

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## Member of St. Dunstan's Council Honoured

COLONEL the Hon. J. J. Astor, who was one of the very first members of St. Dunstan's Council, received a Barony in the New Year Honours. Colonel Astor, who joined our Council in 1923, is chairman of The Times Publishing Company and is widely known as a generous benefactor to many good causes. In the early days of the 1939-45 war, he was chairman of St. Dunstan's Research Advisory Committee, which was set up to find new openings for blinded soldiers in industry and commerce. Colonel Astor's honour delights us all.

## Passing of Old Friends

Early St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret of the death, on Christmas Eve, of Miss Edith Wood.

Blind since her childhood, Miss Wood taught typewriting and braille shorthand at the first St. Dunstan's hostel, opened in Bayswater Road by the late Sir Arthur Pearson in February, 1915. She continued as a teacher for many years and subsequently became a member of the staff of the Welfare Department, retiring in September, 1946, after thirty-one years' service.

A wreath from the Chairman and Council of St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral, at which St. Dunstan's was represented by Miss E. Abbiss and Miss F. M. Sailing.

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We have also heard with deep regret of the death on December 8th of Mrs. Bessie Argyle, who was from 1935 to 1949 Welfare Visitor for part of the Midlands. Her St. Dunstaner friends, many of whom had continued to keep in touch with her, will grieve at her passing which, however, was peaceful and without pain.

## Mr. Harry Bennett

Mr. Harry Bennett, Home Industries Superintendent, retires from the staff of St. Dunstan's at the end of January after thirty-three years' service.

Mr. Bennett joined the staff in February, 1923, and quickly rose to be Sales Manager, taking charge of the purchase and supply of raw material for our craftsmen and for the sale of their finished products. He was responsible for forming the well-known "St. Dunstan's Gift Club," through which members of the public have purchased our men's goods.

During the early period of World War II, Mr. Bennett took over the additional duties of Industrial Director and was responsible for initiating and carrying through the programme for placing men in appointments and industrial posts. When he relinquished this war-time

job in April, 1947, Sir Ian, speaking of the numbers of World War II St. Dunstaners trained and settled in industry, called it "a magnificent record not surpassed by any other group of severely disabled men. Harry Bennett and his staff were responsible for the majority of these settlements."

With his wide experience, Mr. Bennett then began the task of rebuilding our home industry activities, which had been partially suspended during the war years.

We thank him for his long and devoted service and join with all St. Dunstaners, and particularly his home workers, in wishing him happiness in his retirement.

Mr. Stanley Hall, who has worked with Mr. Bennett for many years, takes over the duties of Home Industries Superintendent.

### Sir Ian Fraser in South Africa

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser have arrived in South Africa, and a correspondent writes that they were looking in the best of health. They had had a splendid voyage and after a brief business visit to Basutoland and Johannesburg, they would be returning to England by sea, arriving early in the new session; the exact date would depend on parliamentary business.

### The Rev. G. L. Treglown's Broadcast

"We found 'Getting Things Right with God' very helpful."

"We were very deeply moved . . ."

D. K.

E. P.

These are but two of the messages of appreciation we have received of the Rev. G. L. Treglown's broadcast talk, which was reprinted in last month's REVIEW.

St. Dunstaners will be very interested to learn that Mr. Treglown's next "Silver Lining" talk will be on February 9th.

On February 19th a short series of recorded Silver Lining talks will begin and a talk by Mr. Treglown, which he gave on October 27th, will be included in this series. (The talk reprinted in the REVIEW was originally given on September 29th.)

### From Mr. Sherratt

I would offer my sincere thanks for all the expressions of goodwill in my retirement.

During the past 37 years, I have made many friendships with the men of my area and I was delighted to receive the gift of an armchair from them.

It has been a privilege to serve St. Dunstan's, and to all the men in my area and to my colleagues I offer my good wishes for the future.

J. SHERRATT.

### Holiday Fortnights at Ovingdean

I think it is a well proved fact that every St. Dunstaner enjoys meeting old friends with whom he may have been out of touch for many years, even since the days when they were in training together.

In order to give old friends a greater opportunity to meet, we have decided to select two fortnights next year and name them "The 1916 Fortnight" and "The 1917 Fortnight" respectively, and we are inviting any St. Dunstaners who were training during these years to apply for their summer holiday during one of these periods. They are:—

1916 fortnight: From 2nd to 16th June.

1917 fortnight: From 1st to 15th Sept.

St. Dunstaners wishing to take advantage of this idea should write to their Area Superintendent before 31st March, 1956, for a booking.

If it proves to be a popular scheme we will consider whether we can increase the number of special fortnights the following year to enable as many old friends as possible to get together.

The only purpose of this suggestion is to bring old friends together, but of course, any St. Dunstaner can apply for a holiday at Ovingdean whenever he chooses.

### General Holidays at Ovingdean

May I remind St. Dunstaners whose jobs prevent them from taking their holidays at any time other than the period mid-July to mid-August, that priority bookings for these dates will be closed this year on the 30th April. Thereafter all other applications for the remaining beds available will be considered.

