

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 420—VOLUME XXXVIII

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

ST. DUNSTANERS all over Britain took part in Armistice-tide celebrations. There was an Old Contemptibles' dinner at Ovingdean. There were many cases in which St. Dunstaners were invited to lay a wreath on the local War Memorial. There were those who joined in the national Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph with the Queen and the high dignitaries of State, and there were hundreds who just went to the local Service and took their part and remembered.

I had the honour to receive Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the Royal Albert Hall, and Princess Margaret and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and their young son, Prince William, were there also.

Present also were Sir Anthony and Lady Eden and Mr. and Mrs. Attlee, and a number of Cabinet Ministers and High Commissioners.

Lord Nuffield's Generous Gift

Lord Nuffield has made a gift of £50,000 to help the Royal National Institute for the Blind and St. Dunstan's to bring the Talking Book for the Blind system up to date, and at a recent luncheon in London he handed me, as Chairman of the Talking Book Committee since its inception, a cheque for this amount. With me at this unique function was Mr. Godfrey Robinson, c.b.e., the Chairman of the R.N.I.B., which, as you know administers the Library in co-operation with ourselves, Mr. Leslie Pinder, who is the Chief Engineer at Hinde Street, and other representatives both of the R.N.I.B. and St. Dunstan's.

Many of our older St. Dunstaners will remember that it was largely due to the help and encouragement given by Lord Nuffield that experiments in recording books on long playing records, which could be played back by the blind on specially adapted machines in their own homes, were first started in 1935, and including this present gift, this great benefactor has subscribed no less a total sum than £100,000 for this project. In view of this considerable help, I recommended to the Committee that the Library should in future be called the Nuffield Talking Book Library for the Blind and this will now be its title.

Many of you will not perhaps know that when the Talking Book scheme was in fact started some twenty years ago, the first private workshop was actually situated in the grounds of my house in Regent's Park, but the service was quickly built up and developed until, in 1938, new studios and research workshops were completed. In the early days of the last war, however, these studios received a direct hit during an air raid and suffered total loss of all equipment with the exception of one recording machine which was salvaged and reconditioned. This meant a move back to the original premises again, where the

unit carried on until the end of the war, before removing to the present headquarters in Hinde Street. Here it is that the recordings are made by well known B.B.C. announcers and readers, actors and actresses, and the research work carried out. To-day more than 4,000 blind people use the Talking Book Library, and there are over 600 titles, including autobiographies, novels, travel and detective fiction, and among the recent books issued, which you may have already "read," are "The Kon-Tiki Expedition," "Conquest of Everest," and Sir Winston Churchill's War Memoirs.

The Library itself is situated at Alperton, in Middlesex, and you will be interested to know that when the move was made there from Camden Town two years ago, the transfer involved the removal of over 100 tons of records, 6,000 feet of steel shelving, and the installation of a roller conveyor system for the daily handling of four tons of book containers. To-day some 140,000 volumes are handled by the Library every year, equalling 1,400,000 hours.

While all this great development in the Talking Book system as we know it to-day was going on, considerable research work was also being undertaken to see if it would be a good thing or not to substitute modern tape or film records for the conventional discs, and much progress has been made. But the Talking Book for the Blind Committee, after most careful study and on the best advice, has come to the conclusion that the significant development of the long-playing disc, which has so many obvious advantages for the blind over the tape method, has given this form of recording a new lease of life. Lord Nuffield, who has applied his own judgment as an engineer to this matter, concurs in this view, and has made this new special gift to enable the Committee to bring the machines in the hands of the blind and the records up-to-date so that they embody the latest high class commercial practice. It will not, however, mean an immediate reduction in the waiting list of those blind people not yet supplied with Talking Book machines, but by providing for more intensive research and the standardisation of the machine, it will undoubtedly speed up the rate of substantially reducing the list.

In time it should also improve the quality of the records themselves and save a great deal of wear and tear on the records due to old machines.

IAN FRASER.

Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service

On the morning of Thursday, December 9th, the thirty-third anniversary of the death of our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, a party of St. Dunstaners will go from Headquarters to Hampstead Cemetery where a wreath will be placed upon Sir Arthur's grave.

Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Askew, at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, December 12th, at the Ovingdean Chapel, at 11.15 a.m. It will be a combined Service for St. Dunstaners at Ovingdean and West House, and for St. Dunstaners living in the Brighton area. Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., will read the Lesson at the Service, which will be conducted by the Rev. Andrew Nugee (St. Dunstaner) and the Rev. W. J. Taylor.

From All Quarters

W. R. Freeman, of Hanham, near Bristol, has won ten first prizes for his flowers this

summer, as well as the Silver Medal of the National Chrysanthemum Society and a number of other prizes and certificates.

★ ★ ★

There was almost a full-page article in "Reveille" on October 19th, by our St. Dunstaner, John Proctor, of Rottingdean. John wrote: "My own eyes were blown out by a bomb in the Aegean Islands in 1944. At the same time I lost my hands. It was my birthday. Now I have artificial hands, and for what I have lost I have gained much . . . there is no dirt, no ugliness in this world of mine . . . my world is more beautiful, because it has no flaws. If people were to go about blindfolded for a month they would realise what beauty they miss every day of their lives."

