbs, Weston-super-Mare, December 28th.

From Miss Pain

Through the medium of the REVIEW I would like to send my warmest thanks to the hundreds of St. Dunstaners who have remembered me with greetings for Christmas, and have sent their good wishes for my retirement. I shall be with you all in thought, and would like you to know what great happiness you have given me through the years I have been fortunate enough to be your Matron.

DOROTHY PAIN.

Seasonal Greetings

The following telegram of good wishes was sent to Australian St. Dunstaners by Sir Ian:

St. Dunstaners in United Kingdom and my wife and I send good wishes for happy Christmas and good luck in the New Year to all Australian St. Dunstaners and friends and you and your family.

IAN FRASER.

Mr. McConnell replied:

Sincerely reciprocate your kind message. All members heartily reciprocate.

MCCONNELL.

This telegram was sent to the Union des Aveugles de Guerre, Paris:

St. Dunstaners and I send good wishes for happy Christmas and good luck in New Year to all French blinded ex-Servicemen.

IAN FRASER.

Mr. Izaac Amblard replied:

Thank you for your wishes. Please accept ours for British war-blind. Happy New Year to all Saint Dunstaners, their Chairman and Lady Fraser.

IZAAC AMBLARD.

London Club Notes

On the 18th December, the London Club held its Christmas Party. Amid gaily decorated surroundings, a crowded audience enjoyed a performance by Miss Rita Williams, Harry Lock, and that celebrated star, Beryl Orde, who came back again and again in response to the prolonged applause. James Moody at the piano, and our old friend, Billy Pitt, made an evening which was perhaps the best ever. The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought the evening and the year to a successful close, and by the time you read these notes, the new Committee will be working on the New Year's programme, and jolly good luck to them. Here are the dates of the walking races for 1952:

Jan. 26th 7 mile All England Championship.
Feb. 23rd 10 miles.
Mar. 22nd 12 miles.
All at Regent's Park, starting at 2.30 p.m.
Apr. 19th 15 mile at Wembley.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge

In the London Business Houses League, Paul Nuyens' team won their match with Aquarius on January 11th.

I have been asked by many people, "What is our subscription to the Bridge Section for?"

The answer is that it is not so much a subscription nowadays as the greater part of it goes to charity, actually about 90%. For the last five years we have given a watch to a deaf-blind person, through Mr. Ottaway's Deaf-Blind Watch Fund, and this year it was again voted that another watch should be given to this splendid cause, of which Mr. Askew is the Secretary.

Three of our members, Messrs. P. Nuyens, F. Rhodes and H. Gover, with Miss Hazel Winter, were to have played a hand of bridge in the Braille Centenary radio programme on January 6th, and the recording was made, but unfortunately this had to be cut out of the final programme owing to lack of time. We did, however, get as far as having our photograph in the "Radio Times."

H. GOVER.

Stalag 9 A/H

"Taffy" Rowe, of 5 Greenfield Terrace, Cwmpark, Treorchy, Glam., sends a Christmas card and New Year greetings to the boys who were at Stalag 9 A/H with him.

Boxing Day Broadcast from Ovingdean

The "Family Favourites" broadcast on Boxing Day was from our Ovingdean Home and the St. Dunstaners taking part were: Messrs. C. Cooper (Worthing), W. T. Curtis-Willson (Brighton), Peter Harris (Ovingdean), G. W. Lamb (Hull), W. J. Hopper (Bridlington), J. Proctor (Saltdean), R. Smith (Seaford), and Mrs. Maureen Lees. Miss Pain also returned, especially to take part. The broadcast took the form of friendly interviews by that very popular announcer, Franklin Engelmann, in the course of which St. Dunstaners asked for their choice of music, which was most promptly produced. It was a most entertaining broadcast, and one which one newspaper critic rated as one of the highlights of the Christmas programmes.

Louis Braille Centenary

Louis Braille, inventor of the method of writing which bears his name, died on January 6th, at the early age of 43. He died, unknown outside a small circle of personal friends and professional acquaintances, thinking that his invention of an alphabet that the blind could read by touch was a failure.

On January 6th last, a special programme of the B.B.C. paid tribute to his memory. Famous figures of the blind world, like Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who is the braille expert advising UNESCO, joined with tiny children from the Sunshine Homes, and men and women in all walks of life, to tell the vast listening public of their complete physical, mental and spiritual independence, and of the immeasurable debt owed to Louis Braille.

A number of other St. Dunstaners went to Broadcasting House for records to be made, but lack of time allowed only the Rev. Michael Norman and Mr. Sydney Jones, a trainee at Ovingdean, to be included in the actual broadcast.

A Television Programme a few days before the Centenary included our Darts players, Messrs. Charles Williamson and J. Edwards (who holds the individual Cup).

