

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Forty Years On

*“Forty years on, when afar and asunder
Parted are those who are singing to-day,
When you look back and forgetfully wonder
What you were like in your work and your play,
Then, it may be, there will often come o'er you
Glimpses of notes like the catch of a song;
Visions of boyhood shall float them before you,
Echoes of dreamland shall bear them along.”*

THESE words come from an old school song. They are not inappropriate at this time, forty years after the outbreak of the First World War which changed the way of life and thought for most of us. As these words are read, the fifteenth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War will have come and gone.

Sergeant Nichols has suggested a Reunion for the “Old Contemptibles,” putting forward the argument that if the Physiotherapists and the Deaf St. Dunstaners and the Officers have their own separate Reunions, why not those who have the honour to wear the Mons Star? This argument is attractive but we found ourselves unable fully to meet the suggestion. There are special reasons for the three special conferences or reunions mentioned and they do not apply to a particular anniversary or to so general a case of St. Dunstaners as the “Old Contemptibles.”

To accept the principle would logically involve us in a special reunion for the Dardenelles men, the Dunkirk men, the Normandy men, and so on. Nevertheless, although Ovingdean is so fully booked during the summer and at Christmas that we have to ballot for places, we have vacant beds in the late autumn and we have made the suggestion that “Old Contemptibles” who want a change might notify Mr. Wills and if arrangements can be made suitable to the general well-being and to the men themselves, a number might take their holidays at the same time and thus re-unite with their “Old Contemptible” friends and enjoy themselves together by having a special party at Ovingdean. I hope some, however many or few, for whom it can be arranged and whom it suits, will do this, for I believe in reviving memories and swapping yarns about times and experiences which we have shared.

I wish I had been a year or two older for I should like to have worn the Mons Star; but no doubt each of us did his best in his own time, according to his lights, whether it was

in the First War or the Second, or in the battles and skirmishes which helped to keep the peace in the Empire and Commonwealth in the years between.

The Irish Meetings

Lady Fraser and I have been to a number of Reunions this year which have given us great pleasure. We have just returned from three in Ireland—Belfast, Dublin and Cork. I was glad to find our Irish comrades in good spirits, and the services of St. Dunstan's working well.

The Irish are famed for many qualities—passion, beauty, eloquence and a warm heart—but what struck me on this occasion was their facility for making entertaining picturesque conversation. Here are three quotations from conversations I had with St. Dunstaners.

Myself: That must be very difficult for you.

Himself: No, sor, I can see a little bit. I am not teetotally blind.

Myself: If I go to the west of Ireland one year, do you think I shall get a salmon?

Himself: Perhaps you may; we leave a few in for the English.

Myself: How do you find your cow?

Himself: I do not have to find her. She comes when I call and I hang my stick on her horn and milk her. If any other body showed her a stick there'd be the devil to pay!

But there was also a sadder side to the Irish Meetings for it is with regret that I have to record the retirement of Mr. Norman Macauley.

Perhaps the following letter which I have written to him will indicate what we, and I am sure, every Irish St. Dunstaner feels about him.

DEAR MR. MACAULEY,

Thirty years is the best part of a life-time, and you have given it to us.

St. Dunstan's and, more important still, St. Dunstaners in Ireland are grateful to you for your kindness and affection. We also appreciate the devotion and efficiency of your work, which has made such a difference to the regard in which St. Dunstan's is held in Ireland, and to the happiness of so many St. Dunstaners and their kin.

Lady Fraser and I send you and Mrs. Macauley our very best wishes for contentment in your retirement, and we look forward to seeing you again.

IAN FRASER.

Tandems Wanted

We have had several requests for tandem cycles recently. If any St. Dunstaner has one which he no longer needs, will he please get in touch with Mr. Wills, Welfare Superintendent.

Sir Clutha and East Africa

One of our most distinguished St. Dunstaners, Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who lost his sight when serving in Gallipoli in World War I, and has been associated with work for the blind in different parts of the world ever since, has just written a most interesting inter-territorial Report on the development of services to the blind in the four East African territories. This follows the six months' visit which Sir Clutha made to East Africa last year at the request of the British Empire Society for the Blind to advise and assist in building up East African organisations, in establish-

ing practical working plans, and in starting new, or expanding earlier, services.

Sir Clutha refers to his meeting with Mr. Alexander Mackay, former Welfare Superintendent of St. Dunstan's, who is now Regional Adviser to East Africa, and states that Mr. Mackay worked with him in the field for four weeks to draw up broad plans for the application of blind welfare principles to the specific background of Africa.

Grandfathers

M. J. Printie, of Edinburgh; J. E. Davies, of Llandyssul; H. Lea, of Great Horton, Bradford; A. K. Knibbs, of Exeter; F. Berisford, of Stoke-on-Trent; H. Driver, of Colne (the thirteenth grandchild); A. Sterno, of Bath (for the eighth time); T. Wood, of Congleton, (the sixth); and D. Murphy, of Glasgow, and W. E. Evans, of Erdington, Birmingham, each have a fifth grandchild.

London Club Notes

Road Walking.—The provisional dates of walks for the coming season are as follows:—

Sept. 25—2 miles at Highgate.

Oct. 30—5 miles at Regents Park

Nov. 20—6 " " " "

Dec. 18—7 " " " "

1955

Jan. 22—10 " " " "

Feb. 19—12 " " " "

Mar. 19—15 miles at South Croydon

April 23—7 miles Championship Regent's Park.

All are provisional dates and subject to alteration. W. MILLER.

Bridge Notes.—Forthcoming Event.

The 7th Annual Bridge Congress at Ovingdean takes place on the week-end of 19th—21st November, 1954, play to commence at 9.15 a.m., Saturday, 20th November.

Will all members wishing to take part in this event kindly send their names to Drummer Downs, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1, not later than 16th October, 1954, so that final arrangements may be completed.

Please Note:—Partners for the Pairs (Sir Arthur Pearson Trophy) will be the same as last year, unless advised to the contrary. W. BISHOP.

To Old Contemptibles

CHUMS,

Here is a further list of boys who have sent in their names as Old Contemptibles since the first list was published in the REVIEW of July last:

A. W. Ballard (Sherwood Foresters); F. J. Brown (Royal Horse Artillery); Percy Cashmore (Warwickshire Regiment); John W. Mahoney (Ulster Rifles); J. Orrell (Royal Field Artillery); G. Priest (Royal Welch Fusiliers); A. J. Radford (King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry); F. Spenceley (Royal West Kent Regt., "The Buffs"); H. Taylor (Sherwood Foresters); W. Webb (Connaught Rangers and Inniskilling Hussars).

Will any other Old Timers who have not yet sent in their names to Mr. Wills (191 Marylebone Road) please do so as we do want the rally to be as strong as possible.

I do hope the old Chums will not suspect a sinister motive in the choice of the date of the Reunion (5th November).

ALAN NICHOLS.

Never Too Old

Are you one of those lonely bachelors whom romance seems to pass by? If so you may be interested to know that through the services of a well-known London Marriage Agency you may acquire a wife off the peg, so to speak. The idea is this.

Having decided that marriage may hold more possibilities than bridge or dominoes, you call at the agency where you will be received by an understanding match maker. After discussing the matter with her, she will present you with a form on which you fill in precise details of your concept of a dream wife. On another form, and in strict confidence, of course, you give full details concerning yourself, such as age, height, nationality, interests, occupation, income and bank balance (if any). The forms are now filled, and having paid your five pounds fee, with eager heart and lighter step you return home to await developments. As soon as the heroine appears on the books who most nearly seems to fit your stipulated requirements, and with the all important proviso that you fit hers, a meeting is arranged, and the rest is up to you.

Your fee of £5 entitles you to any number of introductions, and it is on record that one aspirant suffered eighty-six before marrying the eighty-seventh. Incidentally, if you marry through the agency, you pay another £20, and trust that you have secured a bargain.

Age presents no barrier. The oldest client was an advanced octogenarian, and he is now happily wed to a woman of eighty-four. The youngest was a girl of eighteen, who for some obscure reason, feared that she would be left on the shelf.

Great care is taken by the agency to ensure that all applicants are bona fide, and fortune hunters together with other undesirables are not entertained. Enquiries for marriage partners come from many parts of the world, and to cope with the rush of French women who wish to marry a British husband, a branch office has recently been opened in Paris.

The agency claims with pride that its marriages are more enduring than the normal vogue, for out of over five thousand arranged marriages, only five have resulted in divorce. The normal divorce rate is above seven per cent.

Name and address of bureau supplied on demand!

Ovingdean.

P. J. HARRIS.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

It is humbling to read the answers to one's letters. There are always some who show how dim one has been, even when one thought one was being as clear as daylight. Such a one is the letter from Mr. E. R. Etteridge. He says I was advocating the very things which I think my plan would put a stop to. I said nothing about increasing the basic pension, because I thought everyone agreed on the need for that. But if the present method of assessment produces anomalies, you will not get rid of them just by increasing the basic rate. A new method of assessment is needed.

A man cannot be more than 100% disabled and under the present method he cannot receive as pension more than the full basic rate. What further assistance his disability requires is made up by various grants and allowances, but his pension, i.e. what he receives by right and cannot be reduced, remains just the full basic amount. Those allowances could, presumably, be reduced if the authorities thought his need of them was less, but his disability remains the same. What we want to do is not only to secure for all disabled men an adequate basic pension, but for the specially heavily disabled men a pension—not allowances—more commensurate with their disability. Under the present method of assessment that is impossible, because a man cannot be more than 100% disabled and therefore receive as pension more than the basic rate. Under the method I suggest, a man could be assessed at 150%/200% of pension or whatever limit reason and justice might dictate. This would be his pension for life by right and could not be reduced no matter how much he earned or what the circumstances of his life might be, and in all probability special allowances would no more be needed. Does not a plan like this seem worth considering? I cannot see how it is likely adversely to affect the pensions of the less heavily disabled.

Yours sincerely,

Crowthorne Vicarage, A. C. NUGEE,
Berkshire.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was interested to read the various views of fellow St. Dunstaners concerning Pensions. The only way I can see out of it is to make a one hundred per cent. plus in cases of multiple injuries. Let me say this

however, it is not much use for us to discuss the position between ourselves. Sir Ian has done all that he can and always receives a "sympathetic hearing" in the House, but this is not enough. It is up to every one of us to talk about it whenever we are able, and especially to the local M.P. I am convinced that half of them do not know the true position, and some British Legion members are a bit hazy about it. The fact is that our present pension bears no resemblance to the true position. This is borne out by the awards given by Industrial and other Courts. Pension is only compensation for injuries sustained in Government service.

In addition to this the award should bear some relation to the loss of earning power suffered, bearing in mind that the pensioner has been prevented from following remunerative employment ever since he was disabled.

There is another aspect of this matter. If an industrial award is made it is not varied or adjusted once it is made, although the sufferer may afterwards earn a living at some other trade or profession. It was a clever move to make a "Supplementary allowance," which is subject to a man's circumstances instead of making an award by ROYAL WARRANT, as besides restricting a man's earnings, it debars him from obtaining an Old Age Pension which, by the way, he has had to contribute for in some cases since the inception of the first Insurance Act in 1912.

Please think all this over and when you get the chance, make the position known to the public and especially your own M.P. I am certain that we can put our trust in our Chairman, but give him all the help you can. Get hold of that Member of Parliament and talk to him so that when next the matter is raised in the House there will be more than one lone voice, however eloquent, fighting for us.

Yours faithfully,

W. LOWINGS.

Chandler's Ford, Hants.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested to read the Chairman's Note in the June issue of the REVIEW on making braille books smaller. I have had this subject in my mind for a long time now. I myself don't do much travelling, but I always carry a copy of "Nuggets" in a poacher's pocket fitted in the inner region of my jacket. This magazine always

contains most interesting articles and I mention it because it is the size I find so convenient to carry.

A favourite book of mine in the old days was one called "The After-Dinner Club," by Sapper. Twelve short stories, about twenty pages each. The name emphasises the quality of the stories. With these stories transcribed into braille and bound in the size of "Nuggets" with spiral wire binding dropped into my inner pocket, I could travel with peace and contentment in my mind. Another of my favourite books of the old days is by a fighter pilot of the 1914-18 war period, just short episodes of air combat with Jerry. What an excellent book this would make!

I, with my wife dictating, transcribed into braille all these short stories which I have carried about in my pocket for a long time now and I am still enjoying the reading.

Such a Library will be of great benefit to St. Dunstaners of the proposal comes to pass, and I sincerely hope it will.

Hull.

A. THOMPSON.

DEAR EDITOR,

How heartily I agree with Frank Rhodes' suggestion in the July issue of the REVIEW, that "National News Letter" should be issued in the style of "Nuggets." I take five braille periodicals, and "National News-Letter" is by far the most difficult to read. I do not think that this can be attributed to the quality of the paper used, but to the treatment which it receives in the post. Sometimes two or three lines on each page have been squashed so flat that they are almost unreadable. It would be interesting to know if other St. Dunstaners have similar experiences.

Yours sincerely,

W. KERR.

Edinburgh.

DEAR EDITOR,

In conjunction with a young B.B.C. engineer I am working to perfect as far as possible, a Short-Wave Radio Outfit for a blind person to operate. We are getting some parts, etc., from America.

Could you ask, in the REVIEW, if there are others interested St. Dunstan's folk. Perhaps, if there are, they would write me. We would like to know how many might be interested. It helps with America.

I have bought a transmitter, which my young friend is working on.

Yours sincerely,

Pensax-Stockton, Wores. ANTHONY LAW.

DEAR EDITOR,

Surely there is not one of us who has not heard of the wonderful work of Dr. Billy Graham at Harringay early this year. Over forty thousand people in London alone gave their hearts to Christ as a result of his ministry and a million and a half others heard him. Dr. Graham would be the last to attribute this wonderful fact to himself and, indeed, he says, "To God be the praise and glory for the wonders He hath done."

We must not sit back complacently, however, to leave God to carry on the work. We must bestir ourselves. Now that Dr. Graham has gone from Harringay and the round of boxing, speedway and greyhounds has been re-focused, the main work throughout the country really begins. It is now the job of the Church to see that Dr. Graham's preaching is put into sincere practice. It was discovered fairly soon that the Church, with its over-worked and therefore exhausted clergy and laity was unable to cope with this sudden, vast change of heart, so some other method had to be devised to take the responsibility for the re-diffusion and study of the Word of God.

A true man of God, who at this stage will remain anonymous, conceived in his mind the idea of "Operation Andrew." He gathered round him a small group of Harringay converts and is training them for the instruction of other people who will, in turn, train others in the Christian way of life. "Operation Andrew," which, by the way, has no direct connection with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Crusade, is the title given to a thought merely for the sake of reference. It is becoming the reference of Christ's work in Britain.

A trained person may form little groups of fellowship in Christian philosophy within the sphere of church, club or home.

A sincere and experienced article: "Discipleship," appeared in the June issue of the REVIEW and was, it is hoped, read by all. It might be regarded as an appropriate, if unwitting, herald to this letter of mine.

If any St. Dunstaner—or anyone else—is interested in hearing more, will he or she write to me, care of the Editor of the REVIEW?

Yours very sincerely,

E. STEWART SPENCE.

Hillingdon, Middlesex.

The Last Reunions of 1954

The Irish meetings at Belfast, Dublin and Cork, were attended by Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, and they were Mr. Norman Macauley's last meetings as St. Dunstan's Welfare Visitor in Ireland. Through a little committee of their own, St. Dunstaners in Ireland had banded together to make a presentation to Mr. Macauley and on their behalf, Sir Ian said he was very happy to present to Mr. Macauley a radiogram as a tribute to his great kindness and devoted work over so many years. The work done for so long by Mr. Macauley would in future be carried on by Miss Ruth Boyd, who had worked with him for eleven years.

On September 2nd, the men of the West Country met at Exeter, the Rev. F. Darrell Bunt, a member of St. Dunstan's Council, being the guest of honour; and on September 8th, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser attended the big meeting at Brighton. Mrs. G. H. Beatty of Johannesburg (Mrs. Beatty is President and Chairman of St. Dunstan's, South Africa), Air Commodore and Mrs. G. Bentley Dacre, Captain Hutchinson, Chief of Police, and representatives of the South-down Bus Company, the Federation of Grocers' Associations, and Toc H were among the other guests at this most successful meeting. Sir Ian thanked the mayors and corporations of Brighton and Hove, and the general public, for their interest in St. Dunstan's—"no two towns in the world," he said, "had done more for the war-blinded of two world wars." The speakers were thanked by Messrs. W. T. Curtis-Willson, of Brighton, and H. Greatrex, of Peacehaven.

Test Results

Typing.—W. Kirkpatrick, R. Benson, A. Warren, D. Stott.

Preliminary.—Vera Kemmish, R. Harmsworth.

Writing.—A. Dean (Australia).

Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. T. Breakwell, of Sheldon, Birmingham, were married forty years ago on September 9th. Congratulations!

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We understand that AJEX (Association of Jewish Ex-servicemen and Women) have kindly extended a welcome to any St. Dunstaners and their partners who would like to attend their Old Time Dancing evenings on Wednesdays at 8 p.m., at 38 Theobald's Road, Holborn, W.C.1. No special tickets are needed.

Talking Book Library

August's Arcade

Three romances and a scriptural-cum-historical novel represent the new reading produced in the holiday month. No thrills or spills, just four good, quiet stories of varying interest.

"The Enchanted April," by the author of "Elizabeth and Her German Garden," reader Jean Metcalfe, is a most endearing and unsophisticated little story of two wives who by chance meet and rather guiltily book an Italian villa for the month of April. They rope in two more women to cut down expenses and after a shaky start they are joined by husbands and suitors and the final week becomes a sheer paradise of affection and general benevolence. Naïve, amusing, heart-warming! *Cat. No. 890.*

"Clayhanger," by Arnold Bennett, reader Eric Gillett, is the name of a family living in one of the Potteries' "Five Towns." Edwin, the son, is the main character and though his life is somewhat uneventful, the rather tragic and eventful life of his father figures largely in the narrative. The townsfolk add colour to the yarn, and it is beautifully written. N.B.: The recently dramatised version was far less interesting than the book. *Cat. No. 891.*

"The Big Fisherman," by Lloyd C. Douglas, reader Stephen Jack, is a daring depiction of one, Simon called Peter, and it does vitalise the time and people of the then Palestine. The hatred of Arab for Jew, tempered by the Roman menace, makes a realistic background to this story of sceptic turned first lieutenant to the Carpenter. Excellent. *Cat. No. 892.*

"Lise Lillywhite," by Margery Sharpe, reader Alvar Lidell, is a 17-year-old, delicately matured in France during the last war. Her professor grandfather and "Tante Emilie," a conventional dragoness, bring her to London where cousin Martin is smitten by Lise, but he does not figure in the match-making plans of "Tante Emilie." Lise herself eventually sorts things out. A trifle humdrum but not at all bad.

Cat. No. 893.

NELSON.

B.Sc. (Econ.)

Congratulations to Paul Nuyens, a Belgian St. Dunstaner of the 1914-18 war, who has passed his final examination for the degree of B.Sc. (Econ.), of London University.

Manchester Club Notes

A correction is necessary in the report of the results of the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions which appeared in the June issue of the REVIEW. The names were in the wrong order for Darts T.B. and for Whist. The correct results were—Darts T.B.: A. Clarke, winner; S. Heys, runner-up. Whist: W. Bramley, winner; W. Bentley, runner-up. The most successful players in the competitions who become entitled to hold the cups for one year are—Dominoes: S. Heys. Cribbage: W. Bentley. Darts S.S.: W. McCarthy. Darts T.B.: A. Clarke.

Most members have now had their holidays and definite progress is being made with the annual competitions at the Club. In this connection we hope that regular attendance will be maintained.

We are pleased to record the welcome extended to our members by the Old Veterans' Association of Bolton, on the occasion of the presentation by them of a cheque to St. Dunstan's. At this function on Wednesday, the 18th August, we were represented by Messrs. H. Abrahams, J. Blakeley, H. Earnshaw, J. Ince and J. Shaw, whilst Dick Brett came up from Brighton along with Jack Jarrold. In this matter we do not wish to trespass on the privilege of others to record the occasion, but we feel obliged to mention that we appreciate very much the splendid arrangements made by the Association. In the first place we were entertained to a sumptuous high tea at the Rose and Crown Hotel. Then we were "taxied" to the Association's Headquarters where a special evening had been arranged. About midway in a concert, His Worship the Mayor of Bolton arrived, and after a brief respite, he spoke to the gathering and received the cheque from the Chairman of the Association; thereupon he handed the cheque to Mr. Jack Jarrold, who accepted it very suitably in some well-chosen words of thanks.

On Friday, the 20th August, the members of the Club, with escorts, again honoured an invitation to the Old Veterans' Club where ten of our members played darts against a selected team from the Association. The result was three games to two against us. The thanks of the Club was expressed by the Chairman.

On Saturday, the 4th September, the Club's Annual Outing took us to Blackpool

and we were favoured with lovely sunshine all day. On arrival, the members were free to do as they pleased until we all assembled at the Bourne Hotel, opposite the home recently vacated by St. Dunstan's, where we enjoyed a splendid meal and the usual atmosphere of good fellowship. Miss Vaughan Davies was our special guest and she, in her usual way of providing a surprise, pre-selected two chairs at a table, the chance occupants of which received gifts, the lucky ones being Walter Bramley and his wife. The Club also provided a surprise gift to Miss Vaughan Davies in the shape of a miniature garden of cacti, which she acknowledged with pleasure. This outing was fully enjoyed by all. J. SHAW.

Young St. Dunstaners

Cyril Relf (Slough), is now a Petty Officer in the Royal Marines.

Alan Leigh (Warrington), passed his General Certificate in all eight subjects—and took it a year earlier than is normal.

Pamela Carlton (Morecambe), has gained a First Class Certificate (87 marks) in her Junior Higher, London College of Music, examination for piano playing.

Patricia McCarthy (Northampton), has passed her scholarship examination and will go to the Senior Catholic School.

Marriages

On August 19th, Evelyn Callaghan (Woodbridge), to A3/C F. Edward Buck, of the United States Air Force.

On February 28th, Mary Grogan (Leeds), to Mr. Gibbins, at the Church of St. Patrick, Leeds. Nuptial Mass was celebrated.

On June 30th, Eileen Morgan (York), to Mr. Leslie Sergeant, Royal Air Force. Eileen was a member of the W.R.A.F.

On July 24th, Raymond Jenkins (Porth, Rhondda), to Miss Olwen Williams.

On July 17th, Raymond Millen (Birchington), to Miss Elizabeth Ann Audrey Smith.

On August 14th, Molly Graham (Tottenham).

On July 24th, Ronald Charles Baker (Enfield), to Miss Jean Gwendolyn Young.

Placement

V. D. Robins, as a shop-keeper at Fulham Road, London, S.W.6.

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Two old members of the staff visited St. Dunstan's Headquarters and South Audley Street recently. They were Mr. A. Mace, now of Australia, and Mr. T. W. Graves, on leave from West Africa.

The Lee-on-Solent Camp

It has been said of the Lee-on-Solent camp that you need a week in training before you go and a week's rest when you get back. This is perhaps an exaggeration but it is certainly true that the camp offers opportunities for actively enjoying yourself from early morning till late at night.

The term "camp" is misleading. It dates from the days when Mrs. Spurway slept St. Dunstaners in tents and cooked for them over a fire in the open. For years now, "campers" have been comfortably quartered in the vast naval shore establishment at Lee-on-Solent as guests of the Navy.

Each morning a sailor wakes you with a cup of tea. Then a party sets off for a bathe before breakfast. After breakfast you settle in one of the easy chairs on the lawn just outside. This lawn and a nearby room form the assembly point of the camp where Mrs. Spurway, the organiser, and her band of helpers are at your service. Here you can have the papers read, send a card home, play cards or dominoes, or indulge in banter with Wrens and sailors.

From here too, you can join a party for one of the organised events, or go with your pals to the town, the beach or the local.

These organised events are a main feature of the camp. They include trips by air-sea rescue launch to Hamble and on round the Isle of Wight; a visit to a warship, with tea on board; an inspection of naval aircraft; a visit to S.S. United States, in Southampton docks; a St. Dunstan's walking race round the three-and-a-half mile station perimeter for medals presented by the Commodore; a tea party and entertainment given by the ladies of the local British Legion.

I particularly enjoyed the trip to Hamble.

Almost every evening there is an invitation to a party at one or other of the naval messes where there is dancing, sandwiches, cakes, ice creams, coffee and beer. The evening usually ends with a roof-raising sing-song and if you fancy yourself at a microphone you can step on to the platform assured of an enthusiastic reception.

The climax of the camp is reached on the last evening when the gold braid turns out for a special party where farewells are said, and everyone is sorry that another camp has come to an end.

F. R.

Footnote: Found in top cabin left, one clean handkerchief. Apply: Mrs. Spurway, Vicarage, Holmwood, Surrey.

From All Quarters

J. T. Scrymgeour's "Netherby Mark Twain" added to our St. Dunstan's many stock-breeding successes by being judged Champion Poll Shorthorn Bull at Sydney Royal Show in April. The "Queensland Country Life" wrote: "Netherby Mark Twain's superb fleshing won him the supreme championship in the best Poll Shorthorn show Australia has ever seen; his win was popular because of his merits as a beef bull; the breed's supreme award to Netherby was popular because Mark Twain was the first bull Mr. J. T. Scrymgeour, O.B.E., has sent on to a Royal show-ground since Her Majesty honoured him for his work as a stud-breeder."

A. W. Back, of Shaldon, South Devon, has won the first prize at the Bristol Guild of Blind Gardeners Show for the best fibre mat. All mat-makers in the West of England enter for this competition.

Leslie and Mrs. Thompson have moved into their new house at Gateshead—a house which has been built exactly to Leslie's design. "Not," says Mrs. Thompson, "in the sense of drawing, but by verbally constructing it with his Dad and brother." With its genuine oak beams, leaded slit windows in the chimney recess, its oak-panelled walls, and above all, its impression of light everywhere, it sounds, as it is, a "dream house."

At the end of Rotarian E. Slaughter's year of office as President of Salisbury Rotary Club, Mr. E. T. Waite, the Editor of the "Salisbury Times," and himself a member of the Rotary Club has praised our St. Dunstan's "splendid year of service" in a letter to Sir Ian.

"Portrait Gallery" of the "Sunday Times," July 18th, was devoted to Colonel "Mike" Ansell, whose sight failed following injuries received at St. Valery in the recent war. Three years in a prisoner of war camp followed. The article, which accompanied a special photograph by Douglas Glass, concluded: "Had he not lost his sight, Colonel Ansell might have been riding with Lieut. Colonel H. M. Llewellyn and Mr. W. H. White in the post-war British show-jumping team; but then we might have lost the chief architect of victory at Helsinki. . ."

R. G. Cameron, of London, N.W.10 has now passed the Home Teachers' examination.

In his spare time, E. S. King, of Prittlewell, has made a doll's house. It is of Tudor design and took nine months to complete. It is perfect even to the small front door, which is carved in oak and has a patent catch and spring devised by our St. Dunstaner. The tread and rise of each stair were made separately and then joined together.

Albert Collier, of Walkden, has always been busy in his spare time. He has designed and made St. Dunstan's Badge in flowers in his garden, and as the Manchester "Evening Chronicle" says, it is the pride of the district. Other flower designs which he has created in the last fifteen years include the Royal Crown, the badge of the Coldstream Guards and the Loyals, and a Maltese Cross.

A. Scott, of Belfast, has been doing some under-water swimming in a frog-man suit in Lough Neagh!

A letter headed "End this injustice to Pensioners," from A. J. Radford, of Castle Cary, appeared in his local paper recently. It supported a declaration by a Member of Parliament attacking the regulation which denies an old-age pensioner earning more than £2 a week.

The Birmingham "Sunday Mercury" had a long article last month on "Charlie Brown," of Bretby Village.

In spite of the wet weather, E. M. Brockie, or Torphins, Aberdeenshire, had a bumper crop of strawberries, a good crop of blackcurrants and gooseberries, and the best early potatoes he has had for years.

W. T. Chamberlain, of Reading, won two first prizes at Slough and District Carnival.

Harry Humphries, of Carterton, New Zealand, the first New Zealand soldier to be blinded in the last war, was presented to Her Majesty when she visited that country recently. Harry has gone back to his old firm, the Waingawa Freezing Works. He works at present from 3.30 a.m. until 5.30 p.m.!

Ivor R. Turner, of Skipton, has been made Vice-President of the town's Rugby Football Club in recognition of his services to the team as physiotherapist.

J. W. Abbs, of Fakenham, sent his string bags to a Norwich exhibition and some were bought by Royal visitors.

On My Way

Here is the first selection of travel stories which were invited in the July REVIEW. The sender of each will receive 10s. 6d. The last date for receiving entries was August 31st.

Walking through a fairly quiet London thoroughfare some months ago I bit my tongue in half with the shock of hearing the sudden terrifying blast of what seemed to be a foghorn directly behind me. I then heard the tap tap of someone using a walking stick, but there were no further clues and if I expected any enlightenment from my companion I was in for some irritating delay, for she was making some peculiar noises which I eventually recognized as suppressed laughter. The deafening honk honk had been sounded by a blind person more enterprising than I. No escorts for him; he had a monster bulb motor horn attached to his stick, vertically. A wonderful idea this, and if all the sticks at Ovingdean were similarly equipped one could move with much more confidence through the lounge and about the many corridors.

Liverpool.

GEORGE ELLIS.

On arrival at Le Bourget Aerodrome, a pretty young French air hostess took my arm and said, "You come along with me, do not trouble about your wife!" With her arm around me I passed through all the formalities. I was sitting comfortably ensconced in an armchair when Mrs. McAndrew eventually arrived. To me it was a very charming and pleasing incident which brought to my mind the story of the two old men watching the pretty chorus girls. One turned to the other and said, "I wish I was 70 again."

Blackpool.

J. McANDREW.

Before relating my story, it would be best that I mention that I am a totally deaf, totally blind St. Dunstaner, thus I depend on vibration to understand what is going on around me.

It was a cold December's evening when I boarded the London bound train at Southampton. I was travelling alone, but had arranged to be met in London. My arrangements being that I would be found in the compartment next to the guard van. But that particular compartment, on this particular evening was fully occupied. I asked if I might sit in the guard van. I was given a single-sized seat, in a small recess on the left-hand side of the guard van, facing the engine. In front of me there was a big iron wheel, which I thought might be some sort of emergency brake. To my left, there was a hot water pipe, the water within must have been scalding. So it seemed that I was to have a warm and undisturbed journey. The train jerked into motion, and so the journey started. We had travelled quite a distance, and I suspected we had done so at a good speed. Suddenly, there was an unusual and unpleasant jolt. The train had left the rails, leaned slightly over to its right, and we were thudding along on the sleepers. In a flash I realised the situation and estimated my chances. If I were to stay in that small recess on the left and should the train topple over to its right, I might avoid something serious. Perhaps that iron wheel would rip out of position and pin me against the wall, so I put a parcel in front of me, with the fond hope that it would numb a blow. That hot water pipe may burst and scald me, but better that than to stand up and be hurled across the van. So I remained seated and waited for the unknown. Miraculously, the train was brought to a standstill within a very short distance. For a few seconds I remained seated, still wondering if we were going to topple right over. Then I got to my feet and groped around the van; there were people running hither and thither. Having no wish to be trampled to death, I returned to my seat for a smoke. I must have been sat there half an hour, when I suddenly felt the vibration of shunting. I jumped to my feet, and again went groping round the van. There wasn't a soul about. I came to the big open doors, held tightly, then dangled a foot out with the fond hope I may contact a footing. My foot landed on someone's shoulder. The owner of the shoulder helped me to scramble out with my bag. We went high stepping over railway lines, until we reached some sort of waiting room, where pulses and temperatures were being taken. I was not injured myself, but can

assure you that a certain part of my body had been very, very twittery.

The newspapers next day stated that the train, at the time of the incident, was travelling at 60 m.p.h.
Southampton. W. THOMAS.

★ ★ ★

It was in 1915, we were on our way—there were two of us, both T.B. We had arranged to meet two girls at a certain café for tea. Alighting from the bus we still had a short distance to traverse. Time was plentiful, the day was fine, all was well with our world. Strolling along arm in arm we broke into song. Our progress was arrested by a light touch on my arm. Thinking our friends had come to meet us I proffered my hand. Instead of the hand clasp I expected, some coins were slipped into my palm, and a feminine voice said, "For ze song." Later equal shares worked out at fivepence each—the first and I expect the only money I shall ever earn as a street singer.
Bristol. W. CHAS. TAPLIN.

★ ★ ★

At the factory where I was employed, a fellow worker kindly escorted me to the firm's gardens about half a mile away. Here he would leave me to enjoy my sandwiches, returning an hour later to take me back to work. When the weather was not suitable to sit out of doors, we used to take shelter in the local. In the gardens I made many friends of both sexes. After a few years of this, I regret to say my pal had to give up work on account of ill health and one of my friends who was of the opposite sex kindly offered to take me back and forward during the dinner hour. One of her workmates was a Miss FARMER, who now and again used to have her sandwiches with me as she lived in lodgings about ten miles away like myself. Then my lady escort told me that she would be going on her fortnight's holiday at the end of July. She asked me would I mind if her friend escorted me while she was on her holidays. I was very pleased with this arrangement as Miss Farmer and I had much in common. Our friendship deepened, and I asked her if she would become engaged to me. This we did ten weeks later. All this happened in 1951, and we were married on December 15th the same year. I know our courtship was very brief, but I doubt if there has been a happier married couple than we have been, and we are still courting.

Reading. W. N. STEPHENSON.

Births

- BAGWELL.—To the wife of P. Bagwell, of Charlton Mackrell, Somerset, on August 25th, a son—David John.
- CASWELL.—On September 6th, to the wife of J. F. Caswell, of Reading, a son—Michael David.
- COOKSON.—On July 21st, to the wife of Ernie Cookson, of Barnsbury, a daughter—Barbara.
- FISHER.—On July 28th, to the wife of C. E. Fisher, of Brighton, a daughter—Jacqueline Susan.
- HOYLE.—To the wife of C. Hoyle, of Chadderton, a son—Brian.
- HOPKINS.—On July 19th, to the wife of N. Hopkins, of Cardiff, a daughter—Susan Elaine.
- LITTLE.—On August 11th, to the wife of A. Little, of Carlisle, a son—Malcolm.
- MORTIMER.—On August 27th, to Pamela, wife of George A. F. Mortimer, of Hove, a son—Christopher Nigel George.
- SHEEHAN.—On August 29th, to the wife of P. Sheehan, of Chislehurst, a son—Kevin Barrie.
- SHORTER.—On August 18th, to the wife of J. Shorter, of Laughton, near Lewes, a son.
- VOWLES.—On August 8th, to the wife of R. J. Vowles, of Portsmouth, a daughter—Julie Denise.
- WATERS.—On September 4th, to the wife of A. R. Waters, of Needham, near Harleston, a daughter.

Deaths

- Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—
- BARLOW.—To J. R. Barlow, of Hillsboro, Sheffield, whose mother has recently died.
- CAUSTON.—To S. Causton, of Thorpe, near Norwich, whose wife died on September 6th. She had been ill for some time but had seemed to be making good progress.
- DICKERSON.—To F. J. Dickerson, of Bristol, whose father has died as the result of an accident.
- GARTHWAITE.—To E. Garthwaite, of Plumstead, whose mother has died after being knocked down by a dog.
- LEARY.—To P. Leary, of Enniscorthy, County Wexford, whose wife died on July 24th.
- REES.—T. A. Rees, of Stanstead, Essex, who lost his mother on September 4th.
- ROBINS.—To D. V. Robins, of Fulham (until recently a trainee at Ovingdean), whose father died on August 21st.
- SHEPHERD.—To T. Shepherd, of Cliftonville, who lost his father on July 27th.
- WOODROW.—To W. Woodrow, of Alderbury, near Salisbury, whose wife died on August 15th. She had been ill for a long time.

Marriage

- STOTT—PARKER.—On August 18th, D. Stott, of Bridgend (a trainee), to Miss Mabel Parker, of Cardiff.

"In Memory"—continued

Rifleman James Chisholm, *New Zealand Rifle Brigade*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of J. Chisholm, of Waihope, New Zealand. He was seventy-six.

He was wounded at Fleurs in 1916 and was at St. Dunstan's for practically the whole of 1917. He trained as a poultry farmer. Many also will remember him for the verses he light-heartedly contributed to the REVIEW under the name of "Third Reserve." He returned to New Zealand after the war and carried on poultry farming most successfully. In fact, he interested himself in many other undertakings, including a pine-tree settlement to deal with gum, and quite an amount of fruit growing.

For some time he had been a sick man, never without pain, but he was wonderfully cheerful, and was always a very good correspondent with Headquarters.

The poppy wreath of the Returned Soldiers' Association was buried with him; Returned Soldiers of the district were pall bearers.

He was a widower and our deep sympathy is offered to his sister, Miss Jean Chisholm, who had looked after him for thirty-six years.

T. H. White, M.B.E., A. R. Ford, J. Pottage, *Australian Forces*

From Mr. R. Archer, of the Victorian Blinded Soldiers Association, we have heard of the deaths of three St. Dunstaners, two of the First World War, and one of the second.

T. H. White was one of our oldest St. Dunstaners, having been wounded at the Dardenelles in May, 1915. He trained as a basket-maker and rug-maker, but later became interested in poultry. He was keenly interested also in matters concerning his blinded comrades and in 1939 he was awarded the M.B.E. He had been ill for some years but the end was very sudden. He was taken to hospital on July 7th and he died the following day.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. White.

A. R. Ford served with the Australian Imperial Forces in 1914-1918 but did not come to St. Dunstan's, neither had we had any news of him.

J. Pottage was at St. Dunstan's from 1948 until 1950 when he returned home. He trained in cabinet making and veneering. He had been ill for a year and had recently suffered great pain. He leaves a widow and daughter, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

"In Memory"

Private William Henry Hildick, *1st Leicestershire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. H. Hildick, of Shrewsbury, at the age of 55. Enlisting in 1914, he was wounded in France early in 1918 and came to St. Dunstan's. For very many years he was keenly interested in poultry farming, and had made a great success of it. During the last eight or nine years, however, his health had gradually deteriorated, and he had suffered considerable pain. Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Hildick.

Private Albert Gaffney, *Monmouth Regiment and Lancashire Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of A. Gaffney, of Manchester, in his fifty-ninth year. He enlisted in 1914 and in 1917 was discharged from the Army having received injuries as a result of a shell-burst when serving in the Dardenelles. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1924 and trained as a basket maker. For a short period he also did industrial work but he was never very strong and he went down rapidly during the last few years of his life. He died in hospital on July 4th.

To his widow and family our deep sympathy is extended.

Richard Barber, *Munition Factory*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of R. Barber, late of Bexleyheath but recently of West House.

He lost his sight as a result of his work in a munitions factory at Woolwich, and he came to us in April, 1921. He trained in basket making, then added netting to this craft, and he did this until he entered West House as a permanent resident in 1951. He was admitted to Hove General on August 14th, and he died there three days later.

He was laid to rest with his wife who died in 1946.

He leaves a grown-up family to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

Sapper Walter Jones, *Royal Engineers*

We record with deep regret the death of W. Jones, of Broadstairs. He was seventy-one. He came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1918, and trained as a mat-maker, and later as a netter. He continued this work until a very short time ago. In June, he was admitted to the Sick Ward at Ovingdean, where he died on August 3rd.

Private Henry Edward Jeffries, *Royal Warwickshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. E. Jeffries, of Lower Bevendean, Brighton, at the age of sixty-five.

He was discharged from the Service in February, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1936. He then trained as a netter and he had continued with this work until latterly.

A widower, he had lived with one of his sons until he was admitted to Brighton General Hospital on June 27th. He died there on July 29th.

Our sympathy is extended to his grown-up family.

Gunner James McVey, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of J. McVey, of Braintree. He was in his seventy-eighth year. He came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1918, and trained in netting. This craft he followed until 1944, when his crippled hands forced him to give up. In February of last year he was admitted to West House, and he died there on July 24th.

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

Private Harold Mitchell, *Border Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. Mitchell, of Bournemouth. He was in his sixty-fourth year.

Discharged from the Army in 1919, he came to us in December, 1946, and trained as a basket-maker. Although his health had worsened during the past year or so, he had continued working up to the time of his death. He was admitted to hospital on August 26th and he died there the following day.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom we extend our very sincere sympathy.

Private Harry Sidney Bishop, *Royal Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of H. S. Bishop, of Bury St. Edmunds.

He was wounded in 1918, losing the sight of one eye, but the sight of his other eye deteriorated and during the last eighteen months he had been totally blind. He had therefore only very recently come to St. Dunstan's and the serious state of his health had prevented him not only training but even visiting Ovingdean. He passed away on July 25th.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow, two sons and daughter.

Private Thomas McCarthy, *Royal Munster Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of T. McCarthy, of Charleville, County Cork. He was in his sixty-third year.

He enlisted in 1911 and was discharged from the Army in 1916. Following gradual deterioration of his sight as a result of his war injuries, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1951. His health had not been good for some time but nevertheless his death, on July 24th, was unexpected.

There was a large attendance of friends at the funeral, at which St. Dunstan's was represented by Mr. Michael Tynan, of Charleville.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and adopted daughter.

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