

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

KING George VI was the Patron of St. Dunstan's and he was also a good friend of ex-servicemen. It is not surprising, therefore, that a number of St. Dunstaners should have written to us voicing the thoughts of many that there should be an opportunity for subscribing to the King George VI Memorial Fund which the Lord Mayor of London has started. Such an opportunity could very readily be arranged by inviting St. Dunstaners, through the medium of this magazine, to send their subscriptions to us and we would in turn forward the total amount subscribed to the Lord Mayor of London. Indeed, we are very ready to do this if this is felt to be the wish of the majority of St. Dunstaners.

On the other hand, we have been informed that it is the desire of the Lord Mayor of London, and of his Committee, that donations and collections for the King George VI Memorial should be given to local funds throughout the country which are being organised by Lord Mayors, Mayors and Chairmen of Rural and Urban District Councils. It may be that St. Dunstaners will like to fall in with this request and make their contributions each to his or her local fund. I would be glad to hear the opinion of readers on this subject, but meantime, in order that any opportunity of subscribing to this good purpose should not be lost, let me say that any St. Dunstaner who supports or subscribes to his local fund will be following a very good course, but that if there are some who for one reason or another do not feel that they want to subscribe locally, or cannot easily get into touch with the organisers of the local fund, Mr. Askew would be pleased to receive a subscription from them, and, having collected any such amounts, would, after a few weeks, pass the total on to the Lord Mayor.

The purpose of the late King George VI Memorial Fund is to provide a statue of His Late Majesty to be erected in an appropriate place, but this will use up only a very small part of the Fund. The major purpose for which the money will be used is to aid all kinds of good works by voluntary contributions to societies, organisations or schemes for the young and old.

Last night, as we sat at the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, I thought of the many occasions on which the late King George VI of blessed memory has been with us, and of the affection in which he was held by men and women of the British Legion and of St. Dunstan's.

Mrs. Chadwick Bates

After an illness lasting about a year, Mrs. E. Chadwick Bates, O.B.E., the Secretary of St. Dunstan's in South Africa, died in Cape Town on October 20th. The funeral service

was held in St. George's Cathedral, Cape Town, the Dean of Cape Town, the Very Rev. M. Gibbs, officiating before a large congregation of leading citizens, St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's helpers. Six St. Dunstaners acted as pall-bearers. A Memorial Service was also held at St. Mary's Cathedral, Johannesburg, on November 1st.

On behalf of St. Dunstan's, I sent a telegram to our friends in South Africa expressing our deep sympathy with them on the loss of their dear friend, who had done so much for all of them. I said that in my opinion Mrs. Chadwick Bates was the outstanding figure in the world of philanthropy in South Africa.

The older ones amongst us also remember Mrs. Bates as the first Secretary of St. Dunstan's in England, and one who greatly helped Sir Arthur Pearson in the founding of St. Dunstan's, and the present Chairman in its conduct over many years.

Thus passes one who has enriched St. Dunstan's by her ready human sympathy, her great ability, and her lifelong devotion to duty.

The Coronation

The Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen, which takes place on June 2nd of next year, is a historic event at which every ex-servicemen's organisation will wish to be represented. When the late King George VI was crowned in May, 1937, the Coronation Committee allocated a small number of seats on the route for St. Dunstaners. It is impossible at the moment to say what arrangements will be made this time, but as soon as details are known, St. Dunstaners will be informed. Enquiries already made from the Ministry of Pensions show that the matter is still under consideration and that nothing definite is likely until the New Year.

IAN FRASER

St. Dunstaner at Royal Command Performance

Fresh from his series of broadcasts on top-flight programmes, Gerry Brereton's triumphant progress culminated on November 3rd in his appearance on the programme of the Royal Command Performance. Even among the galaxy of stars that shone for Her Majesty the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Princess Margaret, our St. Dunstaner scored a great personal triumph. Here are extracts from the Press the next day:

"Gerry Brereton, the blind singer, touched off an immediate explosion of cheers."

EVENING STANDARD.

"Outstanding were Terry-Thomas, Ted Ray, Gerry Brereton, the blind ex-Commando baritone..."

DAILY HERALD.

"One act was recalled—Gerry Brereton."

DAILY EXPRESS.

"Among the outstanding impressions I shall carry with me for a long, long time—the blinded ex-Commando, Gerry Brereton—surely the only blind artist ever to appear in a show of this kind!—bowing to the Royal Box and having the pleasure of knowing that he was one of the biggest successes of the evening."

EVENING NEWS.

P.S.—Gerry has made his first gramophone record, "Wyoming Lullaby," for Parlophone.

Sir A. Pearson Memorial Service

On the morning of December 9th, a party of St. Dunstaners will go to Hampstead Cemetery from Headquarters, where a wreath will be placed upon Sir Arthur's grave. Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Askew, at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

Services will this year be held on Sunday, December 7th, at Ovingdean Chapel (11.30 a.m.) and at West House, Brighton (5 p.m.). Sir Neville Pearson will read the Lesson at each of the Services, which will be conducted by the Rev. C. G. S. Oliver, assisted by the Rev. W. Taylor.

