

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

“GETTING THINGS RIGHT WITH GOD”

THE Rev. Geoffrey Treglown was blinded on a battle course when a stick of gelignite fell among the students and he picked it up and threw it out of the way. He saved others but lost his sight and one hand. He returned to his job as a Minister of the Methodist Church and has distinguished himself by a number of most moving broadcasts in the popular “Silver Lining” programme. One of these broadcasts struck me as being in its delivery and material among the best I have ever heard, and I have asked the Editor to print the essence of it as I think it well worthy to go on record, and that it will be of interest to many of our readers.

I. F.

“I don't think you can make hard and fast rules about the acceptance of disability. Some people find it relatively easy, and others don't. The other day I heard about a boy in his teens who'd become blind and stone deaf as the result of an illness. I wrote to him in Braille, asking him to let me know the great problems which he must be facing. To my astonishment, he replied that he couldn't think of any, except that it was very difficult to get employment. He'd learnt Braille, and the manual alphabet for the deaf-blind. He was studying languages. He was attending a youth club and a church. He really didn't feel that his life was greatly different from what it had been before. Well, this shook me considerably. Here was someone I'd expected to be in the depths of despair, and instead he had achieved a healthy and almost casual acceptance in next to no time.

It reminded me of a friend of mine at St. Dunstan's who quietly remarked to a well-meaning but sentimental sympathiser, “There's nothing romantic about blindness; it's just a damned nuisance.”

But we're not all blessed with healthy, matter of fact temperaments like that. Some of us take years to accept a disability and adjust ourselves to it. Why is this? One reason is that we can't completely accept a disability until we get things right with God.

Perhaps some of you listening now have never really accepted your disabilities because when you received them you turned against God. You may not have renounced God, or cursed Him, but perhaps you turned your back on Him. I remember that Voltaire once raised his hat to a religious procession, much to the surprise of a friend, who said: “What! Are you reconciled with God?” Voltaire replied “We salute, but we do not speak.” That's how many people act towards God when they've met calamity; they salute, but they don't speak. Years ago they cut God dead, and they've gone on sulking ever since.

But the only thing to do about sulking is to stop. And the only thing to do if you've cut someone dead is to start speaking to him again. The Bible says “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

This forgiveness brings a right relationship with God, and makes possible the complete acceptance of a disability.

And now I want to mention a very different cause of delay in accepting a disability. Some listeners have told me that for years they've been praying for divine healing. They try to generate more and more faith; sometimes they visit faith-healers. Yet healing doesn't come. Why? Well, I don't know, for I too believe in the power of God to heal. I also know from personal experience the strain and anxiety of years spent in praying for healing, and in seeking it from doctors and less orthodox healers. In the end, I saw that this constant search was making me very self-centred, and was delaying a real acceptance of my disability. Because I went on praying for sight, I wasn't able to accept blindness, or adjust myself to it, or overcome it. In the end, I decided to copy St. Paul, who prayed just three times that his thorn in the flesh might be removed, and then accepted the divine assurance "My grace is sufficient for thee." I prayed once and for all for healing, and when it didn't come I accepted God's help and got on with the job of living. I want to commend Paul's way to you. Let me say emphatically that I believe in God's healing power which comes to us through prayer, through the surgeon's knife, and through the laying-on of hands. But the fact is that not everybody is healed, however deep their faith and long their prayers. Some have to accept a cross, as Jesus did. I know the Bible teaches the value of prayer, but I don't believe that God wants you to go on all your life centring your thoughts on your own troubles. I believe He may want you to take your burden to Him, once and for all, and leave it there. Then, if you're healed, well, give thanks to God. And if you're not, accept the position, and get on in His strength with the adjustment and the victory.

"That's all very well," says a listener, "but what use is my life to anybody? I can't walk, or even wash myself. I'm just a burden on other people. Oh yes, I know you're blind, but you can go out, and do your work, and talk to people on the wireless. If I stopped praying for healing, what could I do with my life? Am I to lie here in the prison walls of my bedroom, just saying 'Thy will be done'?" No. God knows how I'd react if I were in your plight, but I think I know how I *ought* to react. That bedroom of yours—has it *got* to be a prison? Couldn't it be a chapel? You know, there's a terrible need at the moment for people who give up their lives to a ministry of prayer—not prayer for themselves, but for others. Don't imagine that the only people who matter are those who are always busy, always manufacturing or selling or organising. They also serve who can only lie on their backs and pray. That is, pray deliberately, constantly, systematically, for the world. If we didn't spend so much time praying for our own healing, we might transform the world by intercession. We could join the religious Order of the Shut-Ins. We could turn our bedrooms into monastic cells. We could turn our crippled hands into praying hands. We could become priests of God."

In Memory of Sir Arthur

The annual Memorial Service to our Founder, the late Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., was held on Sunday, December 11th, at the Ovingdean Chapel. It was very well attended by men staying at Ovingdean and at West House, and a number of St. Dunstaners living in the Brighton district.

The Service was conducted by Canon W. G. Speight (St. Dunstaner) and the Rev. W. J. Taylor (Padre to the Ovingdean and West House Homes), and the Lesson, which was from I Corinthians xiii, was read by Sir Neville Pearson.

On the morning of December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, three St. Dunstaners, Messrs. L. Cadman, M.

Doyle and A. Smith, went with Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, and Mr. T. Watson to Hampstead Cemetery, where a wreath was placed on Sir Arthur's grave on behalf of St. Dunstaners all over the world.

Presented to the Duke

When H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh visited Cumberland recently, our St. Dunstaner, W. P. Kelly, of Workington, was presented to him while he was working at his machine at the Electroflo factory. The Duke stopped by the machine, shook hands with Bill and chatted to him about himself and St. Dunstan's. There were subsequently two splendid photographs in the local newspaper.

London Club Notes

Bridge

The following are the results of the Bridge Congress held at Ovingdean during the week-end of November 19th, 1955:

Teams of Four (Sir Arthur Pearson Cup):

G. P. Brown, J. Fleming, M. Delaney, G. Andrews	plus 2780	Winners
J. Douglass, A. Wiltshire, E. Carpenter, F. Rhodes	plus 2430	2nd
A. G. Fisher, B. Ingrey, F. Winter, C. Thompson	plus 1840	3rd

Pairs Championships:

H. Gover, W. Shakspeare	89	Winners
C. Bulman, L. Caudle	79	Runners-up

Other Results:

Bridge Drive (Sunday morning):

A. Wiltshire, J. Douglass	1st
W. Collins, C. H. Van Niekerk	2nd
C. Kelk and partner	3rd

Bridge Drive (Sunday evening):

A. Wiltshire, J. Douglass	1st
W. Collins, C. H. Van Niekerk	2nd
A. G. Fisher, B. Ingrey	3rd

We all regretted the unavoidable absence of Paul Nuyens and Joe Walch.

Congratulations to Jock Brown and Tiny Fleming on being in the winning Four two years running, and to Alf. Wiltshire and J. Douglass on their good Congress.

The week-end was a great success and at the end Drummer Downs presented a bouquet to Matron in the inimitable Drummer style, saying "thank you" to all who had contributed to it.

A. E. FIELD.

In the London Business Houses League our team have now played seven matches and won six.

Indoor Section

The results of the Sir Arthur Pearson Indoor Competitions for 1955 are as follows:—

Cribbage—Winner, A. Carrick; Runner-up, G. P. Brown.

Dominoes—Winner, S. Webster; Runner-up, F. Winter.

Darts (T.B.)—Winner, W. Lacey; Runner-up, G. P. Brown.

Darts (S.S.)—Winner, W. Bishop; Runner-up, R. Edwards.

Whist (Aggregate)—Winner, W. Bishop, total score 486. C. J. W.

Outdoor Section

Seven Miles Championship Walk at Regent's Park.

To avoid switching from long distances to short and back again to long in the season, we held our St. Dunstan's All England 7 mile Championship in Regent's Park on November 19th.

Although this race is called "All England" and is meant to be a national event, only seven members of the London Club competed. With such a small number of entrants there was not much competition, and the championship spirit was almost non-existent, consequently no one was really able to give of his best and times were generally slow.

As one might have expected under the circumstances, there was no dark horse about, and so Billy Miller finished 1st with Charles Williamson 2nd and Archie Brown 3rd.

Tommy Gaygan, among the prize-winners again, won the handicap with Stan Tutton 2nd and Charles Williamson 3rd. W. M.

St. Dunstan's 7-mile Championship Walk and Scaled Handicap

Saturday, November 19th, 1955, in Regent's Park

Order of Finish	Time	H'cp. All.	H'cp. All. in H'cp.	Pos.
1. W. Miller ...	64:21	Sc.	64:21	4
2. C. Williamson ...	65:18	1:00	64:18	3
3. A. Brown ...	66:00	1:35	64:25	5
4. T. Gaygan ...	67:36	5:00	62:36	1
5. S. Tutton ...	69:24	6:35	62:49	2
6. L. Dennis ...	72:25	4:05	68:20	6
7. C. Stafford	Did not finish		

Championship Result: 1. W. Miller.
2. C. Williamson.
3. A. Brown.

Handicap Result: 1. T. Gaygan.
2. S. Tutton.
3. C. Williamson.

Another College Reunion

It is proposed to hold the fourth College Reunion at Bedford College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, on Saturday, April 21st, 1956.

The cost will be 15s. for lunch and tea. If you are interested will you please let me know without delay. It rests entirely with you. W. T. SCOTT.

46 Leigham Avenue, S.W.16.

London Bus Passes

Will any St. Dunstaner holding a London Transport bus pass who has not yet been advised of its renewal get in touch with Headquarters. St. Dunstan's officers should contact Miss Barnard at 1 South Audley Street.

Plum Pudding at Midsummer Christmas Messages from all over the World

Lady Fraser and I expected to be in Australia and New Zealand at Christmas-tide. We had looked forward with intense pleasure to meeting St. Dunstaners and their families, and were most grateful to them for the welcome they were preparing for us. Then I became indisposed and went into hospital for examination, and a successful operation followed. After taking it easy for a few weeks, I shall be fully restored to health again.

We shall be spending Christmas in our home in London, and my daughter and son-in-law, Jean and Anthony McDonald, and their three children, will be with us on Christmas Day. We will think of St. Dunstaners and their children and grandchildren all the world over and wish them good luck.

By the New Year my wife and I will be at sea on our way to South Africa. This seems a sudden switch from one side of the world to the other, but there is a good reason for it. My Australian and New Zealand trip is not abandoned, but postponed. There is no time for it now nor am I yet quite strong enough, for it was to be a strenuous tour, involving very full programmes and long flights. On the other hand, the journey to South Africa is an easy one, and a very good health trip.

We wish St. Dunstaners everywhere a happy New Year.

IAN FRASER.

★ ★ ★

We pause in the hurly burly of preparations for the festivities to come, to send to all St. Dunstaners, wherever they may be, greetings and good wishes from the Commandant, Matrons and Staff of the Brighton Homes. A very happy Christmas and New Year to each one of you.

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To all St. Dunstaners and their families, wherever they may be, a Merry Christmas, good health, good luck, and happiness for the New Year.

S. WEBSTER.

★ ★ ★

Greetings to all our fellow St. Dunstaners wherever they may be for a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year, from the members of the Liverpool Club.

T. MILNER.

The Birmingham Club wishes all St. Dunstaners at home and abroad a Merry

Christmas and a very happy New Year. We would also like to thank all those who have sent kind greetings to us.

The Club has had a happy year, meeting as usual at the Red Cross Headquarters, which we particularly enjoyed this summer as our fine weather allowed us to make use of the attractive terrace garden there.

We are now looking forward to our children's Christmas party, which is sure to be a very happy day. I am sure they would join with us in wishing you, and your children, a Merry Christmas.

NAISI GORDON.

★ ★ ★

The Cardiff Club has now been established for one year, and we are holding our Christmas party as a double celebration on December 17th. All members attend our monthly meetings with commendable regularity and enthusiasm, and as the weeks go by our activities become progressively more varied and interesting.

We send our best wishes to all St. Dunstaners, their wives and families, and to St. Dunstan's staff for a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

A. CARTWRIGHT.

★ ★ ★

Seasonal greetings to all St. Dunstaners from the Brighton Club. Please make a note that the Club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting is on January 12th, 1956, by which date all entries for the Sir Arthur Pearson games competitions should reach me.

FRANK A. RHODES.

★ ★ ★

The great flood of seasonal goodwill is already flowing and it will be reaching its peak, and our preparations for feasting and merry-making will be almost complete when these lines reach our fellow St. Dunstaners.

Meanwhile, we must be sure that our expressions of friendship and goodwill are not belated, and so we who meet regularly in Manchester as a Club of St. Dunstaners' take this opportunity of extending to all St. Dunstaners, their families and friends, our heartiest good wishes for a very happy Christmas. Our very good wishes are also extended to those who direct the good work of St. Dunstan's, to all members of the staff who minister to us so faithfully, and to those who serve us voluntarily with such care and understanding.

J. SHAW.

In the true family spirit we send greetings from St. Dunstan's, South Africa, to our blinded comrades in all parts of the Commonwealth, and to all those whose patient hard work throughout the past forty years has built up this wonderful organisation.

Although we live in a hot southern climate and have no snow or holly, we do have Christmas pudding and share the same Christmas spirit as our blinded comrades all over the world, and our fervent hope is for Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all men.

From South Africa we say " 'n Geseende Kersfees en 'n Gelukkige Nieuwe Jaar."

JAMES E. ELLIS.

★ ★ ★

Australian blinded soldiers and their families send warmest greetings to all St. Dunstaners and their families for a very happy and holy Christmas. They hope that the prayers of all beseech Almighty God to bless the world and people with peace, contentment and love, so that understanding and goodwill may reign supreme for the survival of mankind.

P. J. LYNCH.

★ ★ ★

Greetings from New Zealand! As I write these lines, our premises are a hive of activity. Staff and ex-trainees are busy decorating the building for the Christmas Party we hold every year for trainees, their wives and families. But Christmas here is very different from an English Christmas. It is summer, the weather is usually hot, and the quantity of ice cream and cold drinks consumed by the children is considerable. All of which serves to emphasise the social side of our activities and the friendly atmosphere which we endeavour to create.

W. H. COCKER.

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On behalf of Canadian St. Dunstaners I extend heartiest best wishes for a joyful Christmas and a most encouraging New Year to fellow St. Dunstaners.

I have never ceased to be grateful for my first meeting with Sir Arthur Pearson forty years ago, for the inspiration and benefits derived from St. Dunstan's training, and the loyalty of St. Dunstaners everywhere.

We all extend our undying gratitude and best wishes to the Directors, staff and workers of St. Dunstan's for this Christmas and the future.

E. A. BAKER.

Legion Deputation to Minister of Pensions

The Minister of Pensions and National Insurance, Mr. Osbert Peake, on November 30th received a deputation of nine Officers of the British Legion, which was introduced by Sir Ian Fraser, the President.

The deputation, under the leadership of the National Chairman, Captain Hampson, gave the Minister full information about the scope and present phase of the Legion's campaign for an increase in the basic rate of war pensions. They explained in detail why the Legion considered that the basic rate of pension for 100 per cent. disabled men should be raised to at least 90s. a week, with proportional increases for the lower ranges of assessment; they pressed also for substantial increases in the pensions for war widows.

Other points put to the Minister were improvements in the supplementary allowances, the machinery for rights of appeal, and improvements in the disregards used in computing means under various Government schemes.

The Minister received the deputation most sympathetically and promised to bring the representations to his colleagues in the Government.

Stores and Sales Department Retirements

St. Dunstan's Stores and Sales Department is losing, through retirement, three of its oldest members.

Mr. J. Sherratt, Basket Instructor for thirty-seven years, retires at the end of December. Through his regular visits to basket-makers over a wide area, Mr. Sherratt has been not only their instructor but the personal friend of many of them. His kind and understanding manner has endeared him to all.

Another member of the Basket Department, Mr. F. Baker, retires at the same time after thirty years' service. A skilled craftsman himself, he has in recent years been concerned in the sending out of raw materials for our basket makers.

Mr. W. Ruggles, a skilled mat-maker, retires on January 31st after thirty-four years' service with the Mat Department, where he has been responsible for the inspection of finished mats.

Their St. Dunstan's friends everywhere will wish them all the very best of luck in their retirement.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I am surprised that some of your correspondents have criticised certain authors for their choice of blind characters in their various works, and it seems most unfair to accuse these authors of not knowing their subject merely because they have failed to portray the kind of blind persons your correspondents would have liked to find. It must be remembered that a work of fiction is not a scientific treatise, nor is it a documentary, so the fiction writer is not obliged to present every aspect of the achievements of the blind, nor is he under any obligation to portray what has been termed a "normal" or typical blind person, even assuming such a person could be defined. The fiction writer knows that blindness overtakes people of all ages and of all intellects, of all temperaments, and in all walks of life, so he may choose at will without laying himself open to criticism; and as he is writing fiction he is entitled to create a superman blind character. The superman hero has long been a great favourite in fiction, whether he appears in books, films, or on radio, achieving things that in real life would be regarded as practically impossible, but his place in fiction is well established and one has only to think of such names as the Scarlet Pimpernel, The Saint, Dick Barton, and a host of other heroes who have earned fame and fortune for their creators and given immense pleasure and thrills to millions. One has only to recall such as these and then ask oneself—if a sighted superman is acceptable, performing the well-nigh impossible, why not a superman blind hero, doing in a superman way the things that the blind try to do? I see no valid reason for accepting the one and rejecting the other.

Your correspondent, Mr. Martin, has missed the point in the matter of the stick-tapping by the blind character in the Somerset Maugham radio play, "For Services Rendered." The stick tapping was not to suggest that the blind man did in fact tap his way round his own house; it was employed by the producer to ensure that listeners should be constantly reminded that a particular character was blind. We get a parallel example of this technique in the radio version of the stage play, "Night Must Fall," in which the principal character spends her waking hours in an invalid chair; this chair is represented by squeaky

and rattling wheel noises to keep the listener reminded of its occupant. I readily accept Somerset Maugham's blind man as being a very likely example of the blinded man who has not had the advantages of training and rehabilitation. In fact, I will go so far as to assert that any St. Dunstaner who refuses to accept him fails to realise what a debt he owes to St. Dunstan's for saving him from a possible similar fate, "a burden to himself and to everyone else," to quote Mr. Martin. Surely it was because he had foreseen such possible consequences that Sir Arthur Pearson was motivated to found St. Dunstan's. Let us not criticise Somerset Maugham, but rather ponder his blind man, and then we might well paraphrase St. Paul and say "There, but for the inspiration of Sir Arthur, go I."

Yours sincerely,

Teignmouth.

THOMAS FLOYD.

DEAR EDITOR,

The most interesting book read to me on blindness was, I think, "My eyes have a cold nose." It was sincerely written and, to my mind, the writer had written it from the realistic point of view, after he had regained his balance and was able—figuratively speaking—to stand and review what had happened, what he had done and where he was going.

I think we can all help to make T.V. or sound radio plays more realistic if we take the trouble to write to the producers and comment, in a friendly, constructive way, on the play we have heard. When I say "friendly and constructive," that is precisely what I mean. I wrote a letter some time ago about a short story on the Light Programme. In reply I had a three-page letter, closely typed, from the producer. He was frank enough to admit he was ignorant of the procedure of blinded Service people, and thanked me for setting out my comments in a constructive and not a critically destructive manner.

Many of us know we can write a book or play about a blind person which would be authentically true and right and of interest to others. I have had the synopsis of a play about a blind woman clear in my mind for nearly four years. One day I will put it on paper, but what chance do I, or any others of us, have of getting our writings reviewed?

Yours sincerely,

MAUREEN LEES, Birkenhead.

(We know of certain literary agencies which are always ready to consider MSS.—ED.)

Elected Chairman of Governors

Congratulations to H. White, of Stalybridge, who, on September 2nd was elected Chairman of the Governors of the two Secondary Modern Schools in Stalybridge.

Mr. White writes:—

"These schools, the Stalybridge Girls' Central School, and the West Hill Boys' School, each cater for approximately 400 scholars. Incidentally I was one of the original intake into the boys' school when it opened, and the first School Captain. I am also the first former pupil to be elected to the Governors, and now to the Chairman's office.

On September 26th I took the chair at the West Hill School Annual Speech Day, and the guest speaker was the Rev. Wilfred Garlick, Vicar of St. George's, Stockport, known in B.B.C. circles as the Radio Padre.

It really is amazing the people one meets in educational conferences, etc., and I am enjoying the work immensely."

To ex-Japanese Prisoners of War

Ex-Japanese prisoners-of-war and internees are reminded by the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance that the final closing date for claims for a share of the money released from Japanese assets in this country is March 31st, 1956. Claimants who have already benefited from distributions will automatically participate in any final share-out which may take place, but others should write as soon as possible to the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, Thames House South, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

Christmas Competition

Here is a special competition for Christmas for which three prizes of ONE GUINEA are offered.

All St. Dunstaners are interested in football, and you are asked to find teams in the four English Divisions in whose names are hidden:

1. A number.
2. Part of the body.
3. A receptacle.
4. A number of people (on a platform perhaps!)
5. Cricket term.
6. Something that looks round.

The closing date is January 10th and the three prizes will go to the senders of the list in the Editor's possession. Entries to 1 South Audley Street, please. Good hunting, and a happy Christmas as well!

DEAR EDITOR,

Lacking courage and confidence, I am one of those weak wretches who will never venture a foot from the front door without clutching at my wife's arm. I envy those brave souls who put their trust in a guide dog and sally forth into the jungle of traffic, and I have nothing but awe-stricken admiration for such totally blind St. Dunstaners as Joe Daly, Vic Kennard, Jack Evans and Tom Milligan, who apparently forget they are without sight and, armed with a stick, go from place to place entirely alone and unescorted. If there can be such a thing as Victory over Blindness surely Joe Daly and company come very near to it.

Since reading the November REVIEW I have added another name to that illustrious list of day-to-day heroes. Robert Pringle's amazing account of his hitch-hiking journey to Italy deserved the close attention of all weak characters as myself, for as an example of courage and enterprise, I doubt whether it has been surpassed or even equalled during the forty years of St. Dunstan's history. Well done, Pringle!

Yours sincerely,

Liverpool.

GEORGE ELLIS.

Play the Game

*Let us play the game, folk,
That's what we are here to do;
When you are on the winning side
And on the losing, too.*

*Let's play the game and smile, folk,
And each give of their best;
No matter where they come from,
North, South, East or West.*

*Let's play the game and smile, folk,
Let friendship be the aim;
There'll be no room for quarrels
If we always play the game.*

*Let's play the game and smile, folk,
Be cheerful, honest, true;
And don't forget the other chap
Is entitled to his view.*

*Let's play the game and smile, folk,
When others rise to fame;
There's no need to reproach ourselves
If we've always played the game.*

*And when our task is ended,
It is finished, we proclaim;
We are sure to find peace of mind
For having played the game.*

Ovingdean.

E. VAUGHAN.

The Grocers' Christmas Party

Over four hundred people, mainly St. Dunstaners and their wives, were entertained by the Brighton and Hove Grocers' Association to dinner at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on November 30th.

Sir Ian Fraser, who was accompanied by Lady Fraser, was the guest of honour.

In proposing the toast of the Grocers' Association, Sir Ian thanked Mr. Harry Yates, President of the National Federation of Grocers' Association, for honouring St. Dunstan's by being present. It was the Grocers' Federation which had subscribed a large sum of money for West House in the early days of St. Dunstan's, and ever since then the Brighton and Hove District Association had arranged generous outings and dinners. This was the biggest ever.

Sir Ian particularly thanked Mr. R. Wilsher, President of the Brighton and Hove District Grocers' Association; Mr. L. Lutwyche, Chairman of the St. Dunstan's Entertainment Committee of the Grocers' Association, and Mr. H. Finlay for the very hard work they had done to interest their fellow grocers in the St. Dunstan's Entertainment Fund, and to organise such a magnificent evening. (Applause.)

Among those present were Mrs. Winter, Secretary of the Ladies' Social Committee of the Hastings Association, who arranged for a coach to bring St. Dunstaners in that area to the dinner, representatives from the Southampton, Portsmouth, Worthing, Eastbourne and Sydenham Associations, and the "Lady in White" (Mrs. P. B. Gibson), who is an active member of St. Dunstan's Committee in Durban, South Africa, and had been visiting Ovingdean that day.

The Grocers' "Do"

On November 30th, the Old Guard of St. Dunstan's Brigade, decked out in their No. 1's, formed "All Square" in the outer lounge of West House and, accompanied by Matron Avison and the V.A.D.s looking well groomed in their smart uniforms, boarded St. Dunstan's coach en route to the Grand Hotel, Brighton, to participate in the festivities at one of St. Dunstan's star-chipping events of the year. It was the evening of the Dinner-Dance given by the Grocers' Association. The vast dining hall was an expanse of glittering splendour; all seats were filled, and the place was crowded to the brim. The four-course dinner provided, with refreshment *ad lib*,

was a gastronomic beatitude. It would be redundant for me to say more than everyone enjoyed it and everybody was master of his desire. The buzz of conversation at the dining table was as merry as ever one could wish. When all the goodies had disappeared came the order, "Ladies and gentlemen, you may smoke." At this juncture came the post-prandial speeches by the executives of the Grocers' Association and Sir Ian Fraser, who were listened to with great interest. At the end of the "speechfire" it was on with the dance. No one required coaxing and in the proverbial "two ticks" the dance floor was zipping to the swish of the dancing pumps and to the lilting of popular dance tunes. Altogether a very gay, brilliant and exhilarating scene. Once again to the Grocers' Association thanks from A to Z for another great "Do." W. E. BROOKES.

Brighton Notes

During the latter part of November parties from Ovingdean and West House have joined with local St. Dunstaners to attend two very popular functions. The first, the Mrs. Pittman Dinner and Dance, the second the annual Christmas Party organised by the Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' Association. Both dinners were held at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, and both were much enjoyed.

The annual Memorial Service to St. Dunstan's Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., was held at Ovingdean Chapel on Sunday, December 11th, and was this year very well attended.

Our End of Term Christmas Dinner and Dance for the Trainees took place on the following evening, and we were very pleased indeed that Sir Neville and Lady Pearson were able to join us. After Dinner in the attractively decorated dining room, there was dancing in the lounge (also looking very gay) from 8—11 p.m. Sir Neville and Lady Pearson acted as judges for some of the dancing competitions before hurrying away to catch their train back to London. Thus we came to the last day of term, and on December 15th the trainees went home for their Christmas leave, and Ovingdean is busy getting ready for the influx of St. Dunstaners who will be coming to spend their Christmas here and arriving very soon now. As usual we shall have a Carnival Dance on Boxing Day (December 26th). Fancy dress is optional, but there will be prizes for the best costumes.

From All Quarters

J. Barley, of Scunthorpe, entered his Cairn terrier in a Dog Show on November 19th and took first prize—his first showing.

★ ★ ★

H. Watford, of Sevenoaks, and his wife organised a whist drive for St. Dunstan's which realised £26. Our St. Dunstaner has only recently come to us and, at the whist drive, he introduced another St. Dunstaner, L. Howell, of Haywards Heath, mentioning that it was forty years ago since they had both enlisted. Mr. Howell, however, had been a St. Dunstaner for 39 years.

★ ★ ★

Also talking about St. Dunstan's at a Whist Drive was J. J. Knight, of Romford, who, on November 24th, attended Collier Row Women's Co-operative Guild and spoke to its members.

★ ★ ★

The games and cards sent to E. L. Dickey, of Liverpool, nearly caused a riot in the home, young Linda insisting that they had been sent to her from Northgate House!

★ ★ ★

Marion Elias's sister Lilian, niece and nephew were involved in the tragic South Wales-Paddington train crash on November 20th, but fortunately all escaped injury.

★ ★ ★

Our sympathy to Timothy Parrish, of Thrapston, Northamptonshire, and Mrs. Parrish, who were in a car accident recently. The car, driven by Mrs. Parrish, was in collision with a lorry. Mr. Parrish suffered from shock and Mrs. Parrish broke her left wrist, but all in all they had a very lucky escape.

★ ★ ★

Front page publicity was given in the *Lytham St. Annes Express* on November 18th to Miss Vaughan-Davies' collection of six hundred elephants, the majority of them the gifts of St. Dunstaners and their children all over the country. Miss Vaughan Davies says that she is very proud of the collection, which brings back so many happy memories.

★ ★ ★

Maureen Lees recently visited the Isle of Man and Bill Christian made a special point of looking her up. Her visit included a talk to the Isle of Man Weavers' Guild, a spinning

lesson at Ramsey, the I. of M. Remembrance Service, and lessons in weaving for two blind and lame girls, who in turn showed Maureen how to use a sock knitting machine and flat knitting machine.

★ ★ ★

W. Alan Smith, of Huggate, Yorkshire, trained as a cabinet maker at St. Dunstan's three years ago, took up woodturning as a hobby. He works in oak bog, oak apple, maple, elm, mahogany and any fine wood he comes across. The local paper paid high tribute to his splendid craftsmanship in a recent issue.

★ ★ ★

A lady living in South Lancing has two budgerigars which she would like to offer to a St. Dunstaner living in that area. Will any St. Dunstaner interested send his name to Matron Ramshaw.

★ ★ ★

Alf Abram, of Reddish, Stockport, and Mrs. Abram, have been responsible, with a number of ladies in the district, for forming a new Social Club for older people. Mrs. Abram is hostess and she and her husband join in entertaining the members. Alf is one of the pianists and (he says in a whisper) has been known to do the Veleta.

★ ★ ★

F. Hawes, of Swindon, is a prominent member of the International Friendship League. He is Chairman of his Branch and has his own column in the county newspaper. He will present shortly the Leverkusen German Children's Choir to the people of Swindon and Malmesbury.

★ ★ ★

In the course of a most interesting letter from E. J. Turner, of Victoria, B.C., Canada, he writes:

"Charley Hornsby is going strong. He is Vice-President of our White Cane Club. He is a wizard at getting around on his own. Harris Turner I meet occasionally and often hear of his activities.

"We have just over 100 members in the Victoria Club, one of fifty clubs from coast to coast which make up the Canadian Council of the Blind. Once a month we have an Empire Information meeting. My job is to get a speaker for this occasion."

★ ★ ★

Miss Gordon wishes a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all St. Dunstaners and their families in the Northern Area.

News from New Zealand

With Christmas greetings comes the following message from Mr. W. H. Cocker, Director of New Zealand St. Dunstan's:

"There is now little actual training done at St. Dunstan's, New Zealand, because most of the men are either settled in occupations or have otherwise become adjusted to their changed circumstances. Many have had workshops or glasshouses provided for them, with necessary equipment, which enable them to fill in time usefully with hobby work, and in some cases to supplement their income.

"Most of the men are living in Auckland, where the Training School operated, but the others are spread throughout the Dominion, over a total distance of more than 1,000 miles. St. Dunstan's Headquarters keeps closely in touch with all of them and every man is visited each year.

"The organisation now concentrates on welfare work and much financial help is given from funds raised by the Commercial Travellers' & Warehousemen's Association Blinded Services Trust Fund Board.

"Many continue with the therapy work in which they have been instructed at St. Dunstan's, and the materials for this work are prepared and sent to them. The most popular hobbies are leather work and the making of moccasins; the men pay for the materials and the product is their own property.

"Although St. Dunstan's is concerned primarily with those who lost their sight in the Second World War and the Korean War, contact is kept with men of the First World War, including those who qualified in physiotherapy under the care of St. Dunstan's in London. All of these are now in practice and doing well.

"St. Dunstan's continues to prosper here and, as the men grow older, its services will no doubt be required more and more."

W. H. COCKER.

—And from Canada

DEAR FRIENDS,

Just a short note to send Christmas greetings from the Canadian group of V.A.D.'s. We often think of you, and when we get together you can be sure that we talk of England and our many friends there.

We are all fine and do manage to get together once in a while, but homes, families and jobs keep us pretty busy.

Helena Campbell Davies was home for Christmas last year, and her visit brought several "get togethers." We were up at Eleanor Shaw Johnson's a few weeks ago to see some coloured movies that another friend had taken on her trip to England last year. She even took some in Shrewsbury and made us all very homesick. Mary McKay, Bicky Proctor Mains and I were there. Morna Barclay Petrie was in town a few weeks ago, but we did not see her as it was a business trip with her husband and a very busy one. We are hoping to see Margaret Blackmore McClure next year at our Overseas Club re-union in Ottawa. Margaret lives there and has two dear little boys.

Can it be ten years since the war ended? Hardly seems possible that time has gone so quickly. When you look ahead it seems like a century, but when you look back it seems like yesterday.

How we would like to drop in for tea with you, and wouldn't it be nice if we could? We do send you our very best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and all the best in the New Year.

As ever,

VERNA RITCHIE (Johnson).

Golden Wedding

We have only just heard that Mr. and Mrs. J. Kelleher, of Curranabraher, Eire, celebrated their Golden Wedding in July, 1954. Our congratulations, belated as they are, are very warm.

Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. E. Carpenter, King's Langley, December 7th; Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Cooke, Yardley Wood, Birmingham, December 4th. Congratulations.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations, too, on their Silver Wedding, to Mr. and Mrs. W. Hare, Cheltenham, November 25th; Mr. and Mrs. F. Cunliffe, of Chorley, December 6th; and Mr. and Mrs. F. R. ("Johnnie") Walker, Portslade, Brighton, December 26th.

Grandfathers

A. W. Snook, of Barnstaple (a second grandson); E. J. Burley, Stithians, near Truro (third grandchild, first grandson); G. Moore, Blackpool (Beryl has had a son prematurely, but both doing well); G. H. Thomas, Shirley, Birmingham (Lucy has a son); A. C. Brignall, Brighton (another grandson).

Young St. Dunstaners

Josephine Broomfield, New Haw, Surrey, has won two Shields—one the Chertsey Convent School Tennis Trophy (Singles) and the other for the Highest Individual Sports Aggregate for 1955.

Lavinia Young is now a qualified State Registered Mental Nurse.

Pat Stanway, Morecambe, has passed a further dancing examination with credit.

Susan Tutton, West Hounslow, at the Music and Drama Festival, won a certificate for singing. She gained 79 points.

Marriage

On October 15th, Harry Lawlor, Leamore, Staffs, to Winifred Morgan.

Contributed

Police Constable of the old days to man leaning against a railing: "What are you doing there?"

Loafer: "Nuffin."

P.C.: "Well, clear hoff. If everybody stood in one place, how would the others git by?"

F. W. WILKINS, *Southsea.*

A Litter-ary Effort

The "Com" is really bitter, 'cos there's such a lot of litter

That is thrown down every day upon the floor.

Fag-ends and paper packets, tickets for dubious rackets,

In a quarter weigh four-hundredweight or more.

Such carelessness he really can't ignore.

Though T.B. or Semi-sighted, your future will be blighted

If you throw your ash or paper on The Deck,

You must use the trays provided, or else, it's been decided,

You'll go out by the front door on your neck.

And it really won't be pleasant. No! by heck!

CHARLIE KELK.

Placement

Vera Kemmish as a telephonist with Messrs. Gray, Hodge, Ltd., London, E.7.

★ ★ ★

The Japanese Welfare Ministry recently announced that there are about 102,587 blind people in Japan, and nearly half of them are making a living as masseurs. One-quarter are farmers.

Births

LINACRE.—On November 19th, to the wife of M. Linacre, a son.

WILLIAMSON.—On November 20th, to the wife of C. Williamson, of Norbury, a son—Ian Stuart.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

BRIDGMAN—To Mr. and Mrs. H. Bridgman, of Derby, whose only son has died after an illness lasting only four days. He leaves a wife and two tiny children.

CRANE—To H. Crane, of Thornton Heath, whose brother, with whom he lived with his sister-in-law, has died.

HAYES—To A. Hayes, of Nottingham, whose brother has recently died.

LORAM—To S. Loram, of Brixham, Devon, whose mother died on November 23rd after a long and painful illness, at the age of 83.

LUCAS—To W. Lucas, of Tenterden, Kent, whose wife died in hospital on Nov. 29th.

NUYENS—To Paul Nuyens, of London, N.W.8, whose mother died on Nov. 19th, while on a visit to Holland. She was 86.

STAMP—To Mr. and Mrs. W. Stamp, of Grimsby, whose son-in-law died on December 2nd. He was in a London hospital for a long time and will be known to a number of St. Dunstaners here.

TURRELL—To A. Turrell, of Clacton, in the loss of a very dear aunt.

WATKINS—To W. Watkins, of Sidcup, whose wife died on December 1st.

JOYCE—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Joyce, of Dublin, whose little grand-daughter, aged five, died tragically from burns after playing with the gas oven while her mother was away.

Mr. Bill Pilch

Those who remember him in the very early days of St. Dunstan's, and those who have known him in more recent years as "Drummer's Bill," will hear with regret of the death of Bill Pilch. He had served St. Dunstan's—and particularly Drummer Downs—very loyally and conscientiously for many years.

Mr. Bert Price, of St. Dunstan's Appeals Department, attended the funeral at St. Pancras Cemetery. Drummer was prevented from attending as he was at Ovingdean.

“ In Memory ”

Corporal Charles Ernest Maker, *Royal Army Veterinary Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of C. E. Maker, of Horrabridge, Devon, at the age of 73.

Losing his sight as the result of mustard gas in the 1914-18 war, he came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1920, and trained as a basket-maker, and he carried on with this work until the end of 1949 when ill-health forced him to give up. He had suffered a great deal in the last few years and on November 17th he was admitted to hospital in Plymouth for an emergency operation, but he died there four days later.

At the funeral at Horrabridge on November 26th, the coffin was covered with the Union Jack and was borne by six members of the Yelverton Branch of the British Legion. Buglers of the 1st Bn. Somerset Light Infantry sounded the Last Post. St. Dunstan's was represented by St. Dunstaners S. Game, of Lydford, and F. Mills, of Tavistock, with Mrs. Game and Mrs. Mills, and Mrs. C. B. Hollins (Sister Stacey). Representatives of Toc H were also present.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Maker and to the other members of his family.

Private John Louis Alcott, *South Staffordshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. L. Alcott, of Shoreham-by-Sea, who died on November 26th at the age of 65.

He came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1934, and trained as a basket-maker, but was forced to give this up some years later owing to his failing health. This had deteriorated greatly in recent years and he was admitted to hospital on November 26th, but he died there in the evening.

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

Sapper Richard Victor Ham, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we record the death of R. V. Ham, of Penrhiwceiber, South Wales.

Although he served from March, 1916, until September, 1919, he did not come under our care until 1951, when he was already a very sick man. In addition to his loss of sight, his right arm was also seriously wounded. He did not take any serious training. He was recently admitted to hospital but he died there on November 20th following an operation.

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

Private Harry Alfred Simpson, *Royal Engineers*

We record with deep regret the death of H. A. Simpson, of New Edlington, near Doncaster.

“Daddy” Simpson, as he was known, was eighty-three. He served in the First World War but did not come to us until 1931. He was nearing sixty then, but he became interested in poultry-keeping and also worked for the Netting Room. As his health had been worsening, he came to us for a long holiday but he died at West House on December 4th. At his expressed wish he was buried with his wife in the family grave, St. Dunstan's wreath accompanying the coffin on its journey north.

Our very sincere sympathy is offered to his family.

Rifleman George William Lovett, *King's Royal Rifles*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. W. Lovett, of Enfield, Middlesex. He was sixty-four.

Coming to St. Dunstan's in June, 1916, he trained first as a boot repairer; later he had a small country life settlement, but later this too had to be given up for netting, at which he worked until his sudden death on December 6th. To his widow and grown-up family our deep sympathy is extended.

Private John Spinks, *King's Shropshire Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death of J. Spinks, of Ashton-under-Lyne.

Enlisting in September, 1914, he was wounded at Ypres and came to us in November, 1915. He trained as a mat-maker and boot-repairer, but his indifferent health forbade anything other than light work for a very long time. He died at his home on December 2nd.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Private William Henry Hamer, M.M., *King's Liverpool Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. H. Hamer, who for some time had been a permanent resident at West House.

He suffered greatly for many years as a result of gassing in the First World War and he came to us in 1947. He had been with us at West House for a considerable period when he expressed a great desire to go to his brother. This we arranged for him on December 7th, but he died at his brother's home the following day.

To his brother and sister-in-law our very sincere sympathy is offered.

Ferdinand Kayne, *2nd South African Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death of Ferdinand Kayne, of Durban, South Africa, whom many will remember when he was in England for a considerable time from 1932.

He trained with us as a telephonist and also had a small shop in this country before he returned to South Africa in 1948. Since then we had heard little news from him.

He died suddenly on November 25th, leaving a widow and child, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

G. Scott, *Australian Forces*

We have only recently heard with deep regret of the death of G. Scott, of Sydney, N.S.W., Australia, which occurred in February. He did not come to St. Dunstan's for training, although we would hear from him at Christmas-time. Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow.