

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

A ST. DUNSTANER wrote to me the other day from England or Scotland or Ireland or Wales, or it might have been Canada, Australia, South Africa, or New Zealand—I do not intend to say which—and a summary of what he said was this:—

“I have now retired after working for thirty-five years. I used to go to work every day and arrived on time, and I took a lot of trouble to be spick and span, but now I have no reason to bother and I am tempted to take it easy and let things go. What do you think about this?”

I understand the feeling; that is just how I feel when I go on a holiday and the discipline of the daily routine is relaxed and I am tempted to let things go. It is an awful bother shaving in the morning and getting your hair cut, and hanging your suit up properly so that it retains a good shape, and if you are not going to the office, why bother? I claim no virtue in this matter, but so far I have resisted the temptation because I have got into the habit of shaving every day. Indeed, I would never think of appearing without shaving. I also feel better if I feel tidy.

It would be an impertinence to tell other people how they should conduct their lives, but my friend asked me for an answer and I sent him one, and I thought that the subject might be of interest to many, and that is why I am writing about it.

I think that a feeling of well-being is greatly influenced by surroundings. Your home need not be elaborate and expensive, but if you know that it is tidy and clean and that you yourself are well set up and that you would not mind who saw you, you feel better even if there is nobody to look. I think that just as a man expects his wife to keep the home tidy, so that he may be proud of it, so he should keep himself tidy, so that his wife may be proud of him. If there was time to make this effort when you had to go to work every day, catching the early train, there must be plenty of time when you have retired.

These are general observations which I think apply to the ultimate happiness of all kinds of people, but the blind are in a special category. A great many people expect a blind man to be ill-kempt or untidy or unshaven because it is so much more trouble for him to keep up appearances. That seems to me to be a challenge. This sounds rather like a priggish lecture. It is not meant to be, but I have met a number of friends, not necessarily St. Dunstaners, who, when they retire from a regular routine with its discipline, tend to get into slack and idle ways, thinking that they are entitled to take it easy. It has been my experience that, far from enjoying the ease which a long life of regular toil seems to have earned, the era of slackness makes for unhappiness. The fact that a man is at home all the

time instead of going out to work puts a lot more work on his wife, and conversation dries up and they get bored with each other. The art of comfortable and easy retirement is one that is very hard to learn and requires a new self-discipline all its own. Perhaps alternative occupations and companionship, such as may be afforded by joining the local bowling club or the British Legion branch or Toc H, or the church, may be the answer. No doubt, it is for each to choose according to his own circumstances and his fancy, but there is no doubt that a little of what you fancy does you good and that it is a bad thing to get into a rut. And if your neighbours and your friends think you have deteriorated, you will probably begin to think so yourself. The mind has a tremendous effect upon the body and upon the digestion and the temper. In retirement, therefore, let us try to find a new routine which will take the place of the old; thus we shall stand a better chance of happiness.

IAN FRASER.

Miss M. K. Wilson, M.B.E.

Miss M. K. Wilson, Area Superintendent for the North of England, retires shortly after thirty-eight years' service with St. Dunstan's.

Miss Wilson joined Mrs. Chadwick Bates' staff in May, 1918, as a shorthand typist—an appointment which was to be "for the duration of the war." When Mrs. Bates went to South Africa Miss Wilson became Mr. Askew's secretary, but following Mr. Hegarty's death in 1934, she went to the then After-Care Department, where she has remained, under different Welfare Superintendents, but always with the Northern Area. She is known to hundreds of St. Dunstaners and their wives and families in all parts of the country, and, indeed, all over the world for she has also been one of the main links between St. Dunstan's and our men overseas. Those who have never met her personally have felt the warm friendship and understanding which her letters have expressed. She is truly beloved by the men of St. Dunstan's.

Their regret at her retirement will be softened by the news that Her Majesty the Queen, in the New Year Honours, bestowed upon Miss Wilson the honour of Member of the Order of the British Empire.

We share with St. Dunstaners our regret that the time has come for us to part with Miss Wilson, but we send our affectionate good wishes for much happiness in her retirement.

* * *

We welcome as the new Area Superintendent for the North, Miss M. A. Midgley, who served with the W.A.A.F. during the war years and for a time afterwards. Miss Midgley has been working with Miss Wilson for some months and will take over her new duties in the middle of February.

Complimentary Tickets

St. Dunstaners are reminded that the Welfare Department usually receives a number of Complimentary Tickets during the year and the following events are covered:—

Royal Tournament.

Trooping the Colour.

Festival of Remembrance.

St. Dunstaners who are interested in these events are invited to write to me requesting that their names should be placed on a waiting list for tickets. Preference in the allocation of tickets will be given to men who have not attended these functions before and the remainder will be allocated by ballot.

C. D. WILLS.

The New Year Honours

In the New Year Honours, the award of Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) was conferred upon Mr. J. C. Colligan, Secretary-General of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Deaf-Blind Watch Fund

Mr. A. D. Lloyds, who is the Honorary Treasurer of the above Fund, tells us that, following his note in the November REVIEW, the sum of £31 11s. 0d. has been subscribed. This sum has been forwarded to the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League, who ask us to say how very much they appreciate the continued support given by St. Dunstaners to this Fund.