Miss Pain

Miss D. A. Pain, who, as announced some months ago, is to make an official visit to St. Dunstaners overseas, leaves this country on December 18th and will arrive in West Australia on January 13th. She will reach New Zealand on March 5th and will stay there until about April 7th. Arrangements for her reception and entertainment are in the hands of the Blinded Soldiers' Association in each State.

London Club Notes

Bridge

The week-end of October 25th was the Ilkley Week-end. The Open Pairs competition was won by the St. Dunstan's Pair—Messrs. H. Gover and P. Nuyens—while our team of four won their way through to the final eight teams, our other two members being Messrs. F. Winter and F. Rhodes.

November 15th saw us all at Ovingdean for our own Bridge Congress. Mr. A. E. Field came with us to act as our Tournament Director, and made his usual excellent job of the arrangements.

Drummer was there to give us his usual encouragement and cheerful support.

There were two principal events, the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Cup (teams of four), and the Pairs Event for the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup. Results:

PAIRS	TEAMS OF FOUR
First: J. Walsh	First: H. Gover
W. Shakespeare	P. Nuyens
Second: F. W. Winter	J. Brown
C. F. Thompson	J. Fleming
Third: C. R. Bulman	Second: M. Delaney
L. E. Gaudle	A. Caldwell
	H. Cook
	F. Jackson

In the pairs Bridge Drive on Saturday morning, the winners were:—

First: H. Gover
C. Van Niekerk
Second: A. Fisher
F. Matthewman
Third: A. Wiltshire
L. Douglas

A Drive was held on Sunday morning for those not in the final of the Pairs Cup, and the winners this time were:—

First: W. Henry
Mr. Friday
Second: R. Wylie
T. Roden
Third: A. Wiltshire
L. Douglas

Sincere congratulations to Joe Walsh and Bill Shakespeare for a truly great performance.

On Sunday evening after the announcement of the winners, and presentation of prizes by Matron Ramshaw, Drummer also expressed everyone's thanks to Matron and her staff for their splendid work on our behalf, and presented Matron with a bouquet of flowers with our good wishes.

Our Annual General Meeting takes place on Saturday, December 6th, 2 o'clock for 2.15, and Mr. A. D. Lloyds has kindly promised to take the chair. H. G.

Indoor Section

A Dance was held on November 3rd at the Victory Club, Marble Arch, at the

request of Club members. I am happy to say that it was very well supported.

The Sir Arthur Pearson competitions for Waltz and Foxtrot were competed for and the winners were:

Waltz: E. Carpenter and partner.

Foxtrot: Jerry Lynch and partner.

The judge for the competition dances was Miss Margaret Thompsett, A.I.S.T.D., who very kindly came along for these events, and later presented the prizes.

Ron Bell and his Orchestra provided the music. Mr. Bob Willis was, as usual, very helpful, and all in all, it was a very successful evening.

The Sir Arthur Pearson Finals for Cribbage, Darts and Dominoes will take place at Headquarters on November 22nd. C. J. W.

Outdoor Section

On October 18th the first road walk of the season was held in Regent's Park over a five mile course.

Eleven St. Dunstaners started in a match with the Metropolitan Police, with five aside to count. The race was won by Bill Miller, in the record time for a St. Dunstaner of 43 min. 35 sec. Handicap prizes were won by Tommy Denmead, Bill Miller and Alf. Bradley respectively. The fastest loser's prize, which was given by Mr. Shooter, a very faithful supporter of the walking section, was won by Charlie Williamson. The St. Dunstan's team beat the Metropolitan Police by eight points.

Stewart Craig, from New Zealand, is our latest member, and we are all very happy to have him with us. We hope he enjoyed his first race and we all wish him good walking in the future.

Sir Neville Pearson had hoped to start the Walk but unfortunately he was prevented from doing so and a lady reporter from the *News of the World* took over in his place. Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, however, presented the prizes later at the Club.

The Walking Section welcomes any new enthusiasts who would like to join them. C. J. S.

Amended List of Dates for Future Walks

7 miles—December 6th.
10 " —January 24th.
7 " —February 14th.
12 " —March 7th.
15 " —April 11th.

The Girls

(Men's Point of You)

Hello, girls, how do you do?

So nice to have you in "Review."

We doff our hats. Bravo! Encore!

Hallelujah, give us more.

You, Dot, down in Zimmerman,

Is your baby toddling yet?

Is Hubby eating up his chappies?

Does he help you with the nappies?

If you wish to do a play,

Call in Freddie Westaway.

Ever-ready Freddie's fit

Just the man to baby-sit.

Come tell us all, you lovely wimmin,

Eating well? Or are you slimming?

One of you said with a groan,

"Oh, Gen, I'm close on thirteen stone,

The girl you knew in Stretton days

Has broadened out in many ways.

If I get stouter, as big I'll be

As blacksmith 'neath the chestnut tree."

Tell the lads how you are faring,

Latest hair-do. What you're wearing,

Colour of your overall,

Those pairs of, ah! but that is all,

On second thoughts it's not unwise

To ask the colour of your eyes,

We know you wear them, so who cares

If worn singly or in pairs.

A few of you no doubt, I guess

Have scrounged a pair to match each dress,

So come on, Violet, Marion, all,

Give out with that clear clarion call,

Winnie, Barbara, Ann, Maureen,

Rattle up that tambourine.

