

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Mrs. Chadwick Bates Retires

MRS. E. M. CHADWICK BATES, O.B.E., who has been associated with St. Dunstan's for thirty-seven years, first as Secretary of our organisation and later as Organising Secretary to the South African Committee of St. Dunstan's, has retired, having reached pensionable age. Mrs. Bates is at present recuperating after a severe illness.

Mrs. Bates was one of Sir Arthur Pearson's principal assistants, and became first Secretary of St. Dunstan's in 1915. For her services in the First World War she received the O.B.E. She held the office of Secretary until 1930, when she went to South Africa to take charge of our organisation there.

During the Second World War, Mrs. Bates was responsible for the important work of organising "Tembani," the training centre in South Africa to which South African and British blinded soldiers came from the Middle East, prior to their return to their own homes. In the words of Jimmy Ellis, himself a Tembanian, "those who had the good fortune to know Batey during Tembani days will remember with deep gratitude the wonderful way in which she restored our confidence and hopes for the future. Her wise counsel set each one of us on the road to a future of hope and happiness."

"Batey"—as she is known to every South African in the Union, as well as to thousands of other St. Dunstaners who know her personally and are now scattered all over the world—will be much missed from her office in Cape Town and on her annual journeys through the Union and Rhodesia. Her bright and cheerful presence was always most welcome in the homes of her St. Dunstaners, while her enthusiasm for her work, and her attractive personality, inspired thousands of helpers in all parts of the Union to raise funds for St. Dunstan's and to take a practical interest in its men.

Mrs. G. I. Swan, M.B.E., who joined the South African staff of St. Dunstan's over a year ago on the recommendation of Mrs. Bates, has been appointed to the position of Organising Secretary in succession to Mrs. Bates. Mrs. Swan was previously Chief Organiser and Secretary of the Overseas Section of the Red Cross and St. John Fund, in London. Mr. James (Jimmy) Ellis, well known to St. Dunstaners in Great Britain as well as in South Africa, continues his work as Appeals Organiser there.

A number of St. Dunstaners in South Africa have already expressed a wish to subscribe to some gift as a token of their affection and esteem, and a small committee has

been formed to organise a Presentation Fund for this purpose; it is understood that this committee will address a letter to old Tembanians who are living in Britain.

I think that St. Dunstaners in the Old Country who knew Mrs. Bates personally may also like to express their affection for her by making a presentation either separately or by adding their contributions to the South African gift. To avoid any misunderstanding or overlapping in this matter, I suggest that Tembanians await this letter from the South African committee and then answer it direct, and that other St. Dunstaners in Britain should send their subscriptions to Mr. W. G. Askew, C.B.E., (1 South Audley Street, W.1), who has kindly offered to act as Honorary Treasurer for the British Fund.

Some time in 1917, Sir Arthur Pearson asked me to work for St. Dunstan's, and it was to Mrs. Bates that I went for instruction. I can well remember at the old house in Regent's Park going to her office from time to time to hear her interviewing, dictating letters and giving instructions, and then being given packets of letters which I had to answer for her and which she corrected and discussed with me. Thus I began to learn my job from one who knew it so well, and subsequently, when I became Chairman, Mrs. Bates was my right hand as Secretary of St. Dunstan's until she went to South Africa. No one, I think, in the history of St. Dunstan's, has evoked such warm feelings of affection and regard as Mrs. Bates, and all who knew her personally, as well as many who know her by repute, will join in wishing her a good recovery from her illness and happiness in her retirement.

IAN FRASER.

Handless St. Dunstaner Wins Degree

David Bell, M.A.

St. Dunstaners everywhere will join with us in congratulating David Bell upon obtaining his Master of Arts Degree at Edinburgh University. David graduated at the University on July 4th.

First training at Tembani, South Africa, he came to Church Stretton in 1943. There he met Miss Sybil Page, whom he married in 1945. He took over a tobacconist's business in Edinburgh, and within a few years became one of our most successful shop-keepers. A little over two years ago he interested himself in politics, and began a special post-war course of study for his M.A. degree at Edinburgh University. He has completed the course in two years, the normal term of study being three years. He took Second Class Honours in Social Anthropology, and also studied economics, moral philosophy and English literature.

David has now applied to the University to study for the Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Personal

Frank Gresson, a St. Dunstaner, and his band have a few vacant bookings for dances, weddings, or social functions. They appeared at the Royal Albert Hall, May 30th, 1952. Enquiries to Thornton Heath 6871.

Festival Gardens, Battersea Park

St. Dunstaners are reminded that the Directors of the Festival Pleasure Gardens at Battersea Park have invited St. Dunstaners to visit the Pleasure Gardens free of charge from Monday, July 28th, to Saturday, August 2nd, inclusive. Admission is from 11.30 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. Each St. Dunstaner may bring his wife or one escort free, but additional friends or members of the family would have to pay the ordinary entrance fee. No tickets are required, but St. Dunstaners must wear their badges.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser will attend a ceremony at the Gardens to inaugurate this Ex-Servicemen's Week at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, July 28th.

From the Chairman's Postbag

DEAR SIR IAN,

I always look forward to reading your Chairman's Notes.

Regarding spent matches, it is quite a simple operation to slip them into the back of the box. Several can be disposed of in this way before the necessity arises of throwing them away altogether, which can be done at a favourable opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Bedford.