C. D. WILLS,  
Welfare Superintendent.

### London Club Notes

The scene at the London Club on the night of Tuesday, December 13th, seemed even gayer than usual; some 80 people (St. Dunstaners and their wives) had assembled in the gaily decorated rooms for the Christmas Party. An abundance, and, seemingly, a never ending variety of good things to eat were available to all, and our thanks and congratulations are due to Mrs. Willis and her band of charming lady helpers. The genial Robert (Father Christmas) Willis conducted his usual lucky dip, and each St. Dunstaner received a small gift.

The highlight of the evening, however, was provided by some very talented artists who came along with our old friend, Mr. (Danger, men at work) Brown. They included the celebrated "Star Gazers" Dick Bentley, John Blythe, and the adorable Miss Helene Clare. The accompanist on the piano was the well-known Mr. Bert Witham. They put on a first class show and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Our thanks are due in no small measure for the very hard work put in by Bob Willis in organising the whole show.

May I take this opportunity of thanking everyone who contributed to what was undoubtedly a very successful evening.

SAMMY WEBSTER (Chairman).

### Won't You Join the Dance?

A Dance to raise funds for the Lee-on-Solent Camp Fund will be held on Thursday, February 16th, at the Hop Bine Hotel, East Lane, North Wembley (nearest station, North Wembley, L.M.S.), beginning at 7.30 p.m. The Hop Bine Hotel is almost opposite the station.

The Dance is a public one, but the organising committee very kindly invite any St. Dunstaner and escort who would like to attend to do so free of charge.

I might be able to help out with transport if you will let me know that you would particularly like to go.

(Mrs.) AVIS SPURWAY,

The Vicarage, Holmwood, Dorking.

Tel. Dorking 73191.

### Weaving Class

I am forming a small class for beginners in weaving, canework, lampshade making and allied crafts at my coachhouse workshop, 52 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, soon. Individual tuition will be given, especially to blind or partially sighted beginners.

MAUREEN LEES.

### Northgate House

#### Bookings Announcement

In order to ensure the fairest possible allocation of beds at Northgate House during holiday months, it has been decided to ask parents to submit their applications to their Area Superintendents by the following dates this year:—

6th February for periods up to 31st May.

31st March for periods from 1st July to 30th September.

Lists of applications will be finally closed on these dates and holiday beds will then be allocated according to the length of time which has elapsed since the child previously had a holiday at the Home. Children of employed men who are obliged to take their holidays during fixed periods will receive priority for these periods, but the above basis will be adopted for selection when there are insufficient beds to meet all requests.

Applications for convalescent periods or other urgent reasons should be made when the need arises and will be given priority according to the urgency of the case.

#### Staff Holidays

Northgate House and Port Hall will be closed for staff holidays from Saturday, 2nd June, to Saturday, 30th June, this year.

#### Braille Periodicals

Will St. Dunstaners kindly note that all applications for Braille periodicals sent to Mr. Wills in response to his circular dated September, 1955, have now been dealt with and all February numbers of the magazines concerned should have been received by the end of this month.

Any St. Dunstaner who has not received the periodicals ordered should contact Mr. Wills at 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1, as a few of the order forms were returned without the name and address of the sender appended.

Any St. Dunstaners who have never ordered braille periodicals but are interested in receiving them should write to Mr. Wills for an order form.

#### Good Wishes from France

"Hearty good wishes for Christmas and good luck in New Year from the blinded soldiers of France to Sir Ian Fraser and all St. Dunstaners."

(Signed) ISAAC.

AMBLARD.

## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

T. Floyd's analysis of fictional character creation in your December issue made interesting reading, and I would like to add punch to his remark, "A St. Dunstan's training," and his paraphrase, "There, but for the foresight of Sir Arthur, go I," by relating the following.

One day, whilst spending a holiday with one of my sisters, she and her married daughter had to go out on business, in the course of which they encountered a civilian blind man. My sister was so affected by this meeting that, on returning home, she began to declaim on that "poor blind man," adding the adjectives and appendixes connected with that trite phrase. I was beginning to feel more than a little irritated by this lament when my niece tactfully broke it up with the announcement that as she had so much to do she would have to go. As she departed, I resumed my reading, thinking, "Well, that's that." But I was wrong, for next morning at breakfast she returned to the subject with "Oh dear, I wish I hadn't seen that blind man yesterday. I've hardly slept all night thinking about him." I thought what you need is a sedative, and I'm going to give you one, so, turning to her, I said, "Mary, just take a look at your brother; totally blind, more than half deaf and a gamey leg," to which she replied, "Yes, I know all that, Tommy, but you're different." I took that short half-arm jolt flush on the chin and went down for the count.

Yours sincerely,  
T. ROGERS, *Huddersfield*.

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been in two London hospitals, one where I had two operations and was under two specialists and four doctors, and the other where I was under a specialist and two doctors. But there has been nobody to come up to Dr. O'Hara at Ovingdean, as he has been the only doctor who has been able to get me on my feet twice in succession—and I think he is a marvel.

And I also wish to thank Matron Ramshaw and all the medical and V.A.D. staff at Ovingdean.

Yours sincerely,  
S. A. WORLIDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to place on record the deep gratitude felt by my mother and I to the Matron and the Sick Ward staff at St. Dunstan's, West House, Brighton, for the great devotion and care shown to my late uncle, George Morecroft, a West House man for a number of years.

