

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I HAVE been endeavouring for many years to get better pensions and allowances for my St. Dunstaner friends and the war-disabled generally and, on the whole, I think it can fairly be said that a measure of success has been the result.

I recall some of the additional benefits which have resulted from the persistent presentation of the needs of the war-disabled, both in the House of Commons and throughout the country. As long ago as 1934 I obtained a notable concession which practically took the war pension out of the then Means Test; the Wives' and Childrens' Allowances are now available to married men, even though marriage took place after disablement; the increase in the Constant Attendance Allowance, which has helped many St. Dunstaners; the Unemployability Allowances and the new Comforts Allowance, which many enjoy; and now the increase in the standard basic pension, which will apply to all.

The new 10s. per week announced in the Budget statement as an addition to the basic pension is not as much as I had hoped, and it falls very far short of what I should have wished, but it has been a difficult and uphill task to get the principle of an increase in the basic pension admitted—and I regard the re-establishment of this principle as very important. The increase may be disappointing to seriously disabled people and a token only to the slightly disabled, but I trust that with the return of better times, the Government of the day will not be unmindful of our needs and the equity of our case.

### Mr. Lale Retires

Mr. Percy Lale retires on superannuation this month. There can hardly be a St. Dunstaner who has not had business transactions with him since he joined our staff in 1920, and more especially since he became responsible for all property matters a few years later.

House purchase, loans, rents, insurance, repairs, all these matters were his province, and St. Dunstaners and staff alike have looked upon him as our property expert. Our housing arrangements, though not perfect, have nevertheless done much to mitigate the difficulties in this sphere. Without St. Dunstan's very progressive housing policy and Mr. Lale's administration, these difficulties would have been a very great burden to St. Dunstaners, and we all owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

Mr. Lale, who is himself an ex-Serviceman and a keen member of the British Legion, was a good friend as well as a sound adviser, and we all wish him the best of good luck in his retirement.

Since 1945, Mr. Peter Matthews has been responsible for the purchase of properties. He will now take over the whole Estate Department as from April 1st.

IAN FRASER.

### London Club Notes

That great sportsman, Freddie Mills, came to Regent's Park on February 23rd to act as starter and present the prizes for the 10 mile walking race. As soon as he said the word, the field moved off to a sharp pace. At the end of the first inner circle, T. Gaygan was in the lead, followed by W. Miller, A. Brown and C. Williamson, and this order was maintained throughout the race, but Miller could not quite make the pace to hold Gaygan. A. Brown showed some of his old form in a well-walked race and won the Handicap. A. Bradley and T. Denmead retired, the former with cramp (insufficient training?), and the latter because he had just had a bout of flu. Full results are below.

Entries should be sent in for the 15 mile at Wembley, and for the 5 mile triangular match with the Insurance Companies on April 1st, Inner Circle, 6 p.m.

Order of Finish:—	Time	All.	H'cp	Pos. in
			time	H'cp.
T. Gaygan	88-10	Scr.	88-10	2
W. Miller	91-20	.30	90-50	4
A. Brown	92-09	4-20	87-49	1
C. Williamson	94-34	2-10	92-24	6
C. Stafford	100-43	12-00	88-43	3
S. Tutton	102-54	10-50	92-04	5

Prizewinners: 1st handicap, A. Brown.  
2nd „ T. Gaygan.  
3rd „ C. Stafford.  
Fastest loser, W. Miller.

#### Total Aggregate Points to date

C. Stafford ...	70
S. Tutton ...	69
W. Miller ...	69
A. Brown ...	69
C. Williamson ...	63½
P. J. Cryan ...	50
T. Gaygan ...	49
A. G. Bradley ...	45½
T. Denmead ...	40

*Swimming.*—The Seymour Baths will again be available this year for training from April 28th—September 15th, with the exception of the month of August and Whit-Monday. If a team will enter there will be a Swimming Gala later in the season.

P. A.

*Indoor Section.*—The Club has arranged a Dance to be held at the Victory Club, near Marble Arch, on Friday, March 28th, 7.30—11 p.m. Ron Bell and his Orchestra. Tickets, 2s. 6d., obtainable at the Club.

The Committee hope, in view of the strong demand made at the Annual General Meeting for dances to be held, that Club members will come along in strength.

On February 1st the Indoor Section took a Darts team to the Loughborough Park Tavern, Brixton, where we had a jolly good evening, and, although defeated, we were not disgraced.

On February 25th we had a visit from Tottenham Constitutional Club. This time we more than held our own as we won games at cribbage and dominoes, and also defeated our visitors at darts.

Entries for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prizes for Crib, Dominoes, Darts (T.B. and S.S. sections), close definitely on April 7th. Entries should be sent to Mr. Willis at the Club. C.J.W.

*Bridge.*—Both our teams have now finished their eight matches for their sections in the London Business Houses League.

*G. Brown's team* with W. Bishop, A. Wiltshire and L. Douglas, won 2, drew 1, lost 5.

*P. Nuyens' team* with H. Gover, F. Winter, R. Coles and C. Thompson won 4, drew 1, lost 3.

The last match played by P. Nuyens' team was particularly interesting, since it depended on a win or a draw whether they would again head their Section. Only winning teams of sections go into the Final, so we have to hope for another year.

A Bridge Drive was held at Headquarters on Saturday, March 8th, and we had eight tables. It was, as usual, a grand social gathering, and the prizes were won by: 1st, Jock Brown and Miss Hensley; 2nd, Bill Collins and Mrs. Waller; 3rd, Sammy Webster and Molly Burns. The party prize went to Jock Muir and Kathleen Mack.

We have played two matches during February and I regret to say that we lost both. One was against Purley Ladies and the other against our old friends, Messrs. Lyons. H. G.

#### Lee-on-Solent Camp

Camp will be held this year from Friday, August 8th, to Saturday, August 16th. Entries please as soon as possible to Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Holmwood, Dorking, Surrey.

### The Budget Pensions Debated

Speaking in the Budget Debate on March 12th, Sir Ian Fraser said that he wanted, above all, to make a non-party speech and to deal with one particular subject. It was one which was a very long sustained concern of his—namely, the position of disabled ex-Service and other people.

There were some 750,000 ex-Servicemen and a few women who had been disabled in the two wars, about half in each. During the six years since the end of the second war, this country, through its Ministry of Pensions, had increased by special arrangements and allowances, the compensation paid to those most severely disabled (about 6 per cent. of the whole), to a very material extent. Most of those very severely disabled men now receive in money something like twice as much as they received when the war came to an end. There were still many whose compensation would be thought by any impartial inquiry to be inadequate, but by and large, the very severely disabled had been cared for by these special allowances. As a result of this, between £10 and £12 million had been added to the Budget of the Ministry of Pensions since the end of the last war.

The partially disabled—all those who have lost one limb or part of a limb, or who suffer from illnesses and disabilities which, while very hurtful and robbing them of many pleasures and handicapping them in their work, are nevertheless not in the severest categories—have been left with practically the compensation they were receiving before the war began, or when it came to an end.

The Chancellor had now, in one Budget, set aside some £10 million in order to raise the basic rate of war pensions by 10s. a week for those very severely disabled men, and by proportionate amounts for those less severely disabled, and for widows.

Whether this amount was enough or not, it was nevertheless a substantial amount. It came, of course, at a time when economies generally must be the rule, and it must be judged in the context of national affairs as we see them at the present time.

The amount of 10s. added to the existing pension of the most severely disabled man, taken in consideration with the 10s. comforts allowance introduced for some of these men last June, and extended to a wider

number a few weeks ago, raised the compensation of that class by quite a substantial amount.

But the partially disabled, numbering 650,000, have had no rise since 1946, when they received a percentage of the 5s. which was then added to the basic rate. Now 10s.—and a percentage thereof—has been added, and most of the higher disability men would be more than compensated for the rises which the Budget would entail.

The amount that those who suffer from the slightest disabilities—in the 20 and 30 per cent. grades—would receive may be but a token. Nevertheless, it was twice as much a token as they received in 1946.

Summing up, Sir Ian said he thought there would be some disappointment amongst ex-Servicemen generally that the amount of the increase did not bring their compensation to the point at which it should stand now, having regard to the fall in the value of the £, but it recognised certain principles which were very important. One was the principle that the standard basic rate was an attempt on the part of Parliament and the State to compensate these men for the disabilities from which they suffered as measured by a medical assessment. That the additional grant had been made to all, without regard to a means test or employability, met one of the principles which many had thought very important indeed. Secondly, this compensation was based far more on equity than on need in the strictest sense.

Sir Ian expressed his thanks to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the Ministry of Pensions for meeting the requests made to them to the extent they had done, and he congratulated the British Legion and other organisations, through their national bodies and their branches throughout the constituencies, for the way in which the matter had been brought to the notice of the House. No doubt the British Legion, in the years to come, as in the past, would continue to represent these men's views individually and collectively, and he hoped that as soon as affairs in our country rendered it possible, further steps would be taken to bring the compensation of their disabled comrades into line with the present value of money.

Captain M. HEWITSON (Hull, Central) said that it was with regret that he heard the hon. Member for Morecambe and

Lonsdale (Sir Ian Fraser) give thanks for the pittance that was being offered to the disabled ex-Servicemen. The 50 per cent. pensioner who was a married man with two children would now be penalised to the tune of 6s. per week if we took the figure of 1s. 6d. per head used by the Chancellor. This pensioner was going to have his social service stamp increased by 7d., making a total of 6s. 7d., and a generous Government was going to give him 5s. to meet that cost alone. The whole thing was manifestly unfair.

Sir I. FRASER: I know the hon. and gallant Member for Hull, Central (Capt. Hewitson) voted against the Labour Government in a debate on war pensions. He was one of two who did. If 100 had joined me then we should have got what we wanted three or four years ago.

Mr. JAMES SIMMONS (Brierley Hill) said that the hon. Member for Morecambe and Lonsdale (Sir Ian Fraser), after stressing the fact that he was going to make a non-political speech, had been very nice to the Front Bench and had inferred that the 10s. increase more than compensated the 100 per cent. disabled men for the economic loss they would suffer as a result of the Budget. He had read a letter in the "Legion Journal" in which the hon. Gentleman made it clear that what he said as President of the British Legion would not necessarily influence his action on the Floor of the House. He indicated that he might even be constrained, in certain circumstances, to vote against the Government if they refused to accept the plea for an increase in the basic pension. The British Legion had been campaigning, under the hon. Member's leadership, for a doubling of the basic rate, yet he now defended his Front Bench for having given a 10s. increase to meet this very grave and aggravated economic situation.

