

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### Thank You, B.B.C.

A number of St. Dunstaners have written to me telling me how much they enjoyed the broadcasting of the Coronation ceremony and Procession. "We felt we were there." A deaf St. Dunstaner tells me how relays of Sisters at Ovingdean translated the broadcast description to him by the manual alphabet throughout the day. The St. Dunstaners in the coach and those on the stand seem to have enjoyed themselves from the reports and letters I have received. Many have told me how much they appreciate the silver crown which we sent out as a memento. So ends our celebration of the Coronation, and although we were all thrilled with these stirring events, it will be our hope that there will not be another Coronation for a very long time to come. "Long live the Queen" is our prayer.

### Braille

It has been my experience that those who lose their sight in adult life—even as young men—do not as a rule learn braille as easily, or become so fluent, as those who go blind in childhood. Nevertheless we have tried hard at St. Dunstan's to raise our standard of teaching and encourage continuous effort, and I am sure that our competition for the Arthur Pearson Memorial prizes have had their effect. In the National Library for the Blind Reading Competition, open to all the blind world, six St. Dunstaners have won prizes in their particular sections this year.

I cannot emphasise too strongly to all St. Dunstaners, and especially the younger ones, how important it is to stick to their braille, and I recommend a daily dose, however short. Soon it will cease to be a drudgery and become one of the most important pastimes and pleasures. Apart from the books which can be had from the National Library for the Blind, there are many magazines, including our own "Nuggets" which consists of short items of interest and comment and is easy for the beginner to read. A note to the Editor will bring information about the wealth of literature and journalism that is available.

### Dark Glasses

Some St. Dunstaners wear dark glasses because their eyes or eyelids have been hurt, or because the sun or the wind cause discomfort; this is understandable and very wise. I have noticed that many others wear them for some other reason and I wonder what it is.

Is it perhaps sensitiveness about blindness or, alternatively, to demonstrate that the wearer is blind? It is no longer as fashionable as it was in the outside world to wear dark

glasses and I wonder if it is desirable in a case where there is no medical need. I would be interested to hear the views of others about this subject.

### Miss Hamar Greenwood

Many St. Dunstaners will feel they have lost a personal friend by the death on May 18th of Miss Hamar Greenwood. The Editor is printing on another page a note written in the "Times" by her brother-in-law, the Right Hon. L. S. Amery, as well as one which I contributed to the same paper.

### St. Dunstan's Is Honoured Too

It has warmed my heart to receive so many letters and messages from all over the world following my appointment as a member of the Companions of Honour. We have tried to answer every one of these, but if one has gone astray, we hope the sender will take the will for the deed. I rejoice to think that the award honours St. Dunstan's as well as its Chairman,

IAN FRASER

### Brighton Walk Record Beaten

Old memories were revived on May 16th when three St. Dunstaners—Messrs. Charles Williamson, veteran Archie Brown, and Charles Stafford—lined up with members of many well-known walking clubs to take part in the famous annual Stock Exchange Walk to Brighton. And they did not only line up to begin. They all finished in the first twenty, and Charles Williamson smashed by more than ten minutes the St. Dunstan's record set up by Jock Ingram in 1925. Congratulations to all three.

First war St. Dunstaners will recall the tremendous excitement and enthusiasm of 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925, when our walkers held their own London to Brighton Walk. F. M. Cassidy won the Walk that first year, W. Birch in 1923 and Jock Ingram the following two years, beating his own record in 1925 by coming home in 9 hrs. 57 mins. 20 secs. The 1925 race—the last of the Brighton Walks as it happened—was a wonderful one in every way. Every one of the ten starters finished—claimed as a record then for the Brighton Road.

### Coronation Awards

A limited number of Coronation Medals were awarded for long service to St. Dunstan's. Those who received them were Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., President of St. Dunstan's, Mr. W. G. Askew, Secretary, Miss E. Goole, the Chairman's principal secretary, Mr. Jock Boyd, Appeals Department, and Mr. S. Durrant (Technical Visitor).

★ ★ ★

We are glad to hear that the following St. Dunstaners have also received Coronation Medals; Mr. C. H. Ellis, of Ilford,

telephonist, Ministry of Labour; Mr. G. H. Heeley, shorthand typist, Ministry of Pensions, Leeds; Mr. W. Lethbridge, of Oldham; Mr. P. Martin, of Thornton Heath, telephonist at the Imperial Defence College; Mr. W. Muir, of Whitley Bay, telephone operator at the Ministry of Labour; Sergeant Alan Nichols, of Ports-lade, Sussex.

★ ★ ★

Mr. J. Macfarlane ("Mac") was awarded the B.E.M. for his thirty years' service as a telephone operator with the Export Credits Guarantee Department. The Comptroller General of Mac's Department said: "His interest in his work and his knowledge cannot be assessed in words. In fact, he is an institution."

★ ★ ★

Mr. S. C. Tarry receives an M.B.E. He was one of the early St. Dunstan's masseurs and was for some years Chairman of the physiotherapists' Advisory Committee. He was a member in its early days of the Federation of Disabled Men, which later became the British Legion. He has been a member of the local War Pensions Committee (South West Area) since 1921, for the last three years as its chairman. He was a member of the Battersea Borough Council, and is active in the social and philanthropic life of the Borough.

★ ★ ★

Sir Ian Fraser was made a member of the Order of the Companion of Honour. This honour carries no title and is limited to sixty-five members at any one time. It was instituted in 1917 and among the first holders were Mr. Winston Churchill and General Smuts. The present list includes Mr. Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Attlee, and Lord Woolton.

### Coronation Memories

#### "I Was There"

The P. and O. liner "Strathaird" docked at Tilbury on May 31st, two days before the Coronation. I was fortunate to be one of the passengers on this ship. One might say, "Why fortunate?"

The ship sailed from Sydney, calling at the main ports of Australia, then Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said and Marseilles. During the two months in Australia I came into contact and conversed with a number of Australians. Many of those I spoke to had different viewpoints concerning the Mother Country, but I can honestly say that I have not met one individual, or any body of people, who did not respect the Throne. It came quite natural for all to express their love and admiration for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. My wife and I were in the city of Perth on a day in April when we noticed that all the streets were gaily beflagged. I asked someone what all this festivity was for and the lady said, "You, English people, asking an Australian that! Don't you know it is the birthday of your Queen?" It came to me very strongly that whatever their differences, the bond of Empire was bound firmly by their allegiance to the Crown.

People of many races, castes and religions boarded the ship at different ports. Many of them came to have a chat with me. All those I spoke with were on their way to London. They were travelling to see the Coronation. All this imbued the whole ship with the atmosphere of the Coronation.

One Indian lady told me that it would give her much pleasure when she returned again to her own country to say, "I was there." I, too, was pleased to know that so many of all races admired our Queen, which is the reason why I thought myself fortunate; I also felt a little sorry for myself because I did not think at that time that I should be there. When my wife and I arrived home on the Sunday afternoon, I found that I had been one of the lucky St. Dunstaners inasmuch that I had drawn a seat to view the procession. So you see, I was there.

When I arrived at Ovingdean on the Monday, it gave me great pleasure to meet

some old friends who were also to be in our party. After high tea, we proceeded in two coaches to Headquarters at Marylebone Road, arriving about 7.45. I think it remarkable that we did this in such a short space of time considering all the traffic at such a time. The two drivers on St. Dunstan's staff should be congratulated.