Ex-Service Meetings

Seventeen ex-Service organisations, including St. Dunstan's, met in London on January 5th at the invitation of the British Legion to discuss problems affecting the ex-Service community and in particular the disabled. It is anticipated that regular meetings will be held in the future.

London Club Notes

On Tuesday evening, December 18th, a number of St. Dunstaners with their wives and escorts assembled at 191 Marylebone Road for the Club's Christmas Party. There were lots of good things to eat and drink and we extend to Mrs. Willis and her band of helpers a very big "Thank you" for a job well done. Bob "Father Christmas" was in evidence once again with his lucky dip and each St. Dunstaner and his wife received a small gift as a reminder that the Christmas festivities were not far away.

We were entertained by some first rate artists who had been brought to the Club by our very good friend, Mr. Jacques Brown. They included the very charming Helen Clare, the Gaunt Brothers, and, for good measure, our very good friend, John Blythe, who compèred the show, and a right good job he made of it. We were very glad to welcome among our many guests Mr. A. D. Lloyds.

I would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the evening's entertainment, not forgetting our old friend, Charlie (Barman) Harrison, and may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very prosperous New Year. SAM WEBSTER.

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club took place on Tuesday, January 8th. Mr. A. D. Lloyds presided. The new Committee was elected as follows: Messrs. S. Webster (*Chairman*), G. P. Brown, W. Bishop, W. Miller, C. Williamson, J. Fleming.

Bridge.—The Bridge Club held its Christmas Bridge Drive on Saturday, December 15th. There were eleven tables in all and twenty-two St. Dunstaners and their sighted partners enjoyed a very fine afternoon's bridge. Mr. Willis carried out the duties of M.C. The results were as follows:—

1st, P. Nuyens and partner.

2nd, J. Armstrong and partner.

3rd, H. Crabtree and partner.

4th, F. Winter and partner.

The prizes were kindly presented by Mrs. C. Stokes.

The afternoon ended with a splendid tea, prepared by Mrs. Willis and her band of helpers.

And now, on behalf of the Bridge Club, may I wish all REVIEW readers and, I hope, many prospective new bridge players, a very prosperous New Year. G.P.B.

Walking.—It was a case of tables turned when we met the Metropolitan Police over 7 miles at Regent's Park on Saturday, December 15th, for they avenged their defeat of November by a much greater margin than I care to think about. Still, the fault was not that of our walkers, as we were the weaker side because of the absence due to sickness of Chas. Williamson and Les. Dennis. We were, however, compensated to some extent by George Hewitt, taking part in his first race for St. Dunstan's.

George, who is 57 years of age and has always been very active, decided that he would like to keep fit and, having read of our activities in the REVIEW, started training with a Brighton club, and has now joined us. He is very keen, and I am sure that he will be a great asset to the walking section. Brighton Walking Club sent us details of George's performances with them, and it was estimated that he would take at least 70 minutes to do the 7 miles, but, by doing some four minutes better than estimated, he simply knocked the handicap for a "Burton."

Billy Miller, getting more into his old form, finished in third place, behind two policemen, and was second in the handicap, with Alf. Bradley third.

In the team race, Metropolitan Police gave us a trouncing.

W.M.

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

Order of Finish	Competitor	Act. Time	Allee.	H'cp.	Postn. Time in H'p
1.	A. D. Bennett M.P.	59.44			
2.	C. Yescombe M.P.	60.56			
3.	W. Miller St.D.	61.48	scr.	61.48	2
4.	J. Holding M.P.	66.34			
5.	T. Kent ... M.P.	66.34			
6.	A. Brown ... St.D.	67.19	2.45	64.34	5
7.	A. Bradley... St.D.	67.37	4.05	63.32	3
8.	F. James ... M.P.	67.51			
9.	H. Lightwing M.P.	68.13			
10.	R. Youlden M.P.	68.13			
11.	J. Paterson M.P.	68.13			
12.	G. Hewitt ... St.D.	68.42	11.30	57.12	1
13.	S. Tutton ... St.D.	68.44	5.00	63.44	4
14.	T. Gaygan... St.D.	72.31	4.50	67.41	7
15.	P. Collins ... M.P.	72.31			
16.	C. Stafford... St.D.	72.46	8.00	64.46	6

Match Result: 1st, Metropolitan Police, 39 points.
2nd, St. Dunstan's, 71 points.

* * *

During Sir Ian's recent visit to Cape Town he made a catch of fifteen fish, weighing a total of 150 pounds; he was fishing off Seal Island.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

In answer to Mr. Hamilton's letter in last month's REVIEW, I did not drop a clanger. I merely expressed an opinion, and I still think that any totally blind man who goes about alone is doing something foolhardy; just think of the number of sighted pedestrians who are killed and injured on the roads, and if sighted people get killed and injured, what are the chances of blind people getting away with it?

Unfortunately, for some reason or another, the Editor only published part of my letter, which altered the whole text of my remarks, as in my original letter to the Editor I quoted a number of accidents that had happened to some of our men who go about alone. These accidents actually happened, at least, they were told me by the men to whom they had happened. The hospitals are full enough now without us blind men doing our best to fill the beds by going about alone. I hope the Editor does not cut this letter, so that it alters the text.

Yours sincerely,

Great Yarmouth. E. B. OXBOROUGH.