Rinse your mouth of crumbs of crumpet,

Shoot the works, come, blow your trumpet.

Come on Sadie, Beryl, Gwen,

Tell us more, give us the "gen,"

Call in Brenda, Thelma, Sally,

Why not form a Corps de Ballet?

We'd love to see St. Dunstan's Belles

Doing "Can-Can" at Sadler's Wells.

Glamorous Blodwyn sure would make

The ballerina in "Swan Lake."

So drop your bridge and dominoes,

Get cracking with those twinkling toes,

And while we watch you swish your frills,

We'll say there's gold in dem dar jills,

You lovely creatures, so sublime,

Hats off to you, you're mighty fine.

GEN.

The "Arcaid"

For nearly three years Mr. Andrew R. Cooper, an electrical engineer, of Liverpool, toiled hard and patiently, developing a machine that would enable anybody to talk to a deaf-blind person. Quite recently his invention reached completion and there appeared in public the first "Arcaid." The first three letters are his initials.

The "Arcaid" is a small, flat, rectangular machine, pocket size. On top there are keys set out like those of a typewriter; on one corner there is a raised block with six holes. Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the "Arcaid" is its simplicity to operate and understand. You simply depress the key required, and the letter shows itself in braille dots on the raised block. The machine has several other uses. A small roller can be slid into position on the raised block. A strip of braille paper, like that of a teleprinter, is inserted. Then a person with absolutely no knowledge of braille can write a braille message.

The machine has been tested on hundred of deaf-blind people and has proved highly successful. I am privileged to have an "Arcaid" for my own use. It has offered me many happy hours and gained for me many new friends. I have tested it on all types of people, ranging from a five-year-old child to a French visitor. Some may say that the "Arcaid" will hinder the learning of the manual, but that is perfectly untrue. For in truth the "Arcaid" has, and will enhance the learning of the manual. A 12-year-old lad, Bruce, whom I had never met before, asked if he might speak to me on the "Arcaid." We had a chat for about five minutes, then I taught him the manual. A week later I chanced to meet Bruce's mother. I learned that Bruce was so delighted at learning the manual that he went home and taught his mother and sister. I was having morning coffee in a cafe. My "Arcaid" which was on the table, attracted the attention of a fellow customer. He joined me and spoke on the machine. He was a naturalised Hungarian. There followed an interesting conversation on current affairs and art. Then I taught him the manual, which he learned in less than ten minutes. Just two examples.

The "Arcaid" needs no batteries or electricity. It is 100% mechanical.

WALLY THOMAS.

From All Quarters

T. Daborn, of Bexleyheath, won the Brighton and Hove Challenge Cup in the National Federation of Sea Anglers' Competition at Hastings on October 11th. There were 218 competitors in 57 boats and he had the heaviest bag of pouting—10lbs. 10ozs. In addition to the Cup he was given a medal and two silver Heat-master egg-cups.

★ ★ ★

Albert Hobson, of Hastings, late of the Commandos, had a place of honour at the ceremony at Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire, when the Queen Mother unveiled a memorial to all Commandos who gave their lives in World War II. It was a proud moment, too, for Albert when his old chief, Lord Lovat, slapped him on the back and said, "Glad you could manage it."

★ ★ ★

Fred Barratt, of West Ham, with his dog, Rex, surprised a man on his shop premises recently. The man ran away but was later charged with breaking in.

★ ★ ★

Maureen Lees won the first prize of four guineas in an essay contest recently organised by the Ritz Theatre, Birkenhead, in connection with a film showing there.

★ ★ ★

R. A. Fullard was the author of two reviews of books in the September issue of NEW ERA. The books reviewed were "Keep Your Head Up, Mr. Putnam," whose author was an American blinded civilian, and "I'll Be Seeing You," whose author, Henry Barry, was blinded in the war. Mr. Putnam's book dealt with his experiences in acquiring and handling his guide dog.

Royal Interest in St. Dunstan's Stand

Mrs. Alice Gimbrete, late of the W.R.N.S., represented St. Dunstan's this year at the War Disabled Ex-Servicemen's Exhibition and the Royal visitors have shown their great interest in Alice and the St. Dunstan's Stand. A most attractive photograph of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret talking to Alice appeared in the Press.

Pensions Reference in Commons

On Thursday, November 6th, in a brief debate on the Adjournment, which only lasts for half-an-hour, Sir Ian Fraser made the point that you could not confine any increase in war pensions to the limbless, and that, as you got older, all disabilities became more severe. The basic rate of war pensions now, he said, was inadequate having regard to the fall in the value of money.

The debate had been opened by Mr. C. J. Simmons, who was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Pensions in the last Government. He had pleaded for increases for limbless men who, he said, felt their disabilities more and more as they got older. The Minister of Pensions, replying, said that all these matters were continuously under consideration.

News from Australia

From W. E. Cook, of Victoria, comes an interesting letter, dated August 9th. He writes:

"We hear that you have had your summer—and a fairly good one. Out here we are just about emerging from the winter, and it has been the worst of our experience. Rainy days for weeks on end, it seems, and chilly days and nights, but nothing near as severe as those I remember back in Britain. Flowers have their place out here. The geranium, which has to be raised under glass in Britain, thrives out here in the open, both winter and summer, and bears flower even during the former season. It seems to thrive under the most difficult conditions.