★ ★ ★

Alderman F. W. E. L'Estrange-Fawcett, who is Chairman of the Board of Governors of Stowmarket Grammar School, presided recently at the laying of the Foundation Stone of the new Grammar School by the Earl of Cranbrook, Chairman of East Suffolk County Council.

London Club Notes

Indoor Section

The prize-giving to the winners and runners-up in the Sir Arthur Pearson Competitions will be held in the Club on Saturday, December 4th, at 6.30 p.m. It is hoped that as many as possible will attend. The Club Christmas Party will be held in the Club on Tuesday, December 21st, at 7 p.m.

Come along and enjoy yourselves.

C. J. WALKER.

Bridge Section

On October 2nd a team of eight visited J. Lyons for a return Bridge match, and although the team was leading at the interval for tea our friends still retained their unbeaten record. Owing to the 'bus strike, the match against Mr. Head's team had to be cancelled.

There were nine tables at the third Bridge Drive of the year, which was held in the Club on Saturday, October 23rd. The prize winners were: 1st, S. Webster and Mr. A. Henry; 2nd, A. Wiltshire and Mrs. Wiltshire; 3rd, H. Cook and Miss Scott; nearest parity, R. Giffard and Mr. Head. A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Carter, who officiated as M.C. and presented the prizes. On Saturday, October 30th, in a match of four-a-side against the Post Office our team were the losers.

Following up their first two wins in the L.B.H. League, our team were again the winners against the G.P.O. on October 15th, by 16 match points.

W. BISHOP, *Captain-Secretary*.

Outdoor Section

In a seven-a-side match, held over a 5-mile course at Regent's Park on Saturday, October 30th, the Metropolitan Police proved to be too strong for St. Dunstan's walkers. After a fairly fast start, the Police dominated the leading positions, but not to be outdone our St. Dunstaners fought on, moving steadily forward until after two miles Billy Miller took the lead, which he gradually increased and held to the finish. Unfortunately, we failed to break up a mid-field pack of policemen and so they beat us by 46 points to 62.

In the St. Dunstan's Sealed Handicap, held in conjunction with the match, Les Dennis, Chas. Stafford and Billy Miller were 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively, and Archie Brown fastest loser. A fourth prize, kindly donated by Archie Brown,

was presented to Pat Cryan, who was fourth in the handicap. Mr. Curtis, Hon. Secretary of the Stock Exchange Athletic Club (Walking Section), started the race and presented the prizes to the winners at the Club, and also St. Dunstan's certificates to our five members who took part in the Stock Exchange London to Brighton race in May. In a short speech that followed, Mr. Curtis extended an invitation to St. Dunstaners to take part in all future Stock Exchange London to Brighton races.

BILLY MILLER.

St. Dunstan's Five Mile Sealed Handicap and Match with Metropolitan Police

Regent's Park, Saturday, 30th October, 1954					
Order of Finish	Act.	H'p.	H'p.	H'p.	Pos. in H'cp.
	Time	All.	All.	All.	
1 W. Miller	St.D. 44-23	Scr.		44-23	3
2 P.C. Eden	M.P. 45-44				
3 P.C. Monyard	M.P. 45-56				
4 A. Brown	St.D. 46-06		.50	45-16	5
5 P. Cryan	St.D. 46-23	1-35		44-48	4
6 P.C. Birbeck	M.P. 46-49				
7 P.C. Butt	M.P. 47-47				
8 P.C. Youldon	M.P. 47-47				
9 P.C. Freeman	M.P. 47-47				
10 T. Gaygan	St. D. 48-00	2-00		46-00	6
11 P.C. Spencer	M.P. 48-46				
12 P.C. Stevenson	M.P. 48-48				
13 L. Dennis	St. D. 48-48	5-25		43-23	1
14 C. Stafford	St.D. 49-16	4-55		44-21	2
15 S. Tutton	St.D. 50-22	3-10		47-12	7

Handicap Match
1st, L. Dennis 1st, Met. Police, 46 points
2nd, C. Stafford 2nd, St. Dunstan's, 52 points
3rd, W. Miller
Fastest Loser, A. Brown.
Handicapper and Timekeeper, Mr. W. J. Harris.
Recorder, Mr. C. Harrison.

Rowing Machines and Stationary Bicycles

Will any St. Dunstaner who has a rowing machine or stationary bicycle which he no longer requires, please return it to Mr. Wills who will be glad to have it for the use of another St. Dunstaner.

Anagram Competition for the Blind

The Editor of "Competitors' Journal" is offering fifty prizes of five shillings each in a competition which is open to blind people only. The closing date is December 14th, and the Editor of the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW will be very glad to send details to any St. Dunstaner who is interested. We understand that there will be other competitions to follow.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Mr. Oxborough's letter suggests that he has lost faith in himself and attributes the fault to the "human nature" of others.

I am a life-long member of the British Legion and a member of Toc H since it was first formed in this town, and while I agree that it is depressing to find that these two organisations, with the same motto, "Service not self," do not always jump to be of the particular kind of service you personally want, I think if Mr. Oxborough became an active member he would not lack a friend to take him for a walk. My own experience years ago was similar. I realised that my daughters were spreading their wings and no longer wanting to let me take them for a walk in order to go for a walk myself. So I devised the cunning scheme of always letting them walk on while I cautiously collected my landmarks along the lanes. Then one day I shoved off on my own to the consternation of all. Then I got me a dog, and have had one ever since, although too old for an official dog. To-day the generation of grandchildren are coming along who want to take me, though I want to take the dog.

