

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 402—VOLUME XXXVI

FEBRUARY, 1953

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

The Pension Campaign Goes On

The British Legion is proceeding with its campaign for increased war pensions. On January 27th a deputation waited upon the Minister of Pensions and presented the Legion's case. County and Area Conferences are being arranged all over the country during the next few months which will be attended by national officers of the Legion. Already Sir Ian Fraser has spoken in London, Leicester and Newcastle. Speaking at the meeting in London on February 7th, Sir Ian said:—

“State welfare for most of the population has grown so much that with our necessary re-armament the economy is badly strained. Yet most war pensioners get less from the State in purchasing power than they got, if survivors of the first war, in 1938.

“Only those receiving supplementary allowances are actually better off. These 42,500 are the worst disabled of the 680,000 war pensioners. But the lesser disabled, affected by advancing years as well as by disability, are not always considered. The man who lost a leg in the first war and received a pension of 24s. in 1938 is among those lesser disabled. To-day, with the cost of everything more than doubled, his pension is only 33s.

“These men do not agitate publicly. It goes against the grain with them to demonstrate their own disabilities and, of course, the majority are able to work. But their pensions were awarded for the loss of the amenities of life, not for lost earning power. Yet who will doubt that many thousands of them would be earning far more if they had not been injured in battle?

“The war disabled do not have prior claim over all other disabled; but they should. They should be paid at least as much in to-day's debased currency as they got when the full pension was 40s. The Legion submits that an increase of 35s. on the full basic pension of 55s. would be an act of common justice. 40s. before the war provided the equivalent of 92s. to-day in spending power.”

All branches of the British Legion are being urged to send representatives to see their M.P.s. While realising the difficulties the Chancellor of the Exchequer has to face in trying to meet all the various requests that are put before him, the Legion hopes that he will bear in mind the particular claims of the disabled ex-serviceman in the next Budget. Old soldiers in all parts of the country would, we are sure, welcome most of all some special concession from the Chancellor on behalf of their disabled old comrades.

St. Dunstan's is grateful to the British Legion for its continued fight on behalf of disabled ex-servicemen. Many St. Dunstaners are themselves members of the British Legion and are taking an active part in this campaign for the recognition of the claims of the great majority of their comrades.

The Floods

The thoughts and sympathy of all St. Dunstaners must have gone out in the last few weeks to their friends in the flooded districts of Eastern England. We have heard with deep regret that H. Richardson, of Ingoldsmell, who had to be moved twice during one night, has since died. He was already a sick man and the fact of moving him in the icy conditions caused pneumonia. Mrs. Richardson is herself sick and our deepest sympathy goes out to her at this time. A fuller notice will appear next month.

As we go to press, the flooded areas are anxiously awaiting the high spring tides, but so far we are able to report that all are safe at Skegness, Grays, Gravesend, St. Osyth and Oulton Broad. At Herne Bay, A. Hedger's kiosk has suffered badly. At Canvey Island, J. Dunn spent several hours on a coal shed roof, but was subsequently rescued. Later he was taken to Rochford Hospital and Mrs. Dunn to Prittlewell Hospital. B. Lammiman suffered from shock and cold when he had to leave his home at Chapel St. Leonards. M. Costello was evacuated by boat from his house at Jaywick, his dog and canary with him, but has refused our offer for him to go to Ovingdean. He has to go each day to the sea-wall with milk and food for his two cats, who are staying put!

The Coronation

The Ministry of Pensions have allocated forty seats for St. Dunstaners and escorts to view the Coronation Procession.

St. Dunstan's has asked that space should also be made available for its charabanc to be accommodated on the route for the less fit men.

Full particulars of accommodation available and all details will be given in the next issue of the REVIEW, and St. Dunstan's men who desire to participate will then be asked to apply, and a ballot will be taken.

Coronation Programme

The Braille Printing Works, Craigmillar Park, Edinburgh, who print the Braille edition of the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, are issuing a Braille edition of the Coronation Programme. If any St. Dunstaner wishes to have a copy of this will he please notify the Editor of the REVIEW and it will be sent to him.

A Message from Miss Pain

I would like to thank the many friends who have wished me well in my late illness. I am nearly all right now. It was only a very slight stroke, which came at the wrong time. The doctor says that I must go quietly for a time so I will be spending some weeks with friends in the country, but I shall hope to say "thank you" to many of you personally later on.

DOROTHY PAIN.

Welfare Visitors Meet

A meeting of all our Welfare Visitors was held on Monday, February 2nd, to enable them to meet Mr. C. D. Wills, the new Welfare Superintendent, and to discuss and exchange views on various matters affecting the Welfare Department. Sir Ian Fraser presided, and Lady Fraser was also present. Sir Ian, welcoming the visitors, expressed St. Dunstan's deep sympathy with those men in their areas whose homes were in the flooded districts, and the assurance that St. Dunstan's would help in every way possible. At the invitation of Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, the party were later entertained to lunch at the House of Commons.

From All Quarters

Congratulations to Councillor Harry White, of Stalybridge, who regained his seat on the local Council in a recent by-election. He was elected a member in 1946, but was unsuccessful in 1950 and 1951.

★ ★ ★

F. A. Stringer, who, as reported in the December REVIEW, has been elected President of the 59th Manchester Company, Boys' Brigade, completes next month sixty years with the Brigade. He is the oldest Old Boy Officer in the Battalion. Soon he goes to the annual Battalion Camp—his eighth in succession—but not under canvas any more!

