

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Sensory Devices

SOME years ago St. Dunstan's devoted some special funds which had been placed at its disposal to research work on what were called Sensory Devices. A sensory device is an invention which seeks to substitute the use of the senses of hearing, touch, smell or skin pressure for the sense of sight.

A group of most eminent scientists acted as our Advisory Committee. In particular, we investigated devices which would enable blind persons to walk alone more easily, being aided by radar or other electronic apparatus. Our findings were that while some help may be gained theoretically, in practice the difficulty of using the apparatus and its weighty and inconvenient nature made it extremely unlikely that any blind person would use it.

The truth of this matter seems to be that the ordinary ears and intelligence of the ordinary blind man are better than any machine in the matter of getting about alone.

Another experiment was to try to devise apparatus that would translate ordinary printed words into spoken English or some synthetic language which could be fairly readily understood, so that a blind person could read the daily newspaper or an ordinary book.

Forty years ago the Optophone was invented, which translated ordinary print into sound signals that could be recognised, but there are only one or two extremely clever blind people who have ever been able to read it because it is so complicated.

Then we turned our attention to improvements in the Talking Book, and gave a lot of consideration to the substitution of the present disc records by tape. The conclusion we then came to was that the art of tape recording was developing so fast that it would be a mistake to choose any particular system, whether using tape, film or wire, at that moment.

Tape recording has now settled down to a considerable extent and certain standards have been more or less established, and the Talking Book Committee, with the support of the R.N.I.B. and St. Dunstan's, have decided upon a new experiment. We propose to initiate a new Subsidiary Talking Book Library, utilising tape recording, and run this for a year or two as a kind of pilot plant to see how it works in practice.

The R.N.I.B. and St. Dunstan's will each make available fifty machines, the former to civilians and the latter to St. Dunstaners, on terms to be arranged. Probably volunteers will be called for who are willing to take the new machines and give up their old ones. The advantage for the volunteer would be that he would be in on the ground floor of a new and most interesting experiment, but the disadvantage would be that at first he would not have a very wide choice of books.

The design for the new Book is that of a metal or plastic box or cassette, about the size of a large box of chocolates or a big family Bible. This cassette would contain well over 1,600 feet of tape and it would be read aloud for, say, twenty hours, which is roughly the length of an ordinary longish novel.

If and when this system proves itself, the very big question of changing the whole Talking Book Library over from disc to tape over a number of years will be considered. It may then be possible to establish a section in the new Tape Library for students, so that special books on physiotherapy, or law, or, indeed, on any set subject of limited interest might be made available.

Meantime, a small experiment is already being conducted for students, and a few records on $\frac{1}{4}$ inch tape which run at $3\frac{3}{4}$ -inch per second on $5\frac{3}{4}$ -inch diameter spools are available for physiotherapy and law students. Particulars of these can be obtained from the R.N.I.B.'s Students' Library or from the Welfare Department at St. Dunstan's. Any blind person who buys a recording machine for his own use will almost certainly find that it will play these students' records, but it must be understood that we cannot guarantee that such records will continue to be available after we have successfully established the new method, utilising the cassette which I have described. In other words, the present arrangements for students must be regarded as a temporary one, and anyone who buys a recording machine must do so because he wants it for general purposes and not because he wishes to rely upon the continuance of the Students' Library indefinitely.

Although the decision has been taken regarding the pilot scheme, using cassettes, it will be many months before they become available, but we will keep our friends informed on the progress we are making.

IAN FRASER.

A.M.I.M.E.

Our warmest congratulations to Ray Benson, of Farnborough, who has been elected an Associate Member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. He is believed to be the first blind person to achieve this distinction, although there are members who have lost their sight since being elected.

Ray has been working and studying for this for the past fourteen years. The Institute requires not only theoretical qualifications, but also practical experience, and the last two years have, of course, been extremely difficult because the authorities were at first reluctant to accept him because of his blindness.

Our St. Dunstaner's splendid achievement should be an inspiration to others similarly situated.

Presentation Fund for Miss Wilson

Many St. Dunstaners have expressed a wish to subscribe to a Presentation to Miss Wilson on the occasion of her retirement. I shall be pleased to act as Honorary Treasurer, and will any St. Dunstaners who desire to associate themselves with this, kindly send their subscriptions to me at St. Dunstan's Headquarters, 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

A. D. LLOYDS.

Payments to ex-Japanese Prisoners of War

The Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance announces that any ex-prisoner or civilian internee, or an immediate relative of those who have died, who has not yet received his share, or a share under the earlier distributions from the realisation of Japanese assets, should write as soon as possible to the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, at Thames House South, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

Applications cannot be considered after June 30th next and the final distribution will bring the amount which each prisoner-of-war has received to £76 10s. 0d.

This final payment will be automatic to all prisoners-of-war who have previously applied and received interim payments.

Braille Correspondent Wanted

Mrs. Hewitson, whom many St. Dunstaners will have met at Ovingdean, has a young woman friend whose sight is slowly failing and who has just completed her braille lessons. She is anxious to correspond with a St. Dunstaner and Matron Ramshaw will be very glad indeed to hear from anyone who would like to write to her in braille.

London Club Notes

Bridge.—The Harrogate Week will be held this year from September 7th-14th. Arrangements have been made for our party to be accommodated again at the Dirlton Hotel, Ripon Road, and the terms per day will be 27s. inclusive.

As we must make our reservations at the hotel as soon as possible, will all members who would like to join the party and who have not already sent in their names to Mr. Willis do so as soon as possible.

As we go to press, our team in the London Business Houses League have now played eight matches, of which they have won three, lost three, and drawn two.

St. Dunstan's Ten Mile Handicap Walk for the "Fiturite" Cup

Regent's Park, Saturday, 19th January, 1957

Order of Finish	Name	Time	Alle.	H'cp. Time in H'p	Post.
1.	P.C. Fogg ... M.P.	86-00			
2.	W. Miller ... St.D.	91-38	Scr.	91-38	3
3.	P.C. Kent ... M.P.	93-22			
4.	A. Brown ... St.D.	94-22	5-00	89-22	2
5.	C. Williamson ... St.D.	97-15	4-00	93-15	6
6.	P.C. Lightwing ... M.P.	98-07			
7.	G. Hewitt ... St.D.	98-50	9-30	89-20	1
8.	A. Bradley ... St.D.	100-15	8-30	91-45	4
9.	P.C. Ferguson ... M.P.	101-41			
10.	P.C. Barratt ... M.P.	101-48			
11.	T. Gaygan ... St.D.	101-50	10-00	91-50	5
12.	S. Tutton ... St.D.	103-00	9-30	93-30	7
13.	P.C. Soame ... M.P.	103-44			
14.	C. Stafford ... St.D.	105-45	11-00	94-45	8
15.	P.C. Ansell ... M.P.	106-09			
Result of Match—1st, St. Dunstan's				49 points	
2nd, Metropolitan P.				57 points	

Double Celebration

On January 5th there was great rejoicing among the family of Mr. and Mrs. G. Lawlor, of Leamore, Walsall, when our St. Dunstaner and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding, and their son, Christopher (the youngest of ten) married Joyce Haycock. There were sixty guests at the wedding of the young people in the afternoon and afterwards a party of some two hundred relatives and friends celebrated the double event. As our St. Dunstaner said, "Everyone agreed it was the biggest party they'd ever known in Bloxwich."

Chris and his wife will go on living in his parents' house at Leamore, where he was born, and Joyce will housekeep for them.

Rock 'n' Roll at St. Dunstan's

When Sir Ian and Lady Fraser visited Ovingdean on February 1st they found there was great interest in the current dancing sensation, rock 'n' roll.

Following their visit, on February 11th Miss Marguerite Vacani, the famous teacher of ballroom dancing who forty years ago gave lessons in Regent's Park to St. Dunstaners of the First World War, went to Ovingdean, where she initiated the new generation—and many of the old—in the 1957 version of the Charleston of the twenties. St. Dunstaners, young and old, with their partners, rocked and rolled in the approved style. Now Miss Vacani hopes to make a fortnightly visit to Brighton until the class is really 100% efficient.

In private life, Miss Vacani is the wife of Lieut. Col. R. L. Rankin, and during her very full life she has raised more than £16,000 for hospitals by her matinées, has spent many years teaching dancing to blind people, while her school of ballroom dancing and deportment, of course, is world-famous.

Talking of Walking—

'Tis time St. Dunstan's Walking Section Had a column in this 'ere "Review", So I've taken this job on myself, Sir, By conveying the facts now to you.

I'll tell you of rigorous training, Of walks in the Park Tuesday nights, With police for our guides and our escorts, And of fitness achieved by lamplight. I'll tell you of dressing-room jest, Sir, And of liniment, blisters and grease, And of judges, hot tea and cold weather, But never a sign of cold feet.

Our races go on by the hour, Sir, As round the Park we stride and strive, Trying hard to keep well on the ground with our feet Though uncertain if dead or alive.

I remember how one lucky starter Who was last for a deuce of a while, Turned up at the end with a prize, Sir, For on him did the handicap smile.

I'll tell you of one gallant walker Who set off for fair Brighton town, Arrived, and walked back in a day, Sir, "Centurion" Archibald Brown.

I'll tempt you with muscle and brawn, Sir, Of St. Dunstan's in athletic sport, Ring Paddington 5021, Sir, And join us if you think you ought.

A. G. BRADLEY.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I note that Mr. H. Pollitt writes in the January issue that a little exercise is a good thing, and being of the age that athletics have passed me by, I am all for indoor exercises, especially if my wife can join in. Accordingly I carefully explained that all she had to do was to go to the head of the stairs and, taking my ankles, I would proceed to walk downstairs wheelbarrow fashion. She looked very dubious but after a little cajoling she said she would try anything once. Placing my hand two stairs down, she seized my ankles and we started. But you know what women are. She let go and I landed all of a heap at the bottom, undaunted. But now came the best part. Mr. Pollitt says we should change over, and I told my wife it was her turn, but first she must have a cold bath. She said she would see me in Hades before she had a cold bath in February, so I made do with a swipe with a cold sponge. Then we really got going, my wife with her hands on the stairs and myself holding her ankles like grim death. She wouldn't move so I gave her a gentle push and down we came. We broke the banisters, tore the carpet and she busted her suspenders. Relations between us are still strained, but I am sure as we feel the benefits of exercise we shall make it all up.

Yours sincerely,

Perivale.

P. ASHTON.

DEAR EDITOR,

I should very much like, on behalf of my wife and myself, to record warmest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to our very dear friend, Miss Wilson. It is with a very deep feeling of a great loss that we hear of her retirement, and I feel too that it will also be felt by many hundreds of St. Dunstaners and their families. She has indeed been a very great help to us by her good understanding, sympathy and help, and it is very sad to know that she is now leaving us.

We sincerely hope she will enjoy very many more years of good health and happiness in her retirement, and that she may still be able to meet so many of the friends she has made in St. Dunstan's.

We should also like to extend to her successor, Miss Midgley, our warmest wishes, and sincerely hope she too will find very many friends in her work with the

After-Care Department of St. Dunstan's, and we send her our best wishes and a hand of friendship.

Yours sincerely,
F. and M. GUISELEY.

Menston-in-Wharfedale.

DEAR EDITOR,

After six months of retirement I find myself in complete agreement with our Chairman on the subject, but sometimes find shaving easier after, say, two days' growth. It may be said that wives never retire and so we cannot be too thankful to them for all they do for us, whose appearance should be as pleasing as possible!

When petrol rationing ends, doubtless road accident figures will increase again; meanwhile, getting about alone may be less risky, but this is a question for the individual concerned to decide, according to circumstances, and not being over-confident with such sight as one may have.

Yours sincerely,

Bournemouth.

ARTHUR T. BROOKS.

DEAR EDITOR,

Surely when one is disabled, even if working, one tends to develop an interest in many hobbies or crafts, otherwise, judging by myself, I am afraid I would be bored to death even when working.

Joining a club as Sir Ian Fraser indicated may be a sort of sedative to boredom, but I think most disabled working men and women do develop interests by the mere fact of already mixing with others. My advice would be to take up a craft as well as joining clubs.

There is another point on which I was most interested. I wonder when it will be possible for those of us who prefer to do a little handicraft to be permitted to draw the unemployability allowance and earn more than the 19s. 11d. per week which I understand is now the limit. I note wives can earn up to £2, but what has the poor pensioner to do? Agree to earn 19s. 11d. and draw the unemployability? Earn £1 0s. 1d. and be ineligible? What a lot of nonsense! I think "cut out the earnings" and let the pensioner draw a flat rate of pensions, applicable to us all.

Yours sincerely,

Birkenhead.

MAUREEN LEES.

DEAR EDITOR,

I must confess that for years and years I have been awaiting an opportunity to find out for myself something of the workings

Music Hall Memories

"Gertie Gitana's dead," said my wife, and my mind shot back to the Brighton Hippodrome, 1916, where I last heard Gertie Gitana singing. Indeed, it must have been the last professional performance I went to, but on that occasion she was not singing "Nellie Dean," but a recruiting song. Kirkley and Hudson were also there, singing "Somebody would shout out 'Shop!'" Another never-to-be-forgotten performance during the First War was George Robey and Violet Loraine singing "If you were the only girl in the world." As for Sir Harry Lauder, I remember him at the time when he was singing "Stop your tickling, Jock," "I love a Lassie," and "The Wedding of Sandy McNab," right up to when I could hear no more—those early days of Little Tich, Marie Lloyd and Vesta Tilley. Do you remember Eugene Stratton and G. H. Elliott's coon songs? And there was Victoria Monks, Vesta Victoria and Florrie Forde, who sang so many of the songs we sang on the march.

There were fine musicians, too, like Harry Fragson, who played the piano and (I forget his name), the one who was known as the "Magician of the Violin," and there were the "Ten Loonies."

She was an old lady with hands like a chicken's feet. She had left London to take a post in China for a firm when you could hear the click-clack of the hansom cab horse sprint down Oxford Street, or Piccadilly—the rattle of the harness and tinkle of the bells. How the polished spokes of the wheels sparkled in the sun. Gentlemen with glistening silk-hats and ladies wearing gem-studded combs in their hair. They were the days when the Brighton Promenade was a blaze of colour with the ladies' sunshades!

"No," I replied to the old lady, "I've never heard wireless." "You haven't missed much," she said, and we began to talk of the atmosphere of the old music-hall, the footlights, the raising of the curtain, the appearing of the artist, the hush that fell on the whole house as he, or she, sang, then the burst of applause as the last word was reached.

Sitting by the fireside listening to more or less a mechanical voice can never be the same.

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

(actually) of Ovingdean. I, as you know, have not had very much time to do this, working so closely with the Appeals Department as Freddie's chauffeuse. I often thought to myself, "Well, here I am, helping Freddie to get in the shekels, and yet I know nothing of the actual workings of this place, which for the past thirty-nine years I have been so closely connected with." When Freddie retired I thought, here is my chance to really see what happens. I did not expect my chance to come the way it did and am I overwhelmed!

Although I have been connected with many more organisations than St. Dunstan's in the past, I have never yet come across such attention, such, may I say it, loving solicitude, than what Freddie experienced in the Sick Bay at Ovingdean.

As his wife I make my thanks public. Please thank all who contributed to his getting well again, especially Dr. John, and the Sick Bay staff, not forgetting our Matron. - So now I am so glad in my old age that, as a very young wife, I gave my undivided attention to St. Dunstan's. It has for me been a case of casting your bread upon the waters. In my case it has been returned a million times.

Yours sincerely,

Lancing.

MILLIE RICHARDSON.

DEAR EDITOR,

As a result of the appeal made in the REVIEW for subscriptions for furnishings for the new Roman Catholic Church at Rottlingdean, a sum of £15 14s. 6d. was collected. A cheque for this amount was handed to the Parish Priest.

He has asked me to convey his thanks to those who so kindly sent in their donations.

I, for my part, wish to thank both Mr. Lloyds and the REVIEW for the help you gave in arranging the collection and receiving the subscriptions.

Yours sincerely,

TIM GAIGER.

Devizes.

Holiday Accommodation

SEASIDE HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION.—Bed and breakfast at moderate price. Please apply early.—Mrs. "Paddy" Doyle, "Harlington," Great Preston Rd., Ryde, Isle of Wight.

International Literary Competition for the Blind

Blind persons throughout the world—regardless of race, religion, or nationality—are invited to participate in the Ninth International Literary Competition sponsored by the *Jewish Braille Review*.

Manuscripts may be submitted in any language and the contest includes three categories—the short story, poetry and non-fiction (essays, articles, autobiographical sketches, tributes, etc.). In addition to the five hundred dollars in prizes which will be awarded, the winning entries will be published in the *Jewish Braille Review*.

Miss Pearl Buck, the well-known author, who will again be one of the judges, says:

"If I have anything to say to blind writers, it is not advice so much as it is a wish, a hope that they will make use of their own gifts, that they will not imitate those who see with the physical eye, but will cultivate their special vision, and through their own experience of life, from their own viewpoint, open to the rest of the world—the seeing who are often the unseeing—the true meaning of what lies beyond the mind and the spirit of human beings."

Entries, which will be accepted until July 31st, 1957, should be marked "Literary Competition," and addressed: The Jewish Braille Institute of America, 101 West 55th Street, New York, 19.

The Increase in the Blind Population

Several St. Dunstaners—Percy Ashton, Malcolm Jordan, Arthur T. Brooks and Maureen Lees among them—responded to Frank Rhodes' request last month for comments upon the reported increase in the blind population in the British Isles from 40,000 in 1906 to 100,000 in 1956. The following reasons were suggested for this increase: (1) the increase of eight millions in the entire population since 1906; (2) the coming of the Welfare State and the fact that thousands of blind people now registered as blind persons would not have been included in 1906; (3) the fact that people live longer nowadays, thereby increasing the figures for aged blind.

It was also pointed out, however, by John Mudge and others, that the numbers might have been more but for the advancement of scientific and surgical knowledge and methods.

From the Chairman's Postbag

Captain Peter Gobourn, of the Royal Army Service Corps, now stationed in Bengazi, recently wrote to Sir Ian telling him of the splendid efforts of the Forces Broadcasting Service there to help the Wireless for the Blind Fund.

Captain Gobourn is the son of our St. Dunstaner, S. Gobourn, of Cheltenham, and this is how his letter ended: "We had a quiet Christmas Day . . . I thought back to Christmas, 1942, when a lonely young soldier, with six weeks' service to his credit, received a Christmas present from 'your father's old comrades at St. Dunstan's.' Even Fort George seemed brighter! Much water has passed under many bridges since then!"

Brighton Club Notes

As we had such a full programme during 1956, being entertained by various Bowls Clubs, a dinner party was arranged. This was held at the "Seven Stars Hotel," Ship Street, Brighton, on January 23rd. There were fifty-eight present in all, comprising St. Dunstaners and their friends. We were especially pleased to welcome Mrs. Bamber, Mrs. Kenefick and Mrs. Unsworth. After dinner we had an informal entertainment, when Miss Vilmaneve, Mr. Walch and Mr. Doubler rendered solos and gave of their best. Miss Vilmaneve and Mr. Doubler also gave us a real treat with duets. Major Wasser, with his charming personality and wonderful accompaniments, was much appreciated. Mr. Mudge added a lighter vein with his homespun chatter, and Mr. Martin, "The Whitest Man I know," added even a lighter vein.

FRANK A. RHODES,
Secretary.

Grandfathers

Samat bin Samat, of North Shields, our Malayan St. Dunstaner, has become a grandfather.

New grandchildren have arrived for A. T. Brooks, of Bournemouth, H. R. Prior, of Portchester, F. E. Moorley, of Chaddesden, and P. Sheridan, of Wishaw (the second great-grandchild).

Beryl, the step-daughter of G. Moore, of Blackpool, had a son on January 24th, and a son was born on January 8th to Mrs. Batey, daughter of our late St. Dunstaner, W. Buckham, of Birtley, co. Durham.

A Fair Dinkum Story

I met a blinded ex-sailor who served with me for over five years on the first H.M.A.S. *Sydney*—from 1913 to 1918. I was a Signalman at that time and sighted the German cruiser, S.M.S. *Emden*, off Cocos Island. My ex-shipmate was captain of a 6-inch gun. There are only about twelve of the old-timers left in and around Melbourne, and we have not had a reunion since World War Two started—until last November 9th. There were seven of us and we had a jolly three-hour lunch—and kept on an even keel! My cobbler, Bert, wanted us to buy a ticket in a £10,000 sweepstake named Tattersall's. We were dropped at a nearby store and he said he'd get to Tatt's blindfolded—what for I don't know, as he has only about 3% sight. We did eventually find the entrance and after getting bushed about six times, we did get to the window where, with a lass's assistance, we made our application. Then we got back to the street. He had a white stick and I had nothing, just his left arm. He got no bumps but I collected the lot. We had to cross Swanston Street, which is where Flinders Street Station is, and it is the busiest station in the whole world. We made it. Then we made for the Talking Book Library. I never missed a trick. I walked into a pair of steps with a man on them re-charging a lamp. He saw me in time and dropped to the path, grabbing the steps to stop them cracking the store window. Bert now sheared off to the right hand side of the path and walked against the oncomers. They dodged his white stick and I picked up the collisions. When about three paces from the opposite kerb, I heard a screeching of brakes and smelt oil. Bert said "It's only a tramway bus." What a comfort! We made the footpath and I breathed freely. Bert heard me and said "Don't you trust me?" I said "No. Definitely a thousand times, No!"

BILL SEABROOK.

Victoria, Australia.

★ ★ ★

At Norwich Flower Show in September, W. Abbs, of Moor End, Stibbard, gained three firsts, four seconds, three "highly commended," and a bronze "Smallholder" medallion; and at the same show H. Goodley, of Diss, also did well, taking five second prizes and a "highly commended."

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.

"I had to Laugh—Afterwards"

Here is what happened when I first made a fool of myself.

I was newly blinded when I arrived back in England in September, 1915, and finished my wanderings amongst strangers at the Connaught Hospital, Aldershot. A few days later I had a visitor whose accent was evidently that of a member of what was termed the upper classes. The owner of the voice might be a hospital official or army officer so I made doubly sure of being courteous by putting in "Sir," now and then during the conversation. After the visitor left the man in the next bed had remarked tactfully that my visitor was a nice-looking old lady. I felt very foolish; my visitor was a lady with a deep voice, and I had mistaken her for a male. She understood the situation and came again many times, and I hope I rectified matters by addressing her as "Madam." She was the widow of a well-known Field Marshal.

Llandysul.

J. E. DAVIES.

★ ★ ★

Our old friend, E. Denny, of Pretoria, had some bad luck recently. A native burglar broke into his house and got away with a great deal of his clothing, including an overcoat, sports coat, suit, etc. Mrs. Denny actually saw the burglar and ran after him, but he got away.

A Deaf Man's Music

I have been deaf since 1917 and totally deaf for twenty-six years, and sometimes, when sitting in the Lounge, if there is some concert on, someone will say "Billy, I wish you could hear this. It is most beautiful." But for instance, when Miss Dagnall has been playing, I have been near and I get the vibrations by putting my hands on top of the piano. But I get no tone.

This may sound strange too—I do get the most beautiful music in my ears. When I was a youngster I had very keen hearing. I used to listen to water tinkling over stones. If anyone has heard the cantillion (I think that is the name, it is an Australian instrument, bells played like an organ), and took that sound with the sound of water tinkling over stones, playing "A little bit of heaven fell from out the sky one day," then they will get an idea of what a deaf man can hear.

What makes me wonder is how I can hear my own voice, but could not hear a big drum if you beat it near my head.

BILLY BELL.

Fifty-three Years Married

We have just heard that Mr. and Mrs. I. Davidson, of Manchester, celebrated their fifty-third wedding anniversary on October 31st. Many congratulations and good wishes.

Golden Weddings

We have only just heard that Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Booth, of Ashton-under-Lyne, celebrated their Golden Wedding on October 29th. It was attended by ten children, twenty-two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Our very best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Booth.

On January 5th, Mr. and Mrs. G. Lawlor, of Leamore, Walsall, celebrated their Golden Wedding—the day on which their son, Christopher, was married. How they celebrated this double event is described on another page. Here we will just send them our hearty congratulations.

Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. T. Duncan, of Telscombe, January 31st. Congratulations.

Silver Wedding

Congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. G. Eustace, of Tolworth, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on February 6th.

Family News

Sheila Read, New Haw, Surrey, has passed her Trinity College of Music examination for pianoforte playing.

Jennifer Wood, Southsea, has during the past eighteen months gained First Class certificates for the pianoforte in the Preparatory, Junior and Higher Junior examinations of the London College of Music.

Brian Lethbridge, Oldham, who is nine, played in his school cricket team in his first season.

Brian Higgs, Southfields, now working at an engineering firm, won the Second Apprenticeship prize there.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. C. E. Bolton, of Erith, and her husband, our St. Dunstaner, have suffered a great loss in the sudden death of Mrs. Bolton's brother. He collapsed and died on Southend Football Ground on January 5th. He was an old soldier and at the funeral the coffin was carried on a six-horse gun carriage.

Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Edith Collinge, Blackpool, on January 26th, to William Moss.

Brindley Boswell, Gainsborough, on December 22nd, to Miss M. Lambert.

Edna Roylance, Atherton, Manchester, on December 22nd, to Frank Sweeney.

Leonard McDonald, Oldham, on October 3rd.

Norman Dunwoodie, Walker, near Newcastle, on December 22nd, to Miss Georgina Bothwick.

Christopher Lawlor, Leamore, Walsall, on January 5th, to Miss Joyce Haycock.

National Laying Test, 1956/57

Report for the third month of four weeks from December 4th to December 31st, 1956

	Score	Value
1 Bagwell, Philip	266
2 Holmes, Percy	205
3 Dix, John A.	177
3 Webb, W.	142
5 Smith, W. Alan	42

Average number of eggs per bird per month, 12.60.

Average number of eggs per bird to date, 31.17.

Manchester Club Notes

At the Club's Annual General Meeting, held on January 11th, the following appointments were made: *President*: Mr. H. Abraham; *Chairman*: Mr. W. Bramley; *Vice-Chairman*: Mr. S. Russell; *Hon. Secretary*: Mr. J. Shaw; *Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. W. McCarthy. The whole of the members constitute the Committee.

The resignation of Miss E. Hill as Hon. Treasurer was received reluctantly, especially as it came earlier than had been expected, and on medical grounds. The Chairman paid tribute to Miss Hill for the very valuable services she had rendered to the Club, especially as Hon. Treasurer during the past six years. He hoped that her health might improve, and that Miss Hill would enjoy many years of happy retirement when she finished her business career later this year.

The Chairman also tendered the thanks of all the members to the ladies who had assisted as games markers, and in other ways, during the past year, and especially to Mrs. McCarthy for supervising the ladies' activities.

J. SHAW.

The Rest of the News

Maureen Lees' exhibition of the work of the physically disabled, which was opened by the Mayor of Birkenhead proved a great success. Since then Maureen has been awarded second prize in the National Weaving Contest. She exhibited two rugs.

She is also exhibiting at the War-Disabled Exhibition at Chester, on April 11th-13th, in the Assembly Room of the Town Hall. Light refreshments will be served in an adjoining room and there is also a restaurant nearby.

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W. T. Woods, of Christchurch, New Zealand, is still working a limited private practice in physiotherapy. His family—four in all—are all happily married, one living in Canada.

Marriage

WINDRIDGE—McINTOSH.—On February 16th, C. Windridge, of Wigston Magna, Leicester, to Mrs. McIntosh.

"B.P." and "C.A.P."

Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout movement, was born one hundred years ago on February 22nd. The movement itself celebrates its golden jubilee this year.

Many St. Dunstaners—if they were Scouts—will still remember with affection that absorbing Handbook, "Scouting for Boys," which "B.P." wrote, and which must have been read by boys in every country in the world; but how many realise that it was published by our own Founder, the late Sir Arthur Pearson?

We take the following from the "World's Press News" for February 22nd, 1957:—

"B.P." Remembered

"C. Arthur Pearson, original publishers to the Boy Scout Association, were hosts to a small number of distinguished members of the movement and Press when, in B.P.'s room last week, the Hon. Robert Baden-Powell was handed a copy of his grandfather's book, 'Scouting for Boys,' by the grandson of the original publisher, Mr. Nigel Pearson.

"The occasion marked the centenary of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts movement, and the publication of the facsimile centenary edition, 'Scouting for Boys.'"

The Braille Review

We regret that, owing to late receipt, we have not been able to include in the Braille issue of the REVIEW the above article and certain other items in this issue, namely, the letter on p. 5 from Tim Gaiger and the deaths of St. Dunstaners E. S. Hayter, F. Marsden and W. A. Bowring. They will all be printed in the next issue of the Braille REVIEW.

Births

GOODHEAD.—On January 17th, to the wife of R. Goodhead, of Crosspool, Sheffield, a daughter.

STANLEY.—On February 13th, to the wife of G. Stanley, of Market Harborough, a daughter.

"In Memory"

Lance Corporal Herbert Kidger, 3rd Worcestershire Regiment

We record with deep regret the death, on February 8th, of H. Kidger, of Deal. He was 64.

A regular soldier—he had enlisted in January, 1909—he was wounded at Ypres and came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1917. He trained as a mat-maker but during the last war worked in a factory. He had, however, been ill for several years but had borne this with great courage.

He was buried on February 12th, following a solemn Requiem Mass at St. John's Church. At his request, there were no flowers, but St. Dunstan's wreath was placed on the coffin.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Private William A. Bowring, 1-4th Dorsetshire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of W. A. Bowring, of Bristol, which occurred on February 11th. He was sixty.

He left the Army in July, 1919, and came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1924. He trained as a boot-repairer and mat-maker, continuing with both occupations for a time. Later he did mats only until he gave up work some years ago. His health had failed in recent months.

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

L.A.C. Edward Stephen Hayter, Royal Air Force

We record with deep regret the death of E. S. Hayter, of Hounslow. He was seventy.

Discharged from the Royal Air Force in March, 1921, he came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1925. He trained as a boot-repairer and continued with this work until his last illness, which began some months ago. He was admitted to hospital in November and was discharged at the beginning of January. He returned there for a further week, being discharged on February 13th, but he died at his home on February 21st.

He leaves a widow and two sons, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

Private Frederick Marsden, 1st Border Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. Marsden, of Blackburn.

Enlisting in December, 1914, he served until May, 1916, coming to St. Dunstan's in September, 1918. He was originally trained as a boot repairer but for many years had been occupied as a poultry farmer. He was also greatly interested in his greenhouse and beautiful garden, which was a source of great pride to him.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Marsden and her family. She and her husband had been together for sixty-three years.

Captain Francis Marriott, C.M.G., 12th Battalion, 1st Australian Division

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Captain Francis Marriott, of Tasmania, whom many early St. Dunstaners will remember, for he was one of the first Commonwealth officers to be trained at St. Dunstan's.

"Frank" Marriott, as he was known, was blinded at Bapaume in February, 1917, and he came to St. Dunstan's later that year, where he trained as a poultry farmer. He returned to his native country in 1920 and started a distinguished political career two years later when he was first elected to the Tasmanian Legislature. He remained a member until 1946. He was Chief Commissioner for the Boy Scouts in Tasmania from 1928 to 1932, and a prominent worker for blind welfare and for Toc H, of which he was Federal President from 1931 to 1934. He received his C.M.G. in 1934, but earlier, in 1920, had the honour of being received in private audience by King George V at Windsor Castle on Anzac Day, and again at Buckingham Palace in 1926. He retired from most of his public interests in 1948.

He was a widower and our deep sympathy is offered to his sons.

M. C. McLeod and Norman Henry Spires, New Zealand Forces

We have heard with deep regret of the deaths of two New Zealand comrades who, however, did not come to St. Dunstan's in this country.

M. C. McLeod, of Wellington, a Second War man, died last November after a long period of suffering. Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. McLeod.

N. H. Spires, of Masterton, North Island, another Second War man, also died in November. Australian-born, he settled in New Zealand and farmed on a large scale. He died very suddenly, leaving a widow to whom our very sincere sympathy is sent.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

ALEXANDER.—To A. E. Alexander, of Parkstone, who has just lost his only sister.

BLACKWELL.—To C. G. Blackwell, of New Tredegar, whose mother passed away on January 14th in her 82nd year.

DAVEY.—To G. R. Davey, of Hastings, who lost his wife on January 9th.

BURDEN.—To W. Burden, of Saltdean, whose brother died suddenly at Canter-

bury at the beginning of February.

Our St. Dunstaner attended the funeral, which took place at Canterbury Cathedral. The Dean, Dr. Hewlett Johnson, conducted the ceremony.

KINDER.—To T. Kinder, of Knotty Ash, Liverpool, whose wife died on December 2nd.

WHITE.—To J. D. White, of Chilwell, Nottinghamshire, whose grandmother died in November.