The Television Service on January 9th included yet another St. Dunstaner, Captain Alan Milne, B.Sc. (Econ).

Talking Book Library

November News

A brace of new releases, both in the "adventure" category, are now eligible for wide circulation. "The Saint in New York" is a modern, high-powered story of unmoral knight-errantry, and "Midwinter" is the story of a Jacobite in the 1745 rising. Neither book is too long, and both provide a full measure of entertainment. My rough synopses are particularly ineffective with books such as these, but I can offer the usual rough guide.

"The Saint in New York," by Leslie Charteris, reader John de Manio, is a gory fantasy in which the Saint, Simon Templar, cleans up all the "bigboss" racketeers in New York single-handed for a fee of one million dollars. The yarn is necessarily "bitty," as the Saint has to track down each racketeer in turn, but though his gay smile may irritate occasionally, the action is too swift for that to matter much. Does he earn that million dollars!

"Midwinter," by John Buchan, reader Joseph McLeod, is mainly concerned with a partisan of the Young Pretender on a mission in England to secure men and arms just before and during the '45 rising. Amos Midwinter is the head of an organisation of "Olde England," and although he and his men help the hero personally, at no time do they appear for, or actively against, the "cause." A tutor, Samuel Johnson, provides some comic, yet touching relief. I have yet to meet a Buchan book that is not absorbingly interesting!

The future seems packed with solid, mainly historical, reading, so make the most of the light yarns of the last two months.

December—Denouement

The last gasp of 1951 added three more volumes to the year's production, two of which—"The Kingdom of Melchior" and "Sir Richard Grenville"—are historical, and the other, "Elephant Bill," is adventure in Burma with an elephant theme. Although all of them are readable, the first one is Arabian, and personally I find such a setting a trifle off-putting.

"The Kingdom of Melchior," by the Master of Bellhaven (Lt. Col. the Hon. A. Hamilton), reader Richard Wessell, is the rough history of South Arabia as seen by a

political officer on tour, no, circuit, from his base at Aden. The period covered is somewhere in the 1920's up to 1931, and the writer includes a wealth of anecdote and experience. It is entertaining, instructive, and less difficult to read than most Arabian novels.

"Sir Richard Grenville," by A. L. Rowse, reader Richard Wessell, is a full historical biography of a man everyone connects with the epic fight of the "Revenge." That fight was the final act of a many-sided career and the redeeming feature of Grenville's frustrated life. It seems that among a galaxy of fierce Cornish squires, Grenville was just too hot for Elizabeth to allow him much scope overseas. Perhaps we are too civilised now to regard the Tudor period in its true savagery and delicate culture, but the background to this biography is an England with no metalled roads or built-up areas. I enjoyed it.

"Elephant Bill," by J. H. Williams, reader Jack de Manio, throws some light on the training, life and habits of the Burma elephant in the service of a teak company, and gives a glimpse of the tuskers helping the Army against the Japs. The first half is most interesting, but with the advent of the war, the elephant somehow slips into the middle distance. Good interesting reading, especially the first half.

Don't forget to change the needle in 1952!
NELSON.

Placements

J. H. Westby, Manchester, in the Inspection Department of Messrs. Fairey Aviation Company, Stockport; A. G. Sageman, as an operator on a pulping machine, with Horton Kirby Paper Mills, Dartford; H. J. Taylor, East Croydon, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Trojan, Ltd., Croydon.

Country Life.—The following St. Dunstaners have been, or will be shortly settled as poultry farmers: F. Boughton, at Silverstone, Northants; J. H. Dix, at Cryers Hill, High Wycombe; and C. V. L. Montgomery (officer) at Slinfold, Sussex.

Second College Reunion

The 2nd College Reunion is to be held at the Criterion Restaurant, entrance in Lower Regent Street, on Saturday, April 26th, 1952, 1.30 to 5.30 p.m. Tickets, 10s. 6d. each. Apply to Hon. Treasurer, W. T. Scott, 46 Leigham Avenue, Streatham. Tel. Streatham 6524.

From All Quarters

As a result of his broadcast in "Have a Go," Tom Daborn has met an old school friend with whom he had completely lost touch, has discovered a distant relative, and has acquired several new customers whose interest had been aroused. Tom has won yet another cup for fishing—the Specimen Cup for the largest fish of that type caught when out with his fishing club.

★ ★ ★

W. E. Bignell, of Edgware, is a keen rabbit fancier, and his youngest Sable Doe, in her first show, took a first prize in the Under 5 months Class, and first in the Under 5 months Grand Challenge. Then she went on to another Show and took another three firsts. We hope that she fulfils our St. Dunstan's hope that she can become a Challenge Cup champion.