★ ★ ★

Thelma Meredith sailed for Canada on February 14th, on the *Ascania*. Bon voyage, Thelma, and lots of luck.

★ ★ ★

Eamonn Andrews, the well-known sports broadcaster, started our Walk on Saturday, February 14th, and later took Archie Brown back with him to Broadcasting House. Then, in Sports Report, he introduced Archie, who told listeners how our walkers train, and in general gave a first-rate broadcast. Walk details next month.

London Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club was held on January 16th. The attendance was smaller than usual owing to bad weather, but we were very pleased to welcome Mr. Askew in the chair. The Chairman's Report and Accounts were well received. The Committee for the ensuing year are: Mr. P. Ashton, Chairman. *Bridge Section*: Messrs. S. Webster and H. Gover; *Indoor Section*: Messrs. W. Bishop and C. Williamson; *Outdoor Section*: Messrs. W. Miller and C. Stafford.

The Club is open from 5 to 10 p.m.

Monday: Institute of Magicians.

Tuesday: Whist Drive.

Thursday: Dominoes Drive.

Friday: Usually a free night.

Saturday: 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Afternoon, bridge; evening, whist drive.

With Miss Ibbetson managing the catering and our good friend, Mr. Willis, always in attendance, newcomers will find a warm welcome. P. ASHTON.

Bridge

The Bridge Section held its 16th Annual General Meeting at Headquarters on Saturday, 10th January. H. Gover introduced to the meeting Mr. A. D. Lloyds, who then took the chair. The minutes were read by Mr. Armstrong, one of our best friends. Then came the Captain's report, which was a brief résumé of the year's activities. He called the attention of the members to the fact that "interference bidding" could be improved, and also that many members were nervous of bidding Games bids or Slams. The Treasurer's report came next and with Sammy holding the purse this is never in much danger. He showed a loss of 3s. 2d. on the year, so this was passed.

The new committee was then elected as follows: H. Gover, Captain-Secretary; S. Webster, Treasurer; and Messrs. N. Downs, W. Henry, W. Bishop. The fixtures for the year were left mainly to the committee, including a visit to the Masters, a visit to Harrogate, and the Bridge Weekend at Brighton. We all agreed on our usual 5s. subscription and the gift of another watch to the Deaf-Blind Fund. If any St. Dunstan's bridge player feels like being associated with us in this charity, would he please send the donation to our Treasurer, S. Webster. The meeting closed with a few well-chosen words of thanks from Sammy to Mr. Lloyds for taking the chair at our meeting. H. GOVER.

Ten Mile Handicap Walk

On January 24th we invited Roger Bannister, one of Great Britain's fastest milers, to be the starter and present the prizes at the Walking Section's annual 10 mile race. This was the more interesting as the "Fitureite" Company of Wellingborough have presented the Section with a marvellous Cup to be competed for annually in this race, and to be held by the winner of the Handicap. The day was extremely cold and the eleven starters soon got down to a hard race. At the half mile mark, Archie Brown was in the lead, closely followed by Billy Miller, Tommy Gaygan, Charles Williamson and the remainder of the field all bunched together. At 4 miles, Archie and Billy had settled down to a dog fight, and the positions between Tommy and Charles had changed, the former dropping to 4th, with the field now well spread out. At 7 miles, Billy decided to make his effort and won a fine race in 91 mins. 29 secs., followed by Archie, 92 mins. 27 secs., with Tommy third in 93 mins. 4 secs.

Congratulations to Dennis Fleisig for pulling off the Handicap Cup and Smith's 8-day clock. It was only his fifth race. Charles Williamson won the prize for the best improved time on the previous year, which was presented by our friend, Mr. Shuter.

Remarks: Archie felt fine; Alf Bradley not a bit tired; Dennis Fleisig a little tired but still game for 12 miles; Charles blinking cold; Billy not too hard pushed.

Come along lads there is plenty of room and some jolly good prizes to win. Training Tuesday nights. Start now for next season. W. M. and C. W.

Ten Miles Sealed Handicap Walk

Order of Finishing and Handicap Times

Position	Competitor	Actual Time	Hcp. All.	Hcp. Time	Hcp. Pos.
1.	W. Miller	91-29	Scratch	91-29	5
2.	A. Brown	92-27	-30	91-57	7
3.	T. Gaygan	93-04	2-00	91-04	3
4.	C. Williamson	94-08	2-00	92-08	8
5.	P. Cryan	98-12	8-00	90-12	2
6.	S. Tutton	98-45	6-30	92-15	9
7.	C. Stafford	102-28	10-40	91-48	6
8.	A. Bradley	102-31	9-10	93-21	10
9.	L. Dennis	102-55	11-50	91-05	4
10.	D. Fleisig	110-45	22-00	88-45	1
	T. Denmead		Retired.		

Handicap: 1st D. Fleisig. 2nd P. Cryan. 3rd T. Gaygan. Fastest Loser, W. Miller. Improvement Prize, C. Williamson.

Forthcoming Walks: 12 miles Walk—March 7th. 15 miles Walk—April 11th.

I Remember

A further selection of reminiscences from St. Dunstaners. 10s. 6d. goes to the sender of each one published.