A late dinner was waiting for us, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. When we were partaking of this, we were all pleased to hear the voice of our Chairman, Sir Ian Fraser, who spoke to us on the eve of the day that everyone had been looking forward to for so long. We all expressed our pleasure at the knowledge that Her Majesty had honoured him that day by making him a Companion of Honour.

I was in the coach party which left about nine o'clock the next morning. We had a splendid wireless set in our coach, so that we heard all the ceremonies, etc., which took place before the procession came. This shortened the period of waiting. In the afternoon we again followed the proceedings up to the moment when the head of the procession came into sight. Then Commandant Fawcett began to describe what was passing us. This was the moment we were waiting for. It had arrived and we were all standing looking out at the road. The Colonial contingents, the Armed Police, the Army, Navy, the Air Force, then the Commonwealth contingents. All the colour of the different uniforms, the burst of light when in the sudden sunshine hundreds of fixed bayonets gleamed and sparkled. Eventually the greatest moment of all when Her Majesty's procession came into view. The cheering of the immense crowds reminded me of the song, "Can't you hear them cheering as the Queen goes by." Then the State coach came by, drawn by eight grey horses, and we saw Her Majesty and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

When all had gone by and the soldiers had marched away, we started on our return to Brighton, the memory of all the excitement still strongly with us. The glory of this day will ever live in my memory and I am most grateful that I was able to be there.

Hove.

MALCOLM JORDAN.

### A View from the Stands

I was one of the fortunate ones to draw a seat for the Coronation, so on the Monday evening I left home for Headquarters in the very best of spirits. Our sleeping accommodation was on the floor of the Darts Room and it brought back memories of the Service and camping days—though our comfort had been given more consideration and was much more fun. About 4.30 a.m. we were all awake; the excitement by this time was really growing rapidly, but it did not stop us from enjoying a very hearty breakfast which had been prepared for us by lady members of the office staff. At 6.45 we were given a cushion and haversack containing food and drink for the day and departed.

Our seats, which were excellent, were in the East Carriage Drive and soon after 7 a.m. we settled ourselves for a wait of about eight hours. Surprisingly enough, the time went very quickly. The enthusiasm and atmosphere was something never to be forgotten. The crowds were all on top of the world although the weather was most unkind, and for the last three hours of waiting it rained continuously, but with the groundsheets lent by St. Dunstan's, and other improvised coverings, we managed to keep reasonably dry. One of the party, trying to locate a rail he had been told about, felt something strange and a lady's voice said, "That belongs to me." (Apparently he was touching her knee). An announcer on a loudspeaker was kept very busy with lost children, etc., and his announcements were very humorous and entertaining.

We were fortunate in hearing on the loudspeaker the most memorable service from Westminster Abbey. As the time for the procession grew nearer, the excitement was intense, and the roar of the crowds as the procession first came into sight was something never to be forgotten. From now on our escorts had a very busy time giving a running commentary and trying to keep up with the splendour and pageantry, but they did it extremely well and the picture I got was most vivid. After the long procession came the moment we had waited for—the golden coach and most of all, our radiant Queen. Never before have I heard such cheers.

I am sure that all the other fellows who had shared this happy day with me would like me to express their thanks to Sir Ian

and the staff and helpers who had made this great day an outstanding success.

CHARLES STAFFORD.

### A House of Commons Party

During their stay in London for the Coronation, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser gave a luncheon to Mr. P. J. Lynch, C.B.E. and Captain F. J. L. Woodcock, who were representing the Australian Commonwealth Council of Disabled Soldiers' Association, and the National Veterans' Organisation of Canada. The Marquess and Marchioness of Normanby were there; the Marquess, who is a Member of the Council of St. Dunstan's and had been a fellow prisoner of war in Germany with Captain Woodcock early in the recent war, proposed the Toast of "Our Guests" and Mr. Lynch and Captain Woodcock responded. Mrs. Woodcock and Mrs. Lynch accompanied their husbands, and among others present were a number of other Canadian and Australian St. Dunstaners resident in this country, Mr. Askew, and a number of Members of Parliament.

### The Coronation Programme

A number of Coronation Programmes in Braille are available as souvenirs of a very wonderful occasion. Will any St. Dunstaner who would like to have a copy, send his name to Mr. S. Jones, Men's Supplies.

### Church Stretton Goes Gay

From the "News Chronicle," May 25th:

"Typical of many village celebrations will be those of Church and All Stretton under the Long Mynd, in Shropshire. Besides a street carnival and country dancing, bonfires will be lit on three surrounding peaks—Caradoc, Ragleth and the Long Mynd itself, all well over 1,000 feet high.

"On Long Stretton's cricket ground, stationmaster Will Owen has got together a team of gentlemen who will play left-handed cricket, using pick handles for bats against Long Stretton ladies.

"To help the Women's Institute in an exhibition of local history, 93-year-old Miss Jasper Jones and her 91-year-old sister Miss Ambler Jones have 'blown the dust of ages' (Miss Jasper's phrase) off dresses worn by their grandmother in 1816.

"Thanks to the Misses Jones, Church Stretton will also be able to see a wooden stomacher presented to their doctor-uncle by a patient whose fiancé carved on it initials and hearts in 1796, when George I was King."

### London Club Notes

**Indoor Section.**—On Monday, May 11th, we suffered our first defeat at darts when we paid a visit to our friends at the Tottenham Constitutional Club. This loss was attributed to being short of practice, but trainer Bob Willis has other views. One player in particular he is recommending for the transfer list. Any offers?

A happy party left the Club by coach at 10 a.m. on June 6th to see Sir Gordon Richards ride his first Derby winner, and although winners were hard to find, a most enjoyable day was spent by all. A halt was made on the return journey at Streatham, where light refreshments were served.

W. BISHOP.

**Outdoor Section.**—"Big Ben," 6 a.m., May 16th.—This will long be remembered as a milestone in the annals of the Walking Section, for it marked the start of what was considered by many to be a highly improbable thing. Three of our members, Charles Williamson, Archie Brown, and Charles Stafford, along with forty other competitors, were starting in the famous annual Stock Exchange London to Brighton walking race.

Despite heavy rain at the start and strong headwinds, to say nothing of the unfavourable predictions of many would-be prophets, particularly first war St. Dunstaners, each walked extremely well and finished in styles that would do justice to the best of walkers. Charles Williamson broke the St. Dunstan's record set up in 1925 by Jock Ingram by finishing 7th in 9 hrs. 47 mins.; Archie Brown, even more remarkable for he is 57 years old, finished tenth in 9 hrs. 59 mins. 45 secs., and Charles Stafford was 20th in 10 hrs. 55 mins. 20 secs. Three in the first twenty out of forty-three is truly a first-class performance. Many congratulations to all three.

**The Farmer Cup.**—The annual 7 miles race for the Farmer Cup was held on May 30th, at Brighton. Five men represented London and six men the Rest of England. The race, which was started by John and Jennifer Nicks, world pairs skating champions, was keenly contested, and a large crowd of spectators were delighted by some fine walking.

Archie Brown, for the Rest of England, took the initiative and held a comfortable lead over W. Miller, of London, until half a mile from home, when the latter got his

nose in front and won the race from Archie by 3 seconds. C. Williamson, London, was third, and Tom Gaygan, Rest of England, 4th.

London won the Cup by 17 points to the Rest of England's 22. We were very pleased to see D. Faulkner and J. Kibler, of Birmingham, in the Rest of England team, and look forward to seeing many other new faces in the near future.

Handicap prizes were won by L. Dennis, A. Brown and A. Bradley, and were presented by Matron at Ovingdean.

His Worship the Mayor of Brighton presented the Cup to the London team after the race.

**Swimming.**—Those St. Dunstaners who are interested in swimming now have the opportunity of getting back in the swim at the expense of the Club, for Monday evenings, from 7—8 at the Seymour Baths, is when they may attend with an escort if they wish, providing they let Mr. Willis at Headquarters know on the day of attendance.

W. M.

### 7 Miles Sealed Handicap and Scratch Walk for the "Farmer Cup"

#### Handicap Times and Order of Finish

Competitor	Actual Time	H'cap Time	H'cap All.	H'cap Pos.
<b>London Team</b>				
1. C. Williamson	62-59	62-04	-55	6
2. W. Miller	61-38	61-38	Scr.	5
3. C. Stafford	70-33	62-18	8-15	7
4. D. Fleisig	70-50	62-40	8-10	9
5. A. Bradley	67-41	59-41	8-00	2
<b>The Rest Team</b>				
1. T. Gaygan	66-15	64-30	1-45	11
2. A. Brown	61-41	61-06	-35	3
3. L. Dennis	67-46	57-31	10-15	1
4. D. Faulkner	73-59	61-24	12-35	4
5. P. Cryan	68-41	62-36	6-05	8
6. L. Kibler	79-00	64-00	15-00	10

London. 17 points. Winners.

The Rest. 22 points.

Scratch. 1st, W. Miller. 2nd, A. Brown. 3rd, C. Williamson.

Handicap. 1st, L. Dennis. 2nd, A. Bradley. 3rd, A. Brown.

Handicapper and Timekeeper. Mr. W. J. Harris.

### Braille Test Result

Special congratulations to Wally Thomas, who passed his braille writing test on May 15th. Wally did the test without an error—a great tribute to his perseverance, for at first he did not find it easy to develop his sense of touch. He is the first of the deaf-blind St. Dunstaners of World War II to pass the double test of reading and writing.

### Miss M. Hamar Greenwood

From *The Times*:

"In the peaceful passing away of Mary Hamar Greenwood the world is the poorer for the loss of a rare personality. The eldest of a large family, including the late Viscount Greenwood and her two surviving sisters, Mrs. Amery and the Hon. Mrs. Simon Rodney, she left Canada as a young girl to study nursing in the United States, rising very soon to the top of the profession, both as a pioneer of modern nursing and, above all, as an administrator. When what was already a remarkable career seemed cut short by blindness, she resolved to start life afresh, and threw herself with undaunted zest, as one of Sir Arthur Pearson's lieutenants, into the work for blinded soldiers, which he had inaugurated at St. Dunstan's. For years she was indefatigable in her work of teaching braille and, even more, of inspiring hope and self-confidence in these victims of the war. Many hundreds have owed to her wisdom and cheerful inspiration a new faith in the meaning of life. After a quarter of a century of unwearied and happy effort, she retired during the last war to her quiet little home at Bredon's Norton, in Gloucestershire, soon to find herself the centre of every kind of local activity, a serene and gracious figure to the end. L. S. A.

"I first met Mary Hamar Greenwood when I was a young student of St. Dunstan's in the First War. She was blind and was one of a band of skilled volunteers who taught braille to the newly blinded ex-servicemen. Often the young soldier had neglected to read with his eyes and to teach him to read with his fingers was a tough job. But she had exactly the qualities required, and many others, which gave encouragement and comfort.

"It was my pleasure as Chairman of St. Dunstan's in 1924 to invite Mary Hamar Greenwood to join our Executive Council, to which she contributed much as an expert, humanitarian and loyal colleague. During the next twenty years, including those of the Second War, she frequently visited St. Dunstan's Reunions throughout the country, and our various training establishments, where she was always welcome and a courageous and inspiring figure. She spoke well and had a great correspondence with St. Dunstaners all over

the world, and she will be remembered with affection and gratitude by our community." I. F.

### A Sports Paper in Braille

For some years past, the blind have been strongly advocating the need for a Braille Sports Paper, and we are very glad to announce that arrangements have now been completed between the Braille Printing Works, Edinburgh, and the publishers of *Sporting Record* for the publishing of a Sports Weekly to be known as the *Braille Sporting Record*. The first issue will appear on Wednesday, 5th August, 1953, and thereafter the paper will be published on Wednesday of each week.

The *Braille Sporting Record* will contain all the main features included in the print edition of *Sporting Record*, and will give up-to-date information on such national sports as football, cricket, boxing, racing, rugger and golf, etc.

Will any St. Dunstaner who would like to receive the *Braille Sporting Record* apply at once to Mr. S. Jones, Men's Supplies.

### Birmingham Club

The Swimming Gala has had to be cancelled. I am sure you will all be very sorry to hear that this is because Miss Fairhead has met with an accident.

AVIS SPURWAY.

### Sports Day Results, 10th May, 1953

#### 70 yards Running

1, J. Kibler, 10.2 secs.; 2, S. Southall, 10.4 secs.; 3, B. Bright, 11 secs.

#### Cricket Ball

1, J. Kibler, 64 yards; 2, B. Bright, 63 yards; 3, J. Smith, 59 yards.

#### Shot

1, J. Kibler, 32ft. 1in.; 2, B. Bright, 25ft. 10in.; 3, J. Smith, 24ft. 6in.

#### Medicine Ball

1, J. Kibler, 37ft. 2in.; 2, B. Bright, 35ft. 6in.; 3, J. Smith, 33ft. 9in.

#### Standing Long Jump

1, J. Kibler, 6ft. 4½in.; 2, B. Bright, 6ft. 1in.; 3, J. Smith, 6ft. ½in.

#### 1,600 yards Walk

1, D. Faulkner, 8 min. 58 secs. (scratch); 2, G. Bilcliffe (1½ mins. start); 3, J. Kibler 10 secs. start).

### Mr. Askew

We are very glad indeed to report that Mr. Askew is now back in his office again after his recent operation.

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

In the April issue of the REVIEW, George Ellis politely expressed his wonderment as to why a V.A.D. in St. Dunstan's is termed "Sister." George's wonderment is shared by many St. Dunstaners and, indeed, by many visitors to St. Dunstan's. I so happened to be at Ovingdean when George's letter was published. It caused quite a commotion amongst some of the first war men. Sarcastic and insulting remarks were hurled at George Ellis. I thought it an awful pity that a fellow could not ask a simple question without being so badly insulted. "Letters to the Editor" in the May issue of the REVIEW aimed more insults at George Ellis. But most of those insults can be ignored, or be looked upon as a poverty of tact by their writers. But certainly Jack Young overstepped the mark when he said "I happen to have experienced some of the original happy family spirit and comradeship which, anyway, existed until the second world war ended."

Mr. Young strongly hints, but has not the guts to say it outright, that he thinks we fellows of the second world war have broken the "happy family" spirit of St. Dunstan's. It's a blessing that there are only a few in St. Dunstan's who think in the same channels as Mr. Young. Jim Shaw and one or two others have the theory that V.A.D.s are called "Sister" because, as Jim says, they are "very near to us." That, of course, is working on the "brotherly and sisterly" love angle. A charming little thought, perhaps, but if it be true, then certainly an orderly has the right to be called "Brother."

We wallahs of the second war have always appreciated the capabilities of the V.A.D.s. Indeed, our respect for them has always been as great as that of the first war men. But we have never had it explained to us why a V.A.D. is termed "Sister." Does it follow, then, that George Ellis should be condemned because he asked "Why"? I think not.

For some time now a handful of St. Dunstaners have made it their business to spread the nonsense that "The men of the first war do not mix with the men of the second war," or the other way round. But that is utter rot. We all mix very freely. It's just a matter of personal taste. I am

a totally deaf St. Dunstaner of the second war, and have found many good friends in the men of the first war. Men who are willing to help and enlighten me. I have, too, the same sort of good friends with men of the second war.

Yours sincerely,  
WALLY THOMAS.

DEAR EDITOR,

When my wife read to me "Why Sister?" I said "George Ellis is asking for it." But let us be fair to George. He did say that he was not making an issue of it, and only wanted to know "Why?" When he coupled the name "Sister" with the qualified Services he was right. It is a rank given to "qualified" nurses who have passed certain examinations.

George was, I am sure, only referring to the V.A.D.s at Ovingdean and West House. At both these places there are, I believe, fully qualified Sisters, and when I was at Ovingdean I noticed that these Sisters called the others in the Sick Bay or Dispensary either Nurse or by name, and they also introduced me to any newcomer in either place as Sister So-and-so, or Nurse So-and-so. Now the V.A.D.s do have a course of First-Aid instruction, but they are not qualified Sisters, and calling them so can at times be very embarrassing to them. I have heard many a man introduce a V.A.D. as "Sister" and the reply, "Oh, yes? What hospital?" and then silence. I have also heard men call out "Sister" when they have wanted a letter read, but when a Sister has answered, the man has said "Is that Sister So-and-so?" holding his letter in his hand, and when told it is not, has asked for a certain Sister to read his letter, which I think made the Sister who answered his call very uncomfortable. That, I think, is George's point. He knows that whatever you call them they are doing a grand job, even if at times you can find fault with them (we all have our moods), but such organisations like St. Dunstan's cannot do without them, and however long you stay, Sister, Mrs., or Miss, or whatever they like to call you, God bless you all in the great work you are doing to make the lives of, at times, so very tiresome men happy.

What George did not ask for is some of the "sarcastic remarks" and underlying statements made in some of the replies to his letter. Don't worry, you 1914-18 men, I am sure that the 39-45 men are doing, and

will continue to do, their best for St. Dunstan's, just as well as any of you. Best of health to you all and keep smiling, "Ladies."

Yours sincerely,

Brighton.

BILL EDWARDS.

DEAR EDITOR,

It seems to me that there has been a tendency on the part of your correspondents to generate an unnecessary amount of hot air on this question, which surely can be resolved by a purely practical approach.

There really seems no reason why a V.A.D. should not be addressed as "Sister" when her surname is not known, or for that matter even when it is known, if the man so prefers. Equally, when the surname is known to the man, its use prefixed by Miss or Mrs. would not seem to be out of keeping in any way. I consider that such aspects as the social status of the then V.A.D.s of 35 years ago or so, or even of to-day, have no bearing on the question at all.

What is of importance, however, is that these and other ladies of the staff should at all times be addressed in a courteous way, whatever mode of address may be employed. It was my experience, when at Ovingdean, that not infrequently certain of the men, of riper years, so I gathered, were in the habit of shouting at and for a V.A.D. in an uncouth and objectionable manner. Whatever their position in relation to the senior members of the staff, the V.A.D.s are most certainly not there to be ordered about as though housemaids by any of the men. It is my impression that there is a certain element among probably a minority of the St. Dunstaners that has been conditioned by long years of practice and an attitude of self-centredness, to expect that at all times their personal needs at any given moment must be given immediate attention. It is probably too late to expect such men to alter their habits, but of course such habits will be eliminated by the passing of time.

Yours sincerely,

Iver, Bucks.

J. E. ROSTON.

DEAR EDITOR,

Re the old formula—Sister—let's cut out the cackle about this name, so long as we show them the respect which they richly deserve.

E.17

H. C. BAYER.

DEAR EDITOR,

I thank Brothers Prideaux, Bradford, Young, Hamilton, Pallanza and Shaw for their splendid replies to my question "Why Sister?" If I were to surrender to my stubbornness I would persist in arguing that it is possible for even a totally blind man to hail an unidentified V.A.D. without being bad mannered, but in the light of these letters and several opinions expressed to me verbally, how can I do anything else but submit to the view that the address of Sister has no better alternative? Yet this cannot be an unconditional surrender. Whatever relationship or status is implied by this title, I do know that it is not at all welcome when tacked on as a prefix to the V.A.D.'s surname. I submit that in sole cases this is where the embarrassment comes in. Mrs. Brown or Miss Green don't mind being called Sister when a man wants attention, but if that man knows to whom he is talking they feel rather uncomfortable at being addressed as Sister Brown or Sister Green. I realise that this was not the case in the early days, but I can assure you that this generation of V.A.D.s have in their ranks several members who would endorse this statement.

I found it very interesting to learn the origin of the title Sister, and can see that I was being rather shortsighted in associating it with the medical profession only. I do see that this approach does put a different complexion on the matter. Yet I am still dubious about the idea of our dear girls being Sisters to us in the family sense. This doubt will remain until one of them comes and says "Here is a letter for you, Brother Ellis!"

Young St. Dunstaners, impudent and apathetic. I must defend and condemn the men of the second war. First of all, in reference to the frivolous Dad and Pop. Surely no offence is meant by this. All the men of the first war are now old enough to be my father, so as the expression Dad is always associated in my mind with someone very dear to me, and highly respected, I cannot see that there is any slight to be taken. After all, we are all brothers and sisters, so presumably there must be Dads, too.

Mr. Hamilton certainly hit the mark when he commented on the apathy of the 1939-45 men. We of the Liverpool Club have at last realised the futility of canvassing for

more members among the many young St. Dunstaners living in our area. This is a question which surely needs an answer. Why the disinterest?

Yours sincerely,

Ovingdean.

GEORGE ELLIS.

#### O Brother!

*We poor chaps are in a jam,  
It really is a twister,  
We don't know how to call "Les Girls,"  
Whether Mrs., Miss, or Sister.  
We meet them down at Ovingdean,  
That place of fun and bliss,  
They wait upon us hand and foot,  
You know, Mrs., Sister, Miss.  
Takes us walking, reads our mail,  
Upon an errand whizzes,  
That untiring female type,  
Is it Sister, Miss or Mrs?  
Visitors see them O, so rare,  
Their voices are still hazy,  
Of course should you be a trainee  
They are just Gert or Daisy.  
Then, of course, there are the males,  
They always treat us cordially,  
I can, however, hear their shout,  
Way up stairs, "Hi Orderly."  
It is a puzzle, I admit,  
My brain has raised a blister,  
I think I need an aspirin,  
I've got the word, it's "Sister."*

JOHN MUDGE.

#### Sister!

*A call by any name would sound as sweet,  
And bring us leaping to our eager feet!  
We answer to "Miss So-and-So" or "Sister,"  
And call you—as preferred—plain "Bert" or  
"Mister."  
The choice is yours; but should you need assistance,  
Here are some ways to hail us from a distance.  
Call us the "Oy Girls"—then should some  
"dear Boy"  
Require assistance all he shouts is "Oy!"  
Or why not cultivate the use of Morse?  
(This way would save your voice becoming hoarse),  
Then, when your string bag's getting in a mess  
You simply have to signal "S O S!"  
The choice is yours (except for Christian names).  
The Yanks, no doubt, would simply call us  
"Dames."  
But here's a tip. When using any title  
Your tone of voice—to us—is far more vital.  
Should it contain that ring of warm affection,  
Why! Any name at all would sound Perfection!*  
Ovingdean. "SMITHY."

DEAR EDITOR,

I have noticed that some readers of Talking Books have a disconcerting habit of dropping the voice to a whisper or assuming a quiet confidential tone when the characters they are "acting" whisper or talk confidentially. Of course the author has taken care to inform the reader that the character whispered, so there is really no need for the recorder to suit the action to the word. This whispering and low tone has two undesirable consequences. In the first place it means that with such a recorder, it is necessary for the Talking Book user to turn up the volume so much that when the normal voice is resumed the volume becomes excessive, and secondly the whispered or softly spoken passages become obliterated by needle scratch noise after the record has been in use for a bit, and one is irritated by the need to strain the ears in an attempt to pick out what is being said. It does seem to me, too, that most readers read too fast and too much in the lower register. I do not mean that I favour a monotonous style, but I feel that all reading should be kept within fairly narrow limits of volume variation—as is the B.B.C. news bulletin.

Teignmouth.

THOMAS FLOYD.

DEAR EDITOR,

Would it not be advisable to ask the young ladies of to-day if in fact they feel any embarrassment or that the methods of the older men are corny?

Ben Hamilton aptly says, "We carried a torch," which it is up to the new men to pick up. We do not want the torch to become a firebrand in the hands of men who pretend to despise the various works to which we put our hands. Perhaps many of us in our own little workshops have become out of touch though not out of sympathy with the rising generation, and the reminiscences of greybeards sound wearisome to the youngsters with jet-propelled minds. I hope, however, that we will all realise that it was the spirit of a new adventure that carried us forward, and these young men entering upon their great adventure along a well-blazed trail will remember that it was not the individual, but the family of St. Dunstan's, fathered by Sir Arthur Pearson, who lit the first torch.

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to express my appreciation for all the wonderful work which was done on the Derby Day outing.

All our thanks are due to the people who put in such a lot of hard work, both before the day and during the day; Mrs. Coma, Mr. Moore, and all the back-room boys and girls who prepared the eats, the various people who organised the whole thing, and last but by no means least the V.A.D.s. They worked so very hard during the day sorting out and putting on bets for us that they must have been tired out, but they remained cheerful throughout the day and were the soul of cheerfulness and help to the men.

Yours sincerely,

Ovingdean.

JOHNNY WALKER.

DEAR EDITOR,

Mr. J. Radford, of Castle Cary, feels embarrassed when addressed as 'Daddy' or 'Pop,' and feels like a 'has-been.' I'd rather be a 'has-been' than a 'might have been.' According to rumours, since I came to St. Dunstan's, I've been called everything under the sun. I don't mind a bit. I only wish I could hear it.

GEO. FALLOWFIELD.

DEAR EDITOR,

"I am a blind French soldier, former guest of St. Dunstan's in 1921, Cornwall Terrace, and friend of Sir Arthur Pearson. I have in Biarritz, well-known sea resort, a large house surrounded by a large garden, running hot water, three bathrooms, first class French food. I would be very glad to receive as paying guests my English brothers in blindness. I would ask them a special low price of 900 francs a day, including wine and coffee. I play chess. Their friends and relatives would also be welcome.

"My wife is Master of Arts in German. I am Master of Arts, Philosophy, and LL.D. of Harvard Law School and we can give a good French tuition to those who want to study and get degrees in France or in England. The charge in that case would, of course, be a little more, and we would arrange the documents necessary to send to the Office of Exchange in London to get the extra pounds necessary for their studies." GUSTAVE ENVIN.

[If any St. Dunstaner is interested, the Editor will be delighted to send M. Envin's address.]

### Bowls In Australia

Some little time ago members of the Victorian Blinded Soldiers' Bowling Club, accompanied by some of their wives and sighted "skippers," visited Mildura and played a series of matches in the Sunryasia area. The visit lasted a week and seven games were arranged with the district Bowling Clubs. The blinded men won two of the games played.

The local District Board of the Returned Servicemen's Association made the arrangements for the entertainment of the guests. On arrival they were tendered a civic reception by the Mayor of Mildura and later they were conducted to the various places of interest in the district, including the Dried Fruit Packing sheds. They were tendered an official dinner and several socials and suppers were held in their honour. Representatives of the party also attended Rotary and Legacy dinners.

The people of Mildura were much impressed with the cheerfulness and remarkable ability the members displayed in the game of bowls. The thoughtful action of their President, Joe Lynch, in placing a wreath in memory of fallen comrades on the cenotaph was much appreciated by the people of Mildura.

Old St. Dunstaners may be interested in the personnel of the teams competing—the last named in each case being the sighted skipper-coach:

Bill Gray, Joe Lynch, Gabe Aarons, Bob Rouse (S).

Les Holt, Ted Glew, Bert Aldersley, Wally Nowatna (S).

Foster McConnell, Bill Clifton, Tommy Meldrum, Norm. Fraser (S).

Roger Power, Jack Urquart, Charlie Dawe, Jack Quennell (S).

The Club was formed about 18 months ago and the degree of accuracy attained by the players is astounding. From my observations I have concluded that the game of bowls is an excellent recreation for blinded servicemen and I will give you two reasons for coming to this conclusion: (1) he is given an exhilarating pastime with and against his sighted comrades and (2) he competes with them on the level and with the same equipment.

During the game several points are observed to assist the players. The bowls are kept in the one position on one side of the mat. The mat is placed by a sighted

player and carefully aligned with the peg. The player is then placed on the mat and he throws the "kitty" which is straightened on the peg, and the distance—estimated from kitty to mat—is called by the skipper, *i.e.* 75 feet.

The leader then stands on the mat and assuming that he is a right-hand player desiring to play a fore-hand shot he places his left foot along the side of the mat on the left edge and about the middle. He then places his right foot against his left—feet closed. Having estimated the "green" he turns his right foot to the right, say two fingers or three fingers, according to the green required. He then turns his left foot to his right and is thus facing the direction he desires to bowl. The bowl is then delivered, and the skipper indicates the result by telling the bowler that he is too wide or too narrow and the finishing position of the bowl. The finishing position is indicated by the clock system, *i.e.* five feet short at five o'clock, or say three feet wide at nine o'clock, etc. If a position bowl is required by the skipper the spot where the bowl is wanted is called by the clock system, such as "I want a bowl ten feet past the jack at eleven o'clock."

These few hurried notes may or may not be of interest. However, the boys are getting a great kick out of the game, and country clubs are getting a thrill in arranging trips and games for them. J. R. BENNETT.

### At Much Oving-in-the-Dean

Few of us in the large audience waiting to see the Coronation Concert were aware of the apprehension which was drying the tongues of the unseen performers. Nor was this uneasiness confined to the dressing-room. Was I the only one who sat anticipating the agony which can accompany an amateur presentation? But anxiety from both sides of the footlights was soon dispersed and in its place was created a warm affinity between audience and artistes. Mr. Moore, the dining-room steward, who had worked so unselfishly to make the show a success must have felt very gratified as he stood backstage.

V.A.D. Miss Smith and Orderly George Rees were co-producers, and both took an active part in the show. Smithie wrote the material for several items and George Rees, too, can claim distinction for his part in a riotous piece of melodrama. George Short and Lyndon Mason both

bewhiskered themselves for this bit of nonsense. It is difficult to say so little about this grand concert and yet have to use superlatives, but I am bound to do just this. Towards the end of a typically amusing sketch by Smithie, she and Miss Powell contrived to change the mood from comic to sentimental, and this turned out to be a very clever lead up to the popular song, "Golden Coach," which provoked the people out front into a hearty second chorus. A happy Coronation spirit seized one and all. Well done, Smithie and P. Trainee Stuart Craig blasted out a hot trumpet chorus in the best jazz tradition. I thought the Osborne family act was one of the high spots, particularly Joan, who made this a personal triumph. Her father, Joe Walch, used his baritone cleverly to contrast it with Bob's tenor voice. Then there was the inimitable Miss Carlton, who once again brought the house down with her breezy burlesque.

The braille teaching staff were further represented by Les White, who sang an appealing Novello ballad with pleasing sincerity, and Killie, who, after endearing himself to the audience earlier, came on again to remind us with startling conviction of Bernard Miles. I shall think of Killie for a long time to come, not as a teacher but as a lusty old son of the soil. Burlington Bertie may not be exactly new, but there was something very refreshing in the way Servedy-Staff Violet Reeves put it over. Her young son played his part in the opening of the show. A real professional touch was added by four very attractive young women, who called themselves The Electric Belles. They danced a lively chorus number, and because of their excellence we owe double thanks to Horace Harnott, the pianist, for bringing them along. Finally, may I put in a word about our Compère. It was because of his repartee between the acts that we were distracted from the inevitable bumping and knocking behind the curtain. Must not disclose name of this suave gentleman, but in terms of abbreviation one could learn much from his title: Compère. G. W. E.

★ ★ ★

The two little grandsons of E. Miller, of East Ham, took second and third prizes at East Ham Fancy Dress Parade. Four year old Alan was "Charlie Chaplin" and seven year old Stephen was a Chelsea Pensioner!

### Ovingdean Notes

The Coronation decorations at Ovingdean were almost completed by Whitsun week-end, and indeed from then until the Derby Outing on June 6th, we had an almost continual whirl of activity.

Coronation week itself was celebrated with a number of special events. They began on Saturday with a dance in the lounge and on Sunday morning a very large party went into Brighton to the Palace Pier and from there enjoyed a morning sea trip.

Brighton, incidentally, has been looking very festive and has had some most attractive decorations. Many of the larger buildings have been floodlit, and this included the two St. Dunstan's Homes. Ovingdean was particularly attractive, standing as it does on the hillside along the main coast road and was admired by many visitors to the town. The building achieved a new mellowness in the amber glow of the floodlights and the gardeners had managed a special display of red, white and blue blossoms in the flower-bed alongside the main entrance. Over the porch were a number of flags resting in red, white and blue tubs, whilst above fluttered St. Dunstan's standard and, higher still, the Union Jack.

Coming into the main hall the visitor was greeted with draped flags and four shields bearing the emblems of Great Britain. The Honours Boards at the far end of the hall were framed by bunting of the national colours, and to the right of the foot of the main stairway, in the little recess, a miniature garden had been made with both cut and growing flowers. These flowers were particularly admired by many of the local visitors and certainly lent a new and festive air to the entrance hall. Both the lounge and dining room were gaily decorated and were looking very nice indeed. A coloured photograph of Her Majesty the Queen and another of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh had been mounted on royal blue backgrounds and there were yellow and red pennants hanging from the wall lights alongside. The red of the curtains added considerably to the general colour of the rooms and just everyone seemed to be in the mood for celebrating!

On Sunday evening the entertainments got under way with an amusing item from the Staff entitled "Coronation Concoction,"

which is mentioned elsewhere in this REVIEW, so it is enough, therefore, for us to say it was played to a large and most appreciative audience.

On Monday, for those who were not in the Coronation Party going to London, arrangements had been made to go to Arundel Castle, the home of the Earl of Norfolk, Marshal of England, who was responsible for all the Coronation arrangements. It was, therefore, at this time a visit of particular interest.

The Coronation party to London left Ovingdean at about 5 p.m. on Monday and we were not to see them here again until late on Wednesday evening. On that day a special Coronation dinner was served at Ovingdean and this was followed by the Carnival Ball, to which the London party returned in time to take part. Most of the men who had remained at Ovingdean had listened throughout the day to the B.B.C. broadcast of the ceremony and parade and there was much discussion with those who had actually "gone to Town." The dance was over at 1 a.m. and gradually the groups dispersed and all was quiet!

Next day, however, we were at it again! A coach drive to Herstmonceux in the afternoon and a party to the theatre in the evening. Another coach drive on Friday and a dance in the evening.

Saturday, 6th June, completing a memorable week, brought us to the Derby Outing, when three coaches took men from Ovingdean and West House to Epsom. This year, the first time for several when the race has been on a Saturday, meant that Ovingdean trainees were able to join the Outing party. The catering department, despite the heavy load put upon them during the Coronation Week, came up to scratch once again and provided the party with what has become the traditional Derby pack and is always so much enjoyed.

Just one week at Ovingdean? Well, not exactly a normal week anyway, but one which we shall all, for a variety of reasons, long remember.

### Deaf Reunion at Ovingdean

This annual event was held at Ovingdean from 30th April until Tuesday, 5th May. Although numbers were smaller this time those attending seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves and we hope that this was so. We enjoyed having them.

### The Derby Sweepstake

On May 29th, the draw for the Derby Sweepstake was made at the London Club by Messrs. "Jock" Brown and "Tiny" Fleming. Mr. Willis presided.

This year the response has not been as heavy as in past years. Excluding four tickets which were declared void (two went astray in the post and two were misprints), 2,507 tickets were sold. This was some three hundred less than last year. After deducting printing and postage expenses (£14 7s. 6d.), £299 was left for distribution in accordance with the printed rules.

The first three lucky prize-winners were:

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 1st | Pinza—W. Robbins, Bournemouth (2381)        | £149 10s. |
| 2nd | Aureole—J. C. Doughty, Great Yarmouth (528) | £59 16s.  |
| 3rd | Pink Horse—S. J. Jordan, Luston (2378)      | £29 18s.  |

£59 16s. was distributed among those whose horse actually started, each receiving £2 9s. 10d. They were:

- BARROWBY COURT—A. H. CAPPER, Reading—1899  
 CHATSWORTH—R. C. BOTLY, Surbiton—334  
 CITY SCANDAL—S. J. JORDAN, Luston—2377  
 DURHAM CASTLE—F. W. WALKER, Gosport—2111  
 EMPIRE HONEY—A. J. CAPLE, Cardiff—2261  
 FELLERMELAD—F. J. MEARS, Beeston—278  
 FE SHAING—G. BULLEN, Brighton—1770  
 GALA PERFORMANCE—W. HEUSHAW, Halstead—1230  
 GOOD BRANDY—T. CONNERTON, Blackpool—1676  
 JAFFA II—A. HAYES, Nottingham—1538  
 MOUNTAIN KING—J. C. WILLIAMS, Haywards Heath—1171  
 NEARULA—HAROLD DOWNS, Rishon—2127  
 NOVARULLAH—H. H. WELLS, Leicester—554  
 PETER-SO-GAY—H. H. BARNARD, E.11—1878  
 PHAREL—A. CARRICK, N.W.8—2136  
 PREMONITION—A. CHARMAN, Preston—1251  
 PRINCE CANARINA—L. JOHNS, Totnes—59  
 PRINCE CHARLEMAGNE—G. B. REED, Weybridge—1520  
 SCIPIO—C. E. BEAUFOY, Dover—596  
 SHIKAMPUR—S. WEBSTER, S.E.23—2253  
 STAR OF THE FOREST—E. H. NORTH, Taunton—190  
 TIMBERLAND—F. COLLINGE, Blackpool—314  
 VICTORY ROLL—W. CAPSTICK, Lancaster—890  
 WINDY—R. DOBROWOLSKI, Hove—575
- Those drawing horses which did not start were: E. W. Myles (Teddington), AMADO MIO (2101); W. J. Dimond, East Grinstead, BANDOOLA (172); H. Day, West House, CRAFTSMAN (441); W. Coleman, Carshalton, CRITICISM (2163); H. F. Porter, Kingston, KING OF THE TUDORS (1149); J. B. Campbell, Houghton-le-Spring, KITHYRA (368); H. F. Beed, Southampton, OAKLEYLAD (1691)  
 F. Griffie, of Bristol, drew THE FIELD.

### The British Legion Conference

At the British Legion Conference which took place at Blackpool over the Whitsun week-end, Sir Ian Fraser, President, referring to the War Pensions Campaign, said, "We were all very disappointed indeed when no increase in our basic rate was provided in the Budget and when subsequently the Minister said there would be no major change for the present. But I do not think we should be discouraged. There is a tendency, when we do not get all that we think right, to feel that we have failed entirely, but this is to undervalue what had been done by successive Governments, and also the effect of the Legion's representations. The Legion is a patriotic body, mindful of the needs of others, but we feel our claim is a special one, not to be weighed in the balance with all of these, but dealt with on its own merits." Sir Ian went on, "I discern a growing uneasiness amongst Members of Parliament on all sides of the House that Britain is not yet fulfilling her obligations to our war pensioners as she should, and I attribute this in large measure to the success of our representations."

Speaking of the proposed merging of the Ministry of Pensions with other Ministries, Sir Ian said that they had the Prime Minister's assurance that the merger would not adversely affect war pensioners. He felt sure that this was the intention of the Government, but he felt bound to say that if the proposal was carried out, he would regret it very much. "Although we have argued with Ministers and Ministries of Pensions under all Governments, we have nevertheless come to look upon them as our special guardian, and we shall feel that we are losing a friend."

Sir Ian said that they were all very interested in the regular sailor, soldier and airman, and the militiaman, but he thought more could be done to voice his aspirations and needs. He hoped that the new Chairman (Captain A. Hampson), who he knew felt keenly about this matter, would guide the Legion towards a better service to these young men so that they could draw large numbers of them into the Legion's ranks.

Mr. Ernest Russell, a prominent Leeds St. Dunstaner, opposed a suggestion that guide dogs should be subsidised by the Government. He thought the attendance allowance might be affected.

### From All Quarters

"B.M.B.," the house magazine of British Manufactured Bearings, Ltd., of Crawley, devoted two pages to a "close-up" of Jack Hill, who is a capstan operator in their Turning Shop. A photograph of Jack with Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and another at his lathe, illustrated the article, which ended with the words, "Jack and his beret are a very familiar and well-loved sight here at Charlwood."

Mr. and Mrs. A. Briggs, of Norwich, are having a wonderful holiday in the United States with their daughter, who married an American soldier.

Margaret Paterson was responsible for the concert at the "Lest We Forget" party organised by the Chessington Branch of the British Legion, Women's Section, in which Margaret also took part.

Doug. Cashmore took the salute on May 10th at the British Legion Rally for Selly Oak. With him on the saluting base was an 84-year-old soldier of the 1914-1918 war.

J. Nicol, of Hebburn-on-Tyne, stood for his local Council at the recent elections, but was defeated by just over one hundred votes. As the successful candidate's votes were reduced from the last election, we hope our St. Dunstaner will be elected next time.

Alexander Scott, of Belfast, contributed some splendid articles to a series, "The Brotherhood of the Blind," which recently appeared in the local paper, "Ireland's Saturday Night." His first was entitled, "Where Eyes Aren't Really Necessary," and the second, "A New Boy at St. Dunstan's." There are others to come.

Arthur Finney had the unique compliment of being asked by Finchley Coronation Committee to act as Commentator at the Military Tattoo which was part of the Borough's Coronation Celebrations. Mr. Finney did not have an opportunity of studying the script until the night before the Tattoo. He gave the commentary from the roof of the grandstand.

Douglas Warden, of Shepherds Bush, shared the second and third prizes in the

N.I.B. Braille Centenary Poetry Contest. His poem, "Devon Port," was published in the "New Beacon."

From a newspaper cutting sent to us by W. Wainman, of Davyhulme, Manchester, we read of the splendid way in which John Seufert, of North Sydney, New South Wales, is overcoming his double handicap. Since John was blinded and made handless as the result of the explosion of a Japanese mine, he has learnt braille, typewriting and carpentry. He had been a carpenter before the war and he determined to take up his trade again. He reads braille with the stump of his wrist. He and his brother-in-law have constructed all kinds of gadgets which John could screw into his "gauntlets" for handling various tools. He has made built-in cupboards, kitchen furniture, occasional tables and a radiogram cabinet complete with shelves for records.

### Rotary

E. Slaughter, of Salisbury, has been nominated as President-Elect of his Rotary Club and will be installed on the first Monday in July. He is believed to be the first blind President in R.I.B.I., and the first St. Dunstaner to hold that office.

Mr. Slaughter is at present attending the World Convention of Rotary in Paris.

### Working Party Report

Dame Florence Bevin, D.B.E., the widow of Mr. Ernest Bevin, has kindly given to St. Dunstan's a braille copy of the Working Party's Report on the Employment of the Blind, which belonged to her husband. If any St. Dunstaner would like to borrow this, will he please apply to Mr. Wills.

### National Library Braille Reading Test, 1953

Class "C," Section 1:  
(Those who learned braille over the age of 16, but before 1938):—

1. F. Rhodes (St. Dunstaner).
2. S. Webster (St. Dunstaner).

Class "C" Section 2:—  
(Those who learnt braille over the age of 16, but after 1938):—

1. F. Ripley (St. Dunstaner).
2. Paul Walker (St. Dunstaner).
3. J. Padley (St. Dunstaner).

Runners-up: J. Pryor (St. Dunstaner).  
R. Bridger, of Stoke Newington, won first place in the Open Competition.

### Young St. Dunstaners

Edwin Brooks (Bournemouth) is on active service off the Korean coast.

Janet Halsall won first prize at a Southport Eisteddfod for soprano solo, and first prize for a hymn composition. She is following her father, who also has a good voice.

Colin Biggs (Lee) has won a scholarship to the Grammar School, with 100% marks in arithmetic and general intelligence.

Glyn Wheeler, of Rhondda, has gained a place at Porth Grammar School.

Jacqueline Scrimgour, Middlesbrough, has passed the Intermediate Music Examination for the Royal Victoria College of London.

### Marriages

On May 2nd, Edmond Lincoln, Bebington, to Miss Doreen Carruthers.

On May 16th, Joan Watson, Carlisle, to A. Tailford.

On May 23rd, Adeline Hurst, Great Longstone, to Michael Sellors.

Leslie Back (Shaldon) has married Miss Pamela Emmerson in Cape Town, South Africa.

J. Bird's son flew back from South Africa to be married in Clacton on June 6th.

### Mr. J. Russell

His friends will hear with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. J. Russell, who was for many years employed in our Packing Department, and who retired in November, 1944, having reached the age of sixty-five. His charm of manner and quiet, kindly nature made him a very popular and respected member of our staff. He had spent a happy retirement but he was taken seriously ill and he died in hospital. Mr.

### "In Memory"—continued

Sergeant Rein Waas, Royal Dutch Forces (Prinses Irene Brigade)  
It is with deep regret that we have to record the death at the age of thirty-four of Rein Waas, of Nijmegen, Holland.

Rein came to us at Church Stretton in 1943 after he had been blinded while serving in this country with the Dutch Army. His courage, but especially his gay spirit, soon endeared him to comrades and teachers alike. He had the additional difficulty of language to cope with but proudly he passed his tests. He trained as a telephone operator and took a post with the Dutch Military Authorities in London. He remained in the Dutch Army (he was promoted to Sergeant, First Class), and in 1946 he returned to Holland, where he was appointed Chief Telephonist at the Military Telephone Service. But Rein never forgot us. On the occasions when he returned to this country he never failed to visit Headquarters and his old friends. He was tremendously proud of being a St. Dunstaner and of his badge which he always wore, and which was buried with him. At his funeral on May 19th, which was conducted with full military honours, St. Dunstan's poppy wreath, in the form of our badge, was placed on his grave. Crowds lined the route which followed the road he took with his guide dog on his way to work. To Mamie, his wife, whom he met and married in England, our deep sympathy is extended.

Reg. White, an old colleague, who had kept in constant touch with him, represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral.

### Births

HODDER—On May 14th, to the wife of W. H. Hodder, of Hull, a daughter—Elaine.

WEEKS—On May 25th, to the wife of J. Weeks, of Hastings, a son—Marcus James.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

HACKETT—To M. Hackett, of Patcham, whose mother and father have died within five days of each other.

INGREY—To Bruce Ingrey, of Beddington, whose wife died in hospital on May 23rd, after a short illness.

MOWTELL—To F. Mowtell, of Cramlington, in the loss of his eldest sister.

ROBINSON—To W. Robinson ("Robby"), of N.4, who has recently lost his mother.

SMITH—To C. Smith, of Bury St. Edmunds, who lost his sister early this year.

### Marriage

HARRIS—On May 30th, S. J. Harris, of Reading.

### For Sale

"Baby Belling" electric cooker together with kettle point unit. Comprises hot plate (fitted with Simmerstat control), oven, hot cupboard, and storage unit for utensils. Guaranteed good condition. Owner moving and obliged to change to gas cooking. Price (carriage paid) £9. R. Bridger, 126 Manor Road, Stoke Newington, N.16. (Tel. Stamford Hill 9079, after 6 p.m.)

### Grandfathers

C. J. Turley, of Barrow-in-Furness; J. E. Lambourne, of Bletchley; W. H. Wright, Verwood (the first granddaughter); P. Sheridan, of Wishaw (for the twentieth time); W. Bamber of Brighton.



## “ In Memory ”

### Gunner George Dennis, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of G. Dennis, of Portsmouth. He was sixty-five.

Blinded in the First World War, he trained with us in 1915 in basket-making and later became a Home Teacher. Ill-health, however, forced him to retire last July and he has since been critically ill. He was well known as a tireless social worker and at his suggestion a garden of sweet-smelling flowers is shortly to be planted at Halsea Lido.

The funeral service was attended by contingents of the Old Contemptibles, the British Legion, and the Portsmouth Post-War Brotherhood. A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the many flowers. A bugler sounded the Last Post.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Dennis and her children.

### Rifleman Edward James Hall, *10th King's Royal Rifles*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. J. Hall, of West House, Portland Place. He was 72. He came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1916, and trained as a mat-maker and he followed this occupation for many years. He was admitted as a permanent resident at St. Dunstan's in 1943. His health had been bad for many years.

A wreath from his St. Dunstan's friends at Brighton and Sir Ian's wreath of poppies were sent for the funeral.

### Pioneer Thomas Butler, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we record the death of T. Butler, of Distington.

He served from December, 1915, until March, 1918, but he did not come to us until 1935. He was never very strong and could only take up the lightest of occupations. For a long time he had been very unwell and he died at his home on May 14th.

A wreath of poppies in the form of our badge was sent for the funeral from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

### Private Ernest Swingler, *1st Lincolnshire Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of E. Swingler, of Tuxford, Nottinghamshire.

He was wounded at Ypres and came to us in 1915. He trained as a basket-maker but for some considerable time before his death he had been unable to do much heavy work. A long illness followed and he died in hospital on May 7th.

Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his family.

### Private Lauchlan McCairn, *Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of L. McCairn, of Birkenhead.

He saw service with his regiment from March, 1907, until July, 1915, when he was wounded in France. He did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1946—he was already a sick man and he was unable to do a great deal of work. He spent one or two holidays at Brighton and, in fact, had only just returned home a few days before he was taken suddenly ill. He was admitted to hospital where he died on May 11th.

Among the flowers at the funeral was St. Dunstan's badge of poppies.

We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. McCairn and her family.

### Corporal George Bertram Birkett, *1/6 King's Liverpool Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of G. Birkett, of Liverpool, who served from September, 1914, until May, 1917. He had been wounded near Ypres in January that year and he came to us soon afterwards. He was trained as a poultry farmer and telephonist and he had worked for a considerable number of years, but for a long time before his death on May 10th he was a very sick man.

The funeral was attended by Miss Doel; Sir Ian's poppy wreath was among the flowers.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his relatives.

### Private Harry Hulme, *10th Manchester Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of H. Hulme, of Oldham.

Harry served from August 8th, 1914, until October, 1915; he was wounded at the Dardanelles and came to us in 1915. He trained as a poultry farmer and later as a mat-maker; he also attempted factory work for a while but for some years he had only been able to do light work. He died at his home on May 6th after a comparatively short illness.

St. Dunstan's was represented at the funeral by Messrs. J. McDonald and J. Greaves, of Oldham; our wreath of poppies was among the many flowers.

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

### Lieut. Elias Bass, D.C.M., *King's Royal Rifle Corps*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of Elias Bass, of Cape Town, South Africa.

This officer's blindness was a result of mustard gas poisoning and some St. Dunstaners will remember him when he was in training shortly before the last war.

He had planned to come to England this year and would have arrived this month.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Bass.