★ ★ ★

At the British Legion Christmas Party, at Reddish, the guests were entertained by Mrs. Abram, a member of the Women's Section, who sang songs, accompanied by her husband. Alf Abram has always been a keen musician, encouraged, as he says, by St. Dunstan's.

★ ★ ★

A long article in the *Evening News*, Portsmouth, on December 5th, told of the magnificent work being done by Lieut. Commander R. C. Buckley, G.M., R.N., who is Portsmouth Command School Liaison Officer on the staff of the C.I.C. The article was headed, "The Navy could have no better spokesman."

★ ★ ★

Alan Hold, who plays the accordion, broadcast in the West of England Home Service, on January 10th, with the Yeovil Temple Salvation Army Band.

★ ★ ★

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Heeley, of Leeds, met many old friends when Mrs. Heeley opened a very big bazaar in Wakefield, their old home town, recently.

★ ★ ★

Quick thinking on the part of R. M. Harmsworth, of Salisbury, saved his house from serious fire damage recently. He heard a crackling noise from the bathroom and promptly telephoned the Fire Brigade, who found the bathroom ablaze. The fire had started under the floorboards, where a gas pipe had melted.

A New Year's card to Sir Ian from "Gerry" Stappers, whom many will remember at 12 Park Crescent, comes from Antwerp, and discloses that Mr. and Mrs. Stappers now have a little son, Auguste.

★ ★ ★

Phillip Todd was a guest of honour when his firm held their annual dinner at Shrewsbury recently. He has been a capstan machine operator with the Sentinel Works since 1944 and is a very popular member of the staff.

★ ★ ★

Harold Bridgman has also been in the news lately. A full page article in the *Derby Evening Telegraph* had stories and photographs of the inhabitants of Derby's War Memorial Village, and our St. Dunstan was amongst them.

★ ★ ★

A first-rate letter to the Editor of the *Western Daily Press* from A. G. Emerson, of Redfield, Bristol, called attention to the dangers of Church Road, where he has his shop. He called for a Zebra crossing to prevent further loss of life and injury.

★ ★ ★

Robert Fullard gained second place in Section C of the London Boroughs Braille Reading Competition. This class was for people who have become blind since 1938.

★ ★ ★

Joe Walch, of Saltdean, read the Lesson in Holy Trinity Church, Blackpool, from braille, on Sunday, January 6th, the centenary of the death of Louis Braille.

St. Dunstan's Occasion

Seven St. Dunstaners—all of them employed as telephonists by Shell Mex, Limited—were the guests of the firm at a dinner in their honour on December 12th, followed by a visit to a theatre. They were Messrs. S. H. Bush, A. W. Bundy, J. G. Fleming (first war), W. Phillips, Ron Phillips, H. Petty, and L. D. Northwood (second war).

Sir Ian Fraser, Mr. A. Mackay, Mr. G. P. Owens and Mrs. Harvey, Telephony Supervisor, with waiting with their hosts to welcome them.

This most enjoyable evening was the result of a suggestion made by Mr. E. Fidler, Telephone Communications Manager of Shell Mex, who has been for many years such a good friend and adviser to St. Dunstan's telephonists, and Mr. Fidler himself was there to meet his guests.

Contributions Invited

During the next six months, the Editor invites St. Dunstaners to contribute to the REVIEW short articles of not more than three hundred and fifty words—that is, a column of the REVIEW—for which payment of one guinea will be paid for a column, and half a guinea for half a column. Articles on any subject will be welcomed, which in the Editor's view are of sufficient interest to St. Dunstaners to warrant publication. The Editor's decision must be final in all cases. No contributor can receive payment for more than three articles during the six months. The Editor has the right to cut articles if necessary, and make payment accordingly, but, on the other hand, if a contribution is so good that it is deemed worthy of inclusion as a first-page "leader," then a special payment of three guineas will be made.

Contributions (preferably typewritten), should be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

Reflectorised White Sticks

The National Institute has devised a stick which it is hoped will be more useful to some blind people in getting about at night than sticks already on the market. Tests have shown that in country districts and areas which are not built up, and where it is normal to rely on headlights, this stick is visible at substantially greater distances than the ordinary white stick.

The new stick is not likely to give greater protection in built-up areas where there is street lighting and where motorists do not normally rely on their headlights.

The special price to blind people is 3s. 6d., and the sticks are obtainable from the N.I.B., 224 Great Portland Street, W.1. Catalogue Number 9467 (or 9468 for a lady's stick).

Jigsaw Puzzles

The N.I.B. also announce four jigsaw puzzles, originally introduced before the war. They are Horse and Kangaroo, (easier to assemble), Windmill, and Full Sail Ahead. The price is 6s. each. All puzzles are mounted on plywood.