W. V. SARGENT.

London Club Notes

The London Club will be closed for the holidays after the dominoes on July 31st, and will reopen on September 1st, except for the three Saturdays, 16th, 23rd and 30th August, when it will be open from 2 until 10 p.m.

The annual match with the R.A.F. took place on June 28th, amid blazing sunshine. Unfortunately, the main body of R.A.F. boys arrived late owing to their coach breaking down, and we had a three-cornered match, as you will see in the results. St. Dunstan's won the cup, and the outstanding walker of the afternoon was that grand veteran, Archie Brown, who was the first St. Dunstaner in with the splendid time of 43 min. 40 sec. We were delighted to welcome Sir Ian and Lady Fraser. Sir Ian, who acted as starter and presented the prizes, paid tribute to the sportsmanship of all who took part in the event, and put up a special prize for the R.A.F. lads who, owing to their late arrival, had a little race all to themselves. We shall look forward to meeting these chaps on their own ground next year.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge

On July 21st, twenty-four St. Dunstaners went to the Headquarters of the London Contract Bridge Association to play against the Masters, who included many of the best bridge players in the country. We had a very enjoyable afternoon, the winning St. Dunstan's team of four being Messrs. Wiltshire, Douglas, Thompson and Collins. Mrs. Stern, the wife of the late Dr. Paul Stern, whose system we all play, was Captain of the Masters for the afternoon, and the whole proceedings were very capably managed by that old friend of St. Dunstan's bridge players, Mr. A. E. Field.

H. GOVER.

Indoor Section

The Section has had a quiet month. On June 13th we proceeded by coach to the Park Royal Vehicle Club's Sports Club for a social evening, with darts, cribbage, and dominoes. Socially, the evening was a great success, but, sad to relate, our darts team at last met their Waterloo, being defeated by a very strong team. However, this is the first loss in nine matches, and the team have had a very creditable season.

The cribbage pair and the dominoes pair both won their games and, so far, the cribbage pair are undefeated.

All in all, the Indoor Section have had a very successful season.

I hope for the support of the Section in the coming winter season; we are already booking fixtures for the autumn and winter.

C. J. WALKER.

Outdoor Section

May I remind you to send your entries for the Swimming Gala on October 4th. The first walk of the winter season will be the 2 miles at Highgate Harriers, so will you also send your entries for this event.

T. GAYGAN.

St. Dunstan's 5 Mile and Match with R.A.F. (Halton), Regent's Park, 28th June, 1952 Also Triangular Match with Metropolitan Police

Order of Finish	Time	All.	H'cp. Pos. in	
			Time	H'cp.
Towers	R.A.F. 43-14	Scr.	43-14	7
Brown	St. D. 45-40	4-30	41-10	2
Williamson	St. D. 46-20	3-15	43-05	5
Miller	St. D. 46-49	3-40	43-09	6
Collins	M.P. 47-15			
Spencer	M.P. 47-40			
Fitch	M.P. 47-50			
Johnston	R.A.F. 48-32	8-10	40-22	1
John	M.P. 49-14			
Burns	M.P. 50-16			
Cryan	St. D. 50-34	7-20	43-14	7
Stafford	St. D. 51-00	8-30	42-30	4
Hawkridge	M.P. 51-34			
Liddle	M.P. 52-18			
Dyer	R.A.F. 52-37	6-40	45-57	9
Dennis	St. D. 54-02	12-20	41-42	3
Denmead	St. D. 54-17	7-45	46-32	10
Tutton	St. D. 56-05	7-10	48-55	11
Gaygan	St. D. disqualified			

Match—St. Dunstan's 9, R.A.F. 24.

Triangular Match—St. Dunstan's 9, Police 18, R.A.F. 24.

Timekeeper and Handicapper—W. J. Harris.

St. Dunstan's 5 Mile, Regent's Park, June 17th, 1952, and Match with Bowring A.C.

Order of Finish	Time	All.	H'cp. Pos. in	
			Time	H'cp.
Gum	Bowring 42-55			
Gaygan	St. D. 43-18	Scr.	43-18	3*
Williamson	St. D. 44-47	1-50	42-57	2
Brown	St. D. 45-38	3-20	43-18	3*
Miller	St. D. 46-13	2-05	44-08	6
Howse	Bowring 46-56			
Cryan	St. D. 48-28	7-35	40-53	1
Sykes	Bowring 49-12			
Mimms	Bowring 49-16			
Taylor, D.	Bowring 49-37			
Stafford	St. D. 49-58	6-40	43-18	3*
Ferguson	Bowring 49-59			
Philpson	Bowring 51-52			
Taylor, G.	Bowring 52-24			
Shephard	Bowring 52-34			
Ellingford	Bowring 53-36			
Lancaster	Bowring 58-10			
Porter	Bowring 58-11			

*Dead heat for 3rd place.

Match—St. Dunstan's 32, Bowring A.C. 46.

Handicapper and Timekeeper—W. J. Harris.

Presentation to Miss Pain

The London Club was crowded on Tuesday, July 8th, for the presentation to Miss Pain of a tallboy and gold wrist watch, the gift of St. Dunstaners all over the country.