"The railways in Australia, with a few small exceptions, are all owned by the States in which they run, and cover vast areas with comparatively few passengers to carry. Each State railway out here gives every blinded ex-Serviceman or woman a free pass over the whole of the system, both for self and escort. In Victoria it is a first-class pass. Annually a pass for one journey inter-State is allowed, if required."

From Miss Pain

When Christmas comes this year I will be on the high seas en route for Australia, so I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my St. Dunstan's friends a joyous Christmas and all prosperity in the New Year. DOROTHY PAIN.

"O Verry Light of Eyes that Ben Blynde"

In ordinary everyday literature the word "blind" is commonly used as an uncomplimentary adjective or adverb. This observation prompted me to investigate the Oxford Dictionary, and here follow some of the many meanings given therein:—

Blind.—Destitute of the sense of sight, whether by natural effects or deprivation.

Lacking in mental perception, discernment or foresight. Destitute of intellectual or spiritual life.

Undiscriminating for which no reason can be given—inconsiderate, heedless and reckless. Not possessing intelligence or consciousness. Acting without discernment.

To conceal or deceive.

Dim as opposed to bright or clear.

Having no opening for the admission of light.

(Note: Light also means Knowledge).

Numerous other applications describe a cover for a window, sails for a ship, blinkers for a horse, or aimless or purposeless lanes, streets or projects. "The blind side" is taken to be the unguarded or vulnerable side, also the unpresentable or objectionable aspect.

This esteemed authority on the English language spends more than two pages translating "blind" to imply godlessness, immorality, intemperance, stupidity, imbecility, lunacy, futility, helplessness and hopelessness.

It appears that "blind" has been used for centuries by mentally lazy writers, to softer, or to add ambiguity, to the libellous implications of their descriptive efforts. Not least among such offenders are the editors of leading articles in the daily newspapers of to-day.

The use of another word to more specifically denote the loss or absence of the sense of sight, purely as a physical defect, is obviously highly desirable, and as "sightless" is adequately descriptive, resort to the classics in an effort to find something like "aplopic" is unnecessary. "Blind" could then be left to those who cannot think of a better way to describe an indiscriminate act or a damn fool, thus enabling the dictionary to mark it "obsolete" on its first meaning.

In this twentieth century when, thanks to such pioneers as the late Sir Arthur

Pearson and Mr. Armitage, and to those who still carry on the work so well founded, more has been done to emancipate the sightless than hitherto.

Among ourselves we distinguish between those who are sightless and those whose sight is partially affected as "totally blind" or "dims" and the "semi-sighted."

Referring back to the dictionary's first meaning, "destitute of sight," now put "totally" in front of "destitute" and it sounds perfectly horrifying.

I pass "dim" without comment.

"Semi-sighted" very appropriately describes a person whose optical vision is impaired or restricted. How very fortunate are they not to be indicated by such synonymous terms as "half-blind," "half-dim," or "half-wits."

If the sightless lead the sightless they will not fall into the ditch or over the cliff.

M. DELANEY.

Ecclesiastical

The Rev. G. E. Treglownd, M.B.E., was heard on the B.B.C. Welsh Home Service last month when evening service was broadcast from his church in the Llanhilleth district of Monmouthshire.

The Rev. Michael Norman, recently curate at the church of St. Peter-in-Thanel, near Ramsgate, has sailed for South Africa, where he is to be assistant priest at St. Cyprian's Retreat, just outside Cape Town.

Canon W. G. Speight, who now has taken over a new parish at Braunstone, in Leicestershire, has discovered in one of his lovely old churches a stained glass window dedicated to St. Dunstan.

Some of the pews are dedicated to men who fell in the 1914 war and he has found one which is to the memory of a man in his old battalion.

National Laying Test, 1951-52

Final Report for the 48 weeks,

October 8th, 1951, to September 7th, 1952.

Pos'n.	Name	Test Score
1.	Gregory, T. D.	1084
2.	Jackson, G. C.	1040
3.	Webb, W.	1033
4.	Jarvis, A.	997
5.	Taylor, T.	977
6.	Holmes, P.	915
7.	Bagwell, P.	885
8.	Clarke, T.	629

Average per bird, 189.69

Remembrance Festival

On the evening of Saturday, November 8th, a great audience gathered once again in the Royal Albert Hall, London, to pay homage to the memory of those who lost their lives in the two world wars. St. Dunstaners were among the audiences at the afternoon and evening Festivals.

The Queen and the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Margaret were welcomed by Sir Ian Fraser, President of the British Legion.

At nine o'clock, an unseen bugler sounded the Last Post and Sir Ian spoke the solemn exhortation, "They shall grow not old . . ." and there came the deep-voiced response, "We will remember them."

Then Reveille, and the smoky air of the great Hall was filled with the poppy petals that fluttered from the roof—more than a million and a half of them, representing the British lives lost in action from the first shot in Flanders down to the last casualty from Malaya and Korea.