Yours very sincerely,  
PETER MORECROFT.

### From the Chairman's Post-bag

Regarding your notes on listening to the radio, I am sure you are perfectly right, for I have tried it and I find if I sit absolutely in front of the set I get every word clear and correct.

F. C. FLEETWOOD, *Brighton*.

I dislike listening to the human voice being muted. It also gives me a nerve strain to listen to a loudspeaker shouting at me from the other side of the room, but it does not always fit in with the other furnishings to have the wireless set or Talking Book directly in front of you. To overcome this I have placed the set on a small table at the head of my bed, where I can turn on the news in the morning or late at night. From the set I have taken some neat flex wire to two of the rooms we use and have purchased a neat, small loudspeaker for each room quite near to where I usually sit. I have fitted volume controls on them so that when anything is broadcast which is distasteful to me I can turn it down or off without moving from the chair.

G. M. JORDAN, *Hove*.

I always sit as nearly as possible directly in front of the talking book or radio set. As to tone adjustment, I invariably have the tone control at maximum high tone, but for Talking Book I adjust as near to the deep maximum as possible, compatible with clear speech, in order to reduce needle noise.

T. FLOYD, *Teignmouth*.

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J. Doubler, of Hove, was top prize winner of West Hove Pigeon Flying Club and winner of "Old and Combined Averages"; he had the first, second and third from Bordeaux (winning by 14 hours); first, second and fourth from Guernsey; third, fourth and fifth from Nantes; third and fourth from Marrennes; second from Christchurch, and first from Seaton.

## Manchester Club

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held at Red Cross House, Pendleton, on Friday, 16th December, 1955, when the following elections for 1956 were made: Mr. J. Shaw as Chairman, Mr. W. Bramley as Vice-Chairman, Mrs. E. M. Dunphy as Secretary, Miss E. Hill as Treasurer.

The Statement of Accounts, which showed the Club to be quite solvent, was submitted and approved.

Unanimous votes of thanks were extended to Mrs. Dunphy, Secretary, and Miss Hill, Treasurer, for their admirable help to the Club during 1956. Also to all our ladies for their valuable assistance throughout the year, with particular mention of Mrs. McCarthy, who supervised their activities.

On Saturday, December 17th, we held our Christmas Party, and for this purpose we hired a very suitable and cosy room at the Palace Restaurant. Members present with their wives and escorts, together with invited guests, numbered about forty, and we all enjoyed a full Christmas dinner served in grand style.

At this party many gifts were distributed to holders of lucky tickets, and the Club derived substantial financial help from efforts particularly reserved for this occasion.

Special thanks to Mrs. Shaw for the proceeds of her painstaking work in making a beautiful patchwork quilt and a pair of hand-embroidered cushion covers. Thanks also to Charlie Clarke, son of our member Arnold (Nobby) Clarke, for his continued help towards the financial needs of the Club. This valuable help by kind friends should encourage members to keep up their attendances at Club meetings during 1956.

"MANCUNIAN."

## Mink Breeder's Success

At the Hudson Bay Fur Company's Annual Show on December 16th and 17th, Squadron Leader Bell, of Newbury, "swept the board." He collected five out of ten cups and eight Class Champions. He was particularly gratified at exhibiting the "Supreme Champion Live Mink," a "standard" mink competing in a class of 750, and also the "Supreme Champion Pelt," a white pelt in a class of 840. He also gained the Hudson Bay Trophy for the greatest number of awards decided on a points system. His points were over 100; the runner-up secured only fifty.

Our St. Dunstaner has been for some time Chairman of the Fur Breeders' Association.

## Size of Braille Magazines

Sir Ian having received the suggestion from one or two St. Dunstaners, including particularly Frank Rhodes, that the "Braille Mail" and the "National News Letter" should be published in the same format as "Nuggets," passed the suggestion on to the R.N.I.B. An official reply from Mr. J. C. Colligan, Secretary General of the R.N.I.B., is as follows:—

DEAR SIR IAN,

You wrote to me a few days ago passing on the suggestion that had been made to you that the "Braille Mail" and the "National News Letter" might be more acceptable if they were published in the overall shape and size of "Nuggets."

I have had this considered in the office and our Editorial and Production staff seem to agree that pocket plates are much more difficult to plan than full size plates, and particularly in the case of the "Braille Mail," where the numerous headings would make such an edition more precarious as regards the set out and spacing, with a greater risk of blanks. It is also considered by the experts that a pocket format for the "Braille Mail" and the "National News Letter" would not prove any more portable as the reduced length of the page would merely lead to an increased bulk.

Yours sincerely,  
J. C. COLLIGAN.

## The Bible Reading Fellowship

A generous subscriber to St. Dunstan's has donated three brailled volumes of The Bible Reading Fellowship—Series B, and any St. Dunstaners who would be interested in owning these should write to Mr. Wills by the end of January. A ballot will then be held to decide to whom they should be given.

## Golden Weddings

Many congratulations upon their Golden Wedding anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. G. Smith, of Wirral (December 23rd) and to Mr. and Mrs. G. Grocott, of Walsall (December 28th).

## Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith, of Rottingdean, December 11th. Congratulations.