Mr. Oxborough should have used the period before he went blind as he says, some few years ago, to have become absolutely familiar with his surroundings, and, above all, with the members of the Toc H, British Legion, and any other organisations whose comradeship he would now appreciate. Still, why not get somebody to take him around to the Toc H group and the Legion branch. Unless he is a full-fledged misanthrope, he will find the answer by personal contact. The more independent one is, and the more one mixes with the people of the sighted world on terms of equality, not merely seeking their assistance, the more one finds they want to assist so that sometimes it becomes even embarrassing. The Jobmaster has power to order a Toc H man to do the job, but who wants to go walking with an uncongenial companion who has been ordered to do it. I should say to Mr. Oxborough don't stay in but get out, even if you bark your shins and bump your nose; get out and when you barge into the Legion or Toc H, somebody will soon say "Can I help you?" Then you can say "Yes, please, I want to go for a walk. Coming?"

Yours faithfully,
A. J. RADFORD.
Castle Cary.

DEAR EDITOR,

I would like to comment upon the article, "Growing Older," in last month's REVIEW. My chief reason for doing so is that I happen to be the person responsible for the previous article, "Methods of Reading," which appeared a few months ago, and I wish to correct any misapprehension and emphasise that reference therein to touch-lip reading did not imply a new idea of mine. I simply stated certain facts about a young deaf-blind man who had achieved success in this method of reading, and I realised the importance of explaining that this young man is most careful to apply a germicide to his thumb before touching anyone's lips. I also said that it would be interesting to learn how many people were able to use this system of reading.

I agree that we should all make ourselves familiar with the manual language, but with so many who do not understand it, simple though it is, I feel that the ability to touch-lip read would brighten up many an hour which would otherwise be dull, since many persons would hesitate to use the block letter system and thus the situation arises in which the deaf-blind person is alone in his quiet world. I am no authority on these matters, but it is reasonable to believe that such persons as Mr. J. Hatton and Helen Keller have great advantages when they find people who do not use the manual language, but who don't mind a thumb being placed across their lips for the experience of "talking" to a deaf-blind person through his hand.

Yours sincerely,

JIM SHAW.

Ashton-in-Makerfield.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very much interested in Sergeant Nichols' letter in your October number, as our experiences were broadly identical. I lost my hands and was blinded in March, 1915, and was probably the first man in our Forces to receive such injuries. Fortunately I recovered the sight in one eye, but the retina had been damaged so that only half of the eye was of any use to me. However, the vision that I had was so good that this fact was not discovered until about 1942, after I had earned my living as a sighted person for twenty-six years.

My "cross-roads" came when I was discharged in September, 1915, when I

was sent out into the world with a pension of 27s. per week and a couple of artificial limbs. I was not then regarded as a blind or semi-sighted person, nor, indeed, did I so regard myself. Although I must have lost many benefits through this, it was better for me in many ways as I was able to work out my own way of life and to invent, adapt, and improvise as I went along.

My first effort was made while still in hospital. Not wishing other people to write my love letters, I told a nurse to place a pencil down the folds of the bandage which was round my right stump.

Later on I wrote with my new limb, ate my food and did many other useful things. I went to Clark's College to learn book-keeping, paying the fees myself. I managed to get a job in the City writing out address cards at 25s. a week, until one of the ledger clerks left, when I was tried out on his work. As I proved that I could do this job I was given another pound a week.

I remained with this firm until 1919, when I joined the Civil Service as a temporary clerk. There were about twenty thousand ex-servicemen of all ranks who were on this temporary basis, and an examination was to be held for four thousand appointments to the Clerical Grade. I was told by the Commissioners that I could sit for the same but that no allowance could be made for my disability. It was a very proud day for me when the results came out and I was told that I was in the first four thousand. This meant that I had security, decent conditions of service and an increasing scale of pay. In October, 1940, came promotion to the Higher Clerical Grade and I had charge of an important Registry Section in the Ministry of Health with a staff of thirty.

In 1937 I was told that a cataract had developed in the damaged part of my retina and from that period my sight gradually deteriorated. I first had to give up watching cricket and, later on, football. Finally my work, in 1946. I had worked continuously for thirty years. Although bitterly disappointed, as I was due for further promotion to Staff Officer, I could not complain.

During the many years* that I was in the Civil Service there was no special job worked out for me because of my disability; I took my place with the ordinary man. Self-consciousness was my greatest enemy. So far from parading my disabilities, I went

to extreme lengths to hide them.

I have written mostly about my work, but at the age of twenty I had to give up all forms of sport so my leisure hours were filled in by watching games. I took up Chess and became quite a useful player in the Civil Service League. Bridge and other card games came easily to me and so did billiards.

Much has been made of some of the showy things which can be done with artificial limbs, but my experience has shown me that it is the ordinary everyday things which are all-important, such as blowing one's nose, washing and dressing, going to the toilet unaided, taking something out of a pocket, or opening doors. There were no training schemes in those early days, in fact, there was no previous experience upon which to base such schemes so that a man in the position in which I found myself would indeed have a very poor sort of existence unless he was able to invent, adapt and improvise for himself.

Although forced to retire at the age of fifty-one, owing to the failure of my sight, I did not regard myself as a blind or semi-sighted person. Indeed when my wife used to assist me crossing roads, I would resent her help, but after some rather bad knocks and falls, I very wisely accepted such assistance.