Mr. Askew, who had acted as Honorary Treasurer of the Presentation Fund, said it was thought appropriate that it should be made at the Club, for here all London men at some time or another foregathered. Sir Ian, in the REVIEW, had paid tribute to the work done by Miss Pain. This gift was an expression of the warm regard and admiration of St. Dunstaners for Miss Pain's help and friendship, and of their thanks. At Christmas time Miss Pain was going overseas to Canada, Australia and New Zealand. She would take with her on her travels their good wishes, but more than that, they wished her happiness and good luck always. Mr. Askew then called on Mr. Percy Ashton, Secretary of the London Club, to make the presentation on behalf of St. Dunstaners. Percy then handed to Miss Pain the gold watch, which bore the inscription, "D.A.P., from St. Dunstan's friends, 1952." (The tallboy, he said, was too bulky to bring along). In a brief but model speech he said that when St. Dunstaners came to the London Club they relaxed; when they relaxed they thought of their very good friends. Miss Pain had been more than a friend, and he spoke for St. Dunstaners everywhere when he said "Thank you, Miss Pain, for everything."

Miss Pain said simply: "It is not easy to say thank you. You have given me your trust and friendship, which have made my life rich. Your gifts are very precious to me. They will be—I will not say a reminder, because I do not need a reminder of you—but rather a knowledge of your love and friendship."

Mr. H. Crabtree then called for three St. Dunstan's cheers for Miss Pain, and as their echo still rang round the Club rooms, the gathering broke up and Miss Pain took the opportunity of meeting many old friends until the members settled down to their evening's whist.

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As in past years, there will be no REVIEW published for the month of August.

Miss Pain's Thanks

Once again I send my heartfelt thanks to all those St. Dunstan's friends who have given me such a wonderful presentation.

The gold wrist watch and the beautiful tallboy will be a constant source of pleasure and inspiration, knowing they have been given with the good wishes of so many true friends.

DOROTHY A. PAIN.

Braille Centenary Celebrations

As announced in last month's REVIEW, Mr. W. G. Askew, C.B.E., Secretary of St. Dunstan's, represented our organisation at the ceremony in Paris at which the ashes of Louis Braille were buried in the Pantheon. The remains had been brought from the tiny cemetery at Coupvray, where Louis Braille was buried in 1852.

The President of the French Republic, Monsieur Vincent Auriol, attended.

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The Braille Centenary Exhibition at the National Institute for the Blind, was opened on June 11th by H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The exhibition, which closed on July 5th, proved a tremendous success. Thousands of people visited it, and the Organising Committee is to be congratulated upon a fascinating display. Even those who have followed the development of braille, and devices for the blind, could not fail to be intensely interested in the exhibits. One—a prototype of a new machine to print braille—will revolutionise the printing of newspapers and magazines.

This plant, when developed, will, it is hoped, facilitate the production of any number of copies of braille books on thinner and cheaper paper than that now used. Since the dots are solid (a specially developed plastic ink is pumped through a stencil on to the paper) both sides can be used.

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Mr. Tommy Milligan has presented to the Braille Room at Ovingdean a bust of Louis Braille, to mark the centenary of this great man. The bust, which is just under eight inches high, is a plaster copy of a work executed in 1853 by the sculptor, Jouffroy. It has been accepted with great pleasure and appreciation of Tommy's generous and kindly thought.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

No Messing About With Braille

There is in use to-day a good system of braille shorthand, and an even better braille script; to make a synthesis of both will lead inevitably to ambiguity and the braking of reading speed.

Some years ago the Braille Revision Committee, after much hard and imaginative work, hammered out of the old, semi-religious script a system of braille more in keeping with modern needs. During their labours this committee had to keep in mind three opposing claims, namely, the saving of space, the fluency of reading, and the difficulties of teaching the newly-blinded a formidable collection of contractions, abbreviations and complicated rules. Now, although one may criticise specific points, such as the dropping of the capital sign, they reached a general compromise between the rival claims, which was undeniably fair.

The saving of space is quite a simple matter; all you have to do is increase the number of contracted prefixes and suffixes, but if different groups of blind people are to have their own braille systems, those readers whose tastes lie in reading will have to develop a degree of mental dexterity equalled only by the multi-linguistic.

Yours faithfully,

DOUGLAS WARDEN.

Shepherds Bush Green, W.2.

DEAR EDITOR,

May I, as an avid brailist, add my support to the Chairman's suggestion on the subject of contracting recurring names in the REVIEW. I have for long thought we could use contractions, not to be found in any text book, but which the context of the sentence would leave no doubt as to the word represented, such as "The Club paid a rtn visit . . .", "We held our anl meeting . . ." Again, there are many words beginning with ex where the e could be dropped without phonetic loss, for xample, xpres, xtend, xams, etc., etc.

I submit the above suggestion in the belief that there could be a saving of time and space, without any attendant confusion.

Yours sincerely,

T. ROGERS.

Ovingdean.

DEAR EDITOR,

The First Factory Worker?

The Chairman's speech on the disabled in industry resulted in discussion as to which St. Dunstaner was the first industrial worker in a factory. John Davies, of Darwen, Lancs., took a job in a radio factory at Coventry in September, 1924.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

Ovingdean.

DEAR EDITOR,

A "Free Do"

On Friday, June 20th, a large party of men and their wives set out for Clacton by taxi. This was an invitation from the London Taxi Drivers, and a grand day it was. Our first stop was the British Legion at Chelmsford, where we had tea and sandwiches, then on to Clacton for the grandest lunch we have had for years. The afternoon was ours to do as we liked, and deck chairs were free. My party and I went for a sea trip. Then back to Cordy's Restaurant for a high tea.

At six o'clock we left for home, stopping again at Chelmsford for beer and sandwiches, and a grand concert given by the taxi drivers, and if Jock (the padre) and Sylvester have to pack up taxi driving, I'm sure they can always earn their living with their songs and jokes.

This was a day enjoyed by all, and we would have to travel far and wide before we meet such a grand lot of chaps.

JOCK MACFARLANE.

Ilford.

DEAR EDITOR,

Forty Years After

I read with interest the letter by G. Fallowfield about meeting his pre-war chum at St. Dunstan's. I had a similar experience, but mine went back to my school days.

In the summer of 1947, I went to West House for a holiday. I reported at the office and an orderly showed me to my ward, leaving my daughter in the hall. When we arrived at Ward 5 the orderly said "This is your bed, mister. There is only one other bed in the ward and the man is asleep on it. Don't make a lot of noise, because he doesn't like being awakened from his afternoon sleep," and

he left me to unpack. Whilst I was unpacking, the fellow on the bed woke up. "Hello," he said. I replied, "Hello, chum; my name is Hamilton, what's yours?" "What, Benny Hamilton," and I replied "Yes." He sat up on the bed, grasped my hand, pumped it up and down and said, "Well, I am pleased to see you, Benny." "I can see you are," I said, "but what is your name?" He replied "Fred Alcock." "What, Fred Alcock from Ecklington?" and he said "Yes." Then we started reminiscing. After 10 that night we again met and started "swopping knives" again. When I heard the birds whistling outside I looked at my watch and remarked "Do you know, it's after five." We never slept at all that night.

I had left my home town in 1907; he had left his in 1906, so we had not met for over 40 years. When I had last seen him he was a tall, willowy lad, about as far through as a tram ticket, but when I ran my fingers over him, he was over 16 stone I said, "You've had a good home somewhere," and he replied, "I've been in West House for some years."

I also met another fellow in St. Dunstan's who worked under me when he was a boy in pre-1914 days, but that's another story.

Yours sincerely,

Thetford.

BENNY HAMILTON.

DEAR EDITOR,

A group of physiotherapists gathered at Ovingdean on Saturday, June 14th, for a lecture and practical demonstration under the skilful guidance of Mr. T. Roden, M.R.O., in the art of manipulation. Much ground was covered, and without doubt we all benefited enormously from this unselfish act on the part of "Terry," as we affectionately call him. Here was a portrayal of the motto, "Service before Self," for much time and a great deal of thought must have gone into the preparation of this whole day's work. There are others to follow.

I desire to offer publicly on behalf of my colleagues and myself our grateful thanks and appreciation for his thought on our behalf, and add that I am certain the knowledge gained will enhance our practice, and more particularly the younger of our profession, in the future.

Yours very sincerely,

Salisbury.

EDWARD SLAUGHTER.

[This was one of a number of lectures arranged by Terry.—ED.]

Increases in Pensions Allowances

The Government have decided to make the following increases:—

Attendance Allowance:

The 10/- allowance will be increased to 12/6.

The 20/- allowance will be increased to 25/-.

The 30/- allowance will be increased to 37/6.

The 40/- allowance will be increased to 50/-.

The increases will become payable on the pension pay-day nearest to July 31st.

Allowance for Wives or Adult Dependants Payable to Men in Receipt of Unemployment Supplement:

The allowance will be increased from 16/- to 21/6.

Allowance for First Child of Men in Receipt of Unemployment Supplement:

The allowance will be increased from 10/- to 10/6.

These increases follow questions Sir Ian put to the Minister of Pensions in the House after the Budget was introduced recently.

We are informed by the Ministry of Pensions that the increases will be made automatically and there will be no necessity, therefore, for St. Dunstan's men to apply for them.

Another Concession

Speaking at a Derbyshire British Legion Rally at Chatsworth, on Saturday, July 5th, Sir Ian Fraser, the Legion's President, said: "We must work for a 90s. basic pension, and should argue that it is just and right and overdue. Yet we must not expect to win 90s. in one glorious break-through, but rather by a series of hard-fought battles steadfastly sustained."

"Only this week we had a minor success in the pension field. Following an amendment I tabled to the Pensions Increase Bill—which gives more to retired civil servants and others—the Government has promised that £104 a year of a war pension will be disregarded in applying a Means Test under the Bill. This is an advance of £52 on the previous position."

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T. Beckett, of Lurgan, who is with the United Kingdom Optical Co., Ltd., is giving every satisfaction, says his manager. He is very popular with his workmates and, in fact, with all the staff. When the Minister of Labour, Sir Walter Monckton, visited the factory, he was photographed with the Minister.

Some Impressions of England

by DONALD MCPHEE, O.B.E.

The long voyage from New Zealand draws to a close when the Bishop Rock lighthouse comes into view, and a few hours later the Lizard and the coast of England is watched from every vantage point on the ship. Some of the passengers are visiting England for the first time, others are returning to their loved ones, and there are the seasoned travellers who have made frequent visits to the homeland, but the sight of the green and cultivated fields, the hedgerows, never fails to stir the emotions, and all view the slowly moving scene in silence. Then Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, and we move slowly up the Solent in the wake of those majestic liners, the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth, and finally we are berthed at the port of Southampton. The excitement is intense and, with efficient organisation, we are soon through the Customs; two hours later we leave in the train for Waterloo and London. This is my third visit to England, although it is twenty-seven years since I was here last. As was the case on previous occasions, my thoughts mingled with the past and I felt the power of English tradition, which had been so great an influence in shaping the history of the world. In recent years it has been said that Britain is on the wane as a world power. I find this hard to believe, and although her economic position is in jeopardy, I was anxious to find whether the British character—the real strength of any country—had changed.

A warm welcome awaited us at Waterloo station, where a number of relatives and friends had gathered to meet us. A St. Dunstan's car waited to take us to our hotel. We drove past many of the old landmarks—Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, Piccadilly, Regent Street, St. James's Palace, Buckingham Palace—all as stately as ever. Baker Street was familiar ground as I had lived, in 1917, 1918 and 1919, at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park. Old memories were quickly revived. For the first week, my wife, my daughter and I visited the city daily, travelling on buses, in taxis, and in private cars, and my first impression was of the enormous increase in the London traffic. One can get some idea of it when it is realised that eighty thousand vehicles pass Hyde Park Corner every day. Also we travelled on the three layers of traffic

underground, did some business at the banks, shipping companies, some shopping, and everywhere we found courtesy, kindness, and a willingness to give good service. With all this great increase in traffic, all drivers of vehicles remain cool and there is no confusion. London drivers have a code of their own, and they should be an example to the rest of the world, and especially to New Zealand.

To see St. Paul's standing in an area which was devastated all around by bombing is a most inspiring sight.

During the first week in London we listened to a debate in the House of Commons, and I felt strongly that our system of democracy could not satisfactorily be replaced. Neither Mr. Churchill nor any of the more prominent Ministers was in the House, but we did see Sir Ian Fraser come into the Chamber, alone, and go to his seat. Afterwards we enjoyed lunch at the House of Commons with Sir Ian and his charming Lady Fraser.

On two occasions I enjoyed lunch at St. Dunstan's, Marylebone Road, and the afternoons were spent discussing questions of training, welfare, etc., with the various heads of departments. I also visited the Braille Centenary Exhibition, and although I have to see a great deal more, I am convinced that the services to blinded Service men and civilian blind are of a very high standard.

The war has certainly left its mark on the English people. The characteristic reserve is still more impersonal, even to the point of indifference to strangers, but behind all this there is a strong resolve to help Britain back on to an even keel.

We in New Zealand share equally your great affection for Her Majesty the Queen and all the Royal family. Her Majesty is a symbol of our unity, stronger than any legislation, or any agreement on paper. Long may she reign to maintain and foster those bonds of Empire.

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From New South Wales, Australia, comes a cheery note from C. Hills. Charlie will be remembered by quite a number of men in England. He says "We oldsters are looking forward to a visit from Miss Pain. I see Don Gibson whenever I go to town and we swap the latest doings, both at the School and here. Wishing to be kindly remembered to any of the really old lads, and also any members of the staff who can recall '15-'16."

Visitors to Britain

We have been very glad indeed to welcome to Britain during the past month Dr. W. J. Oxenham, from Canada, here on a short holiday with Mrs. Oxenham; G. V. Watson, of Victoria, Australia, who, with Mrs. Watson, is enjoying six months' extended leave, and R. Pilon, of Canada, who, with his wife, is in England for an extended holiday.

From St. Dunstan's Review

(South Africa)

We learn

THAT Bob Owen, Pietermaritzburg, has been spending a short holiday with John Verster, at Somerset West.

THAT Sam Schemper recently had a reunion in Johannesburg with old friends of his training days.

THAT Ken Storath keeps a steady trade going at his shop.

THAT Frank Mandy still catches the business man's train from Krugersdorp to Johannesburg, where he spends a busy day massaging patients in a doctor's clinic.

THAT Polly Botha finds more than enough patients to keep him busy at the hospital at Germiston.

THAT Tom Hart arrived in Cape Town from Durban, at the beginning of the year, was not long in starting work with Jimmy Crawford, and that at the end of March took over the practice when Jimmy went into a well-earned retirement.

THAT his retirement will begin with a long holiday in Europe with Mrs. Crawford.

Bowls

Albert Mason, of Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, has become a playing member of his local Bowling Club. He is a very keen player and is often to be seen, resplendent in club blazer, sending his woods up the rink, achieving a high degree of accuracy.

Although bowls has not been taken up widely in Great Britain—only a few individual St. Dunstaners are players—the game has been taken up almost generally by Australian blinded ex-Servicemen. Joe Lynch is Chairman of the Victorian Blinded Soldiers' Bowling Club, L. T. Hoult is Manager, and A. E. McConnell is Press Correspondent. All are 1914—1918 men, with the exception of Bill Gray. Bill is twenty-six and partially paralysed, but his game is improving so rapidly that his father-in-law, Albert Aldersley, blinded in 1914—1918, is doing an extra bit of practice to keep up with him.

Reunions

The Irish meetings took place in June. At Belfast, the Lord Mayor welcomed the guests, where Mr. W. R. Knox, Chairman, Northern Area, British Legion, was also present. Capt. E. Oliver Humphries, Chairman of the Southern Area, British Legion, was at Dublin, on the 11th, and at Cork, two days later, the Lord Mayor was the guest of honour. Miss Pain was at all the meetings.

July began with the Bedford Meeting, on the third. Everyone was delighted to meet Lady Fraser there. Mr. Mackay read a message from Sir Ian. Retired members of the staff present included Miss Pain, Mr. Lale and Mr. Ottaway. One of the happiest touches was supplied by the confectioner who iced the cake. On top, in braille, he had written "Fondest greetings!"

