

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### Making Braille Books Smaller

**M**R. SOMERSET MAUGHAM, the famous novelist, in his new book which is appearing in serialised form in the *Sunday Times*, advocates—for sighted readers, of course—the condensation of books, including certain of the classics. Mr. Maugham says:

“There are few novels which it is possible to read from beginning to end with unflinching interest. Though skipping may be a bad habit, it is one that is forced upon the reader. . .

“Some students of literature, some professors and some critics, will exclaim that it is a shocking thing to mutilate a masterpiece and that it should be read as the author wrote it. That depends on the masterpiece.

“There is nothing reprehensible in cutting. Few plays have ever been produced that were not to their advantage more or less drastically cut in rehearsal . . . I know no reason why a novel should not be subjected to a similar process.”

I have often thought how much more strongly the need for condensation applies to Braille books. The labour of reading with your finger is relatively so great that you want to be sure that what you pick out is worth while. And, of course, “skipping” is much more difficult in Braille reading.

Some of you may have read in Braille the condensations of some of the best-sellers in the United States which appear in the “Reader’s Digest,” and will have appreciated the pleasure and benefit of the full-length novel without tedious description or unnecessary detail.

I would like the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Braille Printing Works at Edinburgh, who are our great Braille publishers, most seriously to consider this matter.

Another aspect of the idea of making Braille books smaller has come to me in a letter from Mr. Fred Ripley. He said:

“Now that an increasing number of blind people are travelling in trains, buses and coaches, and working in offices, factories and hospitals, I feel that there is a real need for some less cumbersome Braille books. At present, all full-length books are made in volumes which are bulky to carry, too space-occupying when open to read in a public vehicle and uncomfortably conspicuous to bring out in a waiting room or works canteen. This is

unfortunate because for the blind, travelling and waiting time is particularly tedious if they are not able to read.

"I suggest that 'Travellers' Editions' be produced. These would be modern fiction books (short in length so as not to run into too many volumes), Brailled in half-size volumes, with the spiral wire binding which was at one time used for 'Pandas' and has the great advantage of permitting the reader to turn each page back underneath the book as it is read, so avoiding the width of an open book."

I think experiments should be made in this field also. I should be interested to know what Braille readers and travellers think about this.

IAN FRASER.

### The Honours List

Two St. Dunstaners of the First World War and a young officer now in training at Ovingdean have been honoured by Her Majesty the Queen. In the Birthday Honours List, the O.B.E. was awarded to J. A. Whittle, who trained as a physiotherapist at St. Dunstan's in 1935-37; Mr. Whittle is Hon. Secretary of the Blinded Soldiers' Association of South Australia and was Chairman of the recent Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association Federal Biennial Congress. He is honoured "for services to blinded ex-servicemen."

Allan Foster McConnell, who trained at St. Dunstan's after the First World War and has been Hon. Secretary-Treasurer of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association for very many years, received an M.B.E. "for services to blinded ex-servicemen."

Second Lieut. Michael Tetley, of the Kenya Regiment (T.F.), has been awarded the M.B.E. "in recognition of services in connection with the disturbances in Kenya."

Of interest also to St. Dunstaners is the award of the C.B.E. to Capt. William James Hutchinson, Chief Constable, Brighton County Borough Police Force, and of the O.B.E. to William Thomas Polkinghorne, Head Postmaster, Brighton. Irish St. Dunstaners will learn with pleasure of the award of an O.B.E. to Mrs. Wright, J.P., of Belfast, "for services to disabled ex-servicemen in Northern Ireland."

### The Derby Sweepstake, 1954

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake took place as arranged at the London Club on Friday evening, May 28th. It had been widely advertised, but so bad was the night—it rained heavily and incessantly all the evening—that not a single St. Dunstaner turned up to witness it. However, with the help of Mr. Bob Willis and Miss Ibbetson, who made the actual draw, in

the presence of Mrs. Willis, Miss Wright (late of the Rug Department) and the Editor of the REVIEW, the lucky numbers were drawn. The sale of tickets had been exceptionally good. The total number sold was 2,781, and after printing and postage expenses had been deducted (£15 2s. 6d.), a sum of £332 10s. 0d. was left for distribution in accordance with the printed rules. The result was as follows:—

1st **Never Say Die** F. J. Mears, Beeston  
Ticket No. 1508 ... £166 5s. 0d.

2nd **Arabian Night**  
W. Lowings, Chandlers Ford  
Ticket No. 2194 ... £66 10s. 0d.

3rd **Darius** A. Trill, Ringwood  
Ticket No. 513 ... £33 5s. 0d.

Those drawing starters received £3 10s. each. They were as follows:—

Alpenhorn	F. C. Hilling, Folkestone	1404
Blue Prince II	M. Delaney, Maidenhead	461
Blue Rod	C. Ray, Clacton	151
Blue Sail	F. C. Hilling, Folkestone	1407
Cloonroughan	J. Martin, Boreham Wood	1261
Court	G. M. Jordan, Hove	2715
Splendour	W. White, Little Clacton	1130
Dark Corsair	J. Murray, N.11	2563
Elopement	C. E. Maker, Horrabridge	562
Ferriol	J. Macfarlane, Ilford	1429
Hylas	H. Allsop, Smethwick	1996
Kingsloe	R. E. Naman, Braintree	1246
Landau	J. F. Harris, Ovingdean	2674
L'Avengro	J. H. Parker, Ovingdean	1450
Moonlight	H. Mortimer, Wendover	441
Express	J. Ingram, Maidenhead	450
Rokimos	R. G. Beard, Winnersh	695
Rowston	E. D. Oxborough, Gt. Yarmouth	125
Manor	E. Lake, Scarborough	2371
Ruwenzori		
Narrator		
Valerullah		

R. Smith, of Seaford, drew Ambler II (Ticket 1999) and W. J. Markwick, of N. Moulsecomb, drew Infatuation (2555), which most unfortunately were scratched. A. Foster, of Trillick, Co. Tyrone, drew The Field. (2539).