There were among those old soldiers present that night some who had sung "Soldiers of the Queen" when it was new. Other songs, in which the Queen joined, were "Tipperary" and "Wish me luck as you wave me Goodbye."

Remembrance Day

At the Cenotaph in London the following Sunday morning, there was a good contingent of Old Contemptibles and St. Dunstaners, escorted by Mr. Bob Willis, with the British Legion Veterans' Parade. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the British Legion and from St. Dunstan's blinded ex-servicemen and women throughout the world.

In Belfast, a wreath was laid at the Cenotaph, Belfast City Hall, by Bill Rutledge on behalf of Irish St. Dunstaners.

Burma Star Association

The Romford Branch of the Burma Star Association have recently been in touch with us to suggest that any St. Dunstaners who served in the Burma Campaign now living in this district should contact them, if interested, at their Headquarters—R.U.S.C., Mawney Road, Romford, Essex.

The Headquarters of the Association is at 26 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, and we feel sure that Colonel F. L. Roberts, the Hon. Secretary, would be delighted to put any St. Dunstaner in touch with other Branches throughout the country.

World Population and Food

The rapid increase in the world population this century, plus the limited space for food production, have been the subject for much gloomy foreboding in recent years. There are grounds most assuredly for this glooming, but what about a bright side to the problem?

If, as we are led to believe, the food situation is chronic now, and population is rising at 20 to 25 millions annually, why do the statesmen of the world fail to emphasise the dangers to their respective peoples? Either the situation is in hand or it has not attained the degree of urgency for an immediate attempt at solution. Timing is the most important item in any action, and should the action be agreed too late in the campaign for food, it is well to remember that the ingenuity of man knows no bounds, and Nature only rarely fails to co-operate.

On the face of it, it seems that the well-fooled parts of the globe should now, or in the near future, be subjected to a reasonable stomachic discipline until the temporary embarrassment of food shortage is banished from the world. The object of this rationing would not be to feed the hungry masses of Asia and Africa better than they might beget further hungry masses, though in practice that is what would happen.

Famine, pestilence and war have been cancelled out as controllers of population by fast transport and medical science, and our modern ideas of the value of human life may prove to be an intolerable tummy-ache to our posterity, who can still rely on even faster transport and more scientific medical science.

It may never be necessary, but it seems an Agricultural Revolution must come to counteract two centuries of Industrial Revolution. Such a revolution could only be achieved by (a) iron discipline, or (b) mass comprehension of global food conditions, which rather rules it out as a practicable possibility. If the choice were either clean out pigsties, milk cows, till the soil or starve—or assemble cars, motor cycles, aeroplanes and starve, would it be so difficult to make up one's mind?

In conclusion, "Science got us in, Science gets us out, or we stay where we are, 'on t' ration'."

G. A. PRESTON.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Braille Revision

My previous letter on this subject seems to have raised no blood pressure nor burst any seams.

I wonder if my fellow Braille purists (if there are any) realise to what extent the old principle has already been abandoned. This was, a generation ago, that as far as was practicable, inkprint should be faithfully followed. Here are some examples:

1. The exact similarity between capital and small letters.
2. Fresh paragraphs without new lines.
3. Omission of page headings.
4. Confusing combination of abbreviation and period stops, and sometimes the dropping altogether of the former.
5. The numbering of pages at the end of the first line of print.
6. The incorrect division of words by a hyphen.

When economy becomes more important than the matter with which it is concerned, then the farmer sows no wheat and the people starve.

Yours faithfully,

London, W.12. DOUGLAS WARDEN.

Presentation to Miss Walker

All the physiotherapists who have been through the three houses—152, Broadhurst Gardens, Croxley, and No. 12—will have had a letter sent out on my behalf asking them to subscribe to the farewell present for Miss Walker. I am unknown to you, being a newcomer, but with the aid of the signatures on those letters, with the blessings of Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, and with the help of Miss Goole, we did very well. We managed to raise enough to buy "Johnny" a really lovely Elizabeth Arden make-up box and a nylon nightdress. She was given these at a small party held here this last Thursday, on her last night. She was terribly thrilled with her presents and on our behalf, Sir Ian proposed her health and happiness. She was very, very taken back, and we know how much she will be missed.

I want to thank you all for your support and hope you will be glad to know that the results made Miss Walker very happy, but sad at going.

PAUL B. BAKER.

Branded

Some few weeks ago I took a holiday at Ovingdean. Most delightful. When I arrived, I was shown to my room, and after unpacking found that about two hours would elapse before the next meal. Feeling grimy after my travel I thought I would take a bath. I did. You know these bathrooms at Ovingdean—about 6ft. square, the bath running along one side leaving a 6ft. by 4ft. drying ground. Facing the door is a bench and along the wall facing the bath is a towel rail made out of a metal pipe through which flows hot water. The pipe stands out about 2 inches from the wall and about 30 inches from the floor. I did not notice the towel rail.