Sir IAN FRASER: I balanced what I said. I said that the increase was not adequate, but I also gave thanks where I thought thanks were due. The hon. Member was Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions in the Labour Government, and he will remember that I thanked at least four Socialist Ministers for giving about one-tenth or one-twentieth of what has now been given by the Budget.

### 1952 Derby Sweepstake

This year the Derby will be run on Wednesday, May 28th, and we invite applications from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in our own Sweepstake. No other person can enter.

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and application for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 16th**. Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered. Tickets will be issued consecutively.

The total money subscribed, less the cost of printing and postage, will be distributed as follows:—

- 50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse;
- 20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse;
- 10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse;
- 20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

### Mrs. Bates' Illness

Older St. Dunstaners and staff will hear with very deep regret that Mrs Chadwick-Bates, O.B.E., Secretary of St. Dunstan's from the early days until the end of 1931, and from then on Secretary and Representative of St. Dunstan's in the Union of South Africa, is seriously ill. Writing in the January "St. Dunstan's, South Africa, Review," Mr. H. Alers-Hankey, the Chairman in South Africa, says:

"Sir Ian and Lady Fraser paid a brief but welcome return visit to the Cape during December in connection with Sir Ian's business interests in South Africa.

Their arrival coincided with the somewhat serious illness which had previously overtaken our Organising Secretary, Mrs. Chadwick-Bates, the news of which has been received with deep concern by all friends of St. Dunstan's in South Africa and Overseas. Although at the time of going to press her medical adviser has issued a more encouraging report, he is of the opinion that a considerable time may elapse before she is able to resume active work."

### News from Australia

In a letter to Headquarters, Fred Elliott, of Kingsword, New South Wales, writes:

"I have been having lessons on the typewriter and this is one of my early attempts at correspondence. I am one of the young old fellows from the 1914 show but did not lose my sight until about five years ago. At that time I imagined that I was too old to learn any new tricks, but after looking around and seeing what some of the local lads are able to do I soon got busy, pulled up my socks, and now I can do quite a number of the jobs that I was doing when I had my sight. I was in the R.N. before transferring to the R.A.N. and coming out here in 1913. Best of luck to all members of St. Dunstan's."

Good luck to you, Fred. You are doing fine!

\* \* \*

P. Norris, of Nedlands, West Australia, is a St. Dunstaner who is doing a splendid job. His work is for the blind of Western Australia through the Braille Society, Perth. He conducts three sessions of radio broadcasting every week, during which he appeals for the aged blind. He has been doing this for nearly five years and during 1951 was instrumental in raising some £6,000 for a building appeal to erect a new wing at the Rest Home for the Aged Blind, near Perth.

\* \* \*

From D. E. Williams, of Sandgate, Queensland, who has only recently gone blind, we have received some interesting details of his training by the Repatriation Department in Australia. He writes:

"We were given classes in Queensland last year by the Department at Rosemount Hospital, Brisbane. Amongst other fine speakers we had the chance of hearing Wing Commander Curtis-Willson, during his visit to Queensland. Let me say how much we enjoyed that visit and speak also of the information we new members learned of St. Dunstan's.

"At these classes we learned handicrafts, braille and typewriting. The Department has granted me training at the Queensland University as a student in Arts. I shall be concentrating on Philosophy and English with a view to trying free lance writing later. At the moment I have been working hard at Preparatory German, ready for lectures when they start."

### National Library for the Blind

#### Annual Reading Competition

The twenty-third E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held at the Library, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, on Saturday, May 17th, 1952.

The classes of interest to St. Dunstaners are:—

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

Class B. Other readers.

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

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

**OPEN COMPETITION.** A special competition open to all readers eligible to enter Classes A and B and to all previous winners of the Open, Medal and Classes A, B and C, for the reading of a passage from "The Second World War" by Winston S. Churchill.

Intending competitors should send in their names to the Secretary of the Library, not later than Tuesday, 6th May.

### Guild of Methodist Braillists

An interesting event in this Braille Centenary year has been the founding of the new Guild of Methodist Braillists.

The Hon. Secretary of the Guild is the Rev. Geoffrey Treglown, M.B.E., himself a St. Dunstaner. Mr. Treglown invites other St. Dunstaners to write to him from time to time, telling of their special needs in Methodist literature. His address is Pennar House, Newbridge, Monmouthshire.

### Mrs. Carter Writes—

"Au revoir to my many friends in St. Dunstan's. By the time you read this, I shall have left dear old West House to be married. I have spent almost ten happy years with you and have loved every minute.

I shall be living at Stowfold Manor, Trowbridge, Wilts., my name, Bryant. Miss Oliphant's campers, please note. You will all know without being told how welcome a visit from any St. Dunstaner would be. My home will be open to you. Letters from you will be a great joy.

To my Staff in the Lounge a very sincere thank you for your loyalty and help, without which I could not have carried on.