Grandfathers

W. Sargeant, Folkestone; W. S. Castle, of Birmingham.

Liverpool Club Notes

On Saturday, 8th December, the Liverpool Club held their annual Christmas Party at the Headquarters, Sefton Hall, Lecece Street, when members, their wives and children, assembled to take part in the now very popular event. A knife-and-fork tea commenced the proceedings for the sixty-two who were present.

Among the guests were Matron Vaughan Davies and Sister (Dee) Hothersall of Blackpool, Mrs. Dunphy and Mrs. Lang of the Manchester Club, and Miss Doel, Welfare Visitor.

After tea the Chairman, Mr. L. Jackson, proposed the toast to "The King," and said how pleased we all were to know that he had safely recovered from his illness. The toast was taken as all present stood.

The President, Captain Holloway, then extended a hearty welcome to the guests, Mrs. Dunphy replied, saying that she was sure that the party would be most enjoyable, as Liverpool Club always did things very well.

At this stage, Alex Wright, Hon. Treasurer, presented Matron Vaughan-Davies with a diary as a gift from the Club. Matron, in replying, thanked the Club for their kind thoughts towards her, and specially requested that all St. Dunstaners present should sign their names in the diary, and this was done.

After the brief speeches, the proceedings were carried on by Mr. J. Reason and his Concert Party—Miss Shirley Constable, Mr. N. Blundell, Mr. Charles Whitter and Mr. George Lamb, each in their turn providing first class entertainment. The Club are fortunate to have such kind friends as Mr. Reason and his Party, on this and other occasions. Mr. Reason accepted a gift of a diary, and Miss Constable the gift of an electric table lamp made by Edwin Cooper.

The concert over, presents were distributed to all the children present. They were then entertained to several games for which prizes were given to winners. The ladies then took part in the games arranged for them. Prizes were again awarded to winners, as was also the case in the men's games which followed.

After the games, dancing followed, to music provided by Mr. Albert Kidd (piano), a friend of George Ellis, who was at the drums. The combination was excellent.

The party was voted by all as one of the best.

JIM SHAW.

"Christmas Spirit"

All was very peaceful. It was Christmas Eve. The scene, the Lounge at Ovingdean, after breakfast.

Four men were sitting on a settee, young, old men, with a feeling of fun, joke, or anything for a laugh.

During the week-end "camels" had played a part. Camels that were going to cause laughter for the whole Christmas. It all started with a man asking for some sand, and when asked why, explaining that Father Christmas had promised him a camel for a present. Suddenly, as these things happen, one man called, "Sister," and the Sister appeared, a new one, not yet used to the ways of St. Dunstan's and its men. She came alert, willing, helpful.

"Can we have two buckets of sand?" A slightest hint of hesitation then—"Sand?" Did you say sand? Yes, it was sand that was desired, and a further hint given that Matron had approved us having it. Away bustled the Sister. Semi-hysteria swept the settee. It had happened, we had found a victim.

After a few minutes, Sister came back, this time complete with notebook and pencil. "I can get the sand, I have been to the boiler house and seen the engineer, but there is some trouble about the buckets."

We helped by suggesting that maybe the orderly at the front door could help. Good old Jack Stavelly, always obliging. Off went Sister again. Back once more. "Yes, you can have the buckets—new ones—but how long will you want them for?" Serious discussion between two men. "About one and a half to two hours." Then came a question from Sister. "I must have your names as the buckets have to be accounted for." With no hesitation the man from War I said, "Pendleton," and the Second War man, equally spry, "Taylor, Charlie Taylor." The names were duly noted and then, "Where can I put the sand?" "Put it in the Hall Porters' Room." Away went Sister, keen, helpful and deadly serious on her job. The men on the settee now decided that life would be less exciting elsewhere. One went to play dominoes, one to the Winter Garden, one to a remote corner of the Lounge, the other to his room. Quiet descended upon the Lounge; all once more was peace.

Then a flurry of skirts, a whirlwind of outraged femininity. It had been discovered

at last, but where were the men? One, alone in his corner, was not to blame; he was only sitting; Charlie Taylor was playing dominoes, and where was Pendleton? He was delivered up, his hide-out disclosed. Suddenly he is confronted, "How dare you! You must apologise to everyone. I will not be caught." But Pendleton is now dignified; he will not go down and apologise. If such is needed, then bring up the apologee to the apologeter, and the police if necessary. Sister discovers she is up against a brick wall. She threatens to see "that Taylor" later. Later, two humble "crest-fallen" men attempt to offer apologies to Commandant, Matron and old Jack in the Hall. The laughter is loud and long.

But we did not apologise to Sister, so here goes. "Thank you, Sister; we appreciate your once more demonstrating that the boys come first, and no matter what the boys want, St. Dunstan's can supply it. And, Sister, a happy New Year, and many of them. You are now initiated into the ways of St. Dunstan's."