DEAR EDITOR,

I cannot agree with Mr. Oxborough's view that St. Dunstaners who go about alone are foolhardy.

Blondin, the Frenchman, walked across the Niagara Falls on a tightrope several times—once blindfold, and on another occasion carrying a man on his shoulders. Was he foolhardy? I think not. He had confidence in his own ability and exceptional gift of balance, and St. Dunstaners who go about alone have confidence in their ability to do so.

If a blind person wears dark glasses and carries a white stick, in my opinion he is better protected than the ordinary pedestrian.

Physical exercise is essential to one's well being. May I pass on this tip for keeping fit when confined indoors. Go to the top of the stairs with your wife, lie down on your stomach, and with your wife holding your ankles, walk down on your hands, wheelbarrow fashion.

Don't attempt this exercise after a heavy meal, the best time being before breakfast after taking your cold bath. To get the full benefit of this exercise, and, incidentally, to let your wife share in the fun, change over and you wheel the wife down.

Yours sincerely,

Farnworth, near Bolton. H. POLLITT.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested in our Chairman's remarks about our reluctance to "make fools of ourselves."

The other day when travelling by train I had occasion to go down the corridor to the little room at the end. When I got there I found it engaged, and it remained engaged for quite a long time. Eventually I thought I had better return and let my wife know where I was and what was happening. I must have miscounted the doors on the way back, but I put my head in through the door of the compartment and whispered to "my wife": "Someone has died in the lavatory." My wife would have accepted this as a joke, because she has become used to my brand of humour after forty to fifty years of it. However, the man who whom I whispered (for "my wife" turned out to be a man) grew very excited and wanted to stop the train, call the guard, knock the door down, etc.

It took some time explaining that this was merely a joke and I know nothing that makes one feel such a fool, whether blind or sighted, as trying to explain a joke that has failed.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN A. ORIEL.

Banbury.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was at Ovingdean in November and the lounge had just been opened after decorations, and while waiting for the dance to start a girl said "The floor looks lovely; they must have had to scrape down to the bare boards to get all the cigarette burns out."

On Monday, December 3rd, while waiting for a dance, the same girl said: "You should see the floor—it has dozens of cigarette burns already."

Now, you spalpeens, what would your wives say if you put your fag ends on the floors at home, and what would the lounge look like if pipe-smokers knocked their pipes out on the floor? I have carried a round metal tobacco tin in my pocket for such small litter ever since I came to St. Dunstan's, and if you cannot do the same stretch out your arm and you will find an ashtray at both ends of every settee, and others on the walls.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

Southwick.

DEAR EDITOR,

On December 1st the jubilee of what is now known as the *National Braille Mail* was commemorated. In an article dealing with this matter it was stated that in 1906 there were 40,000 blind people in the British Isles, whereas in 1956 there were 100,000 blind people. This increase was quoted almost as an achievement—a boast. To me it is an indictment, for surely, with all the modern science for the prevention of blindness and the compulsory industrial safeguards, would it not be right and proper to expect a decrease rather than a 150 per cent. increase? Any comments?

Yours sincerely,

FRANK A. RHODES.

Ovingdean.

Miss Cecil H. Wood

We very much regret to announce the resignation on December 31st, 1956, through ill-health, of Miss Cecil H. I. Wood, who joined our Welfare Visiting staff on January 1st, 1945, and has completed exactly twelve years in St. Dunstan's service.

Miss Wood has been responsible for visiting St. Dunstaners living in Greater London and we thank her for the energy and sincerity with which she carried out her duties.

We sincerely hope that a period of rest will enable Miss Wood to enjoy a return to good health.

Are You Using Your Talking Book Machine?

If, for any reason, you are not using your Talking Book Machine any more, its return would be much appreciated. There is a shortage of machines and a long list of blind people who are deeply anxious to obtain one. If you will notify Men's Supplies Department in the first instance we would make the necessary arrangements to have the machine returned.

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We understand that the Royal National Institute for the Blind, or the National Library, will consider putting into Braille two of the books mentioned recently in the REVIEW—"Conquest of Disability," which is edited by Sir Ian Fraser, and "Count your Blessings," by Sir Brunel Cohen.

Homes Holiday Bookings Ovingdean

Industrial Holidays.—St. Dunstaners whose jobs prevent them from taking their holidays at any other time than the period mid-July to mid-August, should ensure that their applications for beds at Ovingdean during that period reach their Area Superintendents by March 31st, 1957. Thereafter all other applications for the remaining beds available will be considered.

Special Fortnights.—Last year a number of men took advantage of the special fortnights for St. Dunstaners who wished to spend their holiday at Ovingdean at the same time as other trainees of their year. This year it is planned to hold these fortnights as follows:—

1915-1916	4th to 18th May.
1917	18th May to 1st June.
1918	29th June to 13th July.
1919	14th to 28th September.

Applications for beds during these periods should reach your Area Superintendent in good time in order that you may be sure of a place.

Northgate House

To be closed from 15th June to 13th July, 1957.

Lists of applications for holiday bookings at Northgate House will be closed on the 28th February for periods up to the 15th June, and on the 31st March for periods from the 13th July for the remainder of the summer, and the beds will be allocated according to the length of time which has elapsed since a child previously had a holiday at the Home. Priority will again be given upon this basis to children of employed men who are obliged to take their holidays during fixed periods.