BUNNY CARTER,  
Lounge Sister

### Are You a "Macrame Twiner"

The invitation to submit articles to the REVIEW providing interest to St. Dunstaners will probably urge some to try and pass on some of the lessons learned by experience in many spheres of activities, but with any necessary apologies to Instructors at the Training Centre.

One of our simple pastimes is making string bags, yet this has its "snags" which only experience can overcome.

Whereas we used to sit at a table to do this work, try to make it an armchair job as you listen to the radio or to your Talking Book. This can be done by preparing a piece of board 20 inches long by 12 inches wide and three-eighths inch thick, splay off one of the long sides to 14 inches to prevent scratching the insides of the chair arms when the board is resting on your knees. The board is of ample size for the frame and the tin containing the twine as you proceed to work the bag.

In place of the usual piece of tape or string round the frame at No. 1 peg, try putting two small round-headed screws on the bevelled edge of the frame just below the peg, and one screw below No. 31 peg, these are easily felt as the frame moves round.

The small screw at No. 31 peg eliminates the risk of starting at the wrong peg when casting off.

When using rings I always put an extra round on the pegs immediately after the rings have been placed on, so as to give a double twine through the rings.

When casting-off, try using a long No. 5 knitting pin with a knob on, and before commencing, stretch a rubber band over Nos. 1 and 2 pegs and over Nos. 30 and 31 pegs to prevent the loops from slipping off, removing the rubber bands when transferring the loops from the pin back on to the pegs. It is, however, useful to refix a rubber band on to Nos. 30 and 31 pegs whilst doing the final cast-off. Further, if you pull on the bottom of the bag as it comes away from each peg, you will find that there is very little gathering-up or narrowing of the bottom of the bag when casting-off is completed.

The board previously referred to will also be found very useful to have on your knees when you are reading Braille; it is really a portable table and useful for everyone in the home.

*Ashton-in-Makerfield.*

JIM SHAW.

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested in W. T. Scott's criticism of St. Dunstan and the "accident" that brought the war-blinded of the first World War to carry the St. Dunstan's badge. To me the fact that the house "St. Dunstan's" was available as a training centre was not an accident but a God-send. I do not believe in accidents but in God's purpose in all things, no matter how trivial it may seem.

I was rejected for the Greenwich Royal Naval College as a boy because of a large cyst close to my left eye. The doctor said that I should almost certainly be blind in that eye later, when the roots grew behind it. Doctors did not dare to take these things out fifty-five years ago. I had a fight and the other boy tore the cyst out with his knuckles.

I emigrated and came home to England on a Booth Line ship called the S.S. Dunstan (still in commission). I was blinded in France on May 26th, 1918.

I was born to be blind, born to go to St. Dunstan's, as surely as the ship S.S. Dunstan was waiting to bring me back. I believe that God had a job for me to do, and to do it I had to become proficient in braille reading.

I believe that St. Dunstan's is more than a mere name, and we who carry the torch of St. Dunstan's should try to rekindle other spiritual flames in the minds of others who have come to doubt that there is any divine purpose, and that even creation and war are just "accidents."

Yours sincerely,

*Castle Cary, Som.*

A. J. RADFORD.

### Mr. Lale

The Chairman, in his Notes, has referred to the forthcoming retirement of Mr. Lale, and many St. Dunstaners have expressed the wish to subscribe to a presentation to him.

Mr. Askew has offered to act as Honorary Treasurer of the Fund, and St. Dunstaners who desire to associate themselves with the presentation should send their subscriptions to him at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

### Placements

F. Nunn, Ilkeston, as a capstan operator with the Raleigh Cycle Company. Michael Oliver, West Wickham, as a shorthand typist with Messrs. Bailey Meters and Controls Ltd.

### "Bill" Harris

William J. Harris will be remembered by St. Dunstan's walkers everywhere. He came to our Regent's Park quarters and acted as trainer and escort to many of our men and attended regularly Tuesday evening training. He took part in all our events, from 3 miles to 25 miles (at Maidenhead), and the 15 at Wembley, and was our guide and friend until the outbreak of war. When the Walking Section got going after the Second War, W. J. was the first man we turned to. He now acts as handicapper, judge, and general adviser—and what better man would we have, for he has an amazing record, and I think it will interest many of our sportsmen if I print a few of the highlights.

W. J., known as "Bill" to all his friends, is 54, 5ft. 10½ in., and has been with London Transport (and its predecessors) for 38 years. In his off time he has footslogged the length of the Black Forest twice—and the Forest is 185 miles across—walked to the Lake District, and then roamed round for ten days, footed it to Wales and back, climbed among the mountains of the Austrian Tyrol and the Bavarian Alps, and spent a three week walking holiday in Brittany.

"Walking is in the family," he said, when congratulated on his fine record. His first love, however, was swimming. He was in the L.C.C. team after World War I, when he served as a wireless operator in the R.F.C. Then he did a bit of running—up to a mile. Then a spot of cycling. In 1923 he got the urge to walk, and fancied the London to Brighton Walk. He got as far as Crawley. In 1924, however, he finished the course in 10 hours 24 minutes. You'll notice he started the longest distance first.

Since then Bill has entered every Brighton Walk held up to 1948. He finished every time, except 1925 and 1948, when a chill and the worst conditions ever experienced in the history of the race compelled him to retire 12 miles from Brighton. He holds 20 medals—15 standards and 5 team—a record, for completing the Brighton Walks of 52 miles. In 1928 he was 5th, and his best time was 9 hours 1 minute. He is also a Centurion, a distinction he earned when he walked from London to Brighton and back in 1933.

As a member of the Tram and Trolley Bus Sports Association, Walking Section,

he has won every Association trophy for distances from 2 to 52 miles—the only member to win all trophies in one year, including the veterans' cup. Once, at Stamford Bridge, he entered a 1 mile running race, a two mile walk, and a two mile cycle race, and came third in each event—all in the same afternoon.

In 24 years Bill Harris has won 105 medals—one, which he greatly prizes, for representing Great Britain in a four day walk in Holland in 1928. In addition, he has won 160 prizes, including cups. He has walked more than 25,000 miles, and competed in over 500 events. He has many other interests. He has been a blood donor for many years. He himself has perhaps the best prize of all—good health.

Bill's advice to novices and newcomers is: Develop style first and foremost. Speed will follow. P. A.

### In the House

Sir Ian Fraser asked the Secretary of the Treasury, on February 21st, what effect the new proposals for retirement from the Civil Service would have upon the special classes of ex-Servicemen who joined the Civil Service after the 1914-1918 war, and upon disabled ex-Servicemen.

Mr. J. A. Boyd-Carpenter said that the retirement policy which he announced on February 5th applied to all Civil Servants, including ex-Servicemen and disabled men. All Civil Servants between 60 and 65 years of age who wished to stay, and for whom there was useful work, would be retained so long as they were fit and efficient; and in judging the fitness of disabled men, due regard would be paid to their disability.

### Blackpool Notes

This time of the year is usually rather quiet, but we enjoyed very successful outings to the Seaford Party, January 11th, and the Queen's Hotel Party, January 24th. On February 15th, at the special request of St. Dunstaners at the Home, we had a short service during the funeral of King George VI.

There were no big parties or outside entertainments on a large scale, but the four theatres per week were as popular as ever.

The doctor, having forbade an office atmosphere (flu!), all but the office counter and desk have been brought up to my newly enlarged room and I am finding it very pleasant, if rather cramped. B. V-D.

## The Wheel

What a boon the wheel has been to man. I was very forcibly reminded of this fact some time ago when asked: "Which, of all man's discoveries and inventions, in your opinion, has contributed most to human progress?" After some profound thinking I unequivocally awarded the palm to the wheel, and, when my questioner said he expected me to say the brain, I reminded him that the brain is none of man's invention. But even the brain is indebted to the wheel from the fact that its principle, having lent itself to so many of man's activities, has stimulated the inventive faculty and assisted in developing the seat of intelligence and centre of consciousness. We have only to let our thought wander along the road of man's progress to appreciate the part played by the wheel in the construction of this road.

Let us ponder on some of the ingredients which have contributed to the building of the road: printing, which has brought the written word to the masses and facilitated the spread of learning and culture on a scale otherwise impossible; the industrial machine, producing a variety and supply of goods almost limitless; transport, especially modern transport, which has almost annihilated space and reduced the size of the globe, and at the heart of it all is the wheel.

How many of the millions using car, bus, train and plane, or checking the time on their watches, give a thought to what has made those things possible?

For the birth of the wheel we have to delve back into the story of primitive man. When our ancestors decided to settle on the land they had to improvise tools with which to till the soil, and for a roller they cut the middle part from the trunk of a tree, and so the first wheel was born.

The sources of power have changed from horse, wind water steam and electricity, but the medium for utilising that power still remains the wheel.

T. ROGERS.

## St. Dunstaner Robbed

Our sympathy to Charles Bargery, whose tobacconist's shop in Hornsey was raided in the early hours of March 6th. A brick was thrown through the shop window and cigarette lighters to the value of over £20 taken.

## Talking Book Library

### February's Five

The reading contained in this handful of releases is good as well as varied. "Cat of Many Tails" is the book of the month winning by half a nostril from the other four.

"Henry VIII," by F. Hackett, reader Richard Wessell, is a serious biography of a picturesque and most effective monarch, which makes disgusting reading for anyone inclined to be squeamish, but for all his intriguing, Henry left behind him the basis of the Golden Age which followed later. Revolting reading and yet—!

"Ill met by Moonlight," by W. Stanley Moss, reader Norman Shelley, concerns Crete under German occupation. The kidnapping of the Commandant of the German garrison is both amusing and breathtaking, and the luck required to pull such a thing off was fantastic. Maybe it is a fairy story—I don't know!

"The Battle of Nerves and At the Gay Moulin," by Georges Simenon, reader Robert Gladwell, are a couple of satisfying detective stories. In the first, the pipe-smoking detective stakes his career that a man condemned for murder is innocent, re-opens the case by helping the condemned man escape, and after much excitement produces the correct murderer. All of that takes place in Paris. In the second story the scene shifts to Liège, where the same detective investigates a murder at the Gay Moulin, uncovering in the process a shadowy spy ring and a pair of youthful delinquents. Both tales are well told and not too lengthy. Fine light entertainment.

"Because of the Lockwoods" by Dorothy Whipple, reader Robin Holmes, is a romance of two families in which Lockwood, a solicitor, defrauds a widow and her three children at the start, and then exasperates the poor widow's family as patronising adviser until he is finally exposed and the bogey lifted. A pleasant, though somewhat ordinary, yarn.

"Cat of Many Tails," by Ellery Queen, reader Charles Richardson, has New York as a background. A multitude of nocturnal strangulations cause the Police Dept. to call in Ellery Queen to conduct investigations and New York suffers mass hysteria until the "Cat" is finally caught. Psychiatry is a strong element in the story, and it is all absorbingly horrible.

"NELSON."

## South African News

News of a number of old friends comes to us through the January issue of the South African "ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW."

Ken McIntyre went back to his old school again on October 26th when he unveiled a plaque at Selbourne College, East London, bearing the names of men who had attended the College and who had died on war service.

Invalids have been Bill Riley who has had to undergo an operation but is fully recovered now; Jim Ellis who has been in hospital receiving treatment for a duodenal ulcer but is back on the active list again; and Jim Rawlinson who is still having to take a long enforced rest owing to a faulty heart action.

Belated birthday greetings go out to St. Dunstaner Ashworth, who celebrated his 81st birthday on November 28th.

Tom and Mabs Hart, with young Christopher, have sailed from Durban for Cape Town. Tom, who has been in charge of the Physiotherapy Department at King Edward's Hospital for the past three years, is taking up private practice at the Cape.

Margaret Mason, daughter of our St. Dunstaner in Pietermaritzburg, was married to Mr. Leslie Young, of Durban, on November 24th.

## A Braille Centenary Lecture

The French Ambassador, His Excellency Rene Massigli, G.C.V.O., K.B.E., presided at a meeting at the Royal Society of Arts in London on March 5th, when a paper on "The Centenary of Louis Braille" was read by Mr. Vernon Barlow, Public Relations Officer of the National Institute for the Blind.

Mr. Barlow said that braille literature travelled from Britain to the far corners of the earth, and Britain's blind workers were producing goods and services valued at four million pounds a year. In remote lands braille presses were coming into being. A wealth of literature, volume upon volume of civilized thought and knowledge embodying centuries of human effort had seemed far beyond the reach of the blind, until a humble, selfless man, working in darkness, endured both blindness and tuberculosis to become one of the great benefactors of the human race.

No harm or hurt came to anyone from Louis Braille's victory; only succour for humanity in all the lands.

## Decompression Test

Our old friend, Charlie Durkin, tells us that his son, who is an employee of B.O.A.C., has been chosen as an Engineer Officer, and is now training for that post. One of the tests he had to undergo was a "decompression" check at the R.A.F. School, Farnborough. Here are his impressions:

"Report at 9 a.m. for transport to Farnborough for 'decompression check.' That's what the voice on the telephone said, and in the morning, five of us set out on this mission with an empty feeling in our stomachs and forced jokes on our lips. We were greeted by the doctor and his assistant, fitted with oxygen masks and head-sets, briefed as to what was to happen, signed forms accepting the risk, relieved of our watches and pens, and, with a final cheery word, led into the tank. A few minutes to settle in, plug in oxygen, test inter-comm., find something to read, and the door clanged shut. In the distance the sound of a pump starting, and the climb to 25,000 feet has started. The air gets colder and very shortly we are told we are there. A few minutes' pause and the voice from outside says, 'The command will be "3-2-1-Go." This is it! The moment we have waited for with, we all admit, trepidation. Oxygen high, all set, we acknowledge on the inter-comm., "3-2-1-Go." And it's happened. In about four seconds we have climbed to 40,000 feet, the change being marked by a hiss. For a few moments we sit in silence, broken only by five sighs of relief. Then we talk. There's nothing to it, etc., etc. A few minutes there, and the descent to ground level starts. Within about seven minutes we are down, the door is open, and we are out, to collect pens, watches, and, we feel, a well earned cup of tea."

## From Miss Pain

I would like to send my grateful thanks to all St. Dunstan's Physiotherapists who so generously subscribed to the delightful presentation which was given to me on February 9th. Your gifts are in constant use and they are giving me so much pleasure. What I am wanting now is to welcome you all to my home, and you cannot guess with what pride I will be showing you the lovely presents you have given me.

DOROTHY PAIN.

### Mr. Askew Honoured

At the Belgian Institute on Saturday, March 15th, M. de Loz, President of the Federation Nationale des Militaires Mutilés et Invalides de la Guerre, presented Mr. W. G. Askew, C.B.E., with a silver medal—the *Medaille de la Reconnaissance de la F.N.I.* (Civilian Branch). The Belgian Ambassador presided and representatives of the Belgian Armed Forces and of British societies, including Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, were present. The medal was a recognition of Mr. Askew's services as Secretary of St. Dunstan's to the well-being of the war-disabled generally and also of the services which St. Dunstan's has been able to render to Belgians, and of his advice given at an international conference held in Brussels.

### Simpson Services Club

St. Dunstaners from Brighton and London were guests at Simpson's, the famous Piccadilly firm, on Friday, March 14th, when they enjoyed a cabaret and dance. Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, Mr. Askew, and the Commandant and Matron from Ovingdean were present. The guests were met and welcomed by Dr. S. Leonard Simpson, Major Huskisson and Mrs. Boyer. Simpson's have conducted a Services Club for many years, and St. Dunstaners have frequently been their guests. On this occasion, representatives of the physiotherapy students at the N.I.B. were also present.

Sir Neville and Sir Ian paid their tribute to Dr. Simpson and his colleagues for their great generosity and for the services they and all their staff had rendered to St. Dunstan's, as well as to ex-Servicemen generally.

### Goods Left with Shopkeepers

St. Dunstaners may like to know of an interesting Bill which has been introduced to Parliament and is making some progress.

Under this Bill, any goods left with shopkeepers for repair, treatment, etc., and not collected after one year from the date that collection or delivery was to be made, may be sold by public auction by the shopkeeper unless a contract provides otherwise.

The shop-keeper, of course, must have made reasonable endeavours to trace the owner by writing to the known address, and before selling the goods he must formally notify the owner at that address as well as publicly announcing the sale.

### Ovingdean Notes

An annual event each February, and one which is always enjoyed, is the Southdown Motor Bus Company's Dinner and Dance at the Black Lion Hotel, Patcham. This year it took place on the first day of the month, and a large party of local St. Dunstaners, men from West House, and some from Ovingdean, were entertained.

Our congratulations and thanks go to Mr. Cheesman once again for providing another of his regular dances at the Arlington, Brighton. This time he celebrated his dance centenary.

### Shooting

During the month a shooting match was arranged between St. Dunstan's and the Brighton Police. The result? A win for St. Dunstan's (scores: St. Dunstan's 264 plus 4, against Brighton Police 264 plus 3). Our team consisted of Messrs. Redford, Walton (who scored the highest number of points—49 plus 2), Webster, Dennis, Osborne and Lipscombe.

The February monthly competition was won by No. 5 Team, consisting of J. Walton, C. Redford and H. Webster.

Teams of 3 competed, all teams firing against each other, making a total of 21 matches in all.

### Darts

The monthly competition resulted in a win for T. Rogers (T.B.) and H. Webster (S.S.).

The demonstration darts team visited the Cippenham Estate, Slough, British Legion Branch, on Friday, February 22nd, where they were entertained by the Legion members. On arrival at Slough, and after the demonstration, the team enjoyed the generous hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Relf.

### Sports

Local St. Dunstaners may be interested to know that the "Farmer Cup" St. Dunstan's Walking Race at Brighton will be held on Saturday, May 17th, this year, and will commence at 3 p.m. from the Brighton Aquarium. Further details later.

Ovingdean Sports Day.—The date has been fixed for Saturday, July 19th, and both Sir Ian and Lady Fraser will be present. The programme will follow the lines of last year. Mr. Jarrold hopes to have a record number of entries.

### Grandfathers

P. Appleby, Luton (his third grandchild); F. J. W. Westaway, Yeovil (his second).

### The Rest of the News

Michael Oliver, of West Wickham, the youngest St. Dunstaner ever to come to us, started his first job on February 25th, as a shorthand typist. Michael was blinded when he was 13, while on manoeuvres with the A.T.C. He has been to Worcester College and to the N.I.B. College for the Blind at Bridgnorth. He is now 20.

★ ★ ★

Private Speakman, V.C., agreed to hand a cheque to a treble chance pools winner on one condition—that the pools firm gave a cheque of £100 to Stewart Craig, a young New Zealand soldier blinded in Korea, and whom Private Speakman had met there. Stewart is now at Ovingdean.

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J. Nicol, of Hebburn, is standing as a Conservative candidate for the Urban Council at the elections in May.

★ ★ ★

F. C. Bentley, of Small Heath, Birmingham, has won a medal for dominoes. He is the only blind player in the league and, his wife says, he causes a sensation at every club he goes to play. She adds, "If they could see the jobs he does in the house since I have been so ill, they would swear he could see—he lets nothing beat him."

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The keenest supporter at Southend United's Cup tie battle with Sheffield United was A. F. Lenderyou. Major Alfred Hay, the Southend chairman, heard of his interest and gave him tickets.

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Tom Moorley, of Chaddesden, Derby, is Assistant Secretary of the local Horticultural Association. He is responsible for all the typing and official correspondence.

★ ★ ★

Ted Miller, of Leamington Spa, wrote an article for the Blind Veterans' Association in America, as a result of a meeting with an American visitor to Warwick Castle last summer. Ted is a guide to the Castle.

★ ★ ★

St. Dunstaners were among the Far East ex-prisoners of war at the Reunion and Festival of Remembrance, held by the Far East Prisoner of War Social Club at the Royal Albert Hall on February 16th.

J. W. Clare, of Brockenhurst, is a keen British Legion member, and he has recently made a very fine frame for a photograph of His Late Majesty the King, which has been presented to the Brockenhurst Branch by its Chairman, Lieut.-Col. F. Hacker. His local paper said "The frame is a fine specimen of his handicraft."

★ ★ ★

A message of thanks from the Queen has been received by Mr. and Mrs. S. Batten, of Bridgwater, who wrote a letter of sympathy upon the death of His Majesty King George VI.