We, however, will remain just

PENDLETON AND CHARLIE TAYLOR.

P.S. I did get my camel—a plastic one from a cracker at dinner on Christmas Day.

"Viewpoint"

"Viewpoint," the quarterly magazine issued by the National Federation of the Blind, will be published as from January, 1952, in both Braille and inkprint, at an annual subscription for either of five shillings. Enquiries should be sent to the Circulation Manager, Mr. V. C. Grimshaw, 2 Langham House, Gosfield Street, London, W.1.

The Editor as from January, 1952, is Mr. Roy Brown, formerly a member of St. Dunstan's staff at Church Stretton and Ovingdean as a Braille instructor.

Report of National Laying Test 1951-52

Second period of four weeks, November 5th to December 2nd.

	Score value to date
1 Jackson, G. C.	255
2 Webb, W.	184
3 Jarvis, Albert	151
4 Taylor, Tom	125
5 Gregory, T. D.	122
6 Holmes, Percy	98
7 Bagwell, Philip	84
8 Clarke, T.	39

Just a few Lines—from Blackpool

December weather in all its mooods
Had nothing worse than Wimbourne
floods;
If tides had reached one higher mark
The Home would have been St. Dunstan's
Ark.

We watched the waters rising high,
From here and there a deeper sigh,
Oh where, tell me where, can the dear boys
be?
Have they taken refuge or been washed
out to sea?

Weep not, nor fear—they've not gone far.
Some to the Queen's and others, the Star.
Then the telephone rang—"Keep dinner
aside,
We are now marooned by the rising tide."
And those safely at home called, "Hoorah,"
and "Hear, hear,
"Please Matron, may we drink their share
of the beer?"

Most of the wives and escorts too,
Had sensed the danger and to this Home
flew.
We gave them dinner—they seemed quite
pleased
When hunger and thirst were somewhat
appeased.
But others—and staff—leapt up on a wall,
On which they balanced or had to crawl,
Later the taximen brought them through
And charged not a penny or even a sou.

One wife who at the Southdown Hotel
Was spending a holiday—behaving quite
well,
Tried the dividing wall to climb
to avoid the water and also save time.

The wind caught her skirt, over her head it
did blow,
Whilst folk at all windows enjoyed a free
show.
The day might have proved serious, but we
had laughs in plenty,
And will always remember '51, Decem. 20.

There will not be much room in this month's
"REVIEWS"
To give details of Christmas or ordinary
news,
We dined — we "went places" — went
dancing — had fun,
Till the old year had finished—the new
one begun.

To St. Dunstaners all, where'er ye may be
Matron and staff at the Home by the sea,
Send '52 wishes and to each a warm greet-
ing,
We look forward to—our next merry
meeting.

B. V-D.

★ ★ ★

The Home remembered and observed the
anniversary of Sir Arthur Pearson's death
on December 10th by a Service, taken by the
Rev. Wardle Harpur. Many St. Dunstaners
braved the extremely severe gales to be
present.

The day was so stormy that St. Dunstaners
and their wives were chilled when they
arrived; Matron—took the course which she
knew would meet with the approval of Sir
Arthur. She gave them a cup of tea with
rum or whisky to taste! She has had no
complaints about chills.

During the gales E. Benton, of Sale,
had his new trilby blown away. It was
returned next morning by a person who
explained that he knew it belonged to a
St. Dunstaner as it was found near the
Home and had *braille* on the leather band
inside!

Young St. Dunstaners

The son of F. Hunt, of Regent's Park
Road, London, has won a scholarship to
Oxford University, which he will take up
when he has done his National Service.

Marriage

Audrey James, Darlington, on August
18th, to Geoffrey Cox.

On January 31st, Olive Mitchell (King-
ston-on-Thames) to Squadron Leader W. T.
Shaw, of Grimsby.

On June 16th, 1951, Thomas Walter
Turner, son of Harris Turner, of Victoria,
B.C., Canada, to Christine Lambert Hous-
ton, at Vancouver.

Greetings From Australia

In a letter we have received from Alec
Craigie, of Albany, Western Australia, he
says how sad he is at the thought that he
cannot join the walking races now, but he
sends his best wishes to all the participators
and organisers, and to any of his old
colleagues who remember him.

Letters to the Editor**War Pensions Campaign**

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read of the British
Legion's campaign for a 100% increase in
the basic pension. I should like to see that,
but a recent deputation of the Limbless Men
went to Parliament to ask for an increase
to just over three guineas. I suggest that
the heads of all these organisations get
together and agree as to the amount that
should be asked for. The Ministry is sure
to offend the Legion if they give anything
less than the 100% they ask for, and I think
the Ministry concerned will take more notice
of a deputation representing all disabled
men than it will of several organisations
going to see them separately.

