

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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Methods of Reading

(contributed)

IN the February issue of the REVIEW, the Chairman's Notes were devoted to an explanation of the achievements of Miss Mary Jameson, M.B.E. who appears to be the one person in the world who has made the use of the Optophone a practical proposition in dealing with her correspondence, and for reading suitable printed matter up to a speed of about forty words a minute.

Many St. Dunstaners would, however, regret to read that there seems little likelihood at present that the use of the Optophone can be extended so as to be available to others outside Miss Jameson's circle of friends. It must, therefore, be generally hoped that even yet someone may discover how to perfect this or some other machine for the purpose intended.

Meanwhile news of these individual achievements will fill us with wonderment and admiration at the courage and determination of those who succeed in mastering the use of the machine in its present stage of production.

When we learn of such methods of reading, we are inclined to the thought: "How many ways are there of reading, or of otherwise communicating with the blind, and the deaf, and above all, with the deaf-blind, or even with the deaf-dumb and blind person?"

To this question, most of us would reply by naming the obvious methods, beginning with Braille; then we might follow with the Moon system, the manual system for the deaf, and, maybe, the Morse Code, but as a reader of the latter, I would consider myself very expert indeed if I could even approach forty words a minute referred to in our Chairman's Notes.

Whilst some of my St. Dunstan's colleagues may have heard of, or even know something about yet another method of reading, they may forgive me if I relate my experiences when, about a year ago, I first met Mr. Joseph Hatton, aged 26 years, of St. Helens, Lancashire, who was born deaf and blind. It was at a dance at the St. Helen's Workshops for the Blind that I met Joseph along with his friend, and not being aware of the disabilities, I began to talk to Joseph but was told by his friend what the position was. He said, however, "You can speak to him if you care to," and reaching out for Joseph's hand he directed it towards my face and thereupon the hand was carefully placed under my chin with the thumb lightly resting across my lips. I was then told to carry on speaking rather slowly. The resulting conversation completely amazed me for I now realised that this young man had never heard sound in his life, yet here was I talking to him and he was talking back in reply, for he has been trained to control and use his voice.

Joseph entered the Henshaw School for the Blind in Manchester at the age of five and stayed seven years before being evacuated to Shropshire for four of the war years. For four years of the seven at the Manchester school he was being trained how to use his voice and how to say words as they were ordinarily spoken; more wonderful still, how to read what anyone might wish to say to him.

In addition and as may be expected, he is expert at Braille and in the use of the manual alphabet for the deaf. He also trained in basket-making, and this is his present occupation.

We have met on several occasions recently, and with my initial amazement overcome I know that with his hand "cupped" under my chin and his thumb resting vertically across my lips I can talk to him at about thirty-five or forty words a minute and he will reply.

When reading the throat vibrations combined with the lip movements, his concentration is absolute, and in his replies his voice is deliberate and his pronunciation very good.

It should be added that he is very careful to apply a germicide to his hands before touching anyone's lips, and that he can read in this manner with either the right or the left hand.

Whilst in his company recently, I witnessed his immediate identification of a person whom he had not met for several years, and he proceeded to carry on conversation with three people in turn by this lip and throat finger reading.

This method should not be confused with, nor can it be compared with, lip reading, which most sighted deaf persons resort to as an aid.

This clever young man has appeared on three occasions to demonstrate his skill on television, and perhaps because of this publicity many St. Dunstaners may have learned something of his outstanding achievements.

It would be interesting to learn how many persons there are in the world who are so trained and are able to apply their skill to such a degree of usefulness as Joseph Hatton.

Most of us know something of the sensitiveness of touch required to read Braille but I doubt if we can even vaguely appreciate the skill and sensitiveness of touch possessed by this young man of 26.

J. SHAW.

The Royal Tour

We have heard from A. F. McConnell, Hon. Secretary of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association, that St. Dunstaners to meet Her Majesty when she visited Victoria were Messrs. P. J. Lynch, R. Archer, H. D. Power and L. E. Johnstone. H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh conversed with Eric Drew, who served throughout Wars I and II, and was a P.O.W. in the second. In South Australia, J. A. Whittle was presented, and J. T. Scrymgeour, of Queensland, who was awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year Honours, received his decoration from Her Majesty.

R.A.O.B.

On March 25th, Brother E. J. Squires, K.O.M. (Ringwood, Hants) was exalted to the 4th Degree (Roll of Honour). The ceremony was performed by Brother C. Warwick, R.O.H.

Elected

Congratulations to Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, M.C., who, in the Borough

Elections has been returned for the Maney Division of Sutton Coldfield with a majority of three hundred in a three-cornered contest.

Re-Elected

Congratulations, too, to Harry White, of Stalybridge, who was successful in retaining his seat at the Borough Council elections and was returned top of the poll, and to H. ("Bunny") Greatrex, of Peacehaven, who was returned again and also headed the poll.

Mr. A. W. Doughty

The Chairman, in his Notes last month, referred to the retirement of Mr. A. W. Doughty, and many St. Dunstaners have expressed a wish to subscribe to a presentation to him.

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

London Club Notes

Indoor Section—

On April 7th our Darts team visited our old friends, Shell Mex Sports for a Darts Match. After a very enjoyable evening we beat them two games to one. The Darts team record so far is: Played three, won two, lost one.

The aggregate Whist competition for the Sir Arthur Pearson prize will start on Tuesday, September 21st, and continue on the five following Tuesdays, finishing on October 26th.

As in other years, a trip to the Derby will be arranged by Bob Willis, leaving by coach from H.Q. at 10 a.m. on June 2nd. The cost will be £1 per person; this includes a packed lunch and tea on the return journey. Should the cost be less than £1 the balance will be returned on the trip. Will those wishing to go let Mr. Willis have their names with the money.

We have received an invitation from the Enfield Working Men's Club to pay them a visit in June for a return darts match. Please watch the notice board for further details of this match as they hope to beat us on their own ground.

C. J. WALKER.

Bridge Notes

On April 3rd we lost the match against Mr. Phillips' team from the Post Office. On Saturday, April 24th, we were pleased to welcome new friends to our club, Mr. C. Head's team from the Willesden Town Hall. On this occasion our team were winners by a narrow margin. W. BISHOP.

Outdoor Section—Road Walking

The Club season has finished but this does not mean that the walkers now go into recess until next winter. On the contrary, for we now have two or three friendly matches to come, the first being a 5 miles against the Bowering Athletic Club on Tuesday evening, June 15th, at 7 o'clock from Holme House, Inner Circle, Regent's Park. These are short distances and are used by the other clubs that we race to give their novices the feel of race walking, so if any St. Dunstaner is interested but doesn't join us because he feels that he will not have a chance, now is the time to start. He can begin training and enter these short races and, in general, get to know the "how and where" of walking and be ready to take part in club races when the next

season starts in September. All prizes are awarded on the handicap system and not first-to-finish.

Our ages vary between 30 and 58, and so the old tale of "too old at forty" doesn't apply to this sport. True enough, it is hard work, but the benefit you get in the way of physical fitness makes it all really worth while. Why not come along any Tuesday evening to Holme House, or, better still, drop a line to me at the London Club?

Seven Miles All-England Championship—It was very encouraging to find some of our members who have been laid up ignoring the comfort of an armchair and broadcast of the Cup Final to turn out in the All England Championship at Regent's Park on May 1st.

Ten of us were started by Mr. A. McSweeney, President of the Road Walking Association, and had a very tiring race. Six of us, including the faster members, who had been doing slow long distance training for the London to Brighton on May 22nd found it extremely hard to revert to a fast 7 miles. Consequently times were generally slower but none the less good.

Billy Miller retained his title for the third year in succession, closely followed by "old faithful" Archie Brown, with Charles Williamson third. The Sir Arthur Pearson prizes for first T.B. and first S.S. man home went to Charles Williamson and Bill Miller respectively, and the handicap prizes to Les Dennis, Charles Williamson and Archie Brown respectively.

This was the last Club race of the 1953-54 season and the aggregate points awarded on handicap over the season were totalled up afterwards. Charles Stafford was top in the T.B. section and Bill Miller in the S.S. Both received a small plaque to mark their success. BILL MILLER.

St. Dunstan's Seven Mile Championship and Sealed Handicap Walk

Regent's Park, Saturday, 1st May, 1954

Order of Finish	Actual H'cp		H'cp Pos.
	Time	All.	
1. W. Miller	62:54	Scr.	62:54 6
2. A. Brown	63:47	1:50	61:57 3
3. C. Williamson	64:12	2:20	61:52 2
4. P. Cryan	66:32	2:40	63:52 7
5. S. Tutton	68:03	5:30	62:33 5
6. C. Stafford	71:27	9:20	62:07 4
7. L. Dennis	72:08	13:20	68:48 1
8. T. Gaygan	74:07	2:30	71:37 9
9. A. Bradley	74:17	7:30	66:47 8
10. D. Fleisig	77:41	4:50	72:51 10

Reunions

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were the Guests of Honour at the meeting at Doncaster on April 24th, one of the merriest parties of the year, as the *Doncaster Gazette* described it. Some fifty St. Dunstaners were present.

On April 29th, at Newcastle, Mr. D. G. Hopewell, Member of St. Dunstan's Council, was the Guest of Honour and welcomed more than thirty St. Dunstaners. A smaller, but equally enjoyable party had taken place two days before at Glasgow, with Mr. Hopewell again presiding. On Saturday, May 1st, Mr. Hopewell was Guest of Honour at Harrogate.

The Bournemouth Reunion was held a week later in weather so kind that the grounds of the Grand Hotel were able to be used. The guest of honour on this occasion was another Member of St. Dunstan's Council, the Rev. F. Darrell Bunt. Like Harrogate, this meeting was well attended, some fifty St. Dunstaners being present on each occasion.

★ ★ ★

The following alterations and confirmations to the list of Reunions printed in our March issue should be noted:—

The CARDIFF reunion will be held on *Saturday, July 3rd*, and not on Tuesday, June 15th.

The CHESTER reunion is confirmed for *Friday, June 18th*.

The BRIGHTON reunion is confirmed for *Wednesday, September 8th*.

Chess

As most St. Dunstaners will now know, the Chess Week-end this year will take place from the 24th to the 27th September at Ovingdean. Last year's event was a great improvement on the previous year, and we are hoping to beat all records this year. It was grand to meet old friends again and to make new ones and, from the chess-playing point of view, the more experience one gets the better.

I shall not be playing this year but shall be doing all that I can to make the week-end a happy and successful one. So come along lads, it does not matter if you are a strong player or a weak one, there is room for you and you can be sure of a hearty welcome. If you have not already booked up, just drop a line to Mr. Wills at H.Q.

CHARLIE KELK, *Chess Captain*.

Mrs. Swan

We have welcomed to this country and to St. Dunstan's during the past two months Mrs. G. I. Swan, M.B.E., who for two years has been Organising Secretary in South Africa, in succession to our old friend, "Batey." Mrs. Swan has been combining a well-earned holiday with business visits to our various establishments, in order to make herself acquainted with our work here. She has spent much time at Headquarters meeting heads of departments; she has had long talks with Sir Ian and Mr. Askew; she has visited Ovingdean and West House; and she has met many St. Dunstaners and members of the staff. She returns to South Africa as the REVIEW goes to press, and we wish her *bon voyage* and good luck on her return.

Out of the Frying Pan

We have committed the almost unforgivable. In last month's REVIEW we deprived Jock Macfarlane of his friends. Life, said Jock, gets tedious. We quoted him, "No drink, no bets, no bread, no potatoes, no *friends*, no *fats*." But what the doctor ordered was "no *frieds*."

As we go to press Jock is considering accepting our apology. We hope he will because we should hate to be deprived of this particular friend of ours.

E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition

This annual Braille Reading Competition was held at the National Library for the Blind on Saturday, May 8th, and our congratulations are extended to the following St. Dunstaners who were successful:—

- Class C—Section 1: 1, J. Pryor.
2, J. Padley.
3, R. Armstrong.
4, M. Fullbrook.

Class C—Section 2: 1, S. Webster.

It was a most enjoyable day and our competitors thoroughly entered into the spirit of it.

Derby Sweepstake

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake, which closed on May 21st, will be made at the London Club on the evening of Friday, May 28th. All those drawing a horse will be notified by letter; lists will be available at Brighton, at Headquarters, and at the London Club.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Why so final in clamping down on the sweepstake controversy and subjects emanating therefrom? Many shots have been fired and now you bar the come-back of what might have turned out to be a lively and edifying correspondence. Surely this would have been better than the waste of so much precious space spent on the maudlin rambles about the happenings of the "night before." Do explain what is wrong with healthy debate of the theme of religion. There is no need for you to choose letters dripping with Biblical quotations or sad with sentimentality.

The interest in the REVIEW is in its contents and turns on your discretion. Why are people disturbed by the subject of religion?

I had no idea that we had such eminent figures as Canons in our ranks. What a pity we hear so little from these erudite people.

I do not expect this letter to be published.

Yours sincerely,

West Wickham.

S. F. PRIDEAUX.

(The correspondence on the original controversy remains closed, but letters will be welcomed following Mr. Prideaux's line of thought.—ED.)

DEAR EDITOR,

At the Luton Reunion I was very staggered by Mr. Wills' statement of the very large number of Braille watches which my fellow St. Dunstaners had sent in for repair during the past year. We all know that a watch will break down at times no matter how careful one is, but in this case I do feel that a lot of this is due to carelessness. I feel too that a large number of St. Dunstaners do not appreciate the value of their Braille watches; if they had to pay for the repairs they would indeed be more careful. I know of some St. Dunstaners who carry their watches loose in the trouser pocket among their change; escorts have told me that the watches in question have been in a shocking state, for they are scratched all to pieces.

I am very proud to say that my Braille watch was presented to me in October, 1942, and is still ticking away merrily, keeps good time, and is looking in the same condition as it was on the day it was given to me. It has never been in for repair. Is this a record for a St. Dunstaner?

I value my watch very much indeed. I see to it that it is not left on the dressing table so that children can pick it up or get knocked off accidentally. I never overwind it at night; I always wind at about the same time; I count the turns, so as to leave the main spring with about one and a half turns to go. I always consider sudden changes of temperature. In the bitterly cold weather your watch is carried in the waistcoat pocket and is warmed by the heat of the body; you take it out, place it on the dressing table on a freezing cold night, the steel in the spring contracts then bang! and you have a broken spring. I wear my watch in a little linen bag, so if I stoop to pick something up from the ground, or tie a shoe lace, the bag will stop the watch from falling out. Even if it is on a strap the sudden jerk can do a watch a lot of harm. At night I always place my watch under my pillow. I always did this when I had my sight; the watch is very safe and is protected against accidents and changes of temperature.

Yours sincerely,

G. H. ("PETER") PIPER.

Watford.

Wound Pensions

From the Rev. A. C. Nugee.

DEAR EDITOR,

I suggest that there should be a new basis of assessment. At present we appear to be assessed on our disability. I am assessed at 100 per cent. That may be fair, but when I think of the totally blind and those who have other disabling injuries as well, it seems quite unfair that they and I should have the same basic assessment, as after all no one can be more than 100 per cent. disabled.

But if the basis of assessment were the pension, then those who have suffered the total loss of some faculty could be assessed at over 100 per cent. pension and those with further injuries would receive still higher percentage of pension, even up to twice or thrice the basic pension. This should be their basic assessment irrespective of what they are capable of doing in the way of gainful occupation. Special allowances, if any are needed, should be assessed after.

I am sure, too, that multiple injuries are cumulative in their disabling effect and would deserve a much higher percentage of pension in proportion to those who have one injury.

There is another group whom I think deserve special consideration, the over sixties. I know I shall be amongst them myself if I live a few more years, but that is not the reason for my writing this. We lose the physical and psychological resilience of youth, and it may well be that some will have to give up their work before the normal age of retirement because their disability has become more disabling.

There are probably many good reasons why my suggestions are unwise and impracticable, but I believe them to be a method by which the assessment of wound pensions can be made more equitable.

Yours sincerely,
A. C. NUGEE.

Crowthorne Vicarage.

Third College Reunion

DEAR EDITOR,

The third College Reunion was held at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly, on the 24th April, when about seventy sat down to a most excellent lunch. After lunch the room was buzzing with animation and conversation. Everybody knew everybody and all were reminiscing. One heard such remarks as "Do you remember how Sir Arthur used to clear his throat with two coughs before he spoke?" and here followed a most wonderful imitation of the two coughs. Then one heard, "Do you remember what a shy, lanky boy Sir Ian was when he first came to us?"

The old College days were lived over again and the consensus of opinion was **THOSE WERE THE DAYS.**

We of the College are very lucky in having still with us such organising ability as that of Nurse Lloyd, Miss Miller and our own Scottie. Great credit and praise is due to them for the very excellent way they organise and carry out these reunions. One College reunion is worth half a dozen local reunions, and I have wondered why other houses have not copied it. It really does one good.

Yours exuberantly,
Thetford. B. A. HAMILTON.

DEAR EDITOR,

On Saturday last I had the privilege and pleasure to attend the Reunion of the "boys" who were at the College, Regent's Park, in the early days.

I have attended many reunions, school, regimental, and St. Dunstan's, but never

one quite so intimate as Saturday's gathering. Everybody knew and chatted with everybody. It was delightful to hear the swapping of tales of the happenings of long ago.

Most of the "boys" had travelled a long distance to be present, as also had some of the "sisters" who were at the College, and this I think proves that the St. Dunstan's spirit is still with us, and will go on over the years.

Yours sincerely,
PERCY R. LALE.

Palmers Green, N.13.

Postal Rates

The Postmaster General has announced that as from April 12th, the list of articles for the blind which can be sent at specially reduced rates of postage has been extended. Among the articles which may now be sent *under special conditions* are Braille watches and clocks, and tools, measures and collapsible walking sticks, specially adapted for the use of the blind.

In addition, all the articles which can be sent at the cheap rates within the United Kingdom can also be sent at the same rates to the Irish Republic; in the past only literature for the blind has been admitted at the cheap rates.

Leaflets, in letterpress and Braille, giving full details of the above may be obtained, free of charge, from the Royal National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

Placements

J. Embleton, as a telephonist with the Ministry of Labour, Hart Road, West Hartlepool; J. L. Read in the Inspection Department of Messrs. Vickers-Armstrong, Ltd., Weybridge.

Reaction to My First Game of Bowls

*While poising to bowl from the mat,
And stooping to hoist up my slacks,
Quite far away, "Jack," though you may be,
In nautical terms you are saying to me,
I'm small and white, just like a pill
In no way related to that girl named Jill,
So why should I bother about you, Bill,
As long as I'm alright.*

BILL LACEY.

Liverpool Club Notes

On May Day the Club paid a visit to our old friends, the members of the Darts Club at Pleasington, near Blackburn.

We started off at 2 p.m. and the weather did not look too promising, but if the barometer was low the spirits of the party were high. After a pleasant run through the countryside as we approached our destination the clerk at the waterworks turned on all the taps and we arrived in a downpour, accompanied by thunder and lightning; as we had all given away our Cup Final tickets to come here, we heard the big match on the wireless in our coach instead. As the match drew to a close, so did the storm, and as the final goal was scored a last peal of thunder drowned the cheers of the Wembley crowd, so we did not know who had scored for some time. When we knew Preston had lost, being good sportsmen we all agreed the best team had won.

The storm having abated and the sun shining once more, we all trooped into the Railway Hotel and were warmly welcomed by our good hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Hindle and the members of the Darts Club and their good ladies.

They soon had us sat down to a sumptuous tea, plenty of everything and all home-made.

Those who had starved themselves for a week were disappointed to find they had no room for any "wallop."

Having satisfied the inner man, table cloths were removed and we proceeded to the serious business of living up to our reputation of darts and domino champions. Although we did not win at darts, we levelled things up at dominoes. Although our hosts started and finished the game on a double, after seeing their prowess we decided we had better do this with the aid of a beer-glass.

Games being over, we all gathered in the "Snug," and had a good sing-song; the Lion Brew here is specially good for the throat, and we made the rafters ring; our two pianists, Miss Doel and Mrs. Lincoln, certainly kept us going.

Alas, all good things come to an end, so at 9 p.m., with appropriate speeches of thanks to our good friends and hosts by Joe Blackely, Harry Matthews, and Jimmy Owens, we reluctantly had to say farewell, and promised to come again later in the year.

I may mention we were all glad to see Bob Britton and his pal, "Taffy." No party at Pleasington is the same without him.

"SWANEE."

Ovingdean Broadcast

A young St. Dunstaner, Maurice Aldridge, who had served on H.M.S. *Eagle*, and who has only very recently been admitted to Ovingdean for training, made an able contribution in a B.B.C. broadcast from the South Coast as H.M.Y. *Britannia* sailed up the Channel on Friday evening, May 14th.

The broadcast was entirely unexpected and it was only at 8 o'clock that evening that we knew we would be on the air. Maurice's remarks in such an impromptu interview were therefore most praiseworthy.

We feel he expressed the feelings of all St. Dunstaners when, in reply to Max Robertson's question "What is the feeling of St. Dunstaners in regard to the Queen's return?" he said "As a St. Dunstaner I can, with perfect certainty, say that every one of us here is greatly fond of the Queen and very interested in her work. We know that the recent tour has done a great amount of good for Great Britain, and after five months' absence we are very pleased to know that she has returned in safety.

"We are very proud to have the Queen as Patron of St. Dunstan's and as we are all ex-Service men we owe a lot to the Queen and the Royal Family, and we feel that she has a personal interest in us and our welfare."

Ovingdean Sports Day

As entries for field events are likely to be few this year, it has been decided to hold a Garden Party instead of our usual Sports Day, on *Saturday, July 10th, 1954*. We hope to provide entertainment for all who join us on that day, including some field events which will be held according to entries received during the afternoon.

Will all those intending to join us and wishing to take part in field events, please write direct to Mr. Jarrold, at Ovingdean.

Test Results

Typing—R. Wharton, K. Cooper, A. Dean (Australian), J. Harris (Borderline), V. Robins.

Preliminary—J. Walker, A. Dean (Australian).

Advanced—E. W. Stevenson, R. Buckley (Officer), Miss D. Phillippo, T. Giles.

Writing—F. Walker, J. Embleton, E. Jordan, W. Fulbrook, L. McCredie (Australian officer).

Briefly

R. E. Naman, now of Braintree, worked at Salford for eighteen years and not ten, as reported in the *Salford Reporter* and quoted in last month's REVIEW.

★ ★ ★

Harry G. Boorman, of Peterborough, has completed another most successful season with a production of "Lilac Domino." The next production will be "Oklahoma."

★ ★ ★

The Spring number of "Health Horizon" contained an excellent article on "Physiotherapy—a Means and an End," by our old friend, J. D. ("Duggie") Calder.

★ ★ ★

Des Coupe had the heavy responsibility of making the F.A. Cup finalists, Preston North End, fighting fit for their tough, hard fight on May 1st. Well played, Des—and Preston.

★ ★ ★

A three-page article by Maureen Lees appeared in "Illustrated" on April 17th. It was the leading story and was accompanied by some excellent photographs of Maureen in her workshop.

★ ★ ★

Arthur and Mrs. Relf are active members of Slough Trading Estate British Legion Darts Club, and Mrs. Relf recently won the Wethered Cup for Ladies.

★ ★ ★

G. Pollard, of Rothwell, who is employed by British Railways, is the local Appeals Chairman of the British Legion, and a member of the Trades Council of Kettering, among other activities.

★ ★ ★

R. Clark McNeil, of Haddington, Midlothian, gave the "Address to the Haggis" at the anniversary dinner of the Edinburgh Burns Club. A caption to a picture in the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* said: "Mr. R. C. McNeil held everyone's attention when, with many eloquent gestures, he gave the 'Address to the Haggis.' . . . Others in the group include Lord Provost Sir James Miller and the Lady Provost. . . ."

★ ★ ★

H. Perkins, of Edgware, won fourth prize for his allotment under the Council Competition from among seventy-five entrants. He has only held his land since early 1953.

J. Halmsall, of Southport, was awarded a Certificate of Merit at Southport Congregation Eisteddfod, 1954.

★ ★ ★

Margaret Stanway, of Morecambe, entered a competition for Boarding House Queen ("it wasn't a beauty competition," she says), open to people who owned, or managed a boarding house, and although she did not win it she had good publicity in the northern papers. One of the judges was Miss Jessie Matthews. Margaret was introduced to her and they had quite a chat.

★ ★ ★

Reg. Craddock, of Warrington, does all the organising of his office football team matches, and never misses a game. He goes regularly with a friend to watch Warrington Rugby League games.

★ ★ ★

Talking Book Library
American April

After last month's large crop of releases, there are only two imported books to bring to your notice this month. Here goes:—

"The Sea Around Us," by Rachel L. Carson, reader Milton Metz, is no rollicking pirate story but an attempt to trace the history of our oceans since the days when Earth was a gaseous puff-ball. The story, though semi-scientific, is simply and concisely told, and the authoress finds room to forecast a little what will happen to our seas before the next few million years are out. Sea life has its seasons just as we have ours and the book is stuffed with interesting information.

"The Last of the Mohicans," by J. Fenimore Cooper, reader Paul Clark, has nothing to offer the sophisticated reader but, to simple coves like myself, the charm and thrill remain as they were when I read the book at ten years old. The journeying of a pair of girls through the wilderness of northern New York State, the French fighting the English, and Indians fighting for one or other side and for themselves, are all manipulated into a coherent adventure story with a singing master thrown in as comic or pathetic relief. Rather a bloody book but a pleasant drop of fiction!

N.B.—The Kraken does not appear in Miss Carson's book. "NELSON."

Books reviewed this month:—

"The Sea Around Us," *Cat. No. 878.*
"The Last of the Mohicans," *Cat. No. 881.*

Likes and Dislikes

Although the following verses arrived too late to be included in our recent competition, they are printed here for their merit.

*I like the smell of a good cigar,
Relaxed, content,
The bouquet of a goodly wine,
Sunshine blent,
And of fragrant bitter coffee—
Strong and full
With just a Turkish cigarette,
Istanbul.*

*I like the smell of leather—old
Books and chair.
Of beeswaxed furniture and floors,
Loving care,
Of logs aburning on the hearth,
Sleep is near.
Pot pourri in a china bowl—
Memories dear.*

*I like the smell of scented soaps
In cloudy steam,
Of bath salts with enchanting names,
They make me dream,
Of faint elusive perfumes,
Exotic, rare,
Of joss sticks burning in a dish,
Mystic fare.*

*I like the smell of warm soap suds
On washing day,
The scorchy smell of ironing,
Creases away.
I like all smells of cleanliness—
Strong allure,
Of lavender in a linen press,
Fresh and pure.*

*I like the smell of fresh-turned earth,
Promise of life.
I like the smell of English herbs—
Withhold your knife.
I like the scent of flowers
We all can share,
Of gardens washed by Summer rain—
So pure the air.*

*I like the smell of new mown hay
Spread adrying,
Of bonfires on an Autumn day,
Rot defying.
I like the smell of stables—
Hard to define,
And the heavy warm smell of byres,
Cattle in line.*

*I like the pungent smell of spices,
Oriental,
And of sandalwood and cedar,
Sentimental.
I've never travelled distant lands,
The world over,
But through perfumes and through scents
I'm a rover.*

*I like to feel the sun ashining
Warming me well throughout
I like to feel the rain afalling,
Breaking a Summer drought
I like to feel the wind arising
Ending humidity,
I like to feel the snow athawing,
Easing mobility.*

*I like to feel a car aspeeding,
Swaying me in my seat.
I like to feel the turf aspringing
Helping my weary feet.
I like to feel a punt agliding,
Creeping to where I hide,
I like to feel a boat abobbing,
Riding a gentle tide.*

*I like to feel bed springs asinking
Giving my body rest.
I like to feel my chair amoulding—
Holding me as a nest.
I like to feel my hammock aswinging
Bringing me dreams untold.
I like to feel my Rocker arocking,
Creaking—both getting old.*

*I like so much, I'm left asighing—
Sighing with joy you see,
Time and Life are both flying,
Just now, no more from me.*

Let 'Em Swing

<i>I hate swing, Wind and string, Pots and pans, Old tin cans. Blaring brass, Shattered glass, Crazy drum, Things they strum, Piano, Mad tempo, Rapid whacks Whites and blacks. All the boys Join the noise, Harmony? Devilry.</i>	<i>Crooner's song, Something wrong, "I'm so blew, Yew ain't trew." Lover's tale, Dreadful wail, Dragging pace, Pained grimace. Modern way So they say, Close accord? Strange discord. Home again Mission Men, Duty clear, Heathen here.</i>
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W. CHAS. TAPLIN.

Amateur Theatricals

Where talking to one's self becomes a virtue, there is a complete, new, satisfying world for any blind person who may be interested. Singing in the bath does not usually imply "shortage upstairs," so why should talking to one's self? In order to perform a "part" in a play it is necessary to speak the phrases aloud and it is best done in privacy.

Some time ago I took part as a doctor in a production in Worcester and several other places. It went well and was most enjoyable. Given a fairly quick comprehension of a "room" or "set," it is not at all difficult to do one's part reasonably well.

There is also another side to this activity, namely, it brings us into fairly close human contact with several sighted people, who, being interested, will bother to learn our little special needs, and who will soon learn to realise how much "seeing" we can do without physical sight. I found it good as a tonic also, for memory and morale.

Quite separate from "the job in hand," it also means that one acquires a set of nice friends who will greet one cheerfully in the street or the Inn.

On stage the performers move in a certain, known set of ways, and one need not address remarks to the wrong person, or, worse still, to the wrong place.

As I say, I have found this a satisfying, interesting experience, and one which I think St. Dunstaners might enjoy.

A. V. LAW.

Young St. Dunstaners

Alison Boyd, Brighton, has passed her third M.B. examination at the Medical School of Leeds University.

Freddie Eastwood (Middlesbrough), a fine swimmer, was one of the team of four which won for his school the Sheard Cup for life-saving.

Gillian Cooke, of Kingston on Thames, is a "cover girl" at the age of 4. She has been photographed as a model for Bestway patterns and is on the cover of "Home Chat" this month.

Marriages

On April 22nd, John D. A. Floyd, Teignmouth, to Miss Margaret M. Slade.

Margaret Joyce Frampton, Higham Park, on March 13th, to A. G. King.

On April 6th, the daughter of J. Halsall, of Southport.

On April 3rd, Arnold Taylor, Swindon.

Births

ALLEN.—On April 5th, to the wife of W. Allen, of Aldershot, a son—Paul Howard.

BLACKWELL.—On April 29th, to the wife of J. E. Blackwell, of Reading, a daughter—Jean Margaret.

DODGSON.—On April 21st to the wife of A. Dodgson, of Wimbledon, a daughter—Elaine.

GALWAY.—On April 27th, to the wife of F. Galway, of Sandbach, Cheshire, a son—Andrew.

PADLEY.—On April 29th, to the wife of J. J. Padley, of Brighton, a son—Anthony James.

POINTON.—On May 8th, to the wife of A. C. Pointon, of Bexhill-on-Sea—a son.

TUCKER.—On April 6th, to the wife of E. G. Tucker, of Dulwich, a daughter—Susan Dorothy.

Marriage

BISHOP—KNIGHT.—On May 8th, W. Bishop, of Croydon, to Mrs. L. Knight.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

CARTHY.—To W. J. Carthy, of Rainworth, whose mother died on April 24th.

CURNOW.—To A. L. Curnow, of Bexley Heath, who has lost his sister.

RAY.—To C. Ray, of Clacton-on-Sea, whose wife died on April 15th.

STROUD.—To A. Stroud, of Battersea, who lost his father in November.

THOMPSON.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Thompson, of Parkstone, Dorset, whose little grand-daughter died in December.

WINDRIDGE.—To O. Windridge, of Wigston Magna, Leicester, whose wife passed away on May 10th after much suffering.

Forty-five Years Married

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. Bennett, of Dover, who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on April 24th.

Grandfathers

Leonard Ollier, Bury; W. Wright, Verwood, Dorset; L. Howell, Haywards Heath (four grandchildren now); A. T. Brooks, of Bournemouth; V. J. Fennell, Tooting (for twelfth time); J. R. Brown, Nuneaton; E. G. Palmer, Poole; H. Wordsworth, Gainsborough; H. Temple Coates, Hutton; and for H. Randall, Hove, a double event: Mavis had a son on April 10th, and Valerie a daughter on the 13th.

"In Memory"—continued

C.S.M. George Edward Lund, G.M., Highland Light Infantry

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. E. Lund, of West Hartlepool, at the age of 53. He enlisted in 1923 and was discharged from the Army in 1945. He was wounded in Holland, losing his left eye and the right being severely damaged. He also had other injuries to his face and right hand. For his action in rescuing wounded comrades trapped in a minefield on the Walcheren Islands in 1944 until a shoe mine exploded and blinded him, he was awarded the George Medal. The citation said "for cold, calculated bravery of the highest order."

After training at St. Dunstan's he became a telephone operator at West Hartlepool Labour Exchange. Mr. W. E. Gatenby, Exchange Manager, said of him, "He was a very fine personality. He was always full of life and most competent at his job."

He was given a military funeral, a piper from the Highland Light Infantry playing a Scottish funeral march and Scottish Lament on the bagpipes as the cortège proceeded to the Church. Colour Sergeant D. Martin, who served with him at Walcheren Islands, also represented the Regiment.

To Mrs. Lund we offer our deep sympathy.

Gunner Thomas Kent, Royal Horse Artillery

We record with deep regret the death of T. Kent, of Chelmsford, at the age of 56. He died suddenly on April 5th.

He came to us immediately upon his discharge from the Service in October, 1918, and he trained as a joiner. He continued with this work to the end, in spite of failing health.

Comrades of the Royal Artillery Association paid their last tribute by forming a guard of honour at the funeral; there were also present a representative of the British Legion, and his St. Dunstaner comrade, Mr. S. Letch, with Mrs. Letch.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow and her step-family.

Sergeant Sidney William James Macpherson, King's Royal Rifle Corps

We record with deep regret the death of S. W. J. Macpherson, of Brighton, who died at West House on April 16th, at the age of seventy.

Coming to St. Dunstan's in September, 1932, he trained as a telephonist and he continued with this work until his retirement in 1950. He had only been admitted to West House a few days before his death.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his wife and daughter.

Private George Bullen, Middlesex A.V.C. and Labour Corps

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of G. Bullen, of Brighton. He was seventy-three. Discharged from the Army in March, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1936. He was trained as a netter, but his health had been very poor for a number of years. His death nevertheless, on April 25th, was very sudden.

Our very sincere sympathy is extended to his sons and to Miss Atherton, his housekeeper who had looked after him for fourteen years.

Private William Allen, 10th Manchester Regt.

We record with deep regret the death of W. Allen, of Torrisholme, near Morecambe.

He saw service from 1914 until 1916, being severely wounded at the Dardanelles. In addition to loss of sight, his right hand was amputated. He came to us that year and in 1919 opened a tobacconist's shop but some years later gave this up for rug-making. His health had seriously deteriorated during the last few years but his death on April 18th was not expected.

He was a lifelong member of the R.A.O.B. and members from local Lodges attended the funeral and paid moving tributes to his memory. The many wreaths included those from the R.A.O.B. and the British Legion.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow and family.

W. A. Blackett, G. F. Joyner and W. Crossley, Australian Forces

We have heard with deep regret from Mr. A. F. McConnell, of the deaths of W. A. Blackett, of Launceston, Tasmania; G. F. Joyner, of Caulfield, Victoria; and W. Crossley, Holland Park, Queensland.

Alex Blackett and George Joyner were World War I men who were trained at St. Dunstan's, and both had represented Western Australia and Tasmania at the Conferences of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association. George Joyner came to St. Dunstan's in 1917, trained as a poultry farmer and mat-maker and returned to Australia, but he had made one or two trips to England and will be well-known to many. William Crossley was admitted to the Queensland Association recently and was a most highly respected member of that organisation.

To their relatives our deep sympathy is offered.

Corporal George Robert Williams, Royal Field Artillery

We record with deep regret the death of G. R. Williams, of Tonbridge. He was seventy-one.

He served in the First World War and was discharged in December, 1918, but he only came to us in March of this year and was not able to undertake any training. His death occurred suddenly on May 16th.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his wife and family.

"In Memory"

Private James Linden Housdon, *5th King's Irish Liverpools*

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death, on May 2nd, of J. L. Housdon, of Whitchurch, Shropshire, in his sixty-second year.

He enlisted in 1916 and was discharged the following year. As a result of enemy action, he not only lost his sight but he also suffered injuries to his left hand.

He came to us that year and trained in netting and poultry-farming, the latter for lectures only. A tobacconist in Manchester, he became very interested in poultry and this was his occupation until the end of his life. He had, however, suffered considerably during the last few years.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his sister, who had cared for him for so long.

Private Arthur Seal, *Shropshire Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death, on May 11th, of A. Seal, of Portesham, Weymouth, at the age of sixty.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1916, he trained in netting and basket-making. For a few years he worked as a netter and then went on to wool rugs, which work he did until his death.

He leaves a widow to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

Private William Walter Clark, *6th City of London Rifles*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. W. Clark, of Lee, S.E.12.

Wounded at Festubert in May, 1915, he entered St. Dunstan's shortly afterwards. "Nobby," as he was known to his friends, trained in mat-making and basket-making, but during the last eighteen years had been employed as a machinist in a factory.

His health had gradually deteriorated since the war, but even so his sudden death on April 25th, at the age of fifty-nine, was a great shock to his wife and five sons.

Interment was at Charlton Cemetery.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his family.

Shoering Smith Ralph Paterson, *Royal Field Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of Ralph Paterson, of Thirsk, in his sixty-third year.

Enlisting in 1914, he was discharged in 1918, and came to us towards the end of 1921. He was trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker but for some time his health had only allowed him to do light netting.

Just before his last illness, it was his sad task to have his guide dog, Marshall, destroyed. There was much public sympathy and a fund was raised to provide Ralph with a new dog, but he did not live to meet him.

Captain C. Harris, a St. Dunstaner, attended the funeral with Mrs. Harris; the Lord of the Manor of Thirsk was present, and Dr. McArthur represented local doctors. Members of the British Legion lined the funeral route.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Private Herbert Taylor, *East Lancashire Regt.*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. Taylor, of Blackburn, which occurred very suddenly on March 23rd; arrangements had been made for him to spend a holiday at Ovingdean, for he had only just come under our care.

An old soldier—he enlisted in 1902—he was discharged in 1915, having lost the sight of both eyes as a result of gunshot wounds, but it was only in February, 1954, that his case was brought to our notice.

He leaves a widow to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

Gunner Cyril Pallanza, *Royal Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of C. Pallanza, of Edgware. He was sixty.

He was discharged from the Army in 1919, but only came to us in January, 1951. His poor health then prevented any training. His condition had deteriorated recently and he had been in Northwood District Hospital for a short time when he died suddenly on April 19th.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his brother.

Private Herbert Lee, *19th Durham Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death of H. Lee, of Moorends, near Doncaster. He was 67.

He was discharged from the Army in 1917 after a year's service, his sight having been seriously affected. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1933 and trained as a basket-maker. He was also a successful rabbit-keeper. During the last year or so, however, his health had deteriorated rapidly and he died on April 11th, at West House, where he had been cared for in his last short, serious illness.

To Mrs. Lee and her family our very sincere sympathy is offered.

Corporal Aubrey Hayes, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Aubrey Hayes, of West Malling, at the age of fifty-six.

He served in the First World War, but came to St. Dunstan's notice in 1952. His state of health, however, prevented any training. He became progressively worse and three months ago was admitted to West House, where he died on May 14th.

To his widow and two grown-up children (by his first marriage) our deep sympathy goes.

(continued on page 11)