★ ★ ★

Gerry Brereton was the guest artist at a Concert at the Royal Festival Hall, London, given by George Melachrino and his Orchestra, on March 8th. Gerry was billed as "the sensational new singer."

★ ★ ★

The death has just been reported of Jack Raine, at one time a trumpeter in Jack Hylton's band, who taught the trumpet to many of our trainees. They will hear of his death with regret.

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"Andy" Needham has taken over a stationer's, tobacconist's and confectioner's shop at Swindon, which was opened officially on February 25th, by Lieut. Col. A. E. Beswick, President of Swindon British Legion.

### Young St. Dunstaners

Denis Hicks (Palmers Green) passed in six subjects out of seven in his Certificate of Education.

Philumena Sephton is one of the principal dancers in "Oklahoma."

Doris Cunliffe, who is 16, has been chosen Eccleston British Legion Carnival Queen for 1952. The Carnival takes place on May 14th. There were twenty-five finalists.

Margery Shaw (Ashton-in-Makerfield) has received her silver medal for passing, with honours, the teaching grade examination—A.R.C.M.

### Marriages

Ivor Green, Whittlesey, on February 9th, to Miss Eileen Teresa Wilson.

On December 22nd, Royston Ridley (Finchley) to June Hammond.

Maureen Cavanagh (Salford) to John Hamby.

## "In Memory"

### Private William Morton Allen, *South Wales Borderers*

With deep regret we record the death of W. M. Allen, of Scunthorpe. He served with his regiment from August 28th, 1914, until July 13th, 1916, but although he was severely wounded in the head in 1915, it was not until as recently as 1948 that he came to St. Dunstan's. He was a permanent resident with us until December, 1951, when he joined his son. This happy home life, however, was very short, for he was rushed to hospital on February 26th and died a few days later. A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral. Our deep sympathy is extended to his relatives, especially Mr. and Mrs. G. Allen.

### Private Samuel Barlow, *1st Norfolk Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of S. Barlow, of Grimston, King's Lynn, at the age of 56.

Admitted to St. Dunstan's in June, 1915, he trained in mat-making and boot-repairing, and he carried on with mats until 1938, when he took up poultry. His death took place suddenly on March 6th.

The flowers at the funeral included a wreath of poppies from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

He leaves a widow and family, all of whom are grown up except a little girl of eleven. Our deep sympathy goes out to them.

### Saddler John Edwards, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Edwards, of London, N.W.1, well known to London Club members. He was 61.

Discharged from the Army in April, 1919, he came to us in 1923. He trained in joinery and continued that craft. He had, however, been ill for some time. He was admitted to St. Thomas's Hospital and he died there on February 28th.

The many flowers at the funeral included Sir Ian's wreath of poppies, and wreaths from colleagues of the London Club and from the British Red Cross. Those present at the funeral included Miss Ibbettson, Matron of the London Club, Mr. W. T. Scott, Streatham (St. Dunstaner), and Mr. Charles Gibbon, of St. Dunstan's Staff. The British Red Cross and the Cricklewood and Willesden Branch of the Old Contemptibles were also represented.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his relatives.

### Merchant Seaman Nils Nilsen

From South Africa we hear with deep regret of the death of Nils Nilsen, who passed away on November 7th, after a short illness. Nils will be remembered with affection by all who trained at Tembani. He was a Norwegian merchant seaman who was blinded as a result of stab wounds when he was attacked whilst his ship was in port at Durban. Blinded in a strange country, whose language he did not know, and not able to return to his native Norway, which was occupied by the enemy, fate had dealt Nils a cruel blow, and yet from the day of his arrival he proved himself an outstanding character. He was popular with trainees and staff alike. He soon learned to speak English well, and, his training completed, he was set up in a tobacconist kiosk in Wynberg. He lived alone and, until his illness, led a successful and almost entirely independent life. His example reflected great credit to St. Dunstan's, and all who knew him will mourn his passing.

## Births

ASH.—On March 8th, to the wife of M. Ash, of Highbridge, Somerset, a son—Stephen John.

EDWARDS.—On March 16th, to Mrs. D. M. Edwards, of Yeovil, a daughter.

FOSTER.—On February 7th, to the wife of E. Foster, of Barnsley, a daughter.

HIGGINS.—On February 2nd, to the wife of T. W. Higgins, of Cricklewood, a son—Peter Robert.

NOLAN.—On February 25th, to the wife of J. Nolan, of Acton, a son—David John.

VERSTER.—On November 8th, to the wife of John Verster, of Somerset West, South Africa, a son—John Raymond.

WATKINS.—On March 2nd, to the wife of D. Watkins, of Aylesbury, a daughter—Patricia Anne.

WILSON.—On January 9th, to the wife of R. G. Wilson, of Littleton, near Somerton, a son—Robert Lindsay.

## Marriages

BUTTERY—BINGHAM.—On December 29th, at St. Giles, West Bridgeford, Frank Buttery to Miss Muriel Francis Bingham.

WILLIAMS.—In Australia, A. D. Williams, recently of Petersham, and now of Strathfield, N.S.W., Australia.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

GIMBRERE.—To Alice Gimbrere, of Wembley, whose baby son, David Angus, died on February 29th.

STREET.—To W. Street, of Evesham, in the loss of his sister, on February 28th.