Yours sincerely,
E. OXBOROUGH.

Great Yarmouth.

Dear Editor,

Now there has been a change of govern-
ment, I hope there will not be a change of
policy towards ex-Servicemen, and that
steps will be taken to remove some of these
anomalies that irritate, and remove also
those other anomalies that allow certain
people to treat war pensions as charity
dispensed by themselves.

Sincerely,
A. J. RADFORD.

Castle Cary.

Ovingdean Broadcast

DEAR EDITOR,

The December B.B.C. broadcasts from
St. Dunstan's in London and Brighton
interested me very much. It was nice to
hear those familiar voices again, and with
one exception I should like to congratulate
the competitors on a good show.

My disappointment came when our
B.B.C., (Bad Boy Charlie), got embarrassed
and baffled over the question put to him
concerning braille. He had been honoured
by being chosen as a representative, and
granted the privilege of talking to the
largest audience that has ever come the way
of any St. Dunstaner. This, together with
the fact that Charles had three years' training
in St. Dunstan's, made his reply. "I am
afraid I am one of the bad boys of braille,"
a most disconcerting one. I thought the
opportunity had been created for him to
show his proficiency in the subject. It was
unfortunate that Charles had neglected his
braille, otherwise he would have been

mentally alert and in a position to convince
the listening public that he had braille at
his finger tips.

I soon realised, after becoming blind, that
I must learn braille to get moving again; it
is as essential to a blind person as petrol to
a motorist, for through it the intellectual
highways once more stretch before him.
In short, braille is the mental escort *always*
at your service.

Yours sincerely,

Farnworth, nr. Bolton. H. POLLETT.

Sponsored Radio Programmes

Dear Editor,

Sightless people can claim a very special
right for consideration of their views on
broadcasting. Maybe our convictions are
based more on emotion, but when was
logic so much more reliable than feelings?

Now, while we would all stubbornly
defend our right to criticise the present
B.B.C. set-up, I am sure a good many of
us would resent the adoption of sponsored
radio programmes, as has been suggested.
Here are some of my own objections:—

News.—The influence of the great advert-
ising houses on the policies of newspapers is
frankly recognised, and its extension to
broadcasting would threaten the high
factual standard and possibly even the
length and number of the B.B.C.'s bulletins,
on which blind people rely.

Entertainment.—Popularity is the goal of
advertising, and here would be a strong
temptation to crowd out the less obtrusive,
though equally desirable forms of enter-
tainment.

Music.—The British listener would gain
little by the introduction into this country
of the "Tin Pan Alley" system of "plug-
ging."

Talks and Features.—It is difficult to see
how a correct balance could be preserved.
No doubt a talk by Thomas Cook on the
glories of Switzerland could be matched
by one from William Butlin on the beauties
of Blackpool, but unless the items were of
a popular character, balance might lead to
cancelling out.

Finally, in more general terms, the
interests of minority groups, so carefully
safeguarded at present, would be dis-
couraged, if not actually neglected.

Yours sincerely,
DOUGLAS WARDEN.

London, W.12.

DEAR EDITOR,

Will you kindly convey all best wishes for a very happy New Year to all St. Dunstaners from the Canadian girls.

It was my privilege to be attached to St. Dunstan's as a V.A.D. and handicraft teacher in 1944 and 1945. It hardly seems possible that it is six years since I left Church Stretton. Time certainly flies, and yet we often think of you, and whenever the girls from St. John's and Red Cross who served St. Dunstan's get together, we always talk about Church Stretton and St. Dunstan's.

Morna Barclay, who was secretary to Commandant Dacre, came over from Hamilton one evening last week and brought with her several copies of the REVIEW. You have no idea how glad I was to see them, as it has been some time since I've seen a copy. It's so good to hear news of the boys and girls and to know they are doing so well. Some of you still write the odd letter to us, and they certainly are well read.

The girls are all fine. The boys are all back home again, and although we do not see them very often, we do hear of them.

The girls don't get together very often as they are busy with families and jobs, but I know they would want to send you their special greetings.

There are Mary Nesbitt, Hazel and Wendy Wilkie Foster in Kingston, Mary Scorer in Winnipeg, Morna Barclay in Hamilton, Diana Pease Stratford in Brantford, Margaret Blackmore McClure in Montreal, Virginia Pearson Pincombe in Brampton and Bicky Proctor Mayne, Mary McKay, Eleanor Shaw Johnson and myself in Toronto. Helena Campbell was married last spring to Dr. Michael Davies and is now living in England.

To you all the Happiest of New Years,

Yours sincerely, VERA JOHNSON
16 Evans Avenue, Toronto, 9,
Ontario, Canada.