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

Port Hall

To be closed from 24th August to 21st September, 1957.

Women St. Dunstaners are requested to submit their applications for summer holiday periods at the Home to their Area Superintendents by March 31st, in order to facilitate fair allocation of the available beds.

Applications for the Christmas holiday period must reach the Area Superintendent by September 30th, and allocation of beds will be made by ballot if necessary.

C. D. WILLS.

"Twenty Questions" and the "Brains Trust"

The following correspondence has passed between Sir Ian Fraser and Lt. General Sir Ian Jacob, Director General of the B.B.C.

7th December, 1956.

Dear Jacob,

It has been represented to me that the transfer of certain sound programmes, such as *Twenty Questions*, from ordinary broadcasting to television will deprive blind people as such and others who cannot afford a television set of programmes which they look upon as old friends. I suppose this development is inevitable, but I much hope that in your planning you will bear in mind the loss to many which this process will involve.

Incidentally, I was myself taking part in a *Brains Trust* programme on television the other day and someone there asked me if I thought that a particular programme would be appropriate for simultaneous transmission on sound. Owing to the fact that I was to take part myself, I listened to the programme on the Sunday before I performed and to a recording of the programme in which I performed, and also to part of the programme the next Sunday. I formed the opinion that, without any alteration, this could well be put on sound to the great advantage of ordinary listeners. It would be nice to think that if they are to be deprived of something, they should also be given something back or given something fresh.

Yours,
IAN FRASER.

Lt. General Sir Ian Jacob, K.B.E., C.B.

Broadcasting House,
London, W.1.
18th December, 1956.

Dear Fraser,

Thank you for your letter of December 7th. As far as I know there is little prospect of Sound Broadcasting giving up "*Twenty Questions*." It seems to be a well-established favourite and this year ran for 23 weeks, from April to September. The present series on television is by way of an experiment. The Home Service propose to bring the programme back again next spring, and thereafter, if the Television experiment has succeeded, the programme may be broadcast in future jointly both in Sound and Television.

Our Sound Broadcasting people are also keeping a close watch on the progress of the "*Brains Trust*" on Television. It was, of course, for many years an ingredient of the Home Service, but it finally had to be taken off because the audience declined beyond the point at which it was sensible to keep it on the air. Once there are firmly-established reactions to the Television series, I understand that a decision will be made about the question you have raised.

You may be sure that we are mindful of the blind people for whom Sound Broadcasting continues to be our only service.

Yours sincerely,
IAN JACOB.

Sir Ian Fraser, C.H., C.B.E., M.P.

The Unemployability Supplement Wives' Earnings

A number of the wives of St. Dunstaners who are receiving the Unemployability Supplement have made enquiries through their respective Visitors as to whether it is now possible for them to earn £2 10s. 0d. weekly, as is permitted to widows and retired persons who receive the Retirement Pension. The answer is that the Ministry of Pensions have made no alteration in their regulations governing the payment of the Unemployability Supplement to pensioners and their wives, and therefore wives whose income from all sources, excluding their allowance from the Ministry of Pensions, exceeds 40s. weekly, cannot qualify for the Supplement.

L. BANKS.

St. Dunstan's (South Africa)

St. Dunstan's Committee in South Africa gave a party to entertain Sir Ian and Lady Fraser on their arrival in Cape Town at the turn of the year. General Sir Roger Wilson, the new Chairman, acted as host, and many St. Dunstaners and their wives were present, together with members of the Committee and helpers.

Keith Branson, who qualified as a physiotherapist last year and returned to South Africa in June, is beginning private practice after more than three months' hospital work.

The first woman St. Dunstaner in South Africa is Mrs. Alanson, whose delayed blindness is directly attributable to World War I.

Overseas News

Our very good wishes to R. C. Locket, of Sandringham, Australia, who is slowly recovering after a long illness; and to Mrs. Locket, who, while he was in hospital, visited him every day—a journey of two hours each way.

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In an interesting letter to Sir Ian, F. Mayo, of Stockton, New South Wales, Australia, says he still works out the weekly chess problem in the Sunday paper. He has been deaf for about four years now but, he adds, "Deafness is not all loss, believe me. Few people realise how many noises are carried to their brains. I can switch them off most of the time."

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R. Archer, of Sandringham, who is Hon. Secretary of the Victoria Blinded Soldiers' Association, says that he and Mrs. Archer had a visitor from England recently. It was Miss Miller, at one time a V.A.D. They had a pleasant evening talking of old times and the College. Miss Miller is visiting her sister in Australia.

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R. Tredenick, of Brisbane, sending good wishes, says that he thinks the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh just made the Olympic Games in Melbourne the grand success they were. The informality of the tour and the warmth of the welcome afforded him was, says our St. Dunstaner, really wonderful.

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We have just heard that H. D. Hines, of Nova Scotia, was married on March 10th, 1956, and a little daughter—Wendy Diane—was born on November 27th.

Jim Scrymgeour Retires

Sad news from Queensland, Australia, is of the retirement of James S. Scrymgeour, O.B.E., who for thirty-four years has farmed at Netherby and has, during that time, established himself as one of the leading breeders in Australia. With Mrs. Scrymgeour, he has built up a reputation which has become almost a legend.