"Taters"

It was winter, and winter in a seaside resort can be worse than anything experienced in a so-called "distressed area." There was no food in the house, and no means of getting any. There was no "dole," and people would rather starve than apply to the "relieving officer," for the laws of the day had made it so.

I have been told that, in the days of sail, the Cornish coast folk used to make their children repeat a bedtime prayer as follows: "God bless Mum, God bless Dad, God send a ship ashore 'fore mornin'." That was our unuttered prayer, too, for we were hungry children that no one seemed to care about. So, when morning broke, we were glad to know that a barge had gone ashore at Foreness Bay with a cargo of potatoes, and had spilled its treasure all over the sands.

Soon there were many famished families with all sorts of transportation to carry the welcome stuff home. A coastguard patrolled the beach—but what cared hungry people for him—and the potatoes were rapidly transferred from the shore to storage in the various homes about the town of Margate.

Soon we sat down to a meal of baked potatoes—for firing could be gleaned from the sands—and our little bellies were soon replete for the time. But after a time the diet began to pall, and after three months I was sick of the sight of a "murphy."

Nowadays things are much better, thanks to the Welfare State.

I often listen to an item on the radio called "Desert Island Discs," in which various personages are supposed to have made their choice of twelve records, for perpetual playing whilst marooned on a desert island. If their diet in addition to these constantly repeated records was to be potatoes—and only potatoes—then I would wager that there would be no story of Robinson Crusoe from their lips, for, between the two evils—or rather with both of them—only the bleached bones would remain to tell the story of their purgatory. But perhaps there would become "taters" remaining to tell others of their pitiful story.

ERNEST E. J. S. BURTON.

In the Right Direction

I was living in Putney some years ago. I had lost my right eye, and the left had been rather badly damaged. As I was walking home from work a car drew up beside me, and the driver asked me if I could direct him to a certain road. As it was a rather complicated route, and, as his destination was near my home, I suggested that I should get in the car and show him the way. We arrived at our destination and I got out. Imagine my surprise and consternation when, on looking round, I found that I had been riding in the front part of a hearse.

CHARLIE KELK.

Rearguard Action

I was wounded on September 3rd, 1916, on the Somme operation, on the 6th, Blighty; by this time my proper age, sixteen, was on my chart. By telling it then I thought I would get my ticket. The nurses used to say "Come and have a look at our baby," and every morning it was "Come and have your nappy on, King." I was wounded in the buttock.

As regards my ticket, I did not get it. Early 1917 found me in the trenches once more and I was awarded the M.M. before I was seventeen and a half.

Bridlington.

A. KING.

Cycling

The Willesden Borough Cycling Association have offered to take any St. Dunstaners interested for tandem rides this summer. The Honorary General Secretary, Mr. S. J. Vygus, of 66 St. John's Avenue, Harlesden, N.W.10, will be very pleased to hear from any St. Dunstaner on this subject.

King George VI Memorial Fund

In the November REVIEW, it was suggested that St. Dunstaners who were not subscribing locally to this Fund might like to do so through St. Dunstan's. Mr. Askew, who acted as Honorary Treasurer, has now sent a cheque for £21 9s. 0d. to the Mansion House, and has received a letter of thanks from the Chairman of the Fund, Sir Leslie Boyce, for the generous response.

Placement

George Jessup, on light press work and jig drilling, with Messrs. Tilling Stevens Ltd., Maidstone.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I am wading in with a bit of ancient history just to help things along. I was a messenger boy at Lloyds, and saw both the funeral of Queen Victoria and the coronation of King Edward, but by the time of Edward VII's funeral I was in the Service and on parade at Hyde Park Corner—12 hours of it—Kaiser Bill was certainly there. Next I was at King George V's coronation, and this was extended over two days—first day procession proper, when I did not see the Kaiser, but the second day the suburbs were toured and it poured with rain all day. We were in the Borough High Street, with our great-coats parked in the gutter, soaked in sandy wetness. On this occasion I saw the Kaiser riding in line abreast with "Bobs" and Kitchener. He was, and indeed continued to be, Honorary Colonel of the First Royal Dragoons up to the beginning of the 1914-18 war—their badge at that time being the German Eagle. This must be the occasion to which Nick refers. Incidentally, I was in the Colour Party for the first function that George V performed as Prince of Wales, and a very fine pair they were, he and his lovely Princess—now our revered Queen Mary, bless her.

I also had the honour of being in the St. Dunstan's party at his funeral, and King George VI's Coronation.

Yours,

BILL LOWINGS.

DEAR EDITOR,

I really must hasten to reply to my friend, Paddy Conlin.

Well, Paddy, unlike Alan, you appeared to miss the second day of the Coronation Parade. Paddy, I was a first-class shot; in consequence had excellent sight, which was not even impaired by a black eye, nor did I resemble a monkey-up-a-stick being supported by one of our wonderful London policemen. You see, Paddy, my detachment was on duty in Regent Street, the second day at Temple Bar, and I can only suggest that you were reclining in the clink during the second day's performance, or maybe you had returned, together with your Sarge, under escort to your Battery.

I am never likely to forget that poker-like figure, Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Paddy, in my regiment you would have been sent to the glasshouse for at least

84 days to cool off, and your Sarge would have been reduced to the ranks.

I was also on ceremonial duty on the occasion of the funeral of His Majesty King Edward VII, which, of course, was a less spectacular affair, and we "rested on our arms reversed."