DEAR EDITOR,

We tender our very heartfelt thanks to our most thoughtful and competent Commandant for the loveliest Christmas of all.

May we also say, Thank you, Smithie. In all our years at St. Dunstan's we have never heard the men laugh so much and so heartily as they did this year at Smithie's pantomime.

ALL THE WIVES PRESENT
AND MOST OF THE ESCORTS.

Brighton Notes

Miss Pain Retires

This has certainly been a memorable Christmas, for so much has taken place at Ovingdean.

Our Christmas festivities began early, on 14th December, with the Trainees' Christmas Dinner and Dance. This was an occasion of some merriment, as usual, but also because it was the eve of Matron Pain's retirement, some sadness. We were very pleased indeed that Lady Fraser came down from London to join the party and only sorry that Sir Ian was not able to be present. He was attending a Public Meeting in London in connection with the British Legion War Pensions Campaign. A message of good wishes was sent to Sir Ian and the British Legion wishing them success from those present at our Dinner.

Lady Fraser, in a speech after Dinner, referred to her long association with Matron Pain—they were V.A.D.s together at St. Dunstan's in 1915—and said that Matron was one of the most wonderful women she had ever known, and she wished her a long and happy retirement—a wish which was echoed by everyone present. Tom Denmead (as the Training Centre's "oldest inhabitant"—in length of stay but not in age!) presented Matron with her gift from the Trainees, which was a blue leather dispatch case bearing her initials. Miss Pain replied after the singing of "For she's a jolly good fellow" had died down sufficiently for her words to be heard—and this was quite some time!! Following this there was dancing in the Lounge from 8 to 11.30 p.m.

On her retirement Miss Pain had also been given a Marconi Portable Radio by the staff at the Ovingdean, West House, Port Hall and Northgate House Homes, with their very best wishes for her future happiness.

After the departure of the trainees to their homes for Christmas, Ovingdean began to fill up with St. Dunstaners who were to spend the holiday here, and by Christmas Eve, when the programme of entertainments began, the house was pretty full.

The Staff Pantomime—a novel presentation of "Cinderella" written and devised by Miss Smith, V.A.D., and produced by

Miss Newman, V.A.D., was, in spite of a howling gale outside doing its best to lift the roof of the Music Hut, well attended and evidently much enjoyed. To mention that Orderly Frank Bickerton was the "Fairy Godmother" will, perhaps, give a slight inclination of the "free adaption." !!!

Both Commandant and the new Matron, Miss Ramshaw, were present at the Men's Christmas Dinner following the distribution of Christmas presents by Sue Fawcett, Commandant's daughter. On Christmas evening there was an informal concert.

The Lounge on Boxing Afternoon was filled to capacity to hear the broadcast and everyone was delighted that Miss Pain came back to Ovingdean specially to take part in that programme. From letters received from all over the country it seems that the B.B.C. listeners generally enjoyed the programme every bit as much as those connected with St. Dunstan's. After the broadcast Mr. Franklin Engelmann came into the Lounge and chatted with many of the St. Dunstaners present and answered questions which were fired at him. He said, in parting, that he hoped to come again, and we certainly hope he will.

The Boxing Day Gala Carnival Dance was next on the programme, and, as in previous years and well up to St. Dunstan's standards, there was a truly amazing assortment of costumes.

Space in these columns is limited, and therefore it is most difficult to try to mention even a little of the different entertainments, but the local St. Dunstaners were well represented, not only on the occasion of the Invitation Domino and Whist Drive on 29th December, but throughout the Christmas and New Year festivities.

Our new Matron, Miss Ramshaw, was greeted by St. Dunstaners spending their holiday at Ovingdean, by many local men, and received many congratulations on her appointment and good wishes for her happiness.

West House

West House was quite transformed by decorations for the Christmas holiday from the moment visitors stepped into the cosy hall out of the blustery wind and rain. The Men's Dining Room, Lounge and even the Sick Wards, were each decorated in a different manner—by the Staff of that Section.

A full programme of entertainments was

arranged, commencing with a Whist Drive and Dominoes on Saturday, 22nd December, and a Carol Service was held on Sunday afternoon. The civilian blind from the Lantern Club, Brighton, were the guests of St. Dunstan's on Christmas Eve; on Christmas Day gifts were distributed from the Christmas Tree by Sue Fawcett.

On Boxing Day there was a coach ride before lunch, whilst in the evening a party went to the Pantomime in Brighton.

On New Year's Eve another party was made up to go to the Pantomime and came back to West House in good time to toast the New Year in rum punch.

The traditional New Year's dinner on 1st January completed the week's festivities.

We should like to send all good wishes to our friends everywhere for a very happy 1952.

St. Dunstaners Robbed

Our sympathy to Gilbert Webster, of Shipley, whose home was ransacked while he and his family were away at Christmas. Money was taken, his Talking Book damaged, and a St. Dunstan's medal for football was also missing.

★ ★ ★

T. Chamberlain, of Woodley, Berks., was also the victim of a mean theft recently when wooden furniture pieces were stolen from him. "Mean and despicable," said the magistrate, fining the thief £5.

Can You Beat It?

Half a century ago there appeared on the front page of *The Yorkshire Post*, and other newspapers, a family group of five generations. It comprised my great-grandmother, grandmother, father, my sister, and her wee son, and was taken in the garden of Nichols' Place, Dewsbury Road, Leeds. Two of my father's sisters are still alive, and each heads four generations. I am hoping to continue the record and to head four generations, and feel very confident of doing so.

In my stable for 1952 I am training "Confidence" and "Determination" for the Stayers' Cup. Last year "Moderation" won everything he was asked to do and showed big dividends at the end of the year. "Patience" is the oldest one I have in the stable, but he will go on winning till the end of time.

All the best for 1952 is my sincere wish for readers of the REVIEW.

Portslade.

ALAN NICHOLS.

"In Memory"

Stoker Alexander Doyle, *Royal Navy*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of "Paddy" Doyle, of Ryde, Isle of Wight. He was sixty-one.

Paddy came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1919. He had been captured by the Turks while serving on Submarine E.7, and it was a result of his experiences as a prisoner of war that he lost his sight. After his training, he joined our Appeals Staff, and then the N.I.B. Staff. In 1932 he moved to Ryde, Isle of Wight, to run a kiosk, and he became one of the Island's most popular residents.

The funeral was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Ryde, Councillor and Mrs. Christy, representing Ryde Corporation; many other civic officials were present, and the British Legion was also represented, as were many other bodies and companies in Ryde. The many wreaths included one of poppies from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends, and from the British Legion, the Ryde Town Clerk and Staff, and the "Taxi Boys." The coffin was covered with the Union Jack. In an appreciation in the *Isle of Wight Times*, the Mayor wrote: "A very gallant gentleman has passed to the other side."

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Doyle, whom he met when she was a V.A.D. at St. Dunstan's.

Births

GIMBER.—On December 2nd, to the wife of S. Gimber, of Beckenham, a daughter—Susan.

GIMBRERE.—On January 2nd, to Mrs. Alice Gimbrere, of Wembley, a son.

HOMEWOOD.—On December 20th, to the wife of R. Homewood, of Lincoln, a daughter—Susan.

NOLDE.—On December 20th, to the wife of Norman Nolde, of Leytonstone, a son—Richard John.

ROAKE.—On December 15th, to the wife of George Roake, of Catford, a son—Brian Michael.

Marriages

FULLING — McCALLUM.—On December 29th, J. J. Fulling, of London, E.17, to Miss J. J. McCallum.

RIGNALL—BUXTON.—On December 22nd, George Rignall, of Palmers Green, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Buxton (until recently a V.A.D. at Ovingdean).

Death

COPE.—Our deep sympathy goes out to Mr. and Mrs. H. Cope, of Stoke-on-Trent, whose little invalid daughter died on January 7th.

Personal

Mrs. M. E. Penny wishes to thank Matron Pain and the staff at Ovingdean, Matron Avison and staff at West House, and Headquarters staff, for their many kindnesses and consideration during her late husband's membership of St. Dunstan's, and she thanks also his St. Dunstan's friends in Brighton and elsewhere for their messages of sympathy in her loss.

Mr. Robert B. Irwin

It is with deep regret that we have learned of the death of Mr. Robert B. Irwin, the distinguished American blind leader. Mr. Irwin did magnificent work for the American Foundation for the Blind and for the American Federation for the Blind, which he founded.

Colonel Thornton

We have heard with deep regret of the death of Colonel Thornton, who was Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Pensions, South West Region, and in this capacity began his great interest in St. Dunstan's men. Indeed, he was personally responsible for a number of them coming to St. Dunstan's. He was always a most popular visitor at our West of England Reunions, for his kindly understanding, in spite of great personal loss suffered during the war, made him greatly beloved, not only among his many friends, but amongst those with whom he worked. Many St. Dunstaners will feel that they have lost a very true friend.

Miss M. Elliott

Many St. Dunstaners who were at St. Mark's Hospital, Chelsea, and the College, Regent's Park, in 1918 and 1919, will learn with deep regret that Miss M. Elliott, one of the Canadian V.A.D.s, passed away in Montreal General Hospital on December 11th.

The news is passed on to us by "Jock" Boyd, who has kept in touch with Miss Elliott since her return to Canada.