Unfortunately, Jim had a scalding accident a year ago and, while he has made a remarkable recovery, his health is not what it was and, acting on medical advice, he is dispersing his wonderful stud of Poll

Shorthorns on March 13th, 1957. Announcing the sale, a writer in *Queensland Country Life* says: "It is an announcement which will spread gloom over Australia's stud beef cattle industry. The average person would say that the grazing industry, least of all stud cattle breeding, offered no scope for a blind man, but Jim Scrymgeour proved them wrong. Now the curtain must fall on an Australia stud of world class. The sad news will be tempered with the knowledge that the blood which brought Netherby to the top in Poll Shorthorn breeding, and kept it there for nearly two decades, will flow into other studs and stimulate their progress."

Mr. and Mrs. Scrymgeour still intend to live at Netherby, and our good wishes will go to them in their well-earned retirement.

War Pensions Improvements New Age Allowance

The Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance have now confirmed that, subject to the satisfaction of the conditions as to age, the New Age Allowance will be payable to officers who have the standard rate pension, a wound pension, retired pay at the half pay rate or alternative retired pay, and to those N.C.O.s and other ranks who are in receipt of the standard rate pension or a First World War alternative pension.

Appropriate letters have already been sent by the Ministry to those of their pensioners who are assessed at 40% or over and are already 65 years of age or are approaching that age, and if St. Dunstaners have any difficulty in completing the form perhaps they will get in touch with Mr. Banks at Ovingdean, or with me at 1 South Audley Street.

H. D. RICE.

Personal

Miss Bertha MacAndrew writes:—
Have you space for a little message to all my friends (and victims!) in the busy St. Dunstan's world, as I slip away from it after twenty years of happy service?

My thoughts—and prayers—will still be with each one of you, as always; a heartfelt gratitude for all the kindness and confidence you have given me. News of you will always be welcome to

Yours most cordially,

B. V. MACANDREW.

News from the Clubs Brighton

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, December 13th, when twenty-six St. Dunstaners and their escorts were present. After a review of the year's work, which included a Derby outing and six coach outings visiting bowls teams, had been portrayed by the Secretary, we proceeded with the election of officers for the ensuing year. Mr. Rhodes was elected Chairman-Secretary, Mr. J. Walch, Vice-Chairman, and the three other Committee members were Messrs. Griffiths, Kelk and Martin.

After the meeting we had a grand domino tournament, followed by the presentation of the Sir Arthur Pearson prizes, which Matron Ramshaw performed with her usual charm. The winners were:—

Darts—1st, Mr. Kirk; 2nd, Mr. Pike.

Crib.—1st, Mr. James; 2nd, Mr. Kirk.

Whist—Mr. Gattrell and Mr. Rhodes tied for first place. Runner-up, Mr. Martin.

Dominoes—1st, Mr. Beard; 2nd, Mr. Ashe; Runner-up, Mr. Kirk.

FRANK A. RHODES.

Birmingham

December 9th was the Club's Christmas Party. A large number of men, wives, children and grandchildren attended. Also a few old friends, including Miss Berry. This year being the first without our old friend, Bill Shakespeare, his son and daughter were present, and as on previous years, as was his custom, gave prizes for each one of the children. His usual appeal on behalf of the deaf-blind was made by Mr. Cooling.

A nice tea was laid by members of the Red Cross, complete with two large iced cakes, made and given by two members of the Club, Mrs. Bilcliff and Mrs. Cashmore. Father Christmas arrived at 6 o'clock with his large sack. He had a cheery word and a parcel for all the children. Miss White brought her troupe of dancers and entertained. This the children loved, not forgetting the mothers and fathers. Cigarettes were handed round, prizes for bagatelle given; these were gifts from old friends. Altogether it was an enjoyable party. Each child received a packet of sweets on leaving, a gift from another member, Mrs. Kibbler.

Many thanks to Miss Streets, Mr. Colling, Miss White, Father Christmas, Red Cross personnel and all who helped to make our party a success.
E. VARLEY.

Cardiff

A very enjoyable Christmas Party was held at the Alexandra Hotel on January 5th, which marked the end of another successful year in the life of our Club.

Following our summer outing, which has been reported earlier, the Club met monthly when members battled at dominoes, crib and darts in knock-out competitions.

In the autumn an informal party was held, at which a wedding gift was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cartwright, with best wishes for their future happiness, from all club members and wives.

The Christmas Party was well attended, and after a chicken dinner the room was cleared for general activity. Games and dancing were soon under way, and during the intervals impromptu turns were given, including solos by Mr. Owen and Mr. Selby. With Mrs. Cople doing stalwart work at the piano, we let ourselves go with some hearty songs.

During the course of the evening Mrs. Cartwright, formerly Miss Davies, our Area Welfare Visitor, presented the prizes from the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund for competitions mentioned above. Winners were: *Crib*: Mr. Percy Blackmore. *Dominoes*: Mr. Palfrey. *Darts*: Mr. Norman Hopkins. *Ladies' Darts*: Mrs. Lane.

All members of the Cardiff Club wish St. Dunstaners everywhere a very happy New Year.

N. HOPKINS.

Manchester

The results of the 1956 Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions are as follows:—

Darts (T.B.): G. L. Edwards and S. Heys.

Darts (S.S.): S. Russell and W. Bramley.

Dominoes: W. Bramley and S. Heys.

Cribbage: H. Abraham and J. Shaw.

In the Ladies' Section, for which the Club provides the prizes, the results were as follows:—

Darts: Mrs. Collier and Mr. Abraham.

Dominoes: Mrs. McCarthy and Mrs. Collins.

Whist: Mrs. Collier and Mrs. McCarthy.

At the last meeting in 1956 there was a Domino Drive, when wives and escorts joined in friendly battle with members. The result was:—

1st, J. W. Warren.

Runner-up, Mr. S. Russell.

The occasion for the presentation of the prizes and cups was at the Christmas Party,

held at the Palace Restaurant on December 12th, when our generous and kind friend, Mr. Charlie Clarke, handed over the awards and suitably congratulated the winners.

At the party we were pleased to have as guest Miss Vaughan-Davies. After extending a warm welcome to guests and to all members, wives and escorts, the Chairman, Mr. W. Bramley, gave the toast—to St. Dunstan's and to St. Dunstaners everywhere.

J. SHAW, *Secretary*.

Christmas Rejuvenescence in West House

The heralds of Christmas were piping on November 19th, when the "Pittman" dinner-dance was held at the Grand Hotel. Then followed the "Grocers' 'Do,'" on December 5th. These two signal functions awakened the festive spirit.

Christmas Day, and Christmas Dinner, was a repeat of those of other years—all was excellent. All praise to Mrs. Strange, housekeeper, and to Mrs. Jeffs and her kitchen magicians.

The big items at Ovingdean—relayed to West House—were a huge success.

The staff worked hard and long decorating the common rooms and sick wards.

After the gift-giving on Christmas morning, performed by "Com," his daughter, "Diana" (how she grows!) and Matron, the drive in the warm winter sunshine was an unalloyed pleasure. Miss Heap was in charge and in tip-top form. A mass attack on the Hippodrome on Boxing-day Night was a truly merry "splurge."

Highlights we had to be sure. V.A.D. Miss Morgan for her clever decoration of the walls in the Hall; Sick Bay Orderly Dennis for his excellent decorative painting. Applause, too, for Mrs. Gladys Russell, for her unbelievably dainty terpsichorean performances, assisted by Mesdames Whyman, Block and Cornell, with Miss May popping in to have a "go," while Miss Bull duly attended to the "ducks" and "wall-flowers."

From "Com," through Matron Avison, to the staff, thank you so very, very much for all you did. It was a real "honey-bunch" Christmas which made us feel again some of the spirit of youth.

W. E. BROOKES.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. T. Clarke, of Carterton, near Oxford, January 3rd.

"We Had to Laugh"

"In the summer of 1931 my wife and I decided we would spend an evening at the theatre. We went along to book seats for the comedy "It's a Boy." All the bookable seats had been sold but we were advised to get to the theatre early and wait in the queue. This we did and found we could borrow folding stools to sit on instead of standing. The canvas on my stool was a little torn so that I sat gingerly while listening to the entertainers in the roadway. A gentleman came along and placed his hand on my shoulder and asked me if I was safe, or rather that is what I thought he said. When I replied everyone around me began to laugh, and each time I tried to inquire what had happened the laughter increased. Eventually I was told that a member of the Salvation Army had asked me if I was *saved* when I had jumped off the seat and said "Oh hell! I don't know."

MALCOLM JORDAN.

Howe.

"I recall the occasion at the Church Stretton Training Centre when Norton Christal and I had retired to the little room behind the Concert Hut platform to read Braille. We had just settled down when we heard a noise from the other side of the room. "Hullo," I said, "Who's that?" There was no reply, nor again when I repeated my question was there any reaction, but bags of dead silence. (One has to remember that this was in our very early days of being blind).

"I fancied that somebody with a twisted sense of humour was up to something, so suggested that Norton should stand by the door with his stick at the ready whilst I explored the room. I won't say who was the most surprised when my roving stick produced a frightened yelp from the dog which had followed us in."

WALTER THORNTON.

Heathfield, Birmingham.

"Since my head injury of the last war I have been somewhat lacking in my sense of taste and smell.

"On sitting down to my tea a short time ago, I accepted my wife's suggestion that I might like to have some cold pork, together with a helping of tomato chutney. This little repast having been completed, I consented to the idea of a second performance. The remainder of the pork was put before me and I was left to help myself

to more chutney. After a few minutes my wife asked me what I was searching the table for. I pointed out that I was looking for the top of the tomato chutney jar. I was assured that it was already safely screwed on, but I just had to protest, as I had the very jar still in my hand.

"Imagine my broad smile when I had it pointed out that I had dressed my second helping with *plum jam*."

A. G. BRADLEY, *Northwood Hills*.

"It was a bitterly cold day and my daughter had taken me for a sharp walk across the fields. We came to the river, but the plank bridge connecting the path on either side had been taken away or had been washed away. Being very agile, and the river a mere stream at this point, my daughter jumped across and called to me to follow, giving me an overhanging willow to steady me, and saying that it was just about three feet and would save us walking back, the way we had come. I jumped, but the willow broke, and I jumped right into the middle of that icy stream and slid disgracefully in the mud, to be completely immersed. I scrambled out to her side laughing, but more to calm her as she was upset and I had to walk home wet through. My neighbour and companion at the local in front of all and sundry said that he had heard of some dafties before, but when a chap deliberately jumped into eighteen inches of water to try and swim home, that was the limit."

A. J. RADFORD, *Castle Cary*.

"While on holiday in Morecambe with the members of Colne and District Society for the Blind, we were seated at small tables for four in the dining room. Each day after the main course for tea, we had either fruit and cream or trifle. Then one day a small dish was placed on the table and I ate the contents. I thought 'It tastes sweet, very much like jam.' Of course, it was jam, jam for four."

H. DRIVER, *Colne, Lancs.*

Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. G. Furniss, of Telscombe Cliffs, December 30th; Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Cooper, of Bridlington, January 20th.

Married 48 Years

Mr. and Mrs. W. Joyce, of Layton, Blackpool, celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary on October 10th.

Family News

Trevor Holland, Heswall, has been promoted to the rank of Petty Officer on the destroyer, *H.M.S. Barfleur*. He was at Suez from the beginning of the campaign.

Dorothy Cole gained 80 out of 100 marks at Lower Tuffley Music Festival, and won a first class certificate and a medal. She is also singing a solo on Speech Day.

Eight year old Janice Poole, Preston, has passed a Preliminary Elocution examination.

Barry Robinson, Rayleigh, who is ten, won first prize in a local Road Safety competition. He found 17 faults out of a possible 18 on a bicycle which was stripped of parts that made it roadworthy. His prize was a fifteen guinea cycle. The competition had been open to the general public and many adults competed.

Senga Boseley, Wallasey, was one of the babes in a local pantomime, "Babes in the Wood," and after the first night a member of the audience asked her mother if she could take her for voice training—she looks for pupils with promise. Her small sister, Sandra, was a fairy in the show.

Michael Halliday, Saltdean, won the School Prize for a piece of pottery. He is extremely skilled in this.

Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Grace Ethel Smith, Bury St. Edmunds, on December 22nd, to Frederick G. Bird, of Walsham le Willows.

The son of T. Dickinson, of Brighton, was married on December 9th.

Terence Brooks, Bedford, married Barbara Hare on December 22nd.

Leonard W. Leeman, Louth, was married in December to Jean Taylor; they will eventually live in Nigeria.

The youngest daughter of A. Budden, of Morden, was married on December 22nd.

Great Grandfather

B. Jarvill, of Thorne, Doncaster.

Grandfathers

W. Burgin, of Southwick; H. Acton, of Paignton.

A. Hermon, of Watlington, his daughter, who lives in Canada, had twins—a boy and a girl—on August 31st.

D. C. H. Cole, of Lower Tuffley, Glos.; C. Knight, of Thurmaston (his step-daughter has given birth to a son); A. J. Radford, of Castle Cary (the 10th grandchild).

Ovingdean Notes

Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' Association

The annual Christmas Party for St. Dunstaners living in this area, and those staying at the Brighton Homes, was held at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on Wednesday, December 5th. The President of the National Federation of Grocers, Mr. Carter, and the President of the local Association, Mr. Poole, attended with representatives from Southampton, Portsmouth and Hastings. Mr. Finlay, the Secretary of the Brighton, Hove and District Association, was unable to be present owing to illness, and St. Dunstaners will be glad to hear that he is now making good progress. Our thanks go to Mrs. Finlay, who took over much of the work from her husband, and enabled the party to go off smoothly. Sir Neville Pearson represented St. Dunstan's Council.

Commandant and Matron and the Staff at Ovingdean wish to thank all St. Dunstaners who sent them greetings at Christmas and to send to all readers of the REVIEW their very sincere good wishes for the New Year.

We should also like to tell you that the Chapel Collections at Ovingdean in 1956 amounted to £60 and donations were sent to the following organisations:—

National Fund for Poliomyelitis Research	...	£10	0	0
Hungarian Relief Fund	...	10	0	0
Tarner Home, Brighton	...	15	0	0
Brighton and Hove Girls' Orphanage	...	15	0	0
St. Matthew's Church Comforts Fund	...	10	0	0

In addition to the amounts sent from the Chapel Fund, there were also collections in the Brighton Homes for both the Polio Research Fund and the Mayor of Brighton's Hungarian Relief Fund.

The Christmas programme at Ovingdean, which started off with a Concert by the Brighton Male Voice Choir on Sunday, 23rd December, left hardly a spare moment from then until the New Year. The house was full for the Staff Concert on Christmas Eve and we were pleased also that many local St. Dunstaners came along, too, to join the audience. Christmas presents were distributed in the Lounge the following morning, and after port had been served, everyone went into the attractively decorated dining room to sit down and enjoy the

traditional Christmas dinner. As usual, we had a Fancy Dress Dance on Boxing Day, and during the week that followed, parties went to the Hippodrome to see "Babes in the Wood." New Year's Eve came—and went—celebrated with dancing and a cabaret until close on midnight when hot punch was served, and the Old Year tottered out! Everyone wished everyone else a "Happy New Year" and so we all began 1957!

It was somewhat quieter here by the 2nd January, for most of the holiday men had gone. The trainees returned that same day and the Spring Term began on the 3rd.

The Rest of the News

Kenneth McIntyre, of Durban, South Africa, who two years ago became a member of the committee of the Natal European and Coloured Blind Society, has been appointed a member of the Board of Management of the Arthur Blaxall School for the Blind. Last month, at the bi-annual conference of the South African National Council for the Blind, he was co-opted on to its National Executive Committee. ★ ★ ★

J. W. Swann, of Cosby, Leicestershire, who is one of our handless St. Dunstaners, plays dominoes for the Blacksmiths' Arms "A" team. They have just won the Northampton Breweries Companies League for the third time. He has three brothers and a brother-in-law in the team with him.

Births

FRANKLIN.—On December 30th, to the wife of A. H. Franklin, of Edmonton, a son—Christopher Stephen.

GORMAN.—On December 15th, to our St. Dunstaner Mrs. Stella Gorman, of Maghull, near Liverpool, a second son—Gerard.

MOON.—On December 22nd, to the wife of C. Moon, of Guernsey, Channel Islands, a daughter.

SMITH.—On January 5th, to the wife of Gordon Smith, of Saltdean, a son.

WOODHALL.—On December 27th, to the wife of J. W. Woodhall, of Tipton, Staffs., a son.

Marriages

LUCAS.—On December 22nd, W. Lucas, of Tenterden.

STERNO.—On December 22nd, A. Sterno, of Bath.

"In Memory"

Private Martin Manning, *Royal Munster Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of M. Manning, which took place in the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, on January 6th. He had been a permanent resident at West House but had been ill for a very long time. His home previously had been at Charleville, Co. Cork.

Serving from 1914 until March, 1919, he came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1929, and trained as a boot repairer.

He was a widower and our deep sympathy goes out to his family.

Gunner Dennis Morrison, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of Dennis Morrison, of Cork.

He was a gunner in his regiment, which he had joined as early as 1904, but when he was discharged in 1919 he did not come to St. Dunstan's. When he did come—in 1947—his age prevented any training.

He had been ill for some time before his death and our sincere sympathy is offered to his daughter, Mrs. Mohally, with whom he had recently gone to live, and to the other members of his family.

His comrades, St. Dunstaners Keegan and Healey, attended the funeral.

Private John Unsworth, *Machine Gun Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Unsworth, of Withdean, Brighton. He was 62.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1938 and trained as a netter, but he gave this up some years ago. He was a mustard gas case and had suffered with his chest for some years. In March, 1956, he was admitted to the Sick Ward of West House and he died there on December 26th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Unsworth.

Private James Watson, *North Staffordshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Watson, of Portslade. He was 63.

He was discharged from the Army in 1916 and admitted to St. Dunstan's in September, 1931. He trained as a boot repairer and continued with this work until his retirement at the end of 1955.

He was a widower for many years, and our deep sympathy is offered to his daughter, who had cared for him.

Private Edward Williams, *Training Reserve Battalion*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. Williams, of Windhill, near Shipley.

He served from April, 1917, until January, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1923. He trained as a boot-repairer and mat-maker, but for a very long time before his death he had not been able to attempt anything but the lightest work.

He leaves a widow and a large family, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Air Raid Warden Frank Arthur Game, *Civil Defence*

With deep regret we record the death of F. A. Game, of Chislehurst, Kent. He was 56.

He was injured in an air raid in January, 1941, but he did not come to us until April, 1951, when he trained as a basket-maker, and he was carrying on his craft right up to the time he was admitted to hospital in December. He died there on January 13th.

He leaves a widow and two daughters, to whom our deep sympathy goes out.

Private A. J. Cooper, *18th Canadians*

We have heard with deep regret from Captain Woodcock of the death of A. J. Cooper, of Toronto. Wounded in France in July, 1917, he came to St. Dunstan's and trained as a shorthand typist. Later he took a post in Canada but visited this country several times. In August, 1953, his wife died very suddenly shortly after they had arrived here. He had not been well for the past several months; he had never got over the shock of her passing.

He leaves a son, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

L.A.C. Herbert Wilfred Harris, *Royal Australian Air Force*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of H. W. Harris, of Carnegie, Victoria, Australia, which occurred on December 3rd after a brief illness. He was a Second War man.

He did not come to St. Dunstan's to train but we had been in touch with him for some years.

He was a bachelor and lived with his sister, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

George P. Stock, *Australian Army Medical Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of G. P. Stock, of Sydney, New South Wales, who although he did not come to St. Dunstan's, had been in touch with us for very many years. He was a First War man. He worked for many years as a physiotherapist at a local hospital.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his relatives.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy is extended this month to the following:—

AHRENS.—To A. H. Ahrens, of Stanford-le-Hope, whose wife died on January 7th.

ASHURST.—To our St. Dunstaner, Sally Ashurst, of Wigan, whose brother died suddenly before Christmas.

BISHOP.—To W. B. Bishop, of Croydon, who lost his mother at the beginning of December.

CRABTREE.—To H. Crabtree, of Wood Green, N.22, whose sister died on December 18th, after a long illness.

WATERWORTH.—To G. Waterworth, of Coventry, whose brother died on December 4th at the early age of 47.