Yours sincerely,

ALAN NICHOLS.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was also present at King George V's Coronation, and to me they are colourful memories. Therefore I am very interested in the 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, to whom I had the honour of being presented before her accession to the throne.

I was stationed in London with the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, and was present at King Edward VII's funeral, and we had a very busy time with special guard duties and ceremonial parades.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE RICHARDS.

Manchester.

DEAR EDITOR,

Let me congratulate Mr. Wills on his new appointment. I am glad to see that promotions are coming from inside Headquarters.

I hope Mr. Wills' first job was to tell the President of the British Legion that there is no ordinary infantry regiment in the British Army. I believe Mr. Wills served in the Devons as a private. If anyone went to Devon and called its regiment "ordinary" he would never come back. Perhaps Sir Ian meant the Shropshires, or the Gloucesters but now that the photograph of the President of the British Legion has appeared on the front page of the *Daily Worker*, I am not surprised at anything he might say.

Yours sincerely,

J. MACFARLANE.

Ilford.

Sir Ian writes: "This is a fair crack, my dear Mac. Perhaps instead of 'ordinary infantry regiment' I should have described Mr. Wills as 'one of the P.B.I.'"

Note.—A speech of Sir Ian's recently on Korea was widely reported. The gist of the speech is reported elsewhere.

Grandfathers

F. Ralph, of Rottingdean, E. James, of Darlington.

News from Australia, Canada and Malaya

Writing from Brisbane, Queensland, David Williams says:—

Doubtless you have been wondering how the studies went during last year. After the usual Governmental delays and red tape, we got away to a flying start. I had a wonderful time at the lectures. The university people were kindness itself. The professors and lecturers treated me more like a friend than as a student. Of course, they supplied the necessary cups of tea to spur the jaded mind along. One of the professors has a fund of "stories," and yours truly was regaled with the lot of them. At the end of the academic year the same fellow said, "Well, Dave, you may not have learnt much during the year, but you've had a hell of a lot of fun." I agree with him. But the learning was not quite ignored. I passed the three subjects, Philosophy I, English Expression, and Preparatory German with Credits in each subject. This year I hope to take four units for my Arts course.

We have adopted a son a couple of weeks ago—a wee mite. What with the visitors coming to see him, helping the wife, etc., my studies are being seriously neglected at the moment. But he is a lovable little thing and very good.

Also from Queensland comes news of another St. Dunstaner. A newspaper cutting tells us that at the Royal National Show, at which more stud beef cattle exhibits were entered than ever before, one of the great victories of the day went to James Scrymgeour, of Netherby, Warwick. With a grand total of 11 first, four senior championships, two junior reserve championships, two seconds and a third, his team of Poll shorthorn cattle made a clean sweep of their section.

We have now had a letter from Jim Scrymgeour in which he says:—

"The far north of Queensland has for nearly two years in the vast cattle country been ravaged by drought, as in '51 and '52. These areas missed their usual heavy monsoonal rains, consequently thousands of sheep and cattle, the latter in hundreds of thousands, died. The loss will, in my opinion, take ten years or more to make the replacements of the drought destruction. Now these same areas are being deluged by floods and torrential rains.

Here on the Downs where we garnered in a splendid harvest, it has turned dry for the past three months, and rainfall is badly wanted.

I met an old Bungalow pal, 'Nic' Carter, now Eastwood, Sydney, when last in the Harbour City. He is still going well, does work in a plane factory connected with parachute work, and was he pleased to again meet the writer!

This little property, 400-odd acres of rich river flats, is now highly improved, and is also highly mechanised, with all modern power-driven machinery, and we handled 1,150 bags of grain and over 2,000 bales of pressed hay in the past few months. I am still able to swing the feed buckets and to assist in feeding and many other jobs which for years have always been my personal work. Mrs. Scrymgeour keeps fairly well but has a tremendous lot to attend to. Five men are employed on the place and the bookwork, returns, pay tax, transport, and the continuous strain has to be seen to be realised.

Both daughters are married. One son-in-law, late of the A.I.F., an ex-War 2 man, is now my stud groom.

I always have a tender spot for St. Dunstan's. My sincerest wishes to all. I trust you will leave the cold, fog and snow behind before long. As I write, it is as hot as the desert sands and 90 degrees in the shade. Daily we watch the clouds for rain. Such is the vast difference of Australia *v.* Old England.

Canada

A. R. Mallory, of Ottawa, a first war St. Dunstaner also, writes: "My family are all well and we now have four grandchildren to have fun with.

The canteen business is going well and we are busy all day. The amateur radio station is a great hobby for me, though conditions are not too good so far this year. Another blind man has decided to become a 'ham,' that will be five blind operators in Ottawa. Very good, don't you think?"

Malaya

Major "Ron" Bridges is Welfare Officer for the Blind in the Department of Social Welfare, Malaya, and on Christmas Day he broadcast on behalf of the Malayan Association for the Blind a message of goodwill and an appeal for help for that organisation. In his speech, Major Bridges

Chess—An Entertainment

Those who have experienced the tension and thrill of a "lightning Tournament" where the automatic "Ten Second" gong is timekeeper, or have seen the eagerness with which the youngsters of to-day get down to their game, will scout the idea that Chess is too difficult, too slow, and too dull for words. Chess, in fact, is a miniature battle fought out on the chequered board between armies of equal strength which march and counter-march, waging blitz or siege tactics at the whim of the respective commanders. In Social Chess the result does not matter. Style is everything. Play in an interesting and entertaining manner and you will have no lack of opponents, but let your style become dull and tedious and you will find them quietly slipping away when they see you coming. As long as the players are about evenly matched, each determined to play in an entertaining manner, it does not matter whether they are good, bad or indifferent, an enjoyable contest is bound to result.