It was not until 1951 that I joined St. Dunstan's, and then it was only through a chance meeting with an N.I.B. man. I fully realise what I owe to him and what I should have missed. But for that chance meeting I should have missed the wonderful help which I have had from St. Dunstan's. I should also not have had what I treasure most of all—the comradeship of some really great people. Truly there are many cross-roads in one's life.

Yours sincerely,

Hastings.

CHARLIE KELK.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was interested in Mr. W. Kerr's letter in the September issue of the REVIEW re his difficulty in reading the "National News Letter" after it has been through the post. My copy also often arrives so crushed as to be hardly readable. Can anything be done about packing it more securely?

Yours faithfully,

Belfast.

(Miss) E. L. WILSON.

[This complaint is being passed to the appropriate quarter. ED.]

DEAR EDITOR,

I have an "enquiring mind" and an abiding interest in my fellow beings. This friendly curiosity has been directed in the past at my friends in the ranks of the 1914-18 heroes, and I must say I have learned much and benefited from the knowledge. It is this zest for enlightenment which drives me on to ask about a further aspect of the "Mons and Marne Merchants" which puzzles and intrigues me. I would like to know if they always display the same high spirits in their daily lives at home, as they never fail to do at Ovingdean, and, indeed, any other place where the company meets in the name of St. Dunstan's. I was struck by this alarming thought when I went into the lounge one morning to be deafened by a lusty chorus of "Pack up your Troubles." Bear in mind that it was at nine-thirty, and perhaps you will begin to realise why I silently cursed the parents of the pianist who was presumably playing the outraged instrument with his left elbow. It seems to me that the older men at Ovingdean are ready to burst into song at the slightest provocation. I am not presuming to criticise this commendable lightness of heart, but may I ask why it is so obviously exclusive to the men of the First War? A friend of mine has described it as a Peter Pan complex, and when I think back to certain gatherings of St. Dunstaners which take place annually, I can see that this describes exactly the middle-aged yet eternally boyish hearts. What other than a boyish heart could get men of fifty-five years or more to co-operate quite spontaneously in guessing games and in a remarkable affair which is known as the "St. Dunstan's March"? Like many other St. Dunstaners of my age, I am reluctant to join in for it occurs to me again and again that surely this kind of tea party entertainment is unheard of in any other community of full-grown men. Are we of the Second War a miserable lot or can we look forward to the Peter Pan existence which is enjoyed by the thirty-years-after brigade?

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE (Chase-me-Sister) ELLIS.
Liverpool.

Miss M. Davies

Our Northern Area Welfare Visitor, Miss M. Davies, who will be leaving England for the remainder of her leave early in December, sends Christmas greetings to all her men as she will not be able to send cards.

Liverpool Club Notes

We went to the Railway Hotel on Saturday, October 30th, in the knowledge that this was going to be an outing of equal success to the several enjoyed in earlier months. We were not expecting the pleasant weather which blessed the September trip to Llandudno, but if high spirits and cheerful faces were anything to go by, further satisfaction was guaranteed.

The party at Pleasington turned out to be a means of demonstrating certain qualities possessed by hosts and guests. The Club had its moment of glory by winning the Darts Tournament by six matches to three. Then, as though to prove that even our lady members could throw a pretty dart, Violet Formstone engaged Bob Britten in a riotous match, which she won. If we showed Mr. and Mrs. Hindle and their friends how to flick the little arrow, their turn came when we were treated to a lesson in hospitality. These good people never fail to worry the diet-conscious amongst us for, like all good Lancashire folk, they believe in wholesome grub and plenty of it. As our Secretary, T. Milner, said so appropriately, it was high time we returned some of this grand hospitality, and we would be delighted if our Pleasington friends joined our Christmas party in Liverpool on December 11th. This wish was preceded by a vote of thanks from our Chairman, J. C. Owen.

There was an atmosphere of "hearts and flowers" as the party drew to a reluctant close. We saluted the warm heartedness of Mr. and Mrs. Hindle by presenting them with a magnificent bunch of chrysanthemums, and the language of flowers was used again when Bob Britten handed a bouquet each to Violet Formstone and Elsie Aldred. A fitting conclusion to a very enjoyable few hours, and I hope I wasn't the only Club member who said goodbye with the presumptuous thought in my mind that maybe we will see more of the Railway Hotel, Pleasington. Maybe, too, we can take some new faces if we do go again. If any St. Dunstaners living in the Liverpool area has read this far and are not Club members, surely there is some interest, so why not come along and see for yourself that at least one Saturday afternoon a fortnight can be passed very happily. We meet every other Saturday, starting from December 4th.

"FRISBY."

Making Braille Books Smaller

Sir Ian's note in the June issue on this subject, and the letters which followed, have been brought to the notice of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, and the following letter has been received from Mr. Vernon Barlow, the Editor:

"Thank you for your letter and for drawing my attention to the various interesting remarks in the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW about the question of condensed literature. The whole question of condensation is both absorbing and difficult.

We sometimes, of course, select the abridged version of a book, if an official one exists, that does not detract from the original in any way, but it is, of course, quite impossible for us to start cutting down books as though they were newspaper articles, because the whole question of copyright is at stake.

As you know, we publish here in large, intermediate and pocket size, the latter being approximately 10½in. by 6½in. I believe the National Library publish certain works of fiction in pocket size when it is possible to do so, and call them half-size volumes, they are, I believe, mostly juvenile books.

There would be no reason that I can see why some very short works of modern fiction, and others, should not be put into smaller volumes more suitable for transportation and reading when travelling.

Regarding "spiral wire" bound books, we gave up this method soon after the war because the firm could no longer supply us. But I am told we are now investigating the whole matter afresh.

Then there is the question of Solid Dot coming along in the near future, and this should make it possible to turn out books that are somewhat less cumbersome, even though the early hopes of greatly reducing the bulk no longer appear to be tenable.

How happy should we all be if Braille books could more nearly resemble printed ones where the size is concerned!

VERNON BARLOW."

Since Sir Ian's note in the REVIEW, it has been announced in the Press that the National Library for the Blind (Northern Branch) are producing pocket-sized books and we have borrowed specimen copies. The Librarian writes: "We have produced a large number in both Grade I and Grade II and the Grade II books have proved extremely popular."

The London Reunion

On October 20th, the London Reunion was held at the Windsor Room, Coventry Street Corner House. The London 'bus strike had obligingly ended the day before, but a breakdown on the Underground most unfortunately delayed several guests. However, they did arrive, which was the main thing, and soon the Reunion was well under way.

Sir Neville Pearson, our President, welcoming the guests, said there would be only one speech, and that a very short one. And it was. Sir Neville expressed Sir Ian's regret that he was not able to be with them because—a cryptic reason, said Sir Neville—he could not "find a pair" at the House of Commons. However, he hoped to join them later. Lady Fraser was already there with them, said Sir Neville, who ended by wishing every-one a very happy evening. (Applause). Later, announcing Sir Ian's arrival, Sir Neville said there would still be no speeches, but Sir Ian would be coming round to meet the guests, while the dancing went on. So the band played, some danced, there were many reunions, and altogether the evening was right up to St. Dunstan's high standard.

A New Magazine in Braille

The publishers of "World Christian Digest" have decided to issue a special Braille edition of this widely read journal. The first number will appear in January, 1955, and the magazine will thereafter be issued regularly each quarter.

The Digest, which is non-denominational in character, costs 5s. per annum, post free, and subscriptions should be sent direct to "World Christian Digest," 124 Gloucester Road, Kensington, London, S.W.7. A limited number of free copies will be made available to those unable to meet the cost of the annual subscription. When ordering, please specify that it is the Braille edition which is required.

Thirty Years Married

Mr. and Mrs. W. Nixon, of Totley Rise, Sheffield, celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary on October 1st.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. L. Sheridan, of Woolaston, near Stourbridge, had their Silver Wedding on October 5th; and Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Nixon, on October 25th.

The White Cane Club

The Kelowne Valley, Victoria, British Columbia, with its lakes and lovely scenery, is an attractive setting for the White Cane Club, of which our old friend, Perky Perkins, is one of the founder members.

In Canada, as in the United States of America, the reason for carrying a white stick or cane, to give it a more realistic and true name, is one of which one may be proud. For to carry a white cane across the Atlantic does mean that it is helping sighted people to realise not only that there are blind people in the world, but also to give them a simple opportunity of, maybe, helping the other fella across a wide main street.

But we don't think the foundation members of the Kelowne White Cane Club had this even remotely in mind, for the Club consists of blind people, their wives and their families. All sorts of handicrafts and hobbies are available, and the men bowl, hurl, fish and swim.

But our friend, Perky, continues his many other duties and works. He is well known for his lovely cabinet work—and one can well envisage many tourists to British Columbia taking away with them some of the well-remembered little boxes, lamps, etc., which Perky used to do so beautifully when over here. The added skill of the years which have elapsed will, one knows, have resulted in work of a very high standard.

But of the many things which Perky helps along the way is one quite unconnected with blindness or war disabilities. He is a member of a committee which, for the second year in succession, has raised enough money to buy an iron lung and to present it to a hospital in order to combat that dreadful scourge of our times, "Polio."

When one hears these things, even though the rain has been pouring down unceasingly for sixty-two hours, the morning is cold and drear, a shaft of sunshine strikes across the imagination—and one realises that somewhere a friend is helping others worse off than himself along life's rather stony highway.

★ ★ ★

A. E. Ratcliffe, of Chatham, read the Lesson at the Armistice Day Service at Chatham Naval Barracks.

Talking Book Library

October Observations

Five home-produced books of good variety and one imported travel book are added this month to the groaning shelves.

"Insurrection," by Liam O'Flaherty, reader Norman Shelley, is the heart-rending drama of Dublin, 1916, when a handful of men and women set off the Irish rebellion at half-cock, and made a shambles of Dublin. Heroism, tragedy, and boisterous Irish fun make the book entertaining. *Cat. No. 894.*

"Micah Clarke," by Arthur Conan Doyle, reader Andrew Timothy, is a fine adventure story of the Monmouth rebellion. The picture of the narrow puritanism of the majority is relived by a puckish old soldier of fortune and a cavalier or two. *Cat. No. 895.*

"Plain Murder," by C. S. Forester, reader Lionel Gamlin, is no mystery story but a story from the point of view of the ambitious advertising clerk who embarks on a career of perfect killing. The end is quite tidy and the book is short enough to be readable without too much repugnance. *Cat. No. 896.*

"The Golden Dagger," by E. R. Punshon, reader Lionel Marson, is a somewhat involved detective story with a fine crop of doubtful characters. The least savoury character is the body, knifed by the precious title trinket. Quite amusing, but quite long enough. *Cat. No. 899.*

"The Thief of Virtue," by Eden Philpotts, reader Stephen Jack, is a yarn of rural Devon which makes charming reading despite its leaning towards tragedy. An over-jolly farmer, deceived for most of his life, finally becomes undeceived and utterly distracted. Perhaps charming is the wrong word, but read it and judge. *Cat. No. 900.*

"Denmark is a Lovely Land," by Hudson Strode, reader Walter Gerard, must be a most enlivening book on Denmark for it has aroused in me, a most insular Englishman, the desire to go to the much despised "Continong"! Maybe the author wore rose-tinted spectacles, but he depicts an amazing number of attractive facets of Danish life. *Cat. No. 902.*

"NELSON."

Placement

R. H. Wharton, on assembly work with Messrs. Chrysler Dodge, Limited, of Kew.

Ovingdean Notes

Glancing back through our programme of entertainments at Ovingdean for the past few weeks, we seem to have been well served with such a variety that surely all tastes must have been satisfied.

One particularly enjoyable invitation was that extended to a party of men to attend a performance of "Showboat" given by the Worthing Operatic Society, followed by tea at the Pier Pavilion, Worthing. This was an extremely good performance and, of course, the fact that our party was afterwards the guests of the cast, and thus were able to meet them, added considerably to the pleasure of the afternoon.

At Ovingdean we have recently had two very good Concerts in the Sunday Evening series. The first was a programme of Gilbert & Sullivan Music, on October 24th, and the second was a visit from John Mantall (bass) who entertained us with a varied selection of songs. The rest of the Sunday programmes were made up with various play-readings by the Staff.

Space will not permit a great deal to be said about the party of "Old Contemptibles" who will be with us at Ovingdean from November 5th to 18th. Having formed a committee, with Sergeant Nichols as Chairman, they themselves decided upon the programme of the two weeks, which has left them with little spare time. In fact, they have been "on the go" almost unceasingly. At an "inaugural" dinner with the Deputy Mayor of Hove, Mr. Wills and Commandant as guests, the warriors got off to a good start with a most cheery evening. On November 7th, of course, they took part in the march to the Remembrance Service at the Dome, Brighton, in the company of members of the Brighton Old Contemptibles Association and other ex-Service groups.

The Brighton O.C.'s were also entertained at Ovingdean on Wednesday, November 10th, when a social evening was arranged. The domino tournament played that evening was won, or rather shared equally between Mr. Moeller (St. Dunstan's) and Messrs. Knight and Carpenter (of Brighton O.C. Association), each of these players having six wins.

On Thursday, November 11th, after having placed a wreath on the Brighton War Memorial (in the company of the Brighton O.C. Association) the evening

was spent at Ovingdean in another friendly domino tournament, this time with the Brighton District St. Dunstan's Club. In all 44 took part. The winner again was Mr. Moeller, with 7 wins, and runner-up Mr. Taylor, with 5 wins.

A Shooting Competition (Knock-out) was arranged also for the Old Contemptibles. Nine men entered for the contest. Mark Goundrill sportingly offered to drop out in order that we should have an even number of competitors. He said he did not feel he would be any good at shooting! However, it was decided that the range should be open for two practice sessions before the contest started, and this was done. In the first round of the competition only one man scored below 40 out of a possible 50. In the second the lowest score was 43. In the semi-finals Alexander knocked out Moeller by 48 plus to 46 plus, and Goundrill beat Arthur by 44 no plus to 37 no plus. This was really a very exciting contest and in the final Mark Goundrill became the winner, beating Alexander by 50 plus to 46 plus. Not at all bad going for one who did not think he'd be much good. Congratulations! This was good shooting, particularly from men who had not touched a rifle since their discharge from the Services.

Dances and Drives, a visit to the Races, an evening at West House, and a very good time at the "White Horse," at the invitation of Sgt. Nichols, all combined, we hope, to give them a thoroughly enjoyable holiday. We enjoyed having them at Ovingdean and hope they are glad they made the journey, some of them from quite far distances, to join together for this occasion.

Old Contemptibles Meet

At our winding-up meeting, the Chums suggested that a vote of thanks be rendered to the Commandant, Matron, and all the Staff at Ovingdean, who have been responsible for the outstanding success of our first get-together. The boys have really had a marvellous time, and are looking forward to the next one.

In the expressions of appreciation, Mr. Wills was not forgotten, and I would like to mention here how much we recognise the work he put into the organising of the transport arrangements and general correspondence involved.

Sir Ian Fraser sent the following message, which was read at the inaugural Dinner:—

"I am sure we would all like to thank Alan Nichols, a well-known and typical 'Old Contemptible,' for having suggested that this group of 1914 St. Dunstaners should come together on this occasion. Forty years is the greater part of a lifetime, and you must all look back with interest and pride to the stirring deeds during the first few months of the First World War, leading up to the famous retreat from Mons. Incidentally, I visited Mons with Lord Alexander two years ago to attend the unveiling of a memorial to the gallantry of those of your comrades who did not return.

The English have a curious sense of humour, and more than once a name given to them as a term of abuse or derision has been turned by them into a name which evokes thoughts of glory and fame. The name 'Old Contemptibles' is perhaps one of our best examples. The 'Quakers' is another.

Each of us did his best in the service in which he found himself at the time when he went to war, but there can hardly be anyone of my generation who does not wish that he had been a year or two older so that he might himself have been able to serve in those first few months and wear the Mons Star.

I hope you will all make it a regular routine to come to Ovingdean at this time of the year in the future, for the Old Contemptibles' gathering. I wish you all a good dinner, a happy holiday and the best of good luck.

IAN FRASER."

All St. Dunstaners who knew Miss Reynolds will be glad to know that she sent the following telegram:—

"Best wishes for a very happy fortnight to my friends of St. Dunstan's Old Contemptibles' reunion.—Miss REYNOLDS.

St Joseph's, 15 Church Street,
Edmonton, London, N.9."

To members absent because of illness I would like to say that we shall be celebrating our Summer holiday together in the last two weeks of August, 1955, and all the Chums are looking forward to you being on parade.

There may be many more old-timers holding the Mons Star who have been too modest to send in their names, so those of you who hold the Star inscribed "*August, 1914, November,*" please let Mr. Wills know,

because you are competitors for the Cup and Cabinet which will be presented to the last surviving Old Contemptible. And remember OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE, and still IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY!

ALAN NICHOLS,
Chum Chair.

News From Australia Victorian Blinded Soldiers' Bowling Club

The visiting team for the Tour to Mildura, from October 19th to 26th, comprised six Rinks, including a sighted Skipper to each. Upon arrival, the visitors were met by S.B.A. President, Mr. Bert Swingler, the Vice-President, Royal Victorian Bowling Association, Mr. Les. Carbis, and the Merbien Representative, Mr. Rupert Hayes, and were tendered a Civic Reception at the Mildura Town Hall by His Worship the Mayor, Cr. J. Etherington, the Mayoress, Cr. Mrs. Etherington, Cr. Maxwell, the Town Clerk, Mr. Jim Downing, and many others of the Civic Centre. Speakers in response to the grand welcome extended to the party were Mr. Bert Swingler and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Blinded Soldiers B. A. respectively, Tom Melbourne and Joe Lynch.

On Friday morning the soldiers were shown over the new Pumping Station, on the *Murray* (by the "Billabong"), which was ably described by Messrs. Oram and Jim Madden, and were later entertained at morning tea, etc., by Mr. and Mrs. Messenger. In the evening, the male members of the party were guests of Mildura Sub-Branch, R.S.L., with Messrs. H. E. Dickenson (President), Charles Dodds (Secretary), and Noel Currie (Social Director) as chief hosts. Speakers on behalf of the guests were Les. Hoult (Manager) and Foster McConnell (Press Correspondent), who expressed warmest thanks to the Sub-Branch generally, and Joe Lynch and fellow bowlers toasted "Jerry" Dickenson.

During the Saturday morning, time was devoted to the laying of a wreath by Tom Melbourne "In Memory of Fallen Comrades." This ceremony was held at the Cenotaph; R. S. L. Rooms and Joe Lynch, Federal President, Blinded Soldiers, delivered an Address. "Lest we forget."

In the evening, the Sunraysia B.A. gave a dinner in honour of the visiting party, and speeches of welcome were given by President Swingler, Secretary Roy Kauffman,

and Mr. Les. Carbis. Tom Melbourne and Joe Lynch responded. Mrs. Melbourne spoke in happy terms in response to a toast to "The Ladies," and Skipper Bob Rouch was likewise heard to advantage in his response to a toast to "The Skippers," Norm. Fraser, Sim. Jacobs, Lemon Allchin, Harry Hooper, Bob Rouch, Joe Tully and Rupert Hayes. Vocal items by Mr. Madden—to his own accompanying, elocution by Bill Clifton, and music by Comedian Hodge Power were also features of this very happy evening.

The blinded men played matches against the following: Merbien, Red Cliffs, Mildura, Workingmen's, Wentworth (over the River), Sunraysia and Irymple. The B.S. lost in the majority of cases above mentioned, but claim that they gained much in fellowship and experience.

The men displaying best ability were: Gabe Aarons (as usual), Eric Drew, Elmer Glew, Tom Melbourne, Fred Kilby, Hodge Power, Charlie Daw, Jack Urquhart, B. Gibson, and the "baby" of the team, Bill Gray, who is still under thirty.

The members of the party, who enjoyed the programme throughout, journeyed back, to arrive in Melbourne on the morning of October 27th—a grand week.

A. F. McCONNELL, P.C.

War-Disabled Exhibition

"Dickie" Brett represented St. Dunstan's this year at the annual War-Disabled Exhibition and Sale of Work in London, and his work caused great interest among the many visitors, among whom were Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Dickie is handless but he makes first-rate letter-racks and they had a quick sale.

Group Captain Douglas Bader, D.S.O., D.S.C., the famous airman who continued to fly after he had lost both legs, opened the Exhibition.

Double Celebration

Our old friend, George Fallowfield, moved to a new house earlier in the year and one of the highlights of the Deaf-Blind Reunion, as those who took part will well remember, was a surprise visit there.

The day chosen also happened to be Mrs. Fallowfield's birthday, and we have heard from a number of the guests who were there that George and his wife made it a grand joint celebration of her birthday and a wonderful "house-warmer."

One of the First?

In a recent letter, E. A. Steel, of Croydon, writes:

"Time goes on and it hardly seems possible that I have been a subscriber to the Braille Library since 1918, and I still enjoy reading Braille very much. It has always been a source of pleasure to me to be able to get the books, and this in spite of the Talking Book."

Young St. Dunstaners

Arthur Bell, of Birkenhead, has gained his A.M.I.Mech.E. after five years' hard work. His brother, Cedric, is Acting Second Engineer.

R. J. Vowles' little daughter, Leslie, has won the Bronze and Silver medals of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, the medal for the highest aggregate of marks—Stage Junior—in the All England Sunshine Dancing Competitions, 1954, and first prize in the Tap-Dancing section at the Gosport Festival, 1954.

Marriages

On October 9th, Monica Durkin (Orpington) to Captain C. D. B. Lison. The Rev. Father P. G. Howell (late of St. Dunstan's), who married the bride's parents in 1920, officiated.

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Hannah Mary Lund (West Hartlepool) to John Arthur Turnbull, R.N.

Personal

Our deep sympathy should have been extended last month to Mrs. McVey and her daughter in the death of our St. Dunstaner. Mrs. McVey writes: "He was wonderfully looked after and I would like it mentioned how good Matron and staff were to him."

Mrs. C. E. Porter asks us to correct the notice of her husband's death, which appeared in last month's REVIEW. He was 58, and his regiment was the 2-5th King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment (not the Liverpools, as our records show).

The sons and daughter of the late P. H. French, of Brighton, express their deepest thanks for the kindness and sympathy shown while he was in St. Dunstan's care.

Grandfathers

B. Lammiman, of Skegness; J. Butler, Co. Wexford (twin girls for Nancy); H. Pollitt, of Bolton; G. Power, of Filton, Bristol (for the fourth time); E. E. Bryer, of Yate, near

[continued overleaf

“ In Memory ”

Private William John Burnett, 10th Devonshire Regt. and Labour Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. J. Burnett, of Whipton, Exeter. He was 76. Coming to St. Dunstan's in January, 1918, he trained as a boot-repairer and mat-maker. He continued with this work for some time but ill-health eventually forced him to give up. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his two children, and to his grand-daughter and her family, with whom he had lived since his wife's death.

Gunner Percy Henry French, Royal Field Artillery

We have to record with deep regret the death of P. H. French, of Brighton, at the age of 77. He came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1936, as a result of the delayed action of mustard gas. His health had been poor for many years, but he trained as a netter and he continued with this work up to a few years ago. He was a widower and our deep sympathy is offered to his family and in particular to Mary, his daughter, who had looked after him.

Private Thomas Allen, 6th Yorkshire Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of T. Allen, of South Hetton, Co. Durham, at the age of 72. Enlisting in 1914, he was wounded on the Somme at the end of 1916, and came to St. Dunstan's early the following year. He trained in boot-repairing, mat-making, and netting. During the last few years, however, his health had deteriorated and for some months he had been seriously ill. Among those present at the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Carter, and Mr. and Mrs. Roach, St. Dunstaners living in Darlington. Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and family.

Private Wilton Holmes Bedford, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

We record with deep regret the death of W. H. Bedford, of Millhouses, Sheffield, known to his deaf-blind friends, and to many other St. Dunstaners, as “Deafy Bedford.” He was 54. He enlisted in 1915 and was discharged in 1919 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1925, when he trained in boot-repairing and mat-making. He had been a sick man for some time but nevertheless his death was unexpected. At the funeral, Bugler Revitt, an old comrade of “Deafy's,” sounded the Last Post and Reveille. Our very sincere sympathy goes out to his orphan daughter, Annabella.

Bristol (a third grandson); W. Nichols, of Colindale; H. Meckin, of Workington; Eileen, the step-daughter of J. H. Dalton, of Middlesbrough, has given birth to a son; T. ap Rhys, of Bangor (the first grand-son); H. Best, of Bournemouth; H. F. Southgate, of Chelsea; V. Wicken, of Wolverhampton; R. Humble, of Howdon-on-Tyne (for the seventh time); and J. W. Kerr, of Widnes (for the twenty-first time).

Birth

KIRKPATRICK.—On October 20th, to the wife of W. Kirkpatrick, of South Yardley, Birmingham, a daughter—Sharon Lucretia.

Marriage

TEMPLE.—On October 2nd, B. Temple, of Tonbridge.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

CHISHOLM.—To G. Chisholm, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, who has recently lost his mother.

DODGSON.—To A. Dodgson, of Wimbleton, whose mother died on August 27th.

KIRKMAN.—To W. Kirkman, of Thorpe Bay, whose step-mother, who had lived with Mr. and Mrs. Kirkman for forty years, has recently died.

SMITH.—To C. H. Smith, of Bury St. Edmunds, who has suffered the loss of another sister.

SMITH.—To W. Smith, of Wanstead, who has sustained the grievous loss of his wife and son within a few days of each other. The funeral will be a double one. The son leaves a widow and family, who had lived with our St. Dunstaner. Our sympathy goes out to them all.

Mr. A. G. Brown

Those St. Dunstaners who were keen sportsmen in the early days will hear with regret of the death of Mr. Arthur Gordon Brown, who for years acted as a walking escort and took part in the first London to Brighton Walk in 1922, when he escorted Sammy Webster.