I dumped all my equipment upon the bench, filled the bath, got in and I wallowed. After some time I completed my bath and stepped out on to the drying ground. I grabbed my towel from the bench but in doing so I knocked down my collar studs. To avoid knocking my face on the bath, I took half a pace backwards and bent down to pick up the studs. There was a sizzling sound of hot metal on damp flesh and I thought I was shot. I leapt forward and went base over apex into the bath again, taking my towel with me. When I had recovered my equilibrium and examined my wound, I stepped out of the bath again, but now I had no towel upon which to dry myself, so I had to stand there to dry. Some time later when I had emerged from the bathroom, I ran into the orderly and I told him what had occurred. He remarked, "Well, you are a mug. You'd got a tongue in your head, hadn't you?" I replied, "Yes, I have, but I'm not a blinking contortionist."

Believe it or not, for the first four days of my holiday I was eating my meals off the mantelpiece and shall carry my cross for the rest of my days. What's that? Can I prove it? I could, but I hope I will not be called upon to do so.

I finish with a quotation from Bert Crabtree, "Has it ever happened to you?" Thetford. B. A. HAMILTON.

[Any other incidents will be welcomed—amusing, embarrassing, or perhaps just as painful! The pain will be lessened by half a guinea for each one published.—ED.]

The Birmingham Swimming Gala

"The best so far!" "See you next September." "A grand afternoon."

From these remarks, made as we left Woodcock Street Baths it was obvious that we had had a successful Gala. The audience was splendid and deserved their sumptuous tea. The day began well. We had a particularly happy gathering for lunch. We had Red Cross transport to the Baths, where everything went smoothly. The standard of swimming was again very high.

We owe a great deal to the Leander Swimming Club, who not only provided us with Judges at this Gala, but who had offered us their help and friendship and hospitality every Tuesday evening throughout another swimming year.

Over sixty of us foregathered for tea, but the competitors were few, only eight swimming at all. Instead of swimming as teams from counties or districts, the competitors swam as individuals. The S.S. Individual Cup and the Challenge Trophy were not awarded, but there was great competition for the T.B. Cup, which again went to G. Stanley (Market Harborough) for an excellent performance and 21 points. D. Bingham, of Nottingham, also gave us who watched, great pleasure as he came second with 12 points.

We did miss the participation of our loyal London group, and we must arrange things so that we have their company next year. We had hoped also to welcome a team from the North, from Brighton, and from Wales (Cup-holders).

Would everyone please keep free the last Saturday but one in September next year when fixing up programmes. But let us know *now*, please, if that date is inconvenient and we will change it. The Bath for the next Gala will be booked soon.

Here are the full results:—

1 Length T.B.—1st, G. Stanley; 2nd, D. Bingham; 3rd, R. Craddock (Warrington).

1 Length Back Stroke—1st, G. Stanley; 2nd, G. Waterworth; 3rd, R. Craddock (Coventry).

Style Competition—1st, D. Bingham and G. Stanley; 3rd, G. Waterworth.

Plunging—1st, R. Craddock; 2nd, P. Spencer (Weston-super-Mare); 3rd, T. O'Connor (Birmingham).

Diving—1st, D. Bingham; 2nd, G. Stanley; 3rd, G. Waterworth.

Underwater Endurance—1st, T. O'Connor; 2nd, B. Bright (Birmingham).

Plate Diving—1st, G. Waterworth and G. Stanley; 3rd, J. Harris (Reading).

Do come next year and share the enjoyment. Birmingham Club will manage expenses somehow. P. A. FAIRHEAD.

By a coincidence, a letter from Walter Thornton, who is engaged on Welfare Work at Messrs. Cadbury's, of Birmingham, arrived by the same post as the above report of the Birmingham Gala. He writes: "I am wagging my two tails at the moment. The other night I presented four of our lads with their Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society, and they all got through. I wonder if that is an idea for the London St. Dunstan's Swimming Club, if their swimmers are strong enough. (I say this because I should just curl up at the thought of taking my Bronze again. It nearly killed me sixteen years ago.)"

Well, swimmers, how about it?

Young St. Dunstaners

Leslie Jordan, Mitcham, is now a Graduate Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

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Little Lesley Vowles took certificates in all her classes at Gosport Dancing Festival and first prize in Baby Tap dancing. She is five!

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Tommy Butler, Distinguon, who is a drummer and bugler now serving overseas with the Parachute Brigade, has been notified that he will be coming to England for the Coronation.

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Margaret Frampton, Highams Park, who is a nurse, has passed her Hospital Final Examination and now qualifies for the Gold Medal.

Marriages

Mavis Whitthorn, Exeter, on November 1st, to A. G. Venn.

Robert David Edwards, Denbigh, on October 11th, to Miss Edna Evans.

Leonard Frampton, Highams Park, on September 6th, to Miss Helen Ruth Derwent Ivy Fennell, Tooting, on June 28th, to Herbert Booth.

Barbara Thomas, Wakefield, on December 22nd last, to Aubrey Cartledge, at St. Andrew's, Wakefield. We regret that this has only just been brought to our notice.

Stanley Payne, on October 31st, at Cardiff, to Miss Barbara Luck, daughter of Mr. A. Luck, Liberal M.P. for Devonport, Tasmania.

Ovingdean Notes

September and October have been busy months here for, although the usual holiday season was ended still the number of St Dunstaners coming to Ovingdean remained high, so there was no lessening of the general activities both in the Home and so far as outside entertainments were concerned.

The coach drives, which always seem to be so very popular, have continued to be run twice weekly, and there have been Race Meetings to attend at Brighton, Fontwell Park, Lewes and Plumpton.

On 4th September a party of holiday-makers were entertained by the Sidley Welfare Community Association at the Pavilion, Bexhill, where the Mayor of Bexhill was the Guest of Honour. Later in the month another party went again to Bexhill, this time as the guests of the Sidley "Wednesday and Thursday Whist Players." On both these occasions the St. Dunstan's party was given a most friendly welcome and an invitation "to come again very soon." We hope this may prove possible.

Our good friend, Mr. Cheesman, held his first Dance of the season at The Arlington, Brighton, on Thursday, 25th September and this was, as always, thoroughly enjoyed by all those present.

Entertainments in the House during September included a first visit from the Portsmouth Orpheus Singer, a return visit from the United Services Military Band, a play-reading by some of the staff and a performance of "Bonaventure" by the St. Wilfrid Players. During October the Hove Light Orchestra gave a concert, and the Winter Darts Matches began with a team visiting the Shipwright Arms at Southwick, at the end of September. The Shooting Competitions are also being well supported. During October there were seven teams of three men each in the competition. Each team fired against another, making a total of 21 matches. Mr. Jarrold reports some of the keenest shooting since the rifle first came into use, and out of the 21 men competing no less than seven scored possibles. They were Messrs. J. Chisholm, S. Craig, J. Walton, R. Major, P. Walker, R. Osborne and M. Robinson. 49 out of a possible 50 now seems to be a thing of the past!

The result of the Team Events was a tie between Team 2 and Team 7 (each with

four wins). The aggregate score was totalled up and No. 2 Team scored 847 out of a possible 900. No. 7 Team scored 846 points. The prize for the best individual score was won by S. Craig, who scored 293 out of a possible 300. The runner-up was M. Robinson with 291 points.

Deaf Reunion at Ovingdean

The Annual Deaf Reunion was held here from October 9th to 14th and was attended by nine out of a possible twelve deaf St. Dunstaners. We were all extremely sorry that Wally Ruddock, Bill Jay and Ted Mills were not able to get along on this occasion.

The programme, which was as varied as possible, included a novel item of a trip to the Shoreham Aero Club. After a short flight, the party went on to have lunch at "The Sussex Pad."

During the Reunion Lady Fraser came down from London to meet the fellows and another pleasant surprise was the arrival of Miss Pain to spend a few hours with them.

The remainder of the programme included a coach drive, a day at the Races, a visit to West House, and the usual "Farewell Dinner" at Stroods Hotel with the Commandant and Matron Ramsbaw.

Visit to Model Engineer Exhibition

On Tuesday, October 28th, a party of trainees from Ovingdean, with a number of staff escorts, were fortunate enough to visit the Model Engineer Exhibition at the New Horticultural Hall, London. Special facilities were made for the St. Dunstan's party to be admitted to the Exhibition prior to the admission of the general public on that day. This gave the attendants at the Exhibition a fine opportunity of taking the men round and giving the necessary explanations of some of the more interesting exhibits before the Hall became overcrowded for, on that day as on the others whilst the Exhibition was open, there was a very high attendance.

The trainees were very interested in all the various fine exhibits on show. There were, for example, many fine model sailing yachts, both racing and cruising types, and windjammers, barques, schooners and clippers, and many of these models the men were able to handle with much care. There was a particularly fine model of H.M.S. *Implacable*, and of the Barry Dock Lifeboat.

Next came a display of the smaller type of power boat, launches, and planes. Some of these were radio-controlled, and there was a great deal of interest shown in two fine hydroplanes.

From models of sailing craft, metal and marine engines, the party came upon models of gas, petrol, diesel-electric and steam engines, and then to models of land vehicles, such as delivery vans and motor cars. In this section many were intrigued with an exceptionally fine model of a Sunbeam car and racing cars, many of which were radio-controlled. From cars to trains. Here again the models were of very fine workmanship and included such items as "The Rocket" and "The Royal Scot."

The time passed all too quickly for our men, who were only able to spend the morning at the Exhibition. They were all loud in their praise for the very kind co-operative way in which the attendants at the Exhibition and the organisers allowed them to gain the utmost benefit from the short time at their disposal.

A Louis Braille Medal

Through the kindness of Tom Milligan, we learn that the French Mint has this year struck a medal to commemorate the Centenary of Louis Braille, and Tom has presented one of these medals to Sir Ian Fraser.

The medal is of bronze. On one side is a profile in relief of Louis Braille, with his name and dates around the rim. On the reverse side of the medal, in braille as well as in ordinary print, are the words "Et La Lumiere Fut." (And There Was Light.)

We understand that the cost of the medals is about 15s. each. There are certain currency difficulties which have to be overcome, but if any St. Dunstaner is interested in obtaining one of the medals we will make the necessary enquiries.

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Mrs. T. Smith, of Billingham, thanks all St. Dunstaners and staff for the kind letters of sympathy she has received.

Placements

F. Buttery, as a capstan operator with Messrs. Slack and Barr, Ltd., Kegworth, near Derby; D. Bingham, of Nottingham, as a capstan lathe operator with Raleigh Industries; S. Milewski, with Messrs. G.I.B. Precision, Cirencester, temporarily on deburring but later as capstan lathe operator.

Births

COUPLAND.—On October 23rd, to the wife of R. Coupland, of Hull, a daughter.

MARSHALL.—On October 12th, to the wife of J. Marshall, of Horden, Co. Durham, a daughter—Glenys.

MCCARTNEY.—On October 26th, to the wife of H. McCartney, of Belfast, a daughter.

Marriages

MAJOR.—On October 18th, 1952, Ray Major to Miss Jean Avis, at Hove, Sussex.

SHEPHERD—COLE.—On September 30th, Alf Shepherd to Barbara Cole, late V.A.D. at 8 Park Crescent.

WAREHAM—MICHELL.—On October 4th, F. Wareham, of Dorset, to Miss Marion Michell.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

HARE.—To W. Hare, of Cheltenham, whose mother died on July 27th.

MOORE.—To Mr. and Mrs. G. Moore, of Blackpool, whose baby was still-born.

NEWTON.—To J. Newton, of Audenshaw, who has lost his mother at the age of 82.

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Their friends will hear with deep regret that Mrs. R. Wylie's father died on September 22nd.

Grandfathers

J. W. Gill, Manchester (for the third time); S. C. Loram, Brixham (eleventh grandchild); T. Ashe, Lancing, twin grandchildren—a boy and a girl for Sylvia; D. O. Evans, Llansamlet.

Golden Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. T. Allen, of South Hetton, who celebrated their golden wedding on October 23rd, and to Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Stringer, of Manchester, who celebrated their anniversary last June.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. W. Robinson, London, N.4, October 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. D. C. R. Cole, Gloucester, September 8th.

Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. J. Irvine, Maryhill, Glasgow, November 1st.

"In Memory"

Private Walter Cromwell, 5th Gloucestershire Regiment

We record with deep regret the sudden death of W. Cromwell, of Gloucester. He was fifty-eight. Wounded at Roumain in May, 1915, he came to St. Dunstan's almost at once and trained as a boot repairer, but since 1928 he had worked exclusively as a bookmaker. Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Cromwell who pays high tribute to her husband's courage in his last illness.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral.

Sergeant George Taylor, 9th Royal Welsh Fusiliers

It is with deep regret that we record the death of George Taylor, who since 1947 had been a permanent resident at West House.

When he came to us in April, 1916, he trained in boot repairing and mat-making, and later in netting.

His death at West House on October 23rd occurred very suddenly.

Wreaths from his Brighton friends and from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades were among the flowers at the funeral.

Sergeant William Edward Hiscock, The Welch Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of W. E. Hiscock, of Westcliff-on-Sea, who was admitted to St. Dunstan's as recently as September, 1952.

An old soldier at the outbreak of the First World War (he enlisted in November, 1908), he was wounded in France in 1915 when he lost an eye. His remaining eye was also damaged but not until recently was his case brought to our notice. It was then necessary for him to be admitted to Roehampton Hospital and he died on October 17th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and grown-up family.

Sergeant C. Ross, 1/5th East Lancashire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of C. Ross, of Padiham, which occurred at the home of his sister on October 10th.

He served with his regiment from June, 1914, until October 1918. He had been wounded at Bapaume and he came to St. Dunstan's on the day of his discharge from the Army. He trained in boot repairing and mat-making, but for some time he had been a sick man. His death, nevertheless, was not expected.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral. Our deep sympathy is extended to his family.

William Bertram Stewart, 7th Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces

It is with deep regret that we have heard of the death of W. B. Stewart, of Thornbury, Victoria, Australia. He died on August 23rd.

He served with the Australian Imperial Forces during the First World War. His sight failing gradually, he was admitted to the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association five years ago.

Percy William Powell, King's Shropshire Light Infantry and Royal Flying Corps

With deep regret we record the death of P. W. Powell, of Hereford.

Serving first with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, and later as Third Air Mechanic with the Royal Flying Corps, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1926. He worked as a farmer in a small way, but of late years he had been a very sick man, and netting was all that he could undertake.

He had been looking forward to a visit to Brighton, and his ticket had, in fact, been bought, but he died very suddenly at his home on October 19th, just before.

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 wife and large family, and in particular to his son, who is in hospital.

Gunner Charles Thomas Richard Brooks, Royal Field Artillery

With deep regret we have to record the death of C. T. R. Brooks, of Hartfield, Sussex, at the age of fifty-eight.

He was wounded in France in November, 1917, and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in March of the following year. He was trained first as a boot repairer and later as a poultry-keeper, and he continued in the last occupation until ill-health forced him to reduce his stock.

He had been ill for some time, and his death occurred in hospital on November 10th, following an operation.

A wreath from the Chairman was among the many flowers.

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

Driver Joshua W. Bullock, Royal Field Artillery

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. W. Bullock, of Kemp Town, Brighton. He was sixty-three.

Enlisting in January, 1915, he was discharged from the Army in November, 1917, but it was not until 1926 that he came to us. He then trained in basket-making, and later, took up shop-keeping. This he followed for about seven years, when ill-health forced him to retire.

He was admitted to hospital, but he died there on November 11th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow.