

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

---

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

---

No. 417—VOLUME XXXVIII

JULY, 1954

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

---

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

**I**N a letter from Mr. George Fallowfield which appears on another page of this REVIEW, he says "Whilst I am writing may I speak on another subject. This is that the wireless, talking films, etc., have led to people reading less and therefore to becoming bad spellers. . . . Many of our men do not read Braille, so never read how names are properly spelt."

My deaf-blind friend has, I think, made an interesting point and put his finger on one of our lesser handicaps. The other day I read in some Braille notes that had been prepared for me the word "Bonas," which illustrates how the sound of the word can guide a blind person to a wrong conclusion as to its spelling. I sometimes get an idea into my head about the spelling of a word or name, and because I have never written it myself or read it in Braille but only heard it, I find that after many years the idea becomes so firmly rooted that I could almost swear to it; and then suddenly I discover to my great surprise that I am wrong.

Even regular reading of Braille does not wholly overcome the difficulty, because most of us who read at all fluently feel only the outline of the word and do not distinguish every letter. I sometimes read a novel and at the end have not the slightest idea what was the name of the hero or the detective because I have never, in fact, read it. I distinguish it as being about an inch long and starting with an H, and the context identifies the individual.

The English language is notoriously difficult to spell because the spelling is often not related in any way to the sound, or perhaps there are many ways of spelling the same sound, or alternatively, many ways of pronouncing the same series of letters. For example, No, Know, Hoe, Sew, Dough, Oh, Beau, or Cough, Plough, Though, Through, Rough, and I am sure readers will think of many similar examples.

While on the subject of minor handicaps, writing with a pen or pencil is another. I know some blind people whose handwriting is good after many years, but it is a great effort to maintain it. Fortunately there is no need for us to do so, because the typewriter is so much more effective and accurate. The trouble in writing is that you tend to write the letters one upon the other because you forget to move your hand forward, or in order to avoid that difficulty you move your hand forward so fast that the letters are ill-formed and wide. The other day I had to sign a hundred or more documents, and this led to my taking a lot of trouble to practise my signature and improve its clarity. I am told this was effective but I expect it will now fall away again.

One consolation is that many sighted people sign their name quite unintelligibly and so far my banker, at any rate, has not rejected one of my signatures.

IAN FRASER.



### Talking about St. Dunstaners . .

L. Davies, of Purley, was invited to act as physiotherapist to the women competitors at Wimbledon this year. The invitation came from the All-England Lawn Tennis Club.

★ ★ ★

E. Tomlin, of Barking, who is a new St. Dunstaner of World War I, has bred pigeons for many years and is still a keen—and prize-winning—fancier. One bird which has just won a second prize flew 434 miles back to its home in ten hours.

★ ★ ★

Randall Shepherd, of Whitchurch Hill, near Reading, who was awarded an Agricultural Nuffield Fellowship which took him and his wife to the United States for six months, has now returned. He has made contacts and has brought back knowledge of new techniques which will be of great value to him. The reports include a number of recorded discs made by a blinded American sergeant of the U.S. Army, and himself a poultry farmer.

★ ★ ★

Tom Daborn, of Bexley Heath, has won, against sighted competitors, a cup for the heaviest catch in deep sea fishing. It was 33 pounds of bream.

★ ★ ★

J. McDonough, of Clifden, quite by chance recently met the son of our late St. Dunstaner, R. Parsons, of Dublin. He is a taxi driver and had driven a fare from Dublin to Clifden and had noticed the badge.

★ ★ ★

J. A. Garbutt, of Stockton-on-Tees, although officially retired now, is still an active lay preacher and, incidentally, is still asked to give advice on welfare matters to his old firm.

★ ★ ★

Gerry Brereton hopes to compete in the World Golf Championship for the Blind, to be played in Toronto this month. He is the first British player to be invited.

★ ★ ★

At the 14th Public Meeting of South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group, St. Dunstaners E. R. Ettridge and Michael Oliver were on the platform, with Miss Mary Jameson (organiser), Lady Buckmaster, the

Bishop of Croydon, and Mr. Ernest Stanford, St. Dunstan's Appeals Organiser.

The first-named gave an interesting talk on "The Training of a War-blinded Physiotherapist," and Michael brought along a dozen home produced eggs and presented them to the first member of the audience to answer the question, "Where is St. Dunstan's Training Centre?"

★ ★ ★

Maureen Lees will be demonstrating weaving at the Cheshire Guild stand at Heswall Horse Show on Bank Holiday Monday. She hopes St. Dunstaners will make themselves known to her. By the way, has anyone an old spinning wheel, or spindles, they could loan her until some time in 1956?

### The Long Arm of Coincidence

Like other St. Dunstaners I have certain anniversary days which refer to occurrences during the First World War. One of these dates is May 3rd—the attack on Oppy Wood by the Hull Brigade in 1917.

On May 3rd last I was in the lounge at Ovingdean and my thoughts were concentrated away back in 1917. I lost my best friend on that day. He was killed in the attack. Our friendship dated from school days. As I sat there, alone as I thought, a voice said to me "Wilf, you give me the impression of being miles away from here." It was another St. Dunstaner. After a short pause, I spoke of what I was thinking. I usually keep silent, but on this morning I felt that I wanted to talk to somebody of what I was thinking. I talked for quite a long time then suddenly he held my arm, and asked me the name of the friend I had lost that day. I told him, and spoke of his pre-war occupation, his mother, father and brother. The other St. Dunstaner turned to me and he said "Wilf, this is the most remarkable coincidence I have ever experienced. Your friend whom you lost in the attack on that day was engaged to my sister!" It was St. Dunstaner T. Cooper, of Bridlington. After a short silence, we exchanged personal reminiscences of our old friend, Bert Clubby, and of our Army days before his tragic death. Our talk was rather sad, maybe, but we both enjoyed recalling old times and old friends.

Hull. WILFRED A. THOMPSON.

### London Notes

Mr. Percy Ashton, who has been a member of the Club Committee and its Chairman for the past seven years, has tendered his resignation on personal grounds, and Mr. S. Webster has been elected Chairman in his place. The Club Committee desires to record their deep appreciation of the untiring and able service he has rendered during the last seven years, and are gratified to know that he will continue to assist the Committee and the Club in the future and retain his interest in it.

#### Indoor Section

The past month has been a quiet one for the Indoor Section. A match was played against the Enfield Working Men's Club, at Southbury Road, Enfield. This match was very poorly attended by our members, only seven turning out. This was a pity as a very enjoyable evening was spent. As we only had five for darts, we played against five of their members, and not surprisingly we were beaten, losing two games to one. Our domino experts, Messrs. Mudge and Hancock, were successful against the opposition. We hope for better attendance in the autumn, when I hope to fix up more matches, but it is important that Club members should turn up to support these evenings.

C. J. WALKER.

#### Outdoor Section

#### Five Mile Walk Regent's Park, 15th June, 1954 Match Between St. Dunstan's and Bowring A.C.

Order of Finish	Act.	H'cp	H'cp	H'cp
	Time	All.	Time	Pos.
1. Culver	B.A.C. 42:16	—	—	—
2. Gum	B.A.C. 43:53	—	—	—
3. A. Brown	St. D's 46:42	.20	46:22	3
4. W. Miller	St. D's 48:17	Scr.	48:17	—
5. Howse	B.A.C. 48:54	—	—	—
6. L. Dennis	St. D's 49:59	4:20	45:39	2
7. Sykes	B.A.C. 50:19	—	—	—
8. C. Stafford	St. D's 50:32	5:00	45:32	1
9. T. Gaygan	St. D's 50:33	1:00	49:33	—
10. Bailey	B.A.C. 51:15	—	—	—
11. D. Fleisig	St. D's 51:27	4:00	47:27	—
12. A. Bradley	St. D's 51:49	4:40	47:09	—
13. S. Tutton	St. D's 52:00	3:45	48:15	—
14. Bailey, A.	B.A.C. 52:03	—	—	—
15. Croucher	B.A.C. 56:48	—	—	—

W.M.

#### Bridge

The only match in June took place on Saturday, the 19th, at 16 Berkeley Street, W.1, when twenty members of the Club,

playing in five teams of four, played their annual match against members of the London County Contract Bridge Association.

The winning team was Messrs. H. Gover, P. Nuyens, F. Winter and C. Thompson, with a plus score of 2,320. They each received a braille alarm clock, the remainder of the players each receiving a necktie.

After the prize distribution, Mr. H. Gover passed a hearty vote of thanks to our hosts.

W. BISHOP, *Capt.-Sec.*

### Reunions

Three important Northern meetings began on June 17th at the Grand Hotel Manchester, when some sixty St. Dunstaners were welcomed by a member of St. Dunstan's Council, Mr. T. F. Lister, C.B.E. Smaller but equally successful was the Chester Reunion the following day, Mr. Lister again presiding. A special guest here was Mr. W. J. Bennett, who is County Secretary of the Chester British Legion.

Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, was at Liverpool to preside over this very well-attended and successful meeting, Mr. W. H. Home, Chairman of the City of Liverpool British Legion Branch, and Mrs. Home, were other guests.

At Cheltenham on July 2nd, Sir Neville again presided, and St. Dunstaners were delighted that Lady Pearson was also present.

The Cardiff Reunion was on Saturday, July 3rd, and the Lord Mayor, Alderman George Ferrier, with the Lady Mayoress, welcomed us to the City. Mr. D. G. Hopewell, a Member of our Council, and Captain James Prince, General Secretary of the Cardiff and District British Legion, were also present.

The Nottingham and Birmingham meetings on July 8th and 10th brought to an end the main group of Reunions in this country. The Irish meetings take place in August, leaving only Exeter (September 2nd) and Brighton (September 8th).

The Guest of Honour at Nottingham was Mr. D. G. Hopewell. Some sixty St. Dunstaners were present on this occasion. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser attended the Birmingham Reunion which again was very successful and well attended.



### Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I am most interested in the question of Braille. Some time ago I suggested that the "National News-Letter," and the "Braille Mail" would be much easier to read if they were issued in the style and shape of St. Dunstan's "Nuggets."

I strongly disagree with Mr. Somerset Maugham's comments on "condensation" of any books. If a book were wholly "top level" interesting all the time, it would soon become terribly boring, for the maxim is, without sorrow there can be no joy, without dull and rainy weather, the sun would not be fully appreciated, etc., etc. The question is, "Who is going to decide what should be cut and what should remain?" With regard to plays, when a play is staged and seen by the public for the first time, as far as the public is concerned they are seeing the play in its original form, and in any case any "cutting" that has been done has been, I presume, with the full knowledge and consent of the playwright.

I have never found travelling tedious, for travelling up and down to the City for thirty years I collected around me a most interesting fraternity, ranging from First Secretaries to Embassies, to charladies, and I am inclined to think the latter were more edifying; at any rate, I could talk their language.

Yours sincerely,  
FRANK A. RHODES.

Ovingdean.

DEAR EDITOR,

Along with many others, no doubt, I read with much interest our Chairman's Note in the June REVIEW, in which he advocated the making of smaller Braille books. As a regular reader of "The Reader's Digest," I was particularly interested in the views expressed by so eminent an author as Mr. Somerset Maugham on the subject of condensing novels and other literature, classical or otherwise. So far as Braille reading is concerned, I think it is a practice that might well be adopted with the utmost benefit to the reader, so long as the cutting is done as expertly as in "The Reader's Digest," for example. In that magazine, it is sometimes difficult to realise that the

novel or the article that one has been reading is indeed a condensation of the original. No doubt we have equally skilful "cutters" in this country.

Mr. Fred Ripley's plea for Braille books of smaller overall dimensions and easier to manipulate is, of course, an essential requirement of any scheme for smaller Braille books, and just as important as the condensation of the reading matter already mentioned. But why confine it to special books for travellers? Personally, I prefer to do my home reading in an easy chair, the more comfortable the better, with the book spread across my knees, and I for one would welcome the smaller and more compact book along the lines suggested by Mr. Ripley. The cost of a spiral wire binding, with its loose-leaf effect, may be quite another matter and would probably require careful consideration. Glossing over that side of the question, it would certainly be a boon to be able to dispense with the present cumbersome, outsize books.

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES S. HODGSON.

Fotheringay, Peterborough.

DEAR EDITOR,

Just a note to support Sir Ian's suggestion that braille literature be condensed. It's a long overdue issue and I trust that something will be done about it within the very near future.

Yours sincerely,  
WALLY THOMAS.

Southampton.

DEAR EDITOR,

In the REVIEW last month, Sir Ian asked Braille readers to express their opinion on the "condensation" of good literature. I am afraid a good braille reader would not approve, because a person who really reads for pleasure isn't in a hurry to get to the end of a book any more than they are to get to the end of any other hobby.

Sir Ian suggested condensing novels—not newspapers. Do you think authors are going to give permission for their books to be put into braille if their best work is going to be cut to pieces? No craftsman or mechanic would allow such a thing just to suit the blind.

Who is to do the condensing, and what parts should be cut? Take "The 5.18

Mystery." You might cut out a bit at the start as unimportant, yet there is a vital fact mentioned in the first few lines which isn't explained until the last few lines. No, sir, you cannot mess up a good detective story or mystery story, and what other books is Sir Ian thinking of? Biographies?

It should be the aim of an author to interest his reader and take him up a byway from time to time. If we have books cut down they will be nothing but dry toast.

A hearing blind man can read the skeleton braille book and say "That's fine. I'll get the printed book and have it read in full," or if it is made into a Talking Book he can listen to that. We deaf-blind cannot do this.

No, most decidedly no, we cannot have good literature cut, slashed and murdered.

Whilst I am writing, may I speak on another subject? This is that the wireless, talking films, etc., have led to people reading less, and therefore to becoming bad spellers. Ovingdean, for instance, is spelt by different St. Dunstan's men in about thirty different ways. They just spell the word as it sounds. Many of our men do not read Braille, so never read how names are properly spelt.

Yours sincerely,  
GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.  
Southwick.

DEAR EDITOR,

The question raised in the Chairman's Notes last month is one which, I think, merits much attention by all who are concerned in the preparation and production of Braille reading matter, and of course no less by those who duly use such material.

The problem is no doubt one which has always confronted the producers of Braille books and periodicals, but judging by specimens from to-day compared with those of say thirty years ago or more, progress does not seem to have been very marked.

No doubt a certain degree of improvement as regards size and bulk can be effected by careful condensation. This method, however, will always be open to certain objections, and in itself does not really get to the root of the matter, which, to my mind, is the fact that Braille transcribed material denotes a lot of paper with corresponding magnitude as regards size and weight.

On the question of weight one wonders whether there may not be the possibility of considerable improvement here. This is

purely a technical point, but if there were a paper equivalent of, say, balsa wood, or aluminium, of suitable texture and toughness to take Braille, this might go a long way in solving at any rate part of the problem.

Whether such an improvement in itself would in its turn enable the actual size of the book or periodical to be decreased somewhat, can perhaps only be conjectured, but I think this might follow.

Without actual technical knowledge it is, of course, not difficult to make suggestions for such improvements which, however, may not prove an economic proposition.

But it is to be hoped that notwithstanding this ever-present factor, scientific research should be able to produce something noteworthy to the benefit of braille reading matter.

In this connection, particularly, one wonders whether the utmost advantage is taken of international co-operation in the spheres of research and production relating to braille reading matter. This would seem to be a matter for UNESCO, and it may be that some such activity is already carried on by that organisation. One hopes so, anyway.

Yours sincerely,  
J. E. ROSTON.  
Iver, Bucks.

DEAR EDITOR,

On reading Sir Ian's article on Braille books I am disappointed to find that the spiral wire binding has been discontinued. I take it that this method is too costly. Even a full sized book bound in the method mentioned becomes half its present size when being read. Could not book covers be made something like loose-leaf books with, say, four or five rings which would open, also fixed so that they would remain rigid? If this could be done, readers could purchase a cover and books could be punched with holes to correspond and placed into the cover by the reader.

With reference to the abridging of books. I very much agree with Sir Ian that so much could be left out that is not essential, but then who is to say what is and what is not essential? I take it that all authors allow their works to be brailled free of royalties, but if we ask to be allowed to use the blue pencil, would this privilege be so easily granted?

Yours sincerely,  
MALCOLM JORDAN.  
Hove.



DEAR EDITOR,

I believe that this talk of 100 per cent.-plus payment to the disabled with multiple injuries is injurious to disabled pensioners as a whole. The so-called 100 per cent. pensioner has received increased allowances, such as attendance allowance and comfort fund, whereas those getting less than a 100 per cent. have had very little increase since 1918. Admitting that all pensions are much too low, these schemes of additional allowances for certain classes only are definitely detrimental to the other classes. Pensions should be based on the multiple injuries and that figure used as the 100 per cent. basic pension. It would then be found that the man who was only totally blind was to-day getting about 80 per cent. of that present day sum, and that the so-called 50 per cent. pensioner was really only getting 25 per cent.

In the struggle for improved pensions, let us all try and give the badly wounded man a square deal but in doing so, let us not forget the man who has only lost a leg or an arm and has had the rawest deal of all. The British Legion proposal of a 90/- a week basic pension would naturally help to put this matter right, for this would be raising the 100% level and all classes including the multiple injured would benefit, and this indeed should be the present day objective.

To prevent any misunderstanding, may I emphasise that it is the system of increased allowances, suggested by Padre Nugee on a 100%-plus basis, that I am opposed to, not the increase of the pensions of the real 100% disabled.

Yours sincerely,

Addiscombe.

EDGAR R. ETTRIDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was interested to read the letter from Padre Nugee about the degree of disablement and the pension award in which a man who has lost his sight received the basic maximum of 55s., whilst the man who has lost his sight plus an arm or a leg or both, or has lost some other faculty, still only received the basic maximum of 55s. This fact gives rise to the belief that pensions are not based on the amount of injuries sustained, or the loss of faculties endured beyond a certain level; this is essentially true as in cases quoted, but

strangely enough, if a man is below 100% he is based on individual loss of faculty, and here I can do no better than quote my own case which places me in a unique position.

When I was first wounded I lost the sight of my right eye only, the left one being to all intents and purposes undamaged. I also lost the use of my right arm but still retained that limb. After appearing before several medical boards, I was finally assessed at 80% on the following basis (note my point mentioned above): 40% for loss of sight in right eye, 40% for loss of use of right arm. Some months later it was found that my left eye was badly damaged despite previous examinations and I subsequently lost the sight of that eye also; after some considerable delay my pension was increased to 100%, but not on the basis of loss of sight plus loss of use of right arm, but in the general term, Total Disablement. In effect, this meant that if I recovered the use of my arm my basic pension would still remain 100%. However, after six years it was found necessary to amputate the arm, but my pension was not increased. It may be argued that in cases like mine we receive special attendance allowances. This is true, but here we are sitting on the fence as these allowances may be taken from us at any time, leaving us only the basic pension.

I wonder if many other pensioners are aware that other anomalies exist, one in particular being the fact that whilst employed, the disabled man pays full National Insurance contributions; he does not however, receive full benefits when sick. Instead he receives sickness benefit for himself and only the difference between dependant's allowance on N.I. and dependant's allowance on War Pension. The same thing applies if the pensioner is unemployed, despite the fact that he may have contributed for a great number of years, so in effect, we are actually contributing to our own pension.

Perhaps one day we really shall have a land fit for heroes to live in, free from care and financial worry, although we should be the last to call ourselves heroes; we are just lucky to be alive.

Yours sincerely,

Kingston-on-Thames.

GEORGE REED.

DEAR EDITOR,

While congratulating George Ellis on his article headed, "Rise and Shine," may I be allowed to correct him in his supposition that the dwellers on the third floor are early risers? What appalling ignorance, as everyone knows that the third-floorers are always on night-shift and what G. Ellis took for signs of early rising were, in fact, signs of the night-shift returning from a hard night's work.

As everyone knows, these men are engaged on very secret work; that of metallurgicaltherapistery.

Their job is to rub the bruises out of the hulls of space-ships, where such hulls have been dented by asteroids colliding with the ships during their supersonic journey through interstellar space. Any kid will know that much.

As to the words, marne, contalmaison, or ploegsteert, these are merely symbols used in their profession, as other trades use such words as ulnar, tibia, loaf, and plates of meat. So that it is easy for the uninitiated to draw a wrong conclusion.

If the writer of "Rise and Shine" would like to see over their work-place all he has to do is to go to one of the entrances, situated at Whitehorse, Bristol, Burlington or Arlington. There he will understand and, I hope, be satisfied.

In conclusion, I feel that I must mention that the third floorers do some sort of physical drill, such as deep breathing exercises, as I heard one breathing very hard just after he had found the edge of a half-opened door with his bare toe. And although the name at the foot of this is somewhat different, I must confess also to the cognomen of Senter Rubnot.

Very confidentially and sincerely,

ERNEST E. J. S. BURTON.

Cliftonville, Margate.

DEAR EDITOR,

I am amused, in a nice sort of way, at the little gem "Rise and Shine," in last month's issue.

Over the past years I have never experienced the loneliness of the writer but, maybe, I do not lie abed until 8.30 a.m. I have found that at 7 to 7.30 a.m. I have not been the first to wash away the cobwebs of sleep, and when I have trotted off for my pre-breakfast walk, I am not the first to brave the perils of the top path or tunnel, or dodge the waves on the Undercliff.

I find that I meet World War I men toddling back, or chatting together at the foot of the cliff steps upon the embrasure, have been accepted by them, and had many a nice breath of fresh air and "the other chap's view" whilst our friend is doddling along to his lonely bathroom.

Of course I am Second War and may be a stranger to the writer of "Rise and Shine," but I learned much from our older colleagues. One of them taught me that a nice stroll before breakfast is grand and oft-times one can, at Brighton, get the best of the day before breakfast. My younger colleagues will find that a nice bit of exercise after the early morning tea will give them an opportunity to make some good pals.

There is a popular idea that in a blind man's world the one-eyed man is king, but I always think that out before breakfast at Ovingdean a T.B. man is an Emperor.

Sincerely, JOHN A. MUDGE.

Tottenham, N.17.

### Braille Literary Competition

The Queensland Musical, Literary and Self-Aid Society for the Blind, Australia, have sent us details of their annual Amateur Literary Competition in which prizes of £5 and £2 are offered for a one-act play, a short story, an essay and poems. The competition is open to blind and semi-blind people throughout the English-speaking world. The Editor will be glad to send details to anyone interested. (The closing date for entries is October 31st).

### "On My Way"

A St. Dunstaner recalls this month the entertaining contacts he made during his journeying to and from his work, and another correspondent, Jim Shaw, has suggested that St. Dunstaners might contribute interesting and amusing incidents which happened to them while travelling. This is an excellent idea and we invite *your* travel story. Mark your entries "On My Way," keep them as short as possible, and send them to the Editor not later than August 31st. There will be 10s. 6d. for each one published.

### Wanted

Has any St. Dunstaner one of the original Talking Book machines which he no longer uses and which he would like to sell? Please send details to Alan Nichols, Rose Bungalow, 97 Mile Oak Road, Portslade, Sussex.



### The Old Contemptibles

The following letter has been sent to Sergeant Alan Nichols by Mr. C. D. Wills, Welfare Superintendent.

Dear Alan,

Following our talks on the telephone and the correspondence that has passed between us, I have now had a word with Sir Ian and he has shown me your letter to him of July 3rd.

Your suggestion that we should have an Old Contemptibles Reunion at Brighton is an excellent one which we appreciate, but there are certain difficulties about carrying it out in the exact way you suggest. First of all, we do not know all the men concerned, because only twenty have replied to a note I put in the *ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW* in April. Secondly, we do not feel that it would be justified to bring men from all over the United Kingdom and Ireland to Ovingdean for just one week-end, because there are not quite the same reasons to arrange such an event for the Old Contemptibles as there are for the Physiotherapists, who have business to discuss, and for the deaf men who have such a severe double disability.

However, we are inviting St. Dunstaners generally to take a second period of convalescence or holiday during the autumn or winter months if they so desire, and the idea has occurred to us to write to each of those who have informed us that they are Old Contemptibles, and suggest that they do this during a particular fortnight. It is fairly certain that all would not wish to come, or be able to come, but if a number do so it would be very pleasant for them to meet comrades who bear the distinction of having belonged to the "Contemptible Little Army."

Yours sincerely,  
C. D. WILLS,  
Welfare Superintendent.

The following St. Dunstaners who are Old Contemptibles have so far sent in their names:—

A. E. Alexander (Black Watch), W. W. Burden (1st Bn. The Buffs), E. Butler (North Staffordshire Regiment), R. Chaplin (South Wales Borderers), M. E. Goundrill (Northumberland Fusiliers), W. F. Halls (Labour Corps), H. E. Hill (1st Wiltshire Regiment), A. H. W. James (2nd Wessex Field Ambulance), J. W. Kerr (1st Irish Guards), D. McLoughlin (Connaught Ran-

gers), F. Marsden (1st Border Regiment), J. Mitchell (Seaforth Highlanders), G. J. Moeller (Manchester Regiment), A. Nichols (Durham Light Infantry), G. H. Richards (Grenadier Guards), W. A. Robinson (Lincolnshire Regiment), W. Shayler (Border Regiment), G. J. Smith (Grenadier Guards), A. E. Snook (Royal Artillery), A. E. S. Whiting (A.S.C. and Royal Flying Corps).

### Thoughts on Education

Over sixty years ago, a boy of 14, applying for the post of office-boy, explained that he was deaf. His future employer replied, "Well, lad, it's better to be deaf than daft, the job is yours." That boy rose to be managing director and, when he died a few weeks ago, left a fortune of more than £100,000. Reading this success story revived memories of many such men, whose class-room education ended at the age of 13 or 14 years.

This trend of thought had a sequel, consequent on my attending a political quiz at which the inevitable question was put, "Does the panel agree with the present method of examining pupils for Secondary Scholarships?" The panel did not, and were particularly severe on the age children were examined. I agreed with the reply, but second thoughts prompted me to supplement the question with "Would any of the team care to set an age at which to decide whether a child is likely to make a better craftsman than a student?" One of our local M.P.s took up the question and replied with, "No, I would not be prepared to set any age limit, I would introduce the comprehensive school."

The answer did not satisfy me, it seemed to presuppose that, if children are kept at school long enough they can achieve the same level of academic success, which is not true. We have to accept the fact that, because nature does not distribute her gifts equally, we all vary in our intelligence quotient. Of course, it is essential in the interest of the community that no expense be spared in securing to each child the opportunity for developing its gifts to their fullest degree. But it is just as essential that no child be kept at studies beyond his mental ability. It is, therefore, imperative that an age be agreed at which to decide whether a pupil shall continue at school or, leave to commence his industrial education.

The general dissatisfaction occasioned

over the early age set for scholarship tests, and the fact that a child has only one chance, could be remedied by allowing each candidate to sit twice, or even three times for a secondary scholarship. But for those pupils who have not made the grade by the age of 14, I would suggest that better use can be made of their class-room space and time.

We can take comfort in the knowledge that education does not end when the schoolhouse is left behind. On the contrary, the change often provokes a challenge which emancipates the intelligence, and the classroom failure becomes a genius in whatever trade or profession he chooses to follow.

T. ROGERS.

### Overseas News

We have only just heard that H. Humphries, of Wairapa, New Zealand, and his wife were presented to Her Majesty the Queen, at Government House, when she visited Wellington.

★ ★ ★

From. P. Norris, of Nedlands, West Australia, comes a most interesting report of his trip to the Biennial Blinded Soldiers Conference at Brisbane. Jim Buckley, and his wife, met them when they arrived. Percy is still broadcasting twice weekly for the local blind.

★ ★ ★

Since mentioning the award of the M.B.E. to Foster McConnell, of Victoria, Australia, we have seen a full list of his activities. These include twenty years as Federal Secretary and Treasurer of the Blinded Soldiers' Association, eight years as Member of the Commonwealth Council, Disabled Soldier Associations, Committee Member since 1923 of the Victoria Blinded Soldiers Association, and other offices in military, Boy Scouts, sporting and City Council bodies.

★ ★ ★

J. McGuone, of Wellington, New Zealand, writes that he is still practising as a physiotherapist, although not to such a great extent as previously. He was recently the subject of the Personalities Column of the Dominion newspaper. Below an excellent photograph, the article told of his experiences since he arrived in New Zealand in 1912, of his war service and training at St. Dunstan's. It went on: "Mr. McGuone

has few idle moments. He is a radio enthusiast, an accomplished musician, and is enthusiastic about physical fitness. For the past thirty years he has been swimming at Te Aro Baths, up to a mile a day in summer and from 500 to 700 yards in winter. The hardy little band that make up the Bath's "Polar Bears"—all year round swimmers—rate Mr. McGuone as about the toughest of their coterie."

★ ★ ★

Elmer Glew writes that the Victoria Blinded Soldiers' Bowling Club has completed its third season of activities. The Singles Champion is Gabe Aarons, for the third year in succession. Rink Champions are Messrs. Melbourne, Corboy, Gray and Hoult. Improved Champion, Les Hoult, and Open Champion, Geol Watson. Corboy and Williams are first season bowlers.

### From the Press Cuttings

The London *Star* carried a top of the column article last month on George Taylor, of Cricklewood, who was blinded at Arnhem and now runs a shop.

★ ★

The Newcastle *Evening Chronicle* paid tribute to Billy Bell, of Newcastle, who is a deaf St. Dunstaner, and a poultry farmer.

★ ★ ★

As a follow-up from the Liverpool Reunion the Widnes *Weekly News* carried a personal story of J. W. Kerr.

### Placements

J. Donbavand as a telephonist with the North Central Wagon and Finance Co., Ltd., Leeds. J. Padley, of Brighton, as a telephonist with Gregory Housing, Ltd., of Worthing.

### National Laying Test, 1954

Report for the ninth period of four weeks, May 25th to June 21st, 1954.

1. G. Cooke ...	952
2. P. Bagwell ...	937
3. P. Holmes ...	924
4. W. A. Smith ...	891
5. W. Webb ...	842
6. J. A. Dix ...	770
7. T. D. Gregory ...	623

Average number of eggs per bird per month—15.29. Average number of eggs per bird to date—148.55.



### The Path of Discipleship

"Man Know Thyself" inscribed over the entrance to the Temple told the ancient Greek that there he might hope to find the answer to the age-old question, "What is Man?" On entering he soon found that the guardians of the Temple had enshrined their teaching in religious dramas known as "The Mysteries," whose secrets were only imparted piecemeal to those who had successfully served the long and hard discipleship of the Temple School, which was designed to promote and co-ordinate the faculties of the Soul as well as those of the physical body. In due course a decadent priesthood arose, who by chicanery and superstitious observances sought to hide the fact that they had lost the key to the Mysteries. Inevitably the temple rites fell into disrepute and its fabric into ruins.

In the fulness of time came the Christ who—bypassing the priesthood of His day—proclaimed that "The Kingdom of God is at hand." He too chose a small band of men as disciples—men whose development was such that He could impart to them something of His inner teaching. But He found that even the inner circle of three were scarcely able to grasp its meaning. Nor were they anything but broken reeds until at that first Pentecost after the Lord's death there came the outpouring of the Spirit of God which brought them spiritual illumination and power. That this was no mere figment of imagination is proved by the fact that commercial interests of those far off days offered a great sum for the secret of that power.

The wheel has again turned full cycle and the pure teaching is obscured by schism and superstition. This time, however, the "Key" is not lost. It is enshrined in the brief Lord's Prayer which, taught at Mother's knee, is treasured by all the sects whose divisions disgrace twentieth century Christendom. In the brief space of less than a hundred words, the Master set forth all that man need know of God and his fellow man. Here is outlined the method by which the individual can become at one not merely with his fellow man but with God, who gives to each disciple his daily bread, and who guards him against temptation and evil. Do you doubt this? Then try it out by experimental living and you will soon learn whether it be the Truth or not.

Bristol. ALEC B. HILL.

### Ovingdean Notes

During June we welcomed the Deaf Reunion to Ovingdean and a very full programme of entertainments was arranged. This included an all day outing by steamer to the Isle of Wight, and a trip to the Meltonian factory in London. Mr. Wills and the Northern and Southern Area representatives came down to have tea with the men, and the last day of the Reunion coincided with the Brighton Races and finished up with the usual Farewell Dinner.

We have had two interesting talks at the Centre recently, the first was given by Donald McLeod, at present in training, who was wounded whilst serving with The King's African Rifles in Kenya. His subject was "Present day customs and life in East Africa." His wife and family are still in Kenya. The other lecture was on the occasion when P.C. Edwards from Police H.Q. at Lewes, came and told of handling Police Dogs and their use in crime detection.

Our good friends of the Brighton, Hove and District Bus Companies held their Annual Summer Outing for St. Dunstan's at the end of June, and this was followed by another equally popular event—the Grocers' Association Summer Outing, which this year was at Portsmouth. On both occasions a large party from Ovingdean and West House joined the local St. Dunstaners.

Instead of the usual Sports Day this year, it was decided to run a Garden Party and Sports Meeting on Saturday 10th July, and this proved to be very successful in spite of the doubtful weather.

#### Sports Results

Medicine Ball, Jack Fulling; Sack Race, Roy Armstrong; Egg and Spoon, George Eustace; 70 yards T.B., Arthur Lenderyou; 70 yards S.S., Jack Fulling.

Congratulations to the winners and a special word of praise to Dorothy Phillipo, the runner-up in the 70 yards T.B. race (which was not handicapped). A fine effort against the male competitors.

Finally, on July 15th, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser visited Ovingdean and West House to inspect the work and say goodbye to those who are leaving at the end of Term. They were accompanied by Dr. Charles Bennett, President of the Australian National Council for the Blind and President of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.

### Talking Book Library

#### June's Job-lot

A nap hand of books of widely differing content have come to roost on the shelves this month for your future delectation or condemnation. Here is a rough idea of them.

"The Accomplice," by John Pudney, reader Norman Shelley, is an intriguing story of a plot to arrange the disappearance of a famous orator-writer who is completely phoney. Robin, the young hero, is a Dick Barton gone wrong, and the peaceful setting of early morning in Hyde Park with a quiet, old resident bird-man and an innocuous old cove, Arthur by name, proves a useful foil to villainous goings on elsewhere. One or two lady characters help keep the sinister nature of the story down to a gentle simmer, but the lid does blow off when all is ripe. Extremely good, unpleasant stuff.

"The Big Show," by Pierre Clostermann, reader Norman Shelley, has at last brought home to me the gruelling strain of a fighter pilot's life during the war, and the graphic story this Frenchman has to tell is really something.

"Joanna Godden," by Sheila Kaye-Smith, reader Stephen Jack, is a warm story of farming in the Kent marshes. Joanna took over the farm when her father died late last century, and made a go of it despite the headshakings of her neighbours. A pretty, domestic, rural yarn with near romantic tinges.

"The Lonely Bride," by Pamela Hinkson, reader Jack de Manio, delves deep into the troubles of Ireland between roughly 1890 and 1920, using the true Irishwoman wife of the descendant of a Cromwellian settler to feel for Ireland's tragic unrest. Family and friends offset the pathos to some extent but the general gloom seems to predominate despite the Irish mercury. Good maybe, but in downcast mood.

"The Forsyte Saga," by John Galsworthy, reader Robin Holmes, is too long for the average reader to cope with (forty-eight records) but this most beautifully written history of the Forsyte family is a soothing tome to read in parts.

"The Accomplice," Cat. No. 885.

"The Big Show," Cat. No. 886.

"Joanna Godden," Cat. No. 887.

"The Lonely Bride," Cat. No. 888.

"The Forsyte Saga," Cat. 168. This is a new English recording and it has been arranged in four volumes by the Talking Book Library as follows:—

Vol. 1. First nine records of "Man of Property."

Vol. 2. Conclusion of "Man of Property" (seven records), and three records of "Indian Summer."

Vol. 3. "In Chancery" (fourteen records).

Vol. 4. "The Awakening" (one record) and fourteen records of "To Let."

### Young St. Dunstaners

Stanley Fletcher (Tooting) has won a scholarship to Beaufoy Borough Engineering Technical School.

★ ★ ★

Malcolm Reed, Kingston-on-Thames, has enlisted into the Army in the Boys' Infantry Training Battalion and will, on completion of boys' service, be transferred to his father's old regiment, the Rifle Brigade. He is sixteen. His father served for eleven years in this regiment before obtaining his commission in the South Wales Borderers.

★ ★ ★

Nine year old Janice Blakeley, Farnworth, has passed with merit her Initial Examination for Piano under Trinity College, London.

★ ★ ★

Michael Burden (Saltdean) has passed a scholarship for Varndean Grammar School.

★ ★ ★

Jane Sutton (Madeley) has passed the scholarship examination for the Grammar School. She was the only girl in the village to do so.

★ ★ ★

Catherine Regan (Salford), who is fourteen, has had a picture exhibited at Salford.

#### Marriages

On July 10th, Patricia, daughter of R. Giffin, of Crewe.

Alan Griffiee, Bristol, on June 26th, to Miss Beulah Scull.

### St. Dunstaners in Brighton and District

Please note the next monthly meeting will be held in the Winter Garden, Ovingdean, on Thursday, September 9th.

F. A. R.



## "In Memory"

### A.B. William Thomas Edward Collins, *Royal Marines*

With deep regret we record the death of W. T. E. Collins, of Cowes, Isle of Wight. He was sixty-six. He came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1921, and was trained as a mat-maker, and he continued with his craft until his last illness at the end of last year. He was admitted to hospital on June 23rd, and he died there on July 5th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his son and daughter-in-law, who had cared for our St. Dunstaner since his own wife's death.

### Driver Charles August Christian Brampton, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of C. A. C. Brampton, of Highgate, who will be known to many of his earlier comrades as C. A. C. Bregazzi. He was sixty-eight.

Blinded at Messines Ridge in 1916, he became a St. Dunstaner in September, 1917; he was trained as a physiotherapist and he was in private practice until his retirement five years ago owing to ill-health.

He was a keen bridge player and a member of the London Club. He had been playing at the Club on the day of his death and was returning home when he collapsed in a bus.

We offer our deep sympathy to Mrs. Brampton and her sons and daughters in their loss.

### Private William Frederick Lilley, *15 Manchester Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. F. Lilley, of Rainworth, Nottinghamshire, at the age of sixty-four.

Enlisting in September, 1914, he was wounded in France in March, 1918, and on his discharge three months later, he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained in carpentry and netting, and took a 1st Class certificate in joinery. During the last war he took up factory work but later returned to joinery. In recent years his health had seriously deteriorated. He was admitted to West House, Brighton, and he died there on June 23rd.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his relatives and friends.

### Private William Capstick, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Capstick, of Lancaster. He was in his seventy-eighth year.

Enlisting early in 1915, he was discharged in 1919 and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1927, when he trained as a mat-maker. He carried on his craft until 1949, when failing health forced him to give up. In May of this year he went to Brighton while Mrs. Capstick was undergoing an operation, but he himself was taken ill and he died at West House on June 28th.

Our deep sympathy goes to Mrs. Capstick, who is happily now convalescing, and to her family.

### Births

MACNAMARA.—On June 1st, to the wife of S. MacNamara, of Dublin—a son.

WALBRUGH.—On June 16th, to the wife of J. A. E. Walbrugh, of Wivelsfield, a son—Crispin Andrew.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

ADAMS.—To H. Adams, of Rosehill, Oxford, whose newly-born grandson, Stephen, died on June 9th.

CAUSTON.—To S. Causton, of Norwich, whose brother recently died.

MITCHELL.—To W. Mitchell, of Cubitt Town, E.14, whose sister died on June 25th.

POTTER.—To H. Potter, of Hastings, whose sister died at the beginning of the month.

RUSSELL.—To S. Russell, of Manchester, who lost his brother on June 28th.

WATKINSON.—To W. Watkinson, of Crosston, whose mother died on June 28th.

★ ★ ★

We have heard with regret of the death of Mrs. Joyner, the widow of our Australian St. Dunstaner, which occurred only ten weeks after the death of her husband.

### Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Johnson, of Moss Side, Manchester, June 26th.

### Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Garbutt, Stockton-on-Tees, July 9th.

### Grandfathers

G. E. G. Rushton, of Wooler; B. Lammi-man, of Skegness; J. T. Illingworth, of Moreton, Wirral (his fourth grandchild).

★ ★ ★

As in past years, there will be no REVIEW for August.