Young St. Dunstaners

Gerald Fisher (Glasgow) has obtained his degree of M.A. at the University of Glasgow, with honours in Political Economy and Political Science.

Stuart Eccles (Wigan) has obtained his B.Sc. (Tech.) with honours in Electricity and English.

Edward Brockie was capped Master of Arts at Aberdeen University on July 4th.

Brenda Hazel (London, S.W.19) has obtained her B.Sc. at Nottingham University.

At the prize-giving of North Gloucestershire Technical College, Charles Dembenki received the National Federation of Building Trades Employers' prize for plumbing.

Peter Story, Ashford, has passed his intermediate examination for the Royal Institute of British Architects, and Harry Burnett, Sutton, Surrey, has been awarded the Teaching Diploma of Art (Edinburgh).

Marriages

Colin Pink, Monkton, near Ramsgate, on May 31st, to Diana Barbara Kennett.

Margaret Walden, Norbury, on June 21st, to John Brian McConnell.

Harold Calvert, Ormskirk, on May 31st, to Hilda Hayes.

On June 14th, Margaret Davies (Meols), to Harry Bury, B.Sc. Margaret has a B.A. degree.

Blackpool Notes

Blackpool is in the news again. March was the last time we were mentioned, so we have some time to make up.

On the afternoon of Thursday, May 8th, we had a visit from the well-known singing star from "Musical Hall" and "Variety Bandbox," Jimmy Young (who was "topping the bill" at the Palace Theatre), and his very charming wife, Sally Douglas, who will be remembered for her work with Geraldo's Orchestra. The visit was arranged by our own singer, Gerry Brereton.

After this the boys were assembled in the Lounge, where Jimmy sang some songs in his usual effortless style, then Mr. Young suggested that Gerry Brereton should sing, and he duly obliged. Everyone had enjoyed a wonderful half-hour, and Jimmy Young, replying to a vote of thanks, said that he and Mrs. Young had enjoyed every minute of the visit. He also said how impressed they were, and were looking forward to visiting Ovingdean when next in Brighton. A message from Blackpool to Ovingdean: You have a treat in store, so keep the piano tuned.

On May 17th a coach load of revellers set out, at 9.30 a.m., to visit Leeds, where they had lunch at the Victoria Hotel. In the afternoon they visited the Empire Theatre as the guests of the Philharmonic Society, who produced—most successfully—"Good Night, Vienna." A tired, but happy, family returned at 11.30 p.m. Our St. Dunstaner, Ernie Russell, was responsible for the joy of the revellers.

On the morning of May 30th, the Directors of Middleton Towers Holiday Camp sent two coaches to convey St. Dunstaners in and out of Blackpool, with wives and staff, to the camp, to join their comrades who were there for the week.

The second annual Grocers' Outing took place on June 18th—leaving the Home about 9.30 a.m., the route included Windermere—with lunch at the Chestnut Tree Cafe—on to Ambleside and Lake Coniston, where a cup of tea sufficed to keep spirits going until high tea was served at Greenodd—a wonderful day enjoyed by all.

Frank Randle invited us to his Central Pier show on Saturday, June 21st, and this proved a great success.

To celebrate St. Dunstan's taking over the Blackpool Home on June 24th, 1940, we again went to the Lakes. Twelve years

in Blackpool—what memories conjure up. After so many years in Brighton it came as a shock to our St. Dunstaners to be treated as strangers. In many cases the peace of bombless nights compensated for these happy times, but others compared Blackpool—unfavourably—with Brighton.

We are now well established and local entertainments managers and staffs, as well as transport staffs, are exceptionally kind.

Many will be interested to know that the *Sunday Dispatch* Manchester to Blackpool Walk took place on June 28th. The walkers passed the end of Wimbourne Place. They reminded us of "the good old days" when our St. Dunstaners walked from London to Brighton. In the words of one of our number, "those were the days."

I wonder how many remember the days when Matron Thellusson took us in coaches to meet the walkers as they neared Brighton—and the day the tramcar overhead cable broke—the live ends falling between the two coaches as we moved slowly between the Saturday afternoon shoppers on the London Road? Yes, those were the days.

I have been told by many St. Dunstaners and their wives that they are always disappointed if there are no Blackpool notes in the REVIEW. Lack of mention since March is due to Eliza Doolittle doing less for nine weeks when I was on sick leave. I shall be grateful if the Editor will permit me to express my appreciation to *all* who were so kind during my illness. I was deeply touched by the lovely messages—tangible and intangible—all of which made me more and more anxious to return to duty.

I was sorry to miss so many old friends when they visited Blackpool, and I should like to thank them all for their co-operation with the staff during their visits. Thank you each and every one. God bless you.

B. VAUGHAN DAVIES.

Birmingham Club

Three coachloads of members and escorts set off on Sunday, June 15th, for our outing to Trentham. It was anything but "flaming June," but nevertheless we enjoyed a very good day, only marred by the fact that, by an unhappy accident, our Wolverhampton friends were not picked up. Mr. Thomas, who gave us the use of the coaches, was present with a number of Red Cross helpers. Sports were held after tea, and the children enjoyed paddle boats, swings, and a miniature railway.

Ovingdean Notes

Our overseas visitors to Ovingdean this month have included Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Tynan, from the United States of America, who visited England on their way to the Louis Braille Centenary Celebrations in Paris. Mr. Tynan, who is blind, is the Chief of the Services for the Blind of the Federal Security Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation in Washington.

Towards the end of June we also received two visitors from Sweden and another from Yugoslavia. All three ladies are engaged in teaching the blind in their own countries, and were particularly interested in the handicraft training available here. Mrs. Janezic-Mikes, from Yugoslavia, is employed teaching war disabled children, many of whom are both blind and handless. The specially adapted loom for the handless in use here was therefore of special interest.

This month there are two annual events which are always eagerly awaited by St. Dunstaners locally, and no less by those lucky enough to be spending a holiday at Ovingdean, or resident at West House, when they fall due. The first, the Southdown and Brighton & Hove Busmen's Summer Outing is reported on below by one of the men who attended this year, and the second, The Brighton, Hove & District Grocers' Association Summer Outing, will be taking place as we go to press.

Southdown and Brighton, Hove & District Bus Companies' Summer Outing

Wednesday, July 9th, was the occasion for a grand day out for the men at Ovingdean on holiday, West House and local St. Dunstaners. At 9.15 a.m. the buses started filling up.

After a run of an hour and a half, the whole party took the opportunity to stretch their legs and partake of liquid refreshment (whatever your taste, it was catered for).

Back then to the coaches and on until at about 12.45 we reached the outskirts of Midhurst, where all alighted and formed up behind the Patcham Boys' Band and, to the tune of "Sussex by the Sea" marched into Midhurst to the hall, where an excellent meal awaited us. When hunger and thirst were satisfied, away we went, this time to Cowdray Park, so kindly opened by Viscount Cowdray for the occasion. There, to a fine programme of dance music, by radiogram and the Patcham Boys' Band,

we indulged in the light fantastic. Then back to Midhurst for tea.

At five o'clock we were back in the hall where tea awaited us, with a wide range of home-made cakes—which disappeared with true St. Dunstan despatch.

We left Midhurst with cheers and counter cheers to our good friends and, after about a two hour journey, arrived at The Winterton Arms, Crockershill. Here again was lavish entertainment, with rolls and cheese, beer, minerals, cider and "spring onions" (the latter having been part of the tradition of the 32 years during which these Outings have been organised) and for over two hours we enjoyed hospitality, entertainment and an enjoyable sing-song until—at last—the call of "Time Gents., please," and then we had a telegram read to us from "Chief Clot" Jimmy Edwards, to "all his friendly Clots of St. Dunstan's," regretting his inability to be present, but promising his usual Christmas visit. The new landlord of "The Winterton Arms" wished us all good luck, and said he hoped to be able to make us enjoy our stay for the next 32 years, as had his predecessor in the past.

Finally, at about 11 p.m., about 100 tired but very happy St. Dunstaners wended their way to bed. Tired, yes, but very happy, and all with one thought, "Thanks once more to the Busmen—you've done it again." We must mention "Mark" for he has done the job for all these years, and was assuredly unanimously voted to carry on for the next!

J. M.

Grandfathers

A. Bennett, of Dover (a grandson now); S. P. Peacey, of New Southgate (two grandsons within a few months); A. E. Snook, Barnstaple; G. A. Dawson, Bishop Auckland; J. H. Smith, Birmingham.

Honoured by Legion

On July 3rd, Arthur H. Finney, of Finchley, was presented with the British Legion Metropolitan Area Certificate of Merit by Mr. Bowers, Chairman of the North West County Area.

Mr. Finney has been associated with the Church End and Finchley branch of the Legion since 1948. He is a Founder Member and has held the office of Vice-President of the Branch for the last three and a half years. He served on the original Executive Committee of the Branch, and was Chairman of the Committee for two years.

What Braille Has Meant to Me

I often wonder, if there had been no St. Dunstan's, would I have taken the trouble to learn braille? Yet this form of reading has provided me with occupation and food for the mind, by bringing me the company of some of the great ones in history. What a thrill it has been to read about the ancient Greeks, who were the first to break with tradition, and with courage and curiosity probed the secrets of physical phenomena, thereby laying the foundation of science. Generations of scientists yet unborn will revere the memory of Archimedes for his discoveries, especially the principle of the lever, and the equilibrium of solids in fluids. How I have marvelled at the philosophy of Socrates, the wisdom of Plato, the analytical mind of Aristotle, and all those other great originators whose contributions to philosophy, art, literature and political science formed the backbone of a later European renaissance.

Through the medium of braille I have been enabled to revel in the glories of the Florentine Golden Age of Art, when the genius of Leonardo da Vinci was setting the world a problem it has not yet solved—what did he see in the mind of Mona Lisa when he painted that inscrutable smile? When that super master of brush, chisel and pen, Michaelangelo, was planning to crown the Basilica in Rome with a dome, he was charged by contemporary architects with defying and challenging the laws of gravitation, but there it stands, after five centuries, a monument to his courage, vision and perseverance. In those days Florence must have been one large studio.

In the above meagre cameos I have endeavoured to show a little of the interest and pleasure with which braille has enriched my life; but the greatest blessing it has conferred on me is the comfort it has brought me during those long, sleepless hours which still attend my nights, hours which might be spent in that bottomless pit of introspection, inveighing against fate and pondering the might-have-beens. Instead I take up my book and thank God for Louis Braille and Sir Arthur Pearson.

T. ROGERS.

★ ★ ★
A photograph of Sid Doy's three fine lads—they are triplets—appeared in the London *Star* on June 19th. Tommy, Jimmy and Peter were three on June 20th.

The Rest of the News

Edwin Bullen, of West Australia, who was the author of the interesting article "Rain," which appeared last month, was one of the nineteen Australians who spent twelve months at Ovingdean in 1948. Recalling happy memories of that time he sends his good wishes to all his old friends at St. Dunstan's.

★ ★ ★
G. B. Swanston, of Lockerbie, has a tandem for sale. We are waiting for details, but if any St. Dunstaner is interested will he let us know.

★ ★ ★
"Grandpa" Beaufoy has sent us an interesting cutting from the *Dover Express*. At the Crown Inn, Eythorne, a few miles from Dover, two blind dogs, who have collected more than £200 for charities, are now collecting for St. Dunstan's. All the regulars know the dogs, and the stranger soon becomes acquainted with them. They rub their noses against the customer, then sit back and wait—listening for the sound of a coin to be thrown on the floor. Then they track it down, carry it to the collecting box behind the bar, and drop it into the slot. "Grandpa" is going over to be introduced.

★ ★ ★
For the third year running, Douglas Calder was at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships at the invitation of the All-England Club.

★ ★ ★
Congratulations to Rein Waas, who has been promoted to Sergeant (1st Class) with the Dutch Army. Rein, with Mrs. Waas, has been on a short holiday in this country and sends his good wishes to all his St. Dunstan's friends. He is now Chief Operator of the Military switchboard, with eleven men under him. When his Chief of Staff, Major Erkelens, Chief of the Military Telephony Service in Holland, was in London recently, he too visited St. Dunstan's to hear about Tommy Gaygan's switchboard.

★ ★ ★
There was once a small boy in Cheltenham, Who, when he saw girls, started peltin' 'em;
But he found that the cane
Caused him far too much pain,
So he wore all his trousers with felt in 'em.
Over the initials "Q.O.K." this won first prize for A. V. Law, of Stockton, Worcestershire, in the Brisbane Competition.

"In Memory"

Private Samuel Brazier, 8th Yorks. and Lancs. Regt.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of S. Brazier, of Herne Bay, at the age of sixty-eight. He came to St. Dunstan's in December, 1917, and was trained in mat-making, and he carried on with this occupation until he was admitted to hospital on May 16th. It was hoped that he was making a good recovery, but he died suddenly on June 8th, leaving a widow and two grown-up children, to whom our deep sympathy is extended. A wreath of poppies from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral.

Rifleman William Canning, Rifle Brigade

With deep regret we record the death of W. Canning, of Wallasey, which occurred on May 11th. Although he served from 1915 until 1917, it was not until 1943 that he came to St. Dunstan's, having been blinded as a result of his service in the East. He was already a very sick man and was never able to take up serious training. He bore great suffering very bravely for a number of years.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral. Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family, and, in particular, to Mrs. Mason. Mrs. Canning herself has been ill for a long time.

Gunner Thomas Donohue, Royal Garrison Artillery

With deep regret we record the death of T. Donohue, of Windsor, at the age of seventy. Discharged from the Army in March, 1919, he was admitted to our benefits only as recently as September, 1951, but his poor health then prevented him undertaking any training.

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

J. J. LeBlanc, Victoria, Australia

T. P. Drummond, Adelaide, South Australia

J. Iwers, Queensland, Australia

Through Mr. McConnell and Mr. Archer, we have heard with deep regret of the deaths of three Australian St. Dunstaners.

J. J. LeBlanc served with the 5th Battalion A.I.F. He did not come to St. Dunstan's, but was admitted to our benefits in January, 1936. He died on April 28th of this year, leaving a widow and family, to whom our sincere sympathy is offered.

The death of T. P. Drummond occurred nearly twelve months ago, but we have only recently been notified. He served with the Royal Naval Division and trained as a masseur, but went to Australia in 1920 with his sister. He became a diver, a fact which brought him considerable fame and praise.

J. Iwers was a new war St. Dunstaner, who did not train in this country, but with whom we kept in touch through the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association. He was a single man.

Births

CHADWICK.—On June 20th, to the wife of C. Chadwick, of Goosnargh, near Preston, a daughter—Lilian.

BAKER.—On June 30th, to the wife of D. Baker, of Rhyl, a son—Peter Christian.

FENSOME.—On July 11th, to the wife of S. Fensome, of Smethwick, a son.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

DAVIES.—To H. A. Davies, of Elworth, Sandbach, who has suffered the loss of his sister.

JENKINS.—To E. J. Jenkins, of Porth, whose wife has died after much suffering.

NOBLE.—To R. Noble, of Middlesbrough, whose elder brother has died very suddenly.

PURCELL.—To J. B. Purcell, of Urmston, Manchester, whose wife passed away on July 8th after great suffering.

WAGNER.—To S. Wagner, of South Africa, now in training at Ovingdean, whose mother has recently died.

WATERS.—To A. S. Waters, of Sevenoaks, in the loss of his mother.

St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret that Mr. Louis Barder, husband of Mrs. Barder, of Hove, died very suddenly last month. Mrs. Barder has given very generous help both at Ovingdean and at West House, and her husband was also known to a number of St. Dunstaners.

* * *

Mrs. Canning and family sincerely thank all staff of St. Dunstan's for their great kindness and help during Mr. Canning's long illness, and for the very many kindnesses and letters of sympathy at the time of his death.