The best way to learn the game is to get a sighted player to teach you. In addition, you will need a suitable board and men, also the pamphlet by Mr. Merrick, which gives detailed instructions as to the movement of the pieces and the way in which Chess games and positions are recorded. Armed with this you can start marching your miniature army up and down the board, drilling each section until you are familiar not only with its functions, but with the board on which future battles are to be fought. Soon you will be thirsting for more information, when "Chess Questions Answered," by Mr. Bonham—the blind Worcester crack—will fill the bill. Part I deals with the end-game and the functions of the individual pieces. Drill your troops according to the book of words and by the time you have worked through it you will have not only a very clear idea of what each can do, but an extremely vivid mental picture of the board. Part II deals with the openings, and by the time you have worked through that, you will have developed such positional judgment that any club will give you a hearty welcome.

May the coming years bring those who dare to venture, thrilling and entertaining Chess.

ALEC B. HILL.

said: "I was blinded in Burma just before the end of the war, and it can be imagined what a blow this meant to my career as a regular soldier. But I was fortunate because St. Dunstan's were ready to take me in hand, give me training, confidence and a new hope. How many of the blind in Malaya have that good fortune?"

He went on: "We have good reason to believe that there are over thirteen thousand blind in Malaya, and under the present scheme, with the three buildings I have mentioned, we can only attempt to give education and training to a mere two hundred of them."

A week earlier His Excellency, Sir Gerald Templer, High Commissioner and Commander in Chief of the Federation of Malaya, had laid the Foundation Stone for the Gurney Training Centre in Kuala Lumpur, and paid tribute to the success of the Malayan Association for the Blind, "so ably directed by Major Bridges."

It will be remembered that "Ron" Bridges married Betty, the eldest daughter of Sir Clutha Mackenzie, and they now have a little son.

"Dear Sir"

On January 5th, E. R. Ettridge, of Addiscombe, heard a letter written by him read out in the B.B.C. feature, "Dear Sir." The subject matter was Cramp. His name was not given, but it was mentioned that the writer was a chartered physiotherapist.

Mrs. Condon, wife of C. T. Condon, of Basingstoke, was the writer of a letter read out on January 26th in the same programme. Her letter was a summing up of the controversy in the programme on Marriage, Divorce and Religion.

Young St. Dunstaners

Leonard Smith, Southall, gained his B.Sc. degree last year and is now in the Laboratory of the Blue Circle Cement Company.

Young Arthur Dakin, of Blackpool, played in the band at the Central Pier for Blesma and was also in the pantomime at the Grand Theatre.

Marriages

On December 13th, Constance Fishwick, St. Helen's, to Harold Pinner.

Personal

Miss B. Vaughan-Davies thanks all those who have sent her farewell and birthday greetings, all of which will be acknowledged in due course.

From the Chairman's Post-bag

Replying to a correspondent who wrote to offer an eye for a blind person, Sir Ian Fraser wrote:—

"Medical science has not reached the stage at which an operation to transfer an eye from one human being to another has been found possible. Nor, indeed, do the most eminent scientists consider such an operation is practicable. The reason is that thousands of little fibres join the retina to the brain through the optic nerve, and it is considered quite impossible to join each one of these together so that they would remain separate cell formations. What would happen would be that if the eye was transplanted, and if it lived, the join would become a piece of scar tissue which, though perfectly healthy, would not function.

"No doubt the lecture to which you referred related to the transplanting of a piece of cornea, which is the transparent covering to the eye-ball. In a very limited number of cases, where the main structure of the eye is healthy but the transparent film on the front has become opaque due to disease, burning or other injury, transplantation has been found possible. The cornea for this operation is normally obtained from the eye of a still-born baby, or a person who has just died, and it is possible to make a will permitting a surgeon to take a cornea immediately after death. I supported a Bill in the House of Commons last year to facilitate this process."

Can Electrical Impulses be used to Convey Vision?

The question is often asked whether television can be adapted to convey visual images to the brain—in other words, can it help the blind to see.

Such a letter reached Sir Ian Fraser recently and as the subject is of such interest, Sir Ian asked a very eminent scientist, Professor E. D. Adrian, O.M., President of the Royal Society and Chairman of St. Dunstan's Scientific Advisory Committee, for his views. Here is Professor Adrian's reply:

"If we could produce an electrical version of the visual scene and transfer it to the surface of the brain, we might be able to produce visual sensations corresponding in some degree to the visual scene, but it is quite likely that the correspondence would

never be close enough to be much use, and at the present time the difficulties of getting the electrical pattern on to the surface of the brain are too formidable to make it worth trying to develop the method.

"The visual messages from the eyes do not go straight to the cerebral cortex and to nowhere else; they go through an elaborate nervous apparatus in the retina and in the brain stem, so that what arrives in the cerebral cortex is not just a reproduction of the pattern of light and shade falling on the retina, and what arrives in consciousness may depend on what is happening in the lower (brain stem) regions as well as on what happens in the cerebrum. For that reason, stimulation of the cerebral cortex electrically could scarcely be expected to produce the same effect as stimulating the eye by light. We do know, however, that sensation of light or movement of rather crude kind can be produced by stimulating the cerebrum, and it is conceivable that we might get more than this if we had a much better knowledge of the sort of electrical stimuli to use. If the surface of the brain were as accessible as the skin, it would certainly be worth doing all the investigations needed to see what could and could not be done by electrical stimulation.

"But the brain is not as accessible as all that. It can be exposed by the neurosurgeon with little danger at an operation, and electrodes and foreign objects can be left in contact with it for short times, but leaving a fairly large electrode system permanently in contact with the cerebral cortex is far too risky to contemplate. Even to work out the possibilities of electrical stimulation would mean extended experiments, and the chances of success are not enough to justify the dangers.

"Unless an electrode system could be kept in contact with the cerebral cortex, it is difficult to see how any detailed pattern of stimuli could be produced there. It is conceivable, I suppose, that some way might be devised, but as long as the scalp and skull come between the electrodes and the brain, we can never hope to stimulate it in any way that would give a detailed picture, even if we could do so by an electrode system applied to the cerebral cortex (and, as I have said, it is by no means certain that we could ever do so).

"If we knew how to keep electrodes

permanently in contact with the brain without danger, and if we knew how to produce the right kind of electrical pattern to arouse worthwhile visual sensation, there would still be the question whether anyone would want to rely on the elaborate apparatus needed to set up the pattern; but at present the brain is still too inaccessible to make it worth contemplating any practical development of the idea."

Talking Book Library

January Jewels

A half a dozen releases, ranging from the Second World War through a thriller and the story of a well-known opera to autobiography, comprise a fair month's reading. Condensed versions coming up:—

"The Second World War, Volume V," by Winston S. Churchill, reader Andrew Timothy, swings on through Sicily and Italy to the eve of the Normandy landings. It may be history but some of it is still news!

"The Boat," by L. P. Hartley, reader Gordon Little, hinges on the fact that a new arrival in an English rural community of keen conservative fishermen and wartime evacuees is refused permission by the former to row his skiff on their stretch of fishing, and the latter use him as their spearhead in a feud with the locals. Just a trifle long drawn out.

"Opening Night," by Ngaio Marsh, reader Robert Gladwell, is a pleasant little theatre killing, written by a most experienced craftswoman. In the event, it was surprising that the corpse had been allowed to live as long as the opening night.

"Manon Lescaut," by Abbé Prevost, reader Robert Gladwell, is the story of the opera. Try it, it is but one box.

"Undiscovered Ends," by W. H. Elliott, reader John De Manio, is the autobiography of a man who has suffered a great deal and yet, recalling his Five Minutes of Prayer programmes on the B.B.C., has brought comfort to many people. The book is gloomy and rebellious, and strives to find out the "ends" before the writer has qualified to discover the great unknown.

"The Quest for Corvow," by A. J. A. Symons, reader Richard Wessell, is the biography of a promising author who remained only promising by reason of misfortune and a persecution mania consequent upon his failure to become ordained into the Roman Catholic Church. Most depressing! The month's bag is but so-so. "NELSON."

In Parliament

The Far Eastern situation was debated in the House of Commons on February 5th. A speech by Sir Ian Fraser received considerable publicity. Here are extracts from the Press reports of the following day:—

The Times:

Sir Ian Fraser (Morecambe and Lonsdale, C.) said that our American friends should reconsider the issues involved. It seemed clear that there could be no victory in Korea unless the war was widened, and none of us wanted to do that. Even if victory was obtained, it would be a barren victory, because a republic could not be established in South or North Korea, nor could a joint republic be set up unless the Americans were prepared to stay in Korea for a long time to sustain the provisional Government by arms. There were indications that they wanted to get out. Unless they stayed what was the use of a bloody battle which did nothing but decimate the people and destroy the country?

The Manchester Guardian:

Sir Ian Fraser: . . . The cold war—the great struggle between right and wrong, between us and communism—must go on, but the aspect of it which we witness in Korea is the most expensive of all the struggles in which we are engaged. A movement out of Korea would not mean we had lost the war for right against wrong, for freedom against communism.

The Daily Worker:

The official American and British attitude to the Korean war prisoners question was challenged early in yesterday's Parliamentary debate—from the Tory side of the House.

The challenge came from Sir Ian Fraser (C., Morecambe and Lonsdale), who declared:

"I am bound to place on record my personal opinion that if it were possible to arrange an armistice in Korea, this question of not returning the Chinese and North Korean prisoner should not stand in the way. That may be a minority opinion, but I feel it strongly and feel obliged to say that."

In a moving and remarkable speech, Sir Ian said the time had come to do some fresh thinking about the whole matter of Korea, and they should invite the Americans to do so.

Ovingdean Notes, January, 1953

What have we to report from Ovingdean during January? Looking back over the month it seems we have been fairly quiet—but perhaps that is just by comparison with December!

In the main the weather having been quite seasonal, there seem to have been more entertainments taking place in the Home. In fact Mr. Cheeseman's Dance at the "Arlington" and the Dinner and Dance at the "Black Lion," Patcham, at which the Brighton, Hove and District Omnibus Co. and the Southdown Motor Services employees were our hosts, were the only entertainments to take us out, apart from the theatres, cinemas, etc., in Brighton.

Two Darts teams, one from Worthing and the other from Southwick, were entertained at Ovingdean during the month, and the usual Saturday night Domino Tournaments were held. January Sunday evening programmes consisted of two play-readings by staff, a return of "We beg to differ," and a gramophone recital arranged by Mr. Austin Laidlaw, whom probably many of you will remember used to come regularly to West House to give gramophone recitals when it was the Holiday Home.

That's all for this month—except Mr. Jarrold wants us to give you all an early reminder to limber up for Sports Day—so start thinking about it at least!!

Test Results for Last Term

Typing.—W. Bramley, J. Embleton, A. Howell, J. Nichols, T. Giles, E. Jordan.

Preliminary.—R. Freer.

Senior Reading Test.—R. Cameron, P. Giffin, H. White, D. Parmenter, J. Pryor.

Writing.—K. Branson (S.A.), S. Craig (N.Z.), J. Walton, P. Walker, R. Beales, L. Scales, V. Docton, J. Donbavand, L. Dennis.

Advanced.—G. Eustace, D. Parmenter, H. White, V. Docton.

St. Dunstan's Press Honour

The International Federation of Newspaper Publishers, meeting in San Remo, Italy, have honoured W. T. Curtis-Willson by electing him chairman for the remainder of the administrative year. He succeeds Mr. M. Van de Kieft, who resigned on becoming Finance Minister in the Dutch Government.

Mr. Curtis-Willson is a founder member and vice-president of the Federation, and former President of the Newspaper Society.

Births

BROUGHAM.—On January 22nd, to the wife of T. Brougham, of Liverpool, a daughter.

MOSLEY.—On January 17th, to the wife of J. Mosley, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, a daughter—Jane Veronica.

MOON.—On January 20th, to the wife of C. Moon, of Guernsey, Channel Islands, a daughter—Hazel Jean.

STOCKWELL.—On February 5th, to the wife of C. Stockwell, of Bristol, a daughter—Elaine.

WARD.—On January 13th, to Mrs. Ward, widow of our late St. Dunstaner, Edward Ward, of Dublin, a daughter.

Marriage

BURTON—BUTT.—On February 4th, E. S. Burton, of Westgate, to Miss Norah Butt.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

CAPLE.—To A. J. Caple, of Cardiff, whose father has just died, and to Mrs. Caple, whose mother, whom she had nursed for many years, died on January 7th.

HILLING.—To F. C. Hilling, of Folkestone, whose wife died on January 25th.

Wilfred Pickles at Ovingdean

Wilfred Pickles visited Brighton for his "Can I Come In" programme on February 18th. He never went to Brighton, he said, without visiting his friends at St. Dunstan's, and two St. Dunstaners were included in this broadcast. Stuart Craig, a New Zealander who was blinded in Korea, was interviewed first, and he was followed by William Young, who comes from High Spen, Co. Durham. Bill was a prisoner of war in Germany. At Wilfred's request he sang—most beautifully—"Just a'wearying for you."

Wilfred later described to listeners one of the watches devised for our handless lads and we heard it striking.

The repeat was on the following Sunday and this time Sammy Webster was included. (The B.B.C. had to cut the first programme to broadcast flood notices). Sammy—for 35 years a telephonist in Fleet Street—said he had been with his firm for so long that they took him down now and dusted him at stock-taking!

"In Memory"

Walter Ruddock, 4th Yorkshire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of Walter Ruddock, of Middlesbrough. "Wally" was one of our very well-known deaf St. Dunstaners, who came to us first in 1920. He was at one time a telephonist. He had not been a fit man for a long time and it was a great disappointment to him that he could not attend the last Deaf-Blind Reunion. He entered Ovingdean only two days before he died on January 9th. His friends, George Fallowfield, Bill Jay, and Wally Thomas attended the funeral.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Marjorie, his wife, who is known to many who visited West House, and who had lost her mother only nine days before.

George Fallowfield writes: "There was never a more unselfish man . . . he had a keen sense of humour and many a good yarn to spin. He was, in fact, a splendid comrade and he will be missed by us all."

Private William Ellinson, 1/6th Royal Warwickshire Regt.

We record with deep regret the death of W. Ellinson, of Warwick, which occurred at his home on February 4th.

Wounded at Cambrai, he came to us in October, 1917, and trained as a basket-maker, but for a very long time ill-health had prevented him from working. He spent long periods at our Homes and returned to his own home only in December of last year.

We extend our very sincere sympathy to his wife.

Private Thomas S. Burrige, Labour Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of T. S. Burrige, of Reading, at the age of seventy-four.

He came to St. Dunstan's in November, 1926, when he trained as a mat-maker and netter. His son tells us that in his long and painful illness he talked often of the happy times he had at St. Dunstan's. When he was well he would sing what he called his "keep-fit song"—"You must have exercise." His pals will remember Tommy with affection.

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

Private John Eastelow, Royal Field Artillery

We record with deep regret the death of J. Eastelow, of Willenhall, Staffs.

It was not until 1947 that he came to St. Dunstan's, although he had served in the 1914—1918 war. When he came to us he was already a sick man and we have for long been anxious about his health. He died at his home on January 16th.

He leaves a wife and family, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Driver James Noble, 16th Army Service Corps

We record with deep regret the death of J. Noble, of Watford, at the age of eighty-five.

Enlisting on October 5th, 1914, he was discharged from the Army two years later and entered St. Dunstan's in February, 1919. He trained in netting.

Towards the end of 1951, as a sick man, he was admitted to West House, where he had remained ever since.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Noble and her family.

Private Edward Patrick Horan, 7th Leinster Regt.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. P. Horan, of Dublin.

He came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1915, after being wounded at Loos. In addition to damaged sight he had also a very badly damaged leg. He trained as a basket-maker, but for some time had been able only to do very light work. He had spent several holidays at Blackpool and returned home from there on November 17th. He died on January 13th.

At the funeral service there were Mr. and Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Walker (representing her father, R. Bell), Mrs. Martin, of Bray (representing Barney, who was away), and Miss McLoughlin (representing Danny McLoughlin). Mr. Macauley attended the Mass and funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Horan and her family.

Frank Hyde, Australian Forces

We have heard with deep regret from Mrs. Hyde that her husband, Frank Hyde, of Sydney, New South Wales, died on May 5th last.

Wounded at Messines, he came to St. Dunstan's in the early days and did exceedingly well in basket-making. He returned home and continued with this craft as a hobby, but took a keen interest also in the Blind Soldiers' Tea Company.

He leaves a widow and two sons, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Oscar Vidler, Australian Forces

We learn with deep regret from a New South Wales magazine of the death of Oscar Vidler, who was one of the first six men in New South Wales to return from the Second World War totally blind. He was trained in Braille and typewriting but ill-health prevented any occupational training. He spent a considerable time in hospitals. He married in 1949 one of the nursing sisters and they lived at Woody Point, Queensland.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Vidler.

Paul Jensen

We have heard with great regret that Paul Jensen, of Norway, with whom we were in constant touch before the war, has died after a long and painful illness.

"In Memory"

Driver Leonard Smith, 74th Field Regt., R.A.

We record with deep regret the death of L. Smith, of Kentish Town, a St. Dunstaner of the recent war, who came to us in 1952. The state of his health prevented any serious training, but he spent some time at Ovingdean. He died on January 8th after a long illness. He was 29.

Leonard was a single man and our deep sympathy goes out to his parents.

Sergeant Charles Edward Brooker, M.M., Royal Army Medical Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. E. Brooker, of London, S.W.9. He was 62.

He enlisted in 1914 and served throughout the 1914-1918 war, and on being demobilised he was admitted to the City Police Force where he served for 23 years. His failing sight, however, forced him to retire and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1943. He trained in wool rug making, but his health became increasingly worse. He spent some time in hospital in the autumn of 1952; he was re-admitted on January 14th and he died the following day.

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

Private William James Alexander Rogers, 24th Royal West Kent Regt.

With deep regret we record the death of W. J. A. Rogers, of Tankerton, which took place in hospital on January 19th. He was 62.

Although he had served in 1914-1918, he did not come to us until October, 1949, when his age and health prevented any training. He had been far from well for a long time, but he was always cheerful and uncomplaining. On January 12th he was admitted to hospital, where he died a week later.

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

Private David Makin, 10th Durham Light Infantry

We record with deep regret the death of David Makin, of Wallsend-on-Tyne.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1915. During the recent war he was very proud to be able to make his contribution to industry, but during the past eighteen months he had suffered greatly. He died at his home on January 16th.

He leaves a wife and family, to whom our sincere sympathy is offered. Mrs. Makin had nursed him devotedly for many months.

Private Wilfred Holmes, 27th Northumberland Fusiliers

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Holmes, of Witton Park, Co. Durham.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in 1916, he trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker and, later, in basket-making, but for a very considerable time he had not worked owing to his poor health. His death, nevertheless, was very sudden.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife, who herself has been in hospital for some time, and to his family, in particular his daughter, Mrs. Fairish, who has looked after him for so long.

Private Arthur Lloyd, East Lancashire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of A. Lloyd, of Accrington. Although he served in the first world war, he did not come to us until 1950, when his age prevented any training.

He had re-married only a few months before his death, and our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Lloyd and his family.

Private Joseph Spencer, Devonshire Regiment, attached Labour Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Spencer, of Knighton, Leicester.

When he came to us in 1918 he was already a business man, and he carried this on through the years. After a comparatively short illness, he died at his home on January 22nd.

Our sincere sympathy is offered to his wife and family.

Private William Sebbage, Royal West Sussex Regt.

We have to record with deep regret the death of W. Sebbage, of Moulsecombe, Brighton. He was sixty-one.

Blinded at Gallipoli, he entered St. Dunstan's in January, 1916 and trained in mat-making and poultry keeping, but poor health forced him to give this up some time ago. He had been seriously ill for a month, and he died on February 1st.

The funeral at Brighton was attended by two St. Dunstaners—G. Killingbeck and K. Gattrell—both of whom had served in the same regiment.

We send our deep sympathy to his widow and grown-up family.

Private Harry Oswald Garratt, Royal Army Medical Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Harry Garrett, of Sherwood, Nottingham, which occurred suddenly at his home on January 3rd.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1919 and was trained in netting, boot-repairing and mat-making. For a number of years, however, he had been a very sick man, but remained always in good spirits.

Harry was a widower and our sympathy goes out to his family, and in particular to Mrs. I. Stapleton, who cared for him.