## Silver Weddings

Congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Walker, of Portslade, whose silver wedding was on December 26th, and to Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Rand, of Addlestone, whose anniversary was on January 1st.

### Between Ourselves

Since the remarks in the October issue headed "To See Ourselves" have provoked some correspondence, it may do no harm to add a few more observations. For instance, we are often credited with having a "sixth sense," but I have never discovered mine. I suppose the truth is that we simply have to make better use of our remaining faculties, especially touch and hearing, so that they become more acute.

I wonder whether it is true that those of us who have just a glimmer of sight, like looking through frosted glass, are worse off than those who have no sight at all? Although one would hate to lose that tiny gleam, it has seemed to me that the others have more confidence and are not so dependent upon changing conditions of light and shadow. There is little doubt in my mind that those who lose their sight in childhood gain certain advantages over those who go through the experience in later life. It seems to me that in the early days we were encouraged to think that we were rather a superior kind of blind person, doubtless in the interest of morale, but when I came into close contact with young students who had been educated in a blind school, I was quickly disabused of this idea because of their remarkable sense of direction, their facility in braille, etc.

There is a certain amount of false sentiment about blindness. I remember a line of song that used to be sung even at St. Dunstan's, which went like this: "God who took away my sight that my soul might see." Does it follow that the loss of sight automatically leads to increased spiritual vision? I doubt it, though, of course, it could happen. There was also a sickly song which ran, "I am but a poor blind boy," and ended something like this, "And to me they are kind, They pity me because I'm blind." I should certainly pity any blind boy who felt like that, but for another reason. Whatever faults we may have, and doubtless they are many, I trust that self-pity is not one of them.

I expect most of us have been greeted by a new acquaintance with "I should never have known you were blind if I hadn't been told. You are so natural." I wonder how genuine such a remark is, or whether it is merely a desire to say something to please. Most of us, I imagine, are susceptible to this form of

flattery. I once met a man who said he had been to a lecture about the care and training of blind people. He said he was feeling a bit depressed because he had never before realised what a handicap it was to have his sight.

On one occasion four of us were travelling up from Brighton by train and, when we reached Victoria, the only other occupant of the carriage asked if he could be of any help. At once one of our number recognised him as a well-known broadcaster and asked if it was Mr. So-and-so. It was, and it appeared that he had been impressed by our facility in managing our cigarettes and pipes, and conducting a more or less intelligent conversation between ourselves. At any rate, he wrote an article in a woman's journal shortly afterwards, in which he seemed to think it worth while to recount the incident and to give a fair summary of what we had been discussing. So it seems we cannot do the most ordinary things without being wonderful! Perhaps fame is cheap at the price. S. A. CHAMBERS.

### Christmas Competition Result

"Oh what a tangled web we weave . . ." but honestly, it wasn't intended to deceive quite so much.

The list in the Editor's office was as follows:—

1. TOTTENHAM (ten—a number).
2. MANCHESTER (chest—part of the body).
3. BURNLEY (urn—a receptacle).
4. DONCASTER (east—number of people—on a platform perhaps).
5. SOUTHEND (out—cricket term).
6. ACCRINGTON (ring—something that looks round).

No competitor had all six teams right, but Sammy Webster, of Forest Hill, had five correct. It has therefore been decided, instead of the three one guinea prizes, to award Sammy one guinea and to give half a guinea each to the four whose entries gave the highest number of correct hidden words, although the teams were not the correct ones. They were: J. S. Hodgson, of Fotheringhay; G. L. Douglas, of Isleworth; A. S. Emerson, of Great Clacton; and W. Wrigley, of Droylesden, Manchester, all of whom had five.

And although we appreciated their ingenuity, we really couldn't consider those competitors who gave every possible alternative in one entry!

### Liverpool Club

The Liverpool Club Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 10th, at the Headquarters of the British Legion, Central Branch, and was, as always, the happiest and jolliest event of the year. At 4.45 p.m. prompt, over sixty members, wives and their families, along with our guests of honour, Miss B. Vaughan Davies and Miss Doel, and a party of friends from Pleasington, headed by our St. Dunstaner, Bob Britton, sat down to enjoy an excellent tea, after which our President, Captain Holloway, proposed a Loyal Toast to Her Majesty the Queen, Duke of Lancaster. Then everyone settled down to enjoy the high spot of the evening being, of course, the very excellent entertainment provided by Mr. J. C. Reason and his friends. This was loudly applauded and appreciated by all.

Miss B. Vaughan Davies then presented, on behalf of the Club, prizes to the winners and runners-up of our Club Competitions and those of the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions, after which she distributed Christmas presents to the children. This being concluded, the floor was cleared for dancing, in which everyone joined, the music for which was provided by Mr. E. Owen, son of our St. Dunstaner, J. C. Owen. The evening came to a close with all joining hands for "Auld Lang Syne."

It was regretted that Mrs. Dunphy could not be with us owing to other commitments.

T. MILNER.

### Birmingham Club

There was a good attendance at the Children's Party at the Club on December 18th, twenty-two St. Dunstaners being present, as well as some thirty children. There were films for the children while the adults talked; then we all had tea and Father Christmas came along and, with gusto, gave each child a gift. There were games for the St. Dunstaners, and the prizes, including the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial prizes, were presented afterwards.

To everyone's delighted surprise, Mrs. Spurway, the Club's founder and very good friend, had travelled from Surrey in dreadful weather to be present.

Mr. Cooling is still a tremendous tower of strength to the Birmingham Club, and our thanks go out to him and to all our other willing helpers and good friends there.

### Talking Book Library Diverting December

My New Year's resolution to use only honey-laden words leads only to—what? Quite correct—you have it in one—the usual bee column! Of the five books released, two are breathless adventure, one romantic adventure, one indeterminate, and one "ladies only!"

"The Island of Sheep," by John Buchan, reader Donald Bissett, depicts a middle-aged Richard Hannay fulfilling a vow of his youth by coming to the aid of a Dane threatened by blackmailers. Fortune favours the brave and provides breathless adventure for the young in heart. *Cat. No. 944.*

"The Vicar of Wakefield," by Oliver Goldsmith, reader Donald Bissett, is a little pearl of 18th-century melodrama. Romantic adventure of the "Sir Jasper, little Nell" type pulverises the vicar's family until a happy outcome sweeps all troubles away. *Cat. No. 30.*

"People of the Mist," by Rider Haggard, reader Redvers Kyle, is breathless adventure indeed. Leonard Outram, younger son of a bankrupt deceased baronet, is in darkest Africa to restore the family fortunes. With his servant, a dwarf Zulu, he begins by rescuing a damsel from a bloodthirsty horde of slave-traders, single-handed. That is but a curtain-raiser to the main treasure hunt. Utter enthralling fantasy, in which Leonard fails lamentably to rebuild the family fortune but succeeds beyond his wildest dreams. *Cat. No. 945.*

"The Winged Horse," by Pamela Frankau, reader Redvers Kyle, I fail completely to categorise. It is a patch of rather sophisticated real life taken almost at random from the life of a newspaper magnate. The intrusion of an American cartoonist and the sudden withdrawal of his son, together with the delayed honesty of a sculptor causes all the ripples on the magnate's otherwise calm pond. I am baffled to know whether I liked it or no—savour it for yourself! *Cat. No. 946.*

"Jane and Prudence," by Barbara Pym, reader Marjorie Anderson, is most definitely the book for "ladies only." Jane, the reckless wife of a clergyman, was at Oxford with Prudence some 20 years previously when the study of 17th-century poets occupied her mind. At present Jane is trying to match-make for the man-hungry Prudence with but little success. *Cat. No. 544.*

"NELSON."

### News from Overseas

In an interesting letter to Headquarters, Elmer Glew, of Victoria, Australia, writes:

"Bill Sands is still keeping very well indeed and gets out regularly to his home in Bentleigh, as well as on many other outings, in his own car. He still makes macrame bags and does wicker-work occasionally as orders demand; he is a very keen football and cricket enthusiast, and always very bright, chirpy and cheery to all about him.

For my part, in a few words I am always kept busy with general activities, and now that I am in the chair of my Masonic Lodge I will have a very busy twelve months.

We of the Victoria Bowls Club had a very interesting and delightful week at Albury. We came back very happy and somewhat weary, as it is always a strenuous time for us. We played three games in Albury, also at Wondionga, Wagga, Culclair and Corowa."

★ ★ ★

Mrs. F. Farrell, wife of J. Farrell, of Queensland, Australia, writes that their son is away now for five years. He is a Christian Brother, and their grandson—their daughter's eldest son—shortly goes away to study also for the priesthood.

★ ★ ★

David E. Williams, of Brisbane, Queensland, an ex-P.O.W. in Malaya, who was a farmer before he enlisted, writes:

"The last year has been a very busy one for me. Full time lectures at the University (as a student), marking two hundred political science essays for the University, giving tutorials in that subject at one of the Colleges as well as private instruction. In between times I had to write a thesis for my B.A. Honours in Philosophy. When the results came to hand they gave me a Distinction in Political Science II and First Class Honours in Philosophy.

I have spent the holidays giving a helping hand to my next door neighbours, two ladies. It included painting the ceilings and walls of a couple of bedrooms. You would have been tickled pink had you been there to see the goings on. But we finished the job to the satisfaction of everybody, mine not the least."

From Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, comes a letter from A. R. Mallory, who writes:—

"I am still busy with canteen work and short-wave receiving is improving. I have

recently spoken to stations in Germany, Holland, Spain and Manchester on 10 metres. I read in a recent edition of the REVIEW that A. V. Law had recently gone on the air, call letters G. 3 KNE. I hope to contact him some day.

We had an extremely hot summer this year, which was a good excuse for me to go fishing, which I thoroughly enjoy.

Please remember me to all St. Dunstaners through the REVIEW."

★ ★ ★

In a letter from Mrs. A. F. May, of Victoria, Australia, we regretted to learn that her husband had recently had an accident. He is a very keen fisherman and while fishing in the dam, a bough broke, he lost his footing and fell across the handle of a scoop. He broke a rib and badly bruised himself. He was still not fit when Mrs. May wrote shortly after Christmas.

Mrs. May adds: "We had an unusually cool Christmas this year and I did appreciate it as, despite weather, we have the traditional hot dinner."

★ ★ ★

"The Australian Women's Weekly," a wonderful journal of eighty pages, devoted one of its pages recently to our St. Dunstaner, F. Elliott, of Kingsford, New South Wales.

It described the household equipment he had invented for his four grandchildren. They include a folding wooden structure that transforms a single bed into a cot; and a child's high chair (including a feeding tray) made from an ordinary kitchen chair. The article was well illustrated and a great tribute to our St. Dunstaner's workmanship and ingenuity.

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### College Reunion

As announced last month, it is hoped to hold a fourth College Reunion, this time 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 "Scotty" know without delay. It is up to you whether a Reunion is held or not. His address is W. T. Scott, 46 Leigham Avenue, S.W.16.

★ ★ ★

H. Bridgman, of Allenton, Derby, has been elected to the Service Committee of the local branch of the British Legion.

### Elephants—Some Memories

In the early summer of 1914, I was the guest of a Rajah of a small State in Northern India. The Rajah was a young man and an enthusiastic sportsman. For this purpose he maintained a stable of some fifteen elephants. These animals were employed principally for the Big Game hunt and for State occasions. They had also been taught to play football, using a push ball. I think I am right in saying that it was only in this State that this thrilling game was played and I think I am correct in saying that I am one of the few Europeans who have participated in the game.

The game was played with five elephants a side, and it was really wonderful to see these monsters kicking, and even passing, the ball to each other. Fortunately they never charged each other. I might not be writing this if they had. The rider sat on the neck of the elephant and he was expected to guide the animal by digging his heel into the right or left side of his face according to the direction he wanted his mount to go. But Jumbo never needed any help in that direction. As the game progressed, one could hear excited noises coming from below. What a spectacle it was!

There was a great Hindu feast and a special game was staged for the guests. The players were lined up facing each other, the ball in the centre. Two huge monsters charged the ball—it collapsed like a pricked balloon. Somebody had forgotten to put padding on the elephants' tusks!

Sometimes the Rajah would invite me to sit with him when the elephants had their evening meal. The fifteen animals would be lined up; before them their dinner—some forty *chappattis* (a flat round bread made of unhusked wheat) heaped up before each diner, the second course consisting of a large pile of sugar cane. There is a story told of an elephant whose *mahout* (keeper) had been systematically robbing him. Every day Jumbo would lift each *chappati* in his trunk and weigh it. The quantity was correct but the *chappati* was lighter in weight. One day, in an absent-minded moment, Jumbo gave his *mahout* a playful blow across the head. There was a vacancy for another keeper.

When a shoot was arranged, we would start off very early in the morning in cars

to the verge of the jungle where the elephants would be awaiting us. We would then mount the elephants either by grasping the top of his ears, or from the rear by catching hold of his tail. Jumbo would do the rest either by lifting his mount on to his back by placing his trunk for him to rest his foot on, or from the rear by lifting him by raising his hind leg under the mount's foot and again gently placing him on his back. No ladders were used or needed. So we would go through the jungle until we reached our destination where the "beaters" were waiting for us.

Besides the elephants there was the Naughty Nautch for entertaining the guests of this wonderful host—"but that," as Kipling would say, "is another story."

D. F. C. McALPIN, *Chelsea, S.W.10.*

### Cardiff Club

We all enjoyed our Christmas party immensely, the principal feature being an excellent variety show lasting an hour and a half, given voluntarily by first class artists. We were indebted to our chairman, Mr. Jack Caple and his friends, who arranged the show.

January competition winners:—

Dominoes: Mr. P. Blackmore and Mr. A. Palfrey.

Cribbage: Mr. J. Caple, Mr. J. Henn.

Darts: Mr. T. Selby, Mr. A. Palfrey.

Darts (Ladies): Mrs. A. Palfrey.

We are informed by Captain Prince, of the South Wales British Legion, that Sir Ian Fraser will be unable to visit us in February as planned, as he will be convalescing in South Africa. We wish Sir Ian "bon voyage" and a speedy recovery, and we hope to welcome him to Cardiff at some future date.

A. CARTWRIGHT.

### National Laying Test, 1955-56 Report for the first period of four weeks, November 8th to December 5th, 1955

	Score	Value
1. George Cooke ... ..	...	224
2. P. Bagwell ... ..	...	210
3. P. Holmes ... ..	...	200
4. W. Webb ... ..	...	171
5. W. A. Smith ... ..	...	170
6. J. Dix ... ..	...	125
Average number of eggs per bird per month, 14.50.		
Average number of eggs per bird to date,		31.44.

### Young St. Dunstaners

Leslie Jordan, Mitcham, has won the Tennis (Singles) Tournament Cup at his place of work for 1955.

★ ★ ★

Shirley Woofenden, a fine fencer at nineteen is in the Leicestershire County team.

★ ★ ★

Norman Hunt, Hove, who is studying at Oxford, took the lead in a recent stage production and had some excellent notices.

★ ★ ★

Ian Wooldridge, Carlisle (he has lost both his parents) has passed his Intermediate Piano examination with a first class pass.

★ ★ ★

Malcolm Reed, Kingston, has completed his training with the Infantry Boys' Battalion at Plymouth, and has entered the Regular Army, on man's service, at the age of 17½. He has gone into his father's old regiment, The Rifle Brigade, Prince Consort's Own (the "Greenjackets").