### London Club Notes

#### Indoor Section

On May 10th the darts team was invited to the Addiscombe British Legion Club for a match, with other games and a social evening. The team was unlucky at darts, losing two games to one. It would seem that the team could do with a little more practice in finishing; that is where we are losing games. Charlie Luker very kindly brought his conjuring apparatus along, by special request, and gave a very good show which was well applauded by the company. Charlie Hancock gave a monologue which also went down well and added a spice of variety to the usual evening's fun.

On May 24th we had a return match with the Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind, at the Club. This match we won by two games to none, thereby gaining our revenge for the beating we got when we visited them. Cribbage and dominoes were also played. This was another good evening.

The "Sir Arthur Pearson Competitions" have started and we hope entrants will press on with these, as later on the aggregate whist will take up six weeks after the holidays.

C. J. WALKER.

#### Bridge Section

The second bridge drive of the year was held at the Club on Saturday, May 15th (9 tables), Mr. C. Head filling the role of M.C. The prize-winners were: 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Wiltshire 2,670; 2nd, L. Douglas and partner 2,360; 3rd, S. Webster and partner 1,560. H. Miller and partner won the consolation prize with the lowest minus score.

We lost the match on Saturday, May 22nd, against a team from Hoover's.

On Saturday, May 29th, after a keenly contested game against our old friends, Mr. A. Field's team, we were once again the losers.

#### Forthcoming Event

#### Harrgate Bridge Week, September 4th-11th.

Will all members wishing to take part in this event please send their names to Mr. R. Willis at the Club not later than Monday, July 26th, so that all arrangements for reserving rail and hotel accommodation can be completed. The hotel charge will be £7 17s. 6d.

W. BISHOP (Capt., Sec.)

#### Outdoor Section—Brighton Walk.

Five St. Dunstaners were among the 32 competitors who started in the Stock Exchange London to Brighton walk on May 22nd. The start was at 7 a.m. from Westminster Bridge, the course through Croydon, Horley, Redhill, Crawley, and so on to the Aquarium at Brighton, 52½ miles in all. All the members were in good form at Crawley, after approximately 30 miles. Pat Cryan was the leader of them, followed by Archie Brown, Charles Williamson, Billy Miller and Charles Stafford some little way behind. Here a very disappointed Billy Miller had to stop to have a badly blistered heel attended to. After a few minutes delay, Billy got started again, and eventually regained his confidence and fighting spirit and walked so well as to make a new St. Dunstan's record, finishing 6th in the actual race. Charles Williamson finished 7th, Archie Brown 8th, Pat Cryan 9th, Charles Stafford 10th. Each one put up a marvellous performance and are to be highly congratulated. St. Dunstan's London to Brighton certificates will be presented to them in due course.

#### Times at Crawley:

	Hrs.	Mins.	Secs.
P. Cryan ...	5	22	29
A. Brown ...	5	26	04
C. Williamson ...	5	26	07
W. Miller ...	5	34	31

#### Finishing Times at Aquarium, Brighton:

W. Miller ...	9	35	14
C. Williamson ...	9	55	36
A. Brown ...	9	58	58
P. Cryan ...	10	1	35
C. Stafford ...	10	45	45

W. M.

### Domino Corner

W. H. Wright, of Verwood, won the Cup for the Domino Tournament at his British Legion Club, and the same night, his son, Arthur, won the Cup for Crib.

★ ★ ★

The *Southern Daily Echo*, May 10th, said: "Special cheer at the prize-winning social held at the Queen's Restaurant on Thursday night by the East River Domino League was reserved for a man whose name did not appear in the prize-list—Bill Farmery. Mr. Farmery turned out for his side—the Rising Sun—for the first time last season. His play commanded respect."

## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I welcome Mr. Prideaux's suggestion in last month's REVIEW.

I have many friends among all denominations. We may be travelling by different routes but we are travelling in the same direction and towards the same goal, and I believe that the nearer we approach our destination so will our roads converge.

Yours sincerely,

W. G. SPEIGHT.

Braunston Vicarage,  
Oakham.

(Although the original correspondence remains closed, we should like to make it clear that the Rev. Canon W. G. Speight did not state or imply that the Catholic Church had ever accepted the doctrine of "The end justifies the means," a statement attributed to him by Mr. S. Brooks. This doctrine was quoted by an earlier correspondent who did not attribute it to anyone in particular.—ED.)

DEAR EDITOR,

I am pleased to note that Mr. Prideaux's criticism has opened the pages of the REVIEW to constructive thought on religion as such.

On the occasion of my rare visits to Ovingdean I have very often come into contact with St. Dunstaners of deep philosophical and spiritual thought, with whom it is a pleasure to converse, but there are only a very few who have taken the opportunity to study the Scriptures. I have also found in normal life that an astounding number of persons who claim to be deeply religious (which is different from deep philosophical search for spiritual truth) had, despite their assurances and regular conventional church and chapel attendance, only the vaguest ideas concerning the Gospels, and knew nothing at all from their own study of either the Old Testament, the Epistles and Revelations or the Apocryphas.

With the calming of the nations comes the tranquillity also of the individual human spirit, and men will realize that in literal truth, Christ is the Saviour, not only of the individuals of two thousand years ago, but of the entire world of man to-day. Men will turn and read their Scriptures, finding joy in the fact that it can solve the great problems of to-day, healing all the hands of

administration of nations, opening the blind spiritual eyes and allowing the blessings of science to be concentrated upon the healing of individuals instead of that new threat of human annihilation. What a wonderful thing if the men of St. Dunstan's can give a new idea to a stricken world!

I am not preaching, but passing on a thought that was given to me, and the power of thought is the greatest power on earth or beyond it.

Faithfully yours,

A. J. RADFORD.

Castle Cary.

(We regret that it was not possible to print Mr. Radford's letter in full. Letters on this or any other subject should not exceed three hundred and fifty words.—ED.)

DEAR EDITOR,

I am in complete agreement with the Rev. Andrew Nugee on the re-assessment of pensions. I have held this view ever since 1917, when I entered St. Mark's and was placed in a bed alongside a Lancashire lad who was doubly handicapped compared with me. Whereas I only had both eyes excised, this lad, besides the loss of sight, had one hand off and the other was crippled and useless. He could not feed himself, he could not wipe his nose. We were both 100% pensioners and we both went to St. Dunstan's. A has lost his sight. B has lost his sight and one arm. C has lost his sight and both arms. D has lost his sight, both arms and one leg. E has lost his sight and has a spine injury causing loss of power below the injury. I doubt if anyone could assess adequately C, D and E for their suffering, loss of power, loss of pleasure, and loss of the joy of living, but a fair assessment could coat their bitter pill and perhaps make life more tolerable. I expect the official answer would be in the words of Sir Arthur Pearson in 1917, when Harry Nelson and I pointed out to him a discrepancy in pensions applying to St. Dunstaners. Sir Arthur said: "Yes, boys, I see your point, but the Ministry have to make rules and they have to work to those rules, and it is one of their rules that this discrepancy occurs. They could not adjust this pension just to apply to St. Dunstaners, because they would have to adjust it to all other pensions in Britain." We asked "Why not?" Sir Arthur replied "Because I do not think the country could stand it." I may point out, however, that this malad-

justment was adjusted some twenty years later, and that the country did stand it.

Perhaps it is a little late for we fellows of the 1914 vintage to drag out this mal-assessment question at this juncture, but it may give the 1939 boys food for thought. I still maintain that *multiple injuries should receive multiple pensions.*

Yours sincerely,

B. A. HAMILTON.

Thetford.

DEAR EDITOR,

I had Jim Shaw's leading article read to me to-day and for once I comment on what could be regarded as a simple statement of facts.

I too think Jim's young friend from St. Helen's has achieved something worth while, not only for himself but may be for others. On the other hand, I feel a little mention of the great patience of the people who realised when he was a child that he could develop this gift is needed.

I shall never forget that day in 1946 when, at Belmont, Ovingdean, I met Dr. Helen Keller and her companion, Polly Thompson. Zofia, a Polish girl, came into the lounge and spoke Saint Joan's speech, beautifully and faultlessly. At precisely the right moment, and as though she was fully sighted, able to hear perfectly and also able to speak clearly, I realised that not only had I followed Zofia along every word, every pronunciation, but this wonderful American woman, blind, deaf and nearly dumb, not only had listened too, but she expressed her gratitude in a really remarkable way.

To me it was one of the highlights of the many experiences I have had in a not so short life.

I asked how Helen Keller had managed to know just what Zofia was saying, how she was saying it—and I learned that she, too, used her sensitive touch on Zofia's throat.

But here too I feel that in addition to the courage of Helen Keller, we all have to think of the sighted person who, in the very beginning of the story, realised her potentialities and, with great patience and understanding, had helped her student to learn the way to "converse with others."

Yours sincerely,

MAUREEN LEES.

Birkenhead.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested, as no doubt were many of your readers, to read in the May issue of the remarkable reading by touch which was there described. I have also been privileged to see Miss Jameson at work with the Optophone, and I have been very interested in her results.

I have, however, been shown within the last week yet another possible method of reading. During a visit to a research establishment, I saw some work which, although in the early stages, looked very hopeful. It, too, reads from the printed work in the same way as the Optophone, and the method of conveying the print into something we can "observe" is much the same.

In this new idea, however, the actual letters are forced up through a metal screen, and can be enlarged to any size the reader may wish. All he then has to do is to carry out much the same reading technique as a reader of "Moon" has to do.

This then has all the advantages of the Optophone without the disadvantage of having to learn the "music."

I am afraid that the difficulty which meets both methods is the expense of development and the likelihood that this expense will not be recovered by the sale of the instrument. What is really needed is some commercial use for these ideas so that the sale would be large enough to recover the cost of development and production.

Yours sincerely,

J. A. ORIEL.

Banbury, Oxon.

DEAR EDITOR,

I see from the REVIEW that one man had an article about his watch, and he said he thought it was a record, from 1943. I think my watch can beat that. It is still going and I don't remember the year I had it but it was in Mr. Swain's early days, and it only wants cleaning now. It has been a faithful friend to me.

Yours sincerely,

C. CHAPMAN.

Scaldwell, Northampton.

★ ★ ★

It has only just come to the notice of Headquarters that H. Strafford, of Moss, near Wrexham, who came to us in January, 1952, was awarded the Military Medal for rescuing wounded men under fire at Helen-court Wood, Belgium, in July, 1917.

## British Legion Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the British Legion was held at the Royal Albert Hall, London, during Whitsun week-end.

From the number of resolutions dealt with, we take the following from newspaper reports which have reached us.

"The Conference unanimously passed a resolution tabled in the name of one hundred branches, reaffirming their determination to support the Legion demand for an increase in the basic rate of disability pension to 90s. a week for disabled ex-servicemen and a corresponding increase for widows.

"A motion calling for a 100% increase in pensions for war widows under 40 and a 50% increase for those over 40 was overwhelmingly rejected by the conference.

"A resolution which was also rejected called for special financial recognition to be sought from the Ministry of Pensions for limbless and other seriously disabled pensioners of the 1914-1918 war.

"The Conference rejected by a large majority a resolution which disapproved the action of M.P.s in voting themselves an increase of £500 a year in salary while the Legion's claims on behalf of disabled ex-servicemen and war widows continued to be ignored."

"Sir Ian Fraser promised to seek an authoritative statement of what the Government proposed to do about pensions by putting down a question in the House.

"A resolution requesting the Minister of Pensions to accord facilities for the pensioner appearing before a medical board to be accompanied, if he wished, by a representative of the British Legion, was carried.

"The suggestion was made that the Ministry should give much more sympathetic consideration to the claims of widows whose husbands had died from illness closely associated with disabilities for which they had received pensions. A motion that the Ministry should apply more generous interpretation to the warrant under which such pensions were awarded was carried unanimously."

★ ★ ★

Thomas Partington, a founder and life member of Radcliffe British Legion Branch, has now been admitted to life membership of the British Legion itself.

## Reunions

There have been only two Reunions during the past month. The first, at Ipswich, on May 21st, was the first East Anglian meeting to be held there for eighteen years, Colchester and Norwich being chosen in previous years. Sir Ian Fraser, who was accompanied by Lady Fraser, presided, and a guest of honour was Captain G. G. Vinnicombe, chairman of the Suffolk British Legion and a member of the National Executive Council.

Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, and Lady Pearson were the guests of honour at the Canterbury Reunion on May 27th.

## Birmingham Sports Club

### Sports at Salford Park, May 16th

70 yds. Running	1. Kibbler	9.5 sec.
	2. Faulkner	10.0 sec.
	3. Bilcliff	10.3 sec.
Cricket Ball	1. Kibbler	60 yds.
	2. Worthington	53 yds.
	3. Bilcliff	40 yds.
Shot Putt	1. Kibbler	31 ft. 7 in.
	2. Faulkner	26 ft. 5 in.
	3. Southall	25 ft. 2 in.
Long Jump	1. Faulkner	6 ft. 1 in.
	2. Kibbler	5ft. 11 in.
	3. Southall	5 ft. 10 in.
Four Laps Walk	1. Worthington (90 sec.)	10 min. 34 sec.
	2. Kibbler (15 sec.)	10 min. 35 sec.
	3. Bilcliff (15 sec.)	10 min. 36 sec.

Fastest Time: Faulkner (scr.), 10 min. 37 sec.

★ ★ ★

Two coaches lent to us by the Alexander Musical Society took us to Stratford-on-Avon on June 13th. About seventy sat down to tea.

It would have been an even greater success if the weather had been kind, but it poured in torrents all day. The river trip had to be cancelled, since the river was so swollen that the boats could not get under the bridges.

Fortunately we were to go to the British Legion for tea, and we spent a most happy afternoon and evening there. Some of the older St. Dunstaners were able to renew acquaintance with Miss Chadwick, who was concerned with the Stratford Camps in the old days.

## Grandfathers

W. J. Harris, Fareham; G. H. Thomas, Birmingham (Dorothy had a little girl in Benghazi, North Africa); T. Noon, Manchester; W. D. Alexander, Dalbeattie.

## My Trip

When my two 20-year policies became due, we decided to take a trip to Australia and visit Mrs. Gover's sister in Sydney, whom we had not seen for over 32 years. Also to have a week in Melbourne and visit some St. Dunstan's friends we had not seen for some 37 years, and to carry on to New Zealand to visit Miss Morrah.

We left Tilbury on the *Strathedon* on December 3rd, 1953, passing Gibraltar and then along the North Coast of Africa, daily seeing all those places we knew so well during the fighting in North Africa; then Libya, Tobruk, Port Said, and down the Suez to Aden. Then Bombay, Colombo, Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. Of course, we had the usual six or eight hours at each of these, but we left our ship at Melbourne for six days, and went to our hotel, which had been booked by Bob Archer who, as most of you know, is Secretary of the Victoria Blinded Soldiers' Association. Mrs. Archer came with Bob in the car and took us all round Melbourne, and we finished at Tom Corboy's house. The next day we visited A. Gibson and also W. Cook, who has not long arrived from England and is building his own house. The next day we were invited by Mrs. McConnell to lunch—and what a party! Mac had asked Joe Lynch along, as well as two other friends, to meet us. The Victoria Blinded Returned Soldiers' Bowls Club of Melbourne visits other clubs once or even twice a week for the afternoon, and sometimes journeys of 60 or even 80 miles are made *up* country by train or coach for these visits. My wife and I were invited to one of these events and we were amazed at their skill.

These were indeed six hectic days and on the Friday we caught the *Himalaya* for Sydney. Bob and Tom and their ladies came to see us off and what a memory! It was grand to see all our plans of some twelve months ago gradually coming true.

Now we are at Sydney and we look over the side hoping to recognise someone we have not seen for 32 years. At last, "There she is," from my wife, with a catch in her voice, for there was Jessie. What excitement! Neither Eva nor Jess knew quite where to start.

Although we docked at 8 a.m., it wasn't until after 10 o'clock that we were through the Customs for there had been some 1,200

passengers on board the *Himalaya*. We went by taxi to Sans Souci, where Jess lives. The first two days we went to Sydney to open my account with the Bank, and to arrange my trip to Canberra. We were only home from this trip two days when we set out again for Katoomba, which is in the Blue Mountains. After this we had another week with Jess. We were not idle, but visited the glorious bays that are around Sydney—Manly Bay, Crunalla Bay, and Bondi Beach are particularly fine. The waves come in some 30 feet and higher, and are dangerous to the weak swimmer or the venturesome surf rider. Each beach has its own body of Life Savers, and these men do a wonderful job. When they go out on a rough sea to save lives, they are all tied together and the leader is out in front and always holds the number one position. They save thousands of lives yearly.

During one of these visits to Sydney I made an appointment to see Mr. E. Turnbull, the Managing Director of Hoyts Theatres. This body of people and their friends sent St. Dunstan's some thousands of parcels during the war years, and my wife and I particularly went to thank Mr. Turnbull for ourselves and for all our St. Dunstan's friends.

Before leaving Sydney we had one more trip. This was by coach along the Great Pacific Highway to Brisbane, which took three days. We came back from Brisbane by rail. We eventually left Sydney for Wellington, New Zealand, on February 18th, and all the family came to see us off.

Our trip round the North Island had already been fixed for us by the Australian and New Zealand Bank in Sydney, and a perfect job they made of it. On landing at Wellington we were met by an official of the Government Tourist Department, who gave us a large bunch of tickets and a book of words, and a welcome to New Zealand. There were taxi tickets, hotel tickets, coach tickets, and half-day tour tickets—13 days round North Island, and we were met everywhere by taxi like clockwork and delivered to the hotel. We went to the famous Glow-worm cave and then on to Rotarua where there are all the hot springs; they are just amazing, some of them spurt up into the air some 40 or 50 feet, and some of them are just hot mud and all different colours. From there we went on to Auckland, where we were due to stay six days—six days because I wanted to spend

some time with Miss Morrah, who had helped us so much for some 20 odd years, and particularly with our Bridge Club from 1939 until she returned to New Zealand in 1946. We also went to lunch with Miss Morrah's nieces. I also went to see Donald McPhee, who was trained as a physio-therapist in 1918, and has been to England twice for a visit. I also had a very pleasant afternoon and evening with Chalky White. Chalky was trained as a Physio and we knew him well because he was a very keen Bridge enthusiast and was a member of our London Club. Good luck, Chalky, and come with your good lady to see us when you come over. Another St. Dunstaner I met in Auckland was Jim May, who was blinded in this war and all the blind training he has had has been local. Jim is now holding down very successfully the job of assistant director to the civilian blind movement in Auckland.

We went back to Wellington by land-liner and spent the last few days before going on board in Oriental Bay. We boarded the *Rangitata* on March 18th for Southampton, and we had a wonderful trip home, back through the Panama. The Sports Chairman asked me to arrange some Bridge for the ship, so with the help of Mrs. Gover and one other passenger, I accordingly arranged a Bridge Drive each Wednesday. We also had a duplicate contest with four teams of 4. This my team managed to win, together with the team of 8 match, England v. New Zealand over 32 boards.

Then when we arrived at Southampton we had the telegram from the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club—WELCOME HOME—and also one other letter from Leigh, telling us that our cat was waiting for us and very well. You just cannot realise what a thrill it is to get a telegram, letter, or postcard when travelling like this. We had four telegrams and two letters and three boxes of flowers when leaving Tilbury on December 3rd, and when getting to Fremantle we had two letters. Best of all there was a telegram from my sister-in-law—Good luck and good health and WELCOME to Australia. So if you know anyone travelling, drop them a line at the port of call where they would least expect a line.

Well, now home, and to work, and to put things back in their proper order.

H. GOVER

★ ★ ★

A. Reagen, of Hastings, and his wife have won a bronze medal for Old Tyme Dancing.

### From All Quarters

Bertie Barnes, O.B.E., of Cheltenham, has been re-elected to the Parochial Church Council of the Parish Church. This year the number of Councillors has been reduced from forty to twenty-five, so that his election was particularly noteworthy.

★ ★ ★

H. Pollitt, of Farnworth, writes: "I went with Mrs. Pollitt to a Social last Thursday, and we had a very enjoyable evening. David Bee, Ernie Earnshaw and Jim Bleakey were there. They presented the Fletcher Cup to the winning darts team."

★ ★ ★

A. E. Hicks, of Palmers Green, has received from his firm, the North Metropolitan Power Company, a Certificate of Service on completion of twenty years with the company, together with a gold watch.

★ ★ ★

S. Purvis, of Seghill, has come away from an Exhibition again this year with all the first prizes for his products. He excels at leek-growing.

### Tribute from the Regiment

Arising out of the visit of two officers, Major Norman Charrington and Major Arthur Duveen, to South Africa recently, and their meeting with Jim Ellis there, an article appeared in the Spring number of the 10th Royal Hussar's Gazette. It was headed, "Mr. James E. Ellis," and after describing Jim's military service and St. Dunstan's training, it goes on:—

"Major Norman Charrington and Major Arthur Duveen, both old 10th Hussars, have recently visited Jim Ellis in Cape Town. They say he is quite an amazing chap, extremely capable and full of enthusiasm. In spite of his handicaps, he types most of his correspondence himself, almost faultlessly, and he is looked upon in South Africa as one of the real driving forces behind the St. Dunstan's movement . . ."

"Many will remember Jim Ellis in the Regiment as a very charming personality. His example of triumph over misfortune is something of which all 10th Hussars can be justly proud. When one thinks of what can be overcome by sheer bravery and will power, it makes one ashamed to have ever complained about the trivial annoyances.

"We all wish him continued success in his valuable work and family life."

### Talking Book Library May's Mite

This month's quota of releases is a small, mixed bag of three books. The first in the list is generally entertaining, whereas the other two are rather for those with special tastes.

"My Cousin, Rachel," by Daphne du Maurier, reader Lionel Marson, tells a romantic story of a young, wealthy Cornishman loving and doubting his cousin, ten years his senior. Death in dubious circumstances seems to follow cousin Rachel around, and in an atmosphere of infatuation, extravagance and intrigue, it is difficult to make out any villain or hero. Somebody ought to hang, but even that is highly uncertain. Pleasant reading attached to a most admirable poser.

"Abraham Lincoln," by Herbert Agar, reader Arthur Bush, occupies, if I remember rightly, five records and therefore must needs be a very potted version of one of the greatest of United States Presidents. In spite of, or because of that fact one can read all the book with great interest.

"The Pilgrim's Progress," by John Bunyan, reader Franklin Engelmann, is a truly remarkable outpouring from one who might now be termed a "dreamy gaol-bird." This is a beautiful recording and though some of the discourse between the pilgrims is tediously stilted, the over-all impression is that here is quite a pleasant book—if you like that sort of thing!

"NELSON."

"My Cousin Rachel," *Cat. No. 883.*

"Abraham Lincoln," *Cat. No. 884.*

"The Pilgrim's Progress," *Cat. No. 8.* (A new English recording, the previous American record having been withdrawn).

### It Was Worth It

For some years now I have attended the Burma Reunion, having for a spell been a very insignificant part of the old 14th Army. My particular Corps being usually an attached troop, I thus made many contacts, but none of them really strong ones, with the exception of just one or two chaps who have since those days passed into other parts of the country, or even passed into dimmer oblivion.

Thus I had considered, is it worth while going to the Reunion in the faint hope that someone would clap me on the shoulder and say, "Aren't you old Lofty?" Now comes the part which has made it worth while.

Recently I met a "new boy" at Ovingdean, but recently entered on our family register, an old Burma bloke, and now come to us from Kenya, where he was serving with the K.A.R.'S.

Now "D's" roots were definitely in our northern Scottish areas, but all his more intimate branches were in East Africa, so he was more or less a bit on his own over here. So when I received my ticket for the Burma "do" I thought of him down at Ovingdean and suggested to H.Q. that maybe they did not know he was of those days and maybe he would like the opportunity to attend the Royal Albert Hall.

June 4th found him sitting in patience whilst his escort was finding the bar applicable to African Troops and later, after the speeches, we three adjourned there to take a drop of something to keep the cold out.

Now for a blinded man to find somebody in a crowd of some thousands, all milling around, or more or less like an ant hill in the throes of an evacuation, isn't easy. But lo! "D," having taken a swig of his refreshments, said clearly and distinctly, "Anyone here from the 1st Gold Coast Regiment?" It happened. "Yes, I am."

It had come off. From that particular Regiment, there were three men present, and they had all been standing within six feet of each other. The tongues wagged. Do you remember old so and so? Were you at such and such? Remember the old what's a name? It was grand.

There is a sequel, too. In a matter of three weeks, ere this appears in print, there is an Old Brigade Dinner and general get-together in London, and "D" is to go to that and will meet many an old friend.

Yes, it was well worth while. Now I look forward to next year, for who knows, I may stand close to someone who will say "Remember that night?" Remember old so and so? If one may meet two men amongst as many thousands, then surely I stand a chance of meeting some of my old crowd of sixty or so.

J. A. MUDGE.

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Charles E. Temperton, of Hull, is enthusiastic about the new gas cigarette lighters. He says, "I think they are just the thing for us chaps, no messing about with wicks, no fumes and a constant supply of gas, that is, of course, until you need a refill. Mine lasted a month."

### Manchester Club Notes

On Friday, May 28th, the members of the Club joined with wives and escorts in a Whist Drive which preceded the distribution of prizes to winners in the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competition.

After the long concentration on the competition games, the joint session with the ladies provided most enjoyable relaxation.

The winners and runners-up in each section were:—

*Dominoes*: S. Heys and W. Bentley.

*Darts*—

*S.S.*: W. McCarthy and W. Bramley.

*T.B.*: S. Heys and A. Clarke.

*Cribbage*: W. Bentley and J. Shaw.

*Whist*: W. Bentley and W. Bramley.

The ladies themselves had been engaged in their own games over the past months—and the winners took their applause immediately following the awards made to the men.

The next meeting of the Club, at Red Cross House, Broad Street, Pendelton, will be on *Friday, 25th June*, and thereafter on the second and fourth Fridays in each month, at 6.30 p.m.

There is a Darts match at the Old Veterans' Society, Duke Street, Bolton, in the evening of August 20th, kindly arranged by Mr. Jim Blakeley.

Our annual outing by coach will be to Blackpool on September 4th.

We are also anticipating our visit to Pleasington, where the Darts Team at the Railway Inn, by arrangement of Mr. Bob Britton, and the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Hindle, always provide a pleasant and enjoyable afternoon and evening.

The games in connection with the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions will commence on the 25th June, and we do hope that all St. Dunstaners will come forward when they possibly can to join in the games.

At the Annual Meeting, held on May 28th, Mr. J. Shaw was re-elected Chairman, and Mr. W. McCarthy, Vice-Chairman of the Club. Mrs. Dunphy is Hon. Secretary and Miss Hill as Hon. Treasurer will continue their valuable services to the Club and our thanks are expressed to these ladies, also to Mrs. Lang, for her regular attendance at the Club, and for the valuable help she always gives. To the members' wives and escorts we also tender our sincere thanks for all the assistance so willingly given during the past twelve months. J. SHAW.

### Rise and Shine

On my last visit to Ovingdean I found I was to be accommodated amongst the exalted ones of the Third Floor. Whether this sudden social elevation was bestowed upon me because of my recent association with some of the physiotherapists, or whether it was merely an oversight in administration I shall never know. At any rate, I was actually occupying a room in the exclusive grandeur of Dorm. 6. I looked forward eagerly to the many little chats I would enjoy in the washplace during the morning and evening ablutions. My companions, of course, would surely be all veterans of the First War, or even one or two members of the Physio Spat Brigade.

A week had passed by and I still had no reason to believe that any of the other rooms were occupied. Each night I would retire at 11 p.m. or thereabouts, but my footsteps would echo hollowly throughout the deserted corridor as I went to my lonely room. In the morning, too, when I shaved and washed, the only noise to comfort me was the scrape of my blade and the sudden swoosh of the automatic latrine douche. Granted, I never left my bed till 8.30 a.m., but on two successive mornings I misread my watch and staggered along to the bathroom as early as 7.45 a.m., but the same loneliness greeted me.

I made careful enquiries as to the number of men sleeping on the Third Floor, and was mystified to find that the dormitory was right up to strength.

Why was it, then, that at 8.30 in the morning there was so much activity on the second floor and so little on the third. I decided to solve the mystery. Fact No. 1 was that the phantom occupants of Dorm. 6 were mostly Mons and Marne Merchants; fact No. 2, the late-washers of Dorms. 3 and 4 were mostly of World War 2 vintage. All I had to do was make something of this comparison between the two generations of warriors. It was here that the many yarn-swapping sessions I had enjoyed in the lounge paid off a dividend. Some of these nostalgic discussions had been rather more one-sided than I had cared for, but still, out of the 355 different accounts of the first war, I had learned a lot. Each piece of marathon reminiscence had varied in fervour and quality of description. I had been transported by power of imagination to every conceivable battlefield in

Flanders. I fought desperately with the bayonet, jumped in and out of huge shell holes, ate Maconochies and Plum and Apple till I was sick; and even had several riotous nights out with the fabulous lady from Armentieres. I was able to dip into this vast store of anecdotes to help solve this problem. Quite simple really, every man-jack who went to France between 1914—18 came back to Blighty with a habit he has never been able to break. I mean, of course, this little peculiarity of getting out of bed, washing, shaving and polishing buttons and boots furiously before the hour of 6 a.m.

It was a habit born of urgent necessity, for I have it on mass authority that "Jerry" had a nasty trick of "dropping in" unexpectedly at any hour of the day (presumably never at night), so it was soon realised that the only way to cope with this situation was to sound Reveille an hour before "Jerry" sounded his. ("Jerry" was never more than 20 yards away, you see). This early rising meant that everybody would be very tired at the end of the day, so they all went to bed rather early. That explains why I never saw a living soul when I returned to my room each night.

In "Our War" of course, things were different. We had radar and searchlights. There was never any need for all this pre-dawn alertness. Hence, we were allowed the indulgence of lying in our beds till a much more civilised hour—say 8.30 a.m. The habit is in evidence still, every morning in Dorms. 3 and 4.

GEORGE ELLIS.

### "Love is Not Blind"

Under this title, Russell Criddle, a young American, who was accidentally blinded as a child, has written a book dealing with his struggle for what he calls "emotional equality."

His father wants to shield and control his life. His mother stands by her son in his fight for independence. His love affairs are unhappy but eventually he marries, soon after an operation has given him some sight. But Mr. Criddle will help the more discerning public in its attitude to blind people.

The book is published by Hutchinson at 12s. 6d.

### Forty-six Years Married

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Raine, of Maldon, whose anniversary was on June 2nd.

### Births

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

WATERWORTH.—On May 20th, to the wife of G. Waterworth, of Coventry, a son—John.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

AP RHYS.—To T. Ap Rhys, of Bangor, whose mother, who lived with him, has died at the age of 93.

MCDONOUGH.—To J. F. McDonough, of Clifden, County Galway, and Mrs. McDonough, whose four-year-old daughter, Kathleen, has died in hospital from meningitis.

### Mr. T. Claxton

St. Dunstaners who have met him at Ovingdean will hear with great regret of the sudden death a short time ago of Mr. T. Claxton. Mr. Claxton was the most kindly of escorts and the staunchest of friends, and his passing has been deeply felt by St. Dunstaners and staff alike.

### Young St. Dunstaners

Just as Sylvia Lawson arrived at her new school, the building was struck by lightning, but fortunately no damage was done.

Linda Atkins (Hemel Hempstead) won first prize in a talent competition at a "Busmen's Party." She sang a solo.

June Daborn (Bexley Heath) has passed the Primary examination in ballet dancing and was highly commended.

Ian Marsden (Alderholt) was top individual scorer in Dorset Rifle League, Division 6. His team finished second.

Jane Sutton (Crewe) gained 89 marks out of a possible 100 in her music examination.

Ian Wooldridge, Carlisle, is a member of the Carlisle Boys' Band, chosen as the Premier Boys' Band of the Salvation Army at the Easter contest in London.

### Marriages

Margaret Watts, Rock Ferry, on May 29th, to Thomas Joseph Wright.

Peter Law, Pensax-Stockton, on May 22nd, to Miss Patricia Barker.

Susan Hamilton, Thetford, on May 1st, to Geoffrey Harrington Dash. They have gone to live in Barcelona.

Sybil Josephine Floyd, Teignmouth, on June 7th, to Alan Donald Wheeler.

Thomas William Hollinrake, Haslingden, on May 15th, to Miss Elizabeth Mary Owens.

## “ In Memory ”

### Lance Corporal Herbert Samuel Eames, *7th Bedfordshire Regt.*

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on June 4th, of H. S. Eames, of Hurst, Reading. He was in his 66th year.

He came to St. Dunstan's upon his discharge from the Army in November, 1916. He trained as a Library Braille Reader and teacher of Braille and he continued with this work for several years. He also did a little netting. He had, however, been in failing health for some years and his condition became serious a few months ago.

He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### Private John Owens, *1st Highland Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Owens, of Hurlford, Ayrshire, who died suddenly on May 20th, at the age of 69.

Enlisting in 1914, he was discharged from the Army a year later, having received wounds at Neuve Chapelle in May, 1915, which deprived him of his sight and left his health seriously affected.

He trained in mat-making and boot-repairing and carried on for some years at his crafts.

During the last year or so he has been more or less confined to his house, and his health latterly had been deteriorating. His death, nevertheless, was very sudden and unexpected after only a few weeks' illness.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and son.

### Sapper Ernest Barber, *17th Field Coy., Royal Engineers*

We record with deep regret the death of E. Barber, of York. He was a St. Dunstaner of the Second World War and was 36.

He enlisted in 1939 and was discharged in October, 1945, having been severely wounded as the result of a mine explosion in Italy. In addition to his blindness, he suffered severe facial wounds and the loss of his right leg below the knee. He came to us in 1950 and, after some training, resumed work at Messrs. Rowntree's, where he had been employed before the war. He was admitted to hospital in May for an emergency appendicitis operation. He was discharged a week later but died suddenly on May 25th.

To Mrs. Barber and her two little girls our deep sympathy is offered.

### William John Patter, *Munition Factory*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. J. Patter, of Gosport. He was nearly 61.

Blinded as a munition worker during the First World War, he came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1917, and trained in netting and wool rugs. He continued with this work for some years and then took a shop. Ill-health, however, forced him to give this up in 1954. He died on May 21st.

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

### Gunner Gilbert Johnson Webster, *Royal Field Artillery*

With deep regret we have to record the death of G. J. Webster, of Shipley. He died in hospital on May 9th after a very long period of suffering. He was 57.

His service began in the early part of 1915, and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1918. Trained originally as a poultry farmer, he later became a telephonist and gave many years of service in the North of England. He married, for the second time, Miss Gornall, who was at the time Under Matron at the Blackpool Home. During the past few years he had spent much time in and out of hospital.

Cremation took place at Lidgetts Green and Mr. Ernest Russell, a St. Dunstaner, attended the funeral. The coffin was covered with a Union Jack and other members of the British Legion formed a guard of honour.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Webster, and to the children of the previous marriage.

### Private William George Cox, *28th Royal West Surrey Regt.*

We record with deep regret the death of W. G. Cox, of Woodstock, Oxford, at the age of 75.

He came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1918, a few months after his discharge from the Army. He trained in mat-making and continued with this until his admission to hospital, where he died on June 10th. He leaves a widow and grown-up daughter by a previous marriage, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### Lance Corporal Reginald Percy Coles, *21st County of London Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of R. P. Coles, until recently of Redhill.

Coming to St. Dunstan's in June, 1924, he trained as a telephonist and in 1928 took up a post with the Crusader Insurance Company, and he held this until his enforced retirement owing to illness in December, 1952. His never-failing cheerfulness and courtesy made him one of the most popular and respected members of the staff.

“ Reg ” Coles was a founder member of the Bridge Club and was for some years its secretary. When his health broke down it was his great regret that he could no longer enjoy the companionship of its members, but telephone conversations with Drummer and his other friends kept him always in touch. Many will remember his article in the *JANUARY REVIEW*, when he paid moving tribute to his old friends and to St. Dunstan's.

He had stayed at Ovingdean while a house was being prepared for him at Hove and Mrs. Coles was actually on her way to Ovingdean to take him home.

Cremation was at Brighton, and many friends from his office and from St. Dunstan's were present. They included Messrs. Downs (with Jack Armstrong), Kirkbright, King, Ingrey, Manning, Rhodes, Van Niekerk and Winter.

To Mrs. Coles and Dennis our deep sympathy is extended.

### W. A. Helm, *South African Railway Regiment*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of W. A. Helm, of Cape Town. He was a St. Dunstaner of the First World War and came to us in 1930. He trained in basket-making in this country and carried on with his craft for a great number of years, giving valuable advice to other basket-makers in South Africa.

He leaves a widow and two children to whom our deep sympathy goes.