★ ★ ★

Valerie Shread, King's Lynn, has passed her first nursing examination with a first in nursing, fourth in anatomy, fifth in hygiene, fourth in the School.

★ ★ ★

Ian Marsden, Alderholt, has won the Small Bore Rifle Shooting Cup of the Alderholt Rifle Club for the second year in succession.

### Marriage

On December 17th, John Rickaby, Battersea, to Miss Violet Peters.

### Winter's Reign

*Winter's white lips blow the funeral notes  
As the old year is laid in memory.  
And winter's ice heart reveals no grief,  
His cold breeze chills the final pageantry.  
His loveless, frigid eye meets new year born,  
With stared contempt for interfering mirth,  
But rocks the cradle with his freezing hand  
And thus, the infant gathers daily girth.  
This monarch's retinue of changing moods  
Has beauty's lines, at times severity,  
In rimed formation of fantastic shape  
With ermine cloak and grandeured dignity.  
His passions rage in blizzard's camouflaged,  
His fury breaks on unsuspecting dawn,  
An iron grip imprisons waterways,  
And man's opposing enterprise earns scorn.  
While he is crowned his face is sternly set,  
And frowns on snowtime's youthful rioting,  
But children's healthy disregard of him  
Hastens his abdication to the Spring.*

JOHN CRUSE.

### Cracker Time in West House

Christmas festivities in West House went off with a bang and it was a "hum-dinger" all the way. They began with a visit from Mr. Percy Edwards—the Bird Man of radio fame. On different occasions came choirs from the V.A.D. cadets at Pevensey, and also from our Padre's church.

After breakfast on Christmas morning came a glass of wine and gift-giving by Commandant and Matron.

At dinner time in an atmosphere of gay laughter, merry chatter and easy badinage, amidst pleasing decorations and surroundings, and a happy staff all merry and bright, Dr. O'Hara popped in to wish us a "Happy Bismuth."

After dinner, with Mr. Welfare at the piano, came a musical interlude, chorus singing and songs by Mr. Dick Newman and Mr. Billie Hindes, and a slap-dash Harlequinade with Mrs. Barden, Miss Black and Winnie Stanning. On Boxing Day morning there was a coach ride and free refreshment, thanks to Mrs. Barden's bountiful friend.

Escorts were invited to tea, and men from Ovingdean came to play whist. There were parties to the Hippodrome, a Domino Tournament with Toc H men, who entertained us after the games.

On the last day of the old year, Ovingdean's show, "In Town To-night," was played back to us over the radio. Well done, Ovingdean. Good show! Then came the grand finale with a hail and farewell noggin on New Year's Eve.

We could not find a dark man to cross the threshold so we discovered "Moggie," Miss Morris's black cat—sitting on the front steps surveying the merry world with insufferable feline nonchalance, so we dragged her across the threshold as a substitute. Well done, everybody.

W. E. BROOKES.

### Great-Grandfathers

A. Collins, of Durrington; H. Colley, of Ventnor, Isle of Wight (the fifth great-grandchild); J. Bentley, of North Finchley (the eleventh).

★ ★ ★

Mrs. W. Pratt, our St. Dunstaner's widow, recently of London and now of Australia, has become a grandmother. Fay had a son on October 19th.

### Mr. R. J. Williams

"Another well-known 'Muffled Drum' has passed away. This time it is 'Dick,' as we all knew him. Dick as a younger man won many prizes for both gardening and mat-designing. He was also a good sportsman and reached the final of the Single Sculls nine times, winning five and, with Joe Gimber, won the Double Sculls five times in a row. He did well as a race-walker, but at the latter sport was handicapped by bad balance.

His last fifteen years were a series of misfortunes; nevertheless, when we got together he never failed to provide us with a roar of laughter."

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

★ ★ ★

"Muffled Drums for Deafy Williams. Those of us who were able to penetrate the sound barrier knew what a grand chap he was. In spite of his added handicap, he was always ready to enjoy the fun and games of his more fortunate pals. Very alert to accept any information and always interested in what was going on around him. Kind and gentle in his manner and so grateful to any who would talk to him. A keen sportsman, ready for a walk or a swim. His love of gardening and knowledge of flowers were great compensations for his disability."

W. T. SCOTT.

### Personal

Matron Ramshaw writes:

"May I, through the REVIEW, say to all St. Dunstaners a very warm 'thank you' for your very beautiful Christmas greetings and calendars. I wish it was possible to thank you all personally, but know you understand. Also, I would like to say how much I have appreciated your many kind messages and enquiries during the past few months. A very Happy New Year and God bless you all."

★ ★ ★

Matron Avison, from West House, would also like to thank, through the REVIEW, all those who sent her such lovely Christmas cards and good wishes.

★ ★ ★

St. Dunstan's Brighton Appeals Office acknowledges with grateful thanks a gift of five pounds from O.A.P. Anon., the mother of a St. Dunstaner blinded in the Second World War. Her kind thought is most deeply appreciated.

### Births

ALDRIDGE—In November, to the wife of L. Aldridge, of Pietermaritzburg, a son.

NUNN—To the wife of F. S. Nunn, of Ilkeston, on December 23rd, a daughter—Margaret Elizabeth.

ROBINSON—To the wife of Rex Robinson, of Acton, on December 17th, a daughter—Ann Elizabeth.

### Deaths

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

ALLCOCK—To H. F. Allcock, of West House, who has recently lost his son after an illness of only three days.

DOLBY—To A. S. Dolby, of Brighton, whose father died during the Christmas holiday.

ELIAS—To Marian Elias who has lost her mother. Her death was due in great measure to the shock sustained when members of her family were involved in the South Wales-Paddington train crash.

JONES—To Howell I. Morris Jones, of Prenton, Birkenhead, whose mother died on the 6th January at the great age of 100 years and a few months. She celebrated her centenary in sound health and spirit on the 13th of June last. She was a grand old lady and retained her faculties to a remarkable degree.

PORTER—To Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Porter, of Seven Kings, whose son, Frederick James, died on December 26th, after a long illness.

SAXON—To F. L. Saxon, of Stoke-on-Trent, whose wife died on January 2nd after a long illness.

WALDRON—To E. Waldron, of Weston-super-Mare, whose sister has recently died.

WALTON—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Walton, of Slade Green. His mother-in-law, whom he regarded as a mother, has just died.

WATERS—To A. Waters, of Saltdean, whose father died suddenly on December 19th.

### Test Results

Typing.—A. Nesbitt, W. Woodhall, C. Godfrey, A. Lane, J. Sugden, R. Newton, J. Simpson, M. Jarman, H. Meleson.

Preliminary.—G. Andrew, G. Dennis.

Writing.—J. Tyrell, W. Durrant, J. Brown, P. Harry, J. Whitcombe.

Advanced.—J. Whitcombe, P. Duffee.

## "In Memory"

### Private George Horace Morecroft, *The Buffs*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. H. Morecroft, originally of Folkestone, but since 1950 a resident at West House.

He was discharged from the Service in June, 1943, and came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1948, but owing to the condition of his health, it was not possible for him to undertake any training. He entered West House in November, 1950, but his health gradually deteriorated and he died there on January 4th. He was forty-one.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his sister, with whom he lived until he went to West House.

### Private Richard James Williams, *Wiltshire Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of R. J. Williams, one of our deaf St. Dunstaners, who has been a resident of West House since 1950. He was sixty.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1923, he trained as a boot repairer. Later he went on to mat-making, and this he continued to do for some time.

The funeral took place at Southwick. He leaves a brother and sister, who is Mrs. George Fallowfield, and to them our deep sympathy is offered.

### Ernest Edward Callow, *Munition Factory*

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on December 31st, of E. E. Callow, of London, N.4. He was fifty-eight.

He came to St. Dunstan's on November 11th, 1918, having been blinded while working on munitions. He trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker, and carried on this work for some time, occupying himself also with some poultry. During the Second War he worked in industry, later, when he gave this up taking joinery more or less as a hobby.

He died on December 31st after a very short illness, and was buried at Warley Cemetery, in the countryside where he had lived for so many years.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mabel, his wife, whom he had married only six months before.

### Lance Corporal William Henry Foxon, *2nd Leicester Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of W. H. Foxon, a permanent resident at West House.

He originally enlisted in 1897 and was discharged in April, 1915, having been wounded at La Bassée. He came to St. Dunstan's in the following year and trained as a boot-repairer and mat-maker. He lost his wife in 1931. He had not been able to work for some years and he subsequently came to West House. He had been spending a few months with friends in Leicester, and had only just returned to West House, where he died on January 12th.

### Company Sergeant Major John Gibson Hill, *2nd Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. G. Hill, of Crawley, Sussex, at the age of forty-eight.

Discharged from the Army in October, 1943, he came to St. Dunstan's five years later. He trained first in telephony and later as a capstan operator.

He died very suddenly on January 13th and leaves a widow and four children, to whom our very deep sympathy is offered.

### Staff Sergeant William Shakspeare, M.B.E., *Royal Army Service Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of W. Shakspeare, of Sheldon, Birmingham, at the age of seventy-two. He died in his sleep after an illness of only a few weeks, although his health had been failing for some time.

He served from November, 1915, and was discharged from the Army in 1920. When he came to us in August, 1924, he trained as a mat-maker, but subsequently he became a very successful shop-keeper. In addition to his business activities, he was an exceedingly active member of the British Legion and had given generously of his time to appeals and other forms of public service. For this he was awarded the M.B.E.

"Shaky" was known up and down the country, for he was a member of the Birmingham Club, a keen member of the Bridge Club, and a popular figure in London, Brighton, and, in fact, wherever there was a St. Dunstan's gathering.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his son and daughter.

### Mr. C. H. Stephens

St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret of the death on January 7th of Mr. C. R. Stephens, O.B.E., M.A., F.C.A., the National President of BLESMA. Our sincere sympathy goes out to our disabled comrades in the death of their beloved chief.

### Captain Stuart H. Hampson

We have also to record with deepest

regret the death of Captain S. H. Hampson, National Chairman of the British Legion, who died very suddenly on January th. Our deepest sympathy goes out to our comrades in the British Legion in the loss of a devoted leader and friend. Captain Hampson lived long enough to know that Her Majesty the Queen had honoured him with the O.B.E. in the New Year Honours.