

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 446—VOLUME XL

MARCH, 1957

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
(FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN)

WAR PENSIONS

AS we go to press, arrangements are being finalised for the deputation which is to visit the Minister of Pensions on March 20th.

Sir Ian Fraser told the annual conference of the Metropolitan Area of the British Legion on February 23rd that for the first time, the great majority of ex-servicemen's organisations had added their voices to that of the Legion. The eighteen societies involved included the best known in the land—those with large memberships, as well as specialist organisations dealing with important sections of the severely disabled. They were the British Legion, the Royal Signals Association, the Royal Air Force Association, the Royal Marines Association, St. Dunstan's, the Officers' Association, the Old Contemptibles Association, the Royal Naval Association, the Ex-Services Welfare Society, the Royal Artillery Association, the Burma Star Association, the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, the National Federation of Far Eastern Prisoners of War Clubs and Associations of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops, the Pathfinder Association, the Dunkirk Veterans Association, and the Association of Wrens.

These eighteen organisations had agreed a pensions programme which they would put before the Minister when their deputation met him on March 20th.

They would ask that the basic rate should be raised to a figure of not less than 90s. a week, with proportionate increases for those with lesser degrees of disability, and also increases for war widows.

Sir Ian said that in his opinion the country's economy had not been so damaged by recent events as some thought. "The process of deflation," he said, "may suddenly produce a situation in which the Government will find it possible, and even necessary, to release some money for consumption. This may take the form of tax remissions, but it will most certainly also include improvements in the conditions of pensioners generally. That is why I consider the forthcoming Legion year one of the most important in our history."

Mr. Tom Watson Retires

St. Dunstan's loses another old and valued member of the staff at the end of the month. Mr. Tom Watson, Head Hall Porter at Headquarters, retires after thirty-seven years' service.

After a long career in the Army, in the course of which he was awarded the D.C.M. and bar, and the Croix de Guerre, he came to us in 1920 immediately upon his discharge. He was first at the Bungalow, then at Cornwall Terrace, and later at St. John's Lodge. During the 1939-45 war, he moved wherever Headquarters moved and all St. Dunstaners who have ever had occasion to visit us will remember his typical London welcome and his ready help and advice.

Tom Watson is a grand "old soldier" and he will be missed by the many friends he has made among St. Dunstaners themselves and by his colleagues on the staff. They will all wish him the very best of luck and many years of well-earned retirement.

★ ★ ★

Mr. Watson is being succeeded as Head Hall Porter by another ex-regular soldier. He is Mr. R. May who left the Army, after twenty-five years' service, with the rank of W.O.2 in R.E.M.E. Mr. May has already worked with Mr. Watson for some time.

Camp—Lee-on-Solent

Friday, August 9th to Saturday 17th.

I have wonderful news for all campers—once again we have been invited to the Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, from Friday, August 9th to Saturday 17th.

This is the 13th camp at Lee. When we were invited to Seaford Park in 1945 I don't think that any of us dared to hope we should still be going there in 1957.

I know you will all agree that the Navy have been wonderful to us. I would like to say to all of you—"Well, you have done it again—for you always make yourselves welcome wherever you go."

Let me have your entries as soon as possible.

Camp fee payable in camp, 25s. Fares over £1 repaid.

A. SPURWAY,
Vicarage, Holmwood,

Dorking 73191.

Dorking.

Reunions—1957

Date	Place
April 6th	Windsor (Guildford)
April 11th	Maidstone
May 8th	Blackpool (Liverpool)
May 10th	Chester
May 11th	Manchester
May 21st	Edinburgh (Glasgow)
May 23rd	Newcastle
May 25th	Leeds (Doncaster and Harrogate)
June 1st	Bournemouth
June 4th	Plymouth
June 15th	Bristol
June 21st	Cardiff
June 25th	Belfast
June 27th	Dublin
July 6th	Luton
July 10th	Ipswich
July 12th	Nottingham
July 13th	Birmingham
September 6th	London (Evening Function)
October 2nd	Brighton (Evening Function)

Thirty Years Ago

On March 26th, St. Dunstan's will be forty-two years old. We take the following from the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW for March, 1927:

Sir Arthur Pearson

An Appreciation

Remorseless Time sweeps on, great Chief, unchecked,

Unceasing life flows on its wondrous way.

Whilst we, by you our world made bright and gay,

Renew the common round which once seemed wrecked.

You were our guiding star—our beacon light,

Your smiling courage banished all our fears;

And yet, great Chief, you were not young in years,

When battling with the darkness of your night.

But let that pass; we like to think that you,

Not only leader were, but friend besides,

And raised a countless host of friends as true

As you, and kindly, gratitude resides

Within the hearts of those you served and led—

And, leading, gave back Life when Life seemed dead.

W. V. CLAMPETT.

London Club Notes

Bridge.—Will those who have not yet sent in their names for the Harrogate Week—September 7th—14th—do so as soon as possible. We shall be staying at the Dirlton and the terms are 27s. per day inclusive.

In the final placings of the London Business Houses League our team finished third in their section.

St. Dunstan's Twelve Mile Handicap Walk

for the "James Galloway Trophy" and Match with the Metropolitan Police

Order of Finish	Act. Time	H'cp. All.	H'cp. Time	Pos. in H'cp.
1. F. Freeman	M.P. 111-45			
2. J. Holding	M.P. 112-05			
3. L. Soame	M.P. 113-02			
4. W. Miller	St.D. 113-04	Scr.	113-04	4
5. A. Brown	St.D. 115-24	3-00	112-24	2
6. C. Williamson	St.D. 116-11	3-30	112-41	3
7. G. Hewitt	St.D. 119-35	8-00	111-35	1
8. R. Youldon	M.P. 129-20			
9. C. Stafford	St.D. 134-32	16-00	118-32	5

Match Result—1st, Metropolitan Police, 14 points.
2nd, St. Dunstan's, 22 points.

Our Friends the Police

On Wednesday, February 28th, Sir Ian was the Guest of Honour at the Annual Dinner of the Metropolitan Police Association's Walking Section, held at the Euston Tavern in Euston Road.

Responding to the toast to The Guests, Sir Ian told them how deeply St. Dunstan's walkers were indebted to the police for their guidance and help over so many years.

Among those present were our two St. Dunstan's walkers, Archie Brown and Billy Miller, and also P.C. Fred Duff who, together with Archie Brown, last year walked to Brighton and back—over 100 miles in just under twenty-four hours—both thus becoming Centurions.

Ruby Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Sanson, of Colyton, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on March 14th, and to Mr. and Mrs. Yarwood, of Wythenshawe, Manchester, whose anniversary was on March 16th.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations, too, to the following, who are celebrating their Silver Wedding anniversaries:

Mr. and Mrs. D. Taylor, of Swindon, January 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. G. Brooks, of Bedford, February 27th.

1957 Derby Sweepstake

The Derby will be run on Wednesday, June 5th, and we invite applications from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in our own Sweepstake. *No other person can enter.*

Please read the following rules carefully. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and application for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 24th.** Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered. *Tickets will be issued consecutively.*

The total money subscribed, less the cost of printing and postage, will be distributed as follows:—

50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse;

20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse;

10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse;

20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

No prize won in the Sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

The Draw will take place at the London Club on the evening of Thursday, May 30th, and all those drawing horses will be notified.

Ovingdean News

Madame Vacani paid her second visit to Ovingdean on Monday, March 4th, to continue the Rock 'n' Roll class. Lady Fraser also paid one of her routine visits to the Home at the same time.

Placements

F. Sunderland, as an audio-typist with United Dairies Ltd., Kensal Rise, N.W.10; L. E. Tanner, of Wimbledon, as a capstan lathe operator with the Morden Tool and Gauge Co., Ltd.

Fisherman

R. Gadsby, of Leeds, one of our keenest fishermen, has just landed a pike weighing 16lbs.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

In connection with Mrs. Richardson's letter of appreciation, I should like to endorse her remarks.

My husband was tended by the doctor and nursing staff at Ovingdean whilst on holiday in January.

He cannot express his thanks or appreciation sufficiently to Matron and the Staff for the excellent treatment he received.

Will you please publish this to tell of our grateful thanks to all our kind friends at Ovingdean who make our holidays such happy events, and, if necessary, for my husband to have medical attention whilst there. That also becomes much less tedious in the hands of such efficient and human people. Thanks a lot, Ovingdean.

Yours sincerely, CELIA L. FEARNLEY.

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to second Maureen Lees' suggestion for the removal of the earnings limit for the totally disabled who are also totally unemployable and receiving the supplementary. It is not entirely the desire to earn unlimited kudos but that feeling of irritation when completion of the permitted quota leaves one with nothing either constructive or remunerative to do. Maureen has formerly emphasised the need to develop other interests and for varying reasons. We cannot all be gardeners or fill in the blanks with club or other associations. I am speaking as one of the out-back, one from the Far West, for here we have not clubs. I am a Buff but there is no Lodge nearer than fifteen miles. I am a member of the British Legion but our local branch opens once a week for whist drive and committee, and the "local" is the only place where one can relax and they are too full of their darts and skittles leagues to create an interest for one who for various handicaps, cannot engage in either. How one envies the London Club, the Liverpool Club, Brighton Club, etc., of which the REVIEW regularly informs us.

So I say, if the rehabilitated in professions and trades are free to earn full wages and salaries and can indulge in one of the hobbies taught by the handicrafts, surely the totally unemployables are not likely to upset anybody's applecart if their earnings were allowed to provide full-time, if leisurely occupation?

Yours sincerely,

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

Well-known Australian St. Dunstaner Retires

In January last, H. Gilbert Nobbs, O.B.E., retired from the Board of Directors of Holbrooks, Australia, after a lifetime spent with the company. He has also retired from the Repatriation Welfare War-blinded Committee, on which he had served as Chairman since its formation fifteen years ago.

After the First World War, Captain Nobbs returned to Holbrook's in London; later he was sent to Australia where he organised and developed the Australian company so that within a few years it was one of the largest units in Holbrook's world-wide enterprise.

He became Chairman of the Repatriation Welfare War-blinded Committee and was responsible for organising and caring for the war-blinded Australians of the Second World War. It was for this work that he was awarded the honour of O.B.E. His book, published in 1951, and entitled, "Blinded but Unbeaten" told the story of the training and placement of blinded soldiers and recalled much of the spirit of the St. Dunstan's of the early days.

In spite of these retirements from his main activities, Captain Nobbs' life is a full and busy one for he is still associated with many sporting and charitable organisations.

St. Dunstan's Old Contemptibles

Those of you who had filled in your application forms to register as St. Dunstan's Old Contemptibles may have been inclined to think that the matter ended when my notes failed to appear in ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW for October, 1955. I would like you boys to know that we are still going strong, and to keep in touch with each other we have our own magazine, *Calling All Chums*, a copy of which will be sent to you each month upon hearing from you. There is no charge for the magazine, and I shall be indeed happy to hear from as many of you boys as would like to have the magazine, and join in our annual get-together.

It was indeed an unfortunate mistake that I was not able to continue using the REVIEW, but *Calling All Chums* has filled the bill since November, 1955, and is sent out monthly to all St. Dunstan's Old Contemptibles who would like to have it.

Send your address to me: Alan Nichols, Chairman of St. Dunstan's Old Contemptibles, 97 Mile Oak Road, Portslade, Sussex.

National Library for the Blind

E. W. Austin

Memorial Reading Competition

The Twenty-eighth E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held on Saturday, 1st June, 1957.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has graciously consented to be present at the finals to be held at the Assembly Hall, Church House, Westminster, S.W.1., at 3 p.m. that afternoon. All seats will be reserved and admission will be by ticket only.

Unseen passages will be read, and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression. (Should the entries in any class be very limited, prizes will be awarded only if merited).

Here are the Classes of interest to St. Dunstaners:—

Class A. Advanced readers in competition for the Blansburgh Cup.

Class B. Other readers in competition for the Stuart Memorial Cup.

Class C. Readers who have lost their sight since 1938 and who have learnt to read Braille since the age of 16 (and who do not fell competent to enter the more advanced classes). (Entrants for this Class will not read in the afternoon but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon).

Medal Competition. A special competition open to all readers eligible to enter Classes A and B and to all previous winners of the Open, Medal and Classes A, B. and C. A medal will be awarded to the winner of this Class.

Class D. (Moon). Open to readers of Moon type. (Entrants for this Class will not read in the afternoon but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon.)

Class E. (Deaf-Blind Readers). Open to blind readers of Braille who are also deaf. (Entrants for this Class will not read in the afternoon but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon).

Intending competitors should send their names to the Secretary, National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1., not later than Friday, 17th May, 1957, stating which Class they wish to enter.

Manchester Club Notes

At a meeting of the Club held on the 8th March, the opportunity was taken of marking the appreciation of the members to Miss Hill for her services to the Club generally, and especially in the capacity of Hon. Treasurer. It was a tribute in itself that every member and his wife or escort contributed to the presentation fund which it had been decided to open, and everyone contributed equally. To the total subscribed, Mr. W. McCarthy provided a seagrass stool of his own making.

In making the presentation, Mr. W. Bramley, the Chairman, spoke of the admirable services rendered to the Club by Miss Hill; always up-to-date with Club affairs, and with a helping hand at every turn, yet all the time maintaining a charming modesty.

Miss Hill received the tokens and said how happy she had always been to help the Club. She had felt the break, but she disclosed that she was feeling better since she had eased up on her many activities.

Will everyone concerned please note that the Club meetings during April will be on the 5th and the 26th.

J. SHAW.

B.B.C. Sound Programmes

There has been correspondence recently in the *Times* concerning the various programmes of the B.B.C. These letters culminated in a leading article on February 22nd. On February 26th, in the course of a letter to the editor of the *Times*, Sir Ian Fraser wrote:

"It is clear that limited resources must pay for sound and television; the latter being costly in itself and more expensive still because of healthy competition from Independent Television. In this scramble sound may suffer. May I plead for the 100,000 blind people, the hundreds of thousands of old people who do not see very well, and the poor and the old-fashioned who cannot or do not want to afford television? They also serve and deserve to be remembered, and they love their familiar voices and programmes."

Author

Michael Tetley is the author of a short story, entitled *Leopard Platoon*, which appears in the April issue of the *Argosy* magazine.

Talking Book Library

Dam Busters of March, 1957

Sixteen books broke through the bottleneck this month, which which I can but do my sketchy best hereunder.

"Love for Lydia," by H. E. Bates, reader Franklin Engelmann, is a country town romance with Lydia, the "at first" shy, and then gay and malicious tyrant to the narrator, the faithful friend, who finally collects and restores the heroine's poor little broken pieces for himself.—*Cat. No. 964.*

"Charles Dickens," by V. Pope Hennessey, reader Eric Gillett, is, I believe, self-explanatory.—*Cat. No. 962.*

"Elizabeth and the Prince of Spain," by Margaret Irwin, reader Arthur Bush, is an account of Elizabeth's relationship with Philip when he came to England to marry "broody" Mary.—*Cat. No. 169.*

"The Odyssey," by Homer, readers L. Marson and A. Bush, portrays the travels of Ulysses on his way home from Troy.—*Cat. No. 107.*

"The Governor's Wife," by David Unwin, reader Peter Fettes, is a story of unrest in a British African Protectorate where all would be well except for an unsympathetic neighbouring Republic. It is a study of the social life out there and the stress and folly of rioting to right doubtful grievances. Love and liquor figure, too, in the story.—*Cat. No. 104.*

"Sleeping Beauty," by Elizabeth Taylor, reader Jean Metcalfe, is an apt title for a yarn whose heroine withdrew into her shell after a motor crash disfigured her, until the hero, Sebastian, found her, winkled her out, and carried her off. Proper sheikh stuff and a little innocent bigamy!—*Cat. No. 99.*

"Through Lands of the Bible," by H. V. Morton, reader Alvar Liddell, is in line with the author's "In search of . . ." series, is a pleasant travel book covering a vast area, and good though it is, personally I found it a fraction too long.—*Cat. No. 95.*

"This Fascinating Animal World," by Alan Devoc, reader Alvar Liddell, cannot fail to appeal to all "animalisers," and there is much to be learned from such books unless, of course, they happen to be written by anglers!—*Cat. No. 91.*

"Married to Adventure," by Jule Manix, reader Andrew Timothy, is quite a story. Training an eagle to hunt iguana in Mexico whilst living with it in a small New York apartment is but one of the honeymoon raptures.—*Cat. No. 31.*

"Grain of the Wood," by Michael Home, reader Stephen Jack, has a warm, unsophisticated Norfolk setting. Ted Burling starts from scratch as a youngster and builds up a fine business and reputation as an antique dealer. The ups and downs and twists in the story make entertaining reading.—*Cat. No. 60.*

"Journeying Boy," by Michael Innes, reader Robin Holmes, is the story of a problem child, son of a wealthy, eminent scientist who is a widower. A tutor is hired to take the boy on holiday to Ireland where, amidst fighting, kidnapping and shooting and fire, they prove themselves a couple of stalwarts.—*Cat. No. 961.*

Other Titles

"Romans, Hebrews, and Thessalonians," reader Andrew Timothy.—*Cat. No. 76.*

"Against Whom," by Phyllis Bottome, reader Timothy Brinton.—*Cat. No. 59.*

"House of Mirth," by Edith Wharton, reader Robert Gladwell.—*Cat. No. 19.*

"Private Papers of Henry Rycroft," by George Gissing, reader Norman Shelley.—*Cat. No. 90.*

Excerpts from "The Merchant of Venice," by William Shakespeare, read by an anonymous cast.—*Cat. No. 15.*

"NELSON."

Doing What Can't Be Done

Mr. Ben Sutton, an old soldier of the First World War, who is blind and deaf, and, although not a St. Dunstaner, is a reader of the Braille REVIEW, writes:

"There are two things in particular in this world that give me a pain—fried garlic and dogmatism. Of the two abominations, give me fried garlic. 'Dogmatism,' according to Webster's dictionary, is 'a doctrinal notion asserted without regard to evidence or truth.' That's the kind of dogmatism I'm writing about.

"Many intelligent readers of past middle age can recall instances of dogmatising about what is impossible. It was the same

with the coming of the railway, the telegraph, the telephone, electric light, the talking machine, the submarine, the motor car, moving pictures, the aeroplane and now radio and television.

"Those who stand around proclaiming that such and such a thing can never be done are likely the next moment to be elbowed out of the way by someone who is doing that very same thing. All the real doers the world has ever known have been men and women who believed in the possibility of doing what they wanted to do.

"Mount Everest was never conquered by standing at its base and staring up at its peak."

The Ballad of the Bang!

(The following doggerel records an incident among the elderly children at Ovingdean; one of whom was—

Yours sincerely,

TIM GAIGER,
(Devizes.)

*With dainty tread and lissome grace,
The soft-toned Sister took her place
Beside the tea-break barrow.
Then read in accents firm and clear
The list of names for all to hear
(This is our weekly harrow).*

*All unaware of fate impending,
She smoothly read in voice ascending
Whilst Tommy crept behind her.
In hand he held a huge balloon;
It burst a moment not too soon.
Poor Sister! Could we find her.*

*As Matron heard that thunderous sound,
She cleared the counter in a bound.
It was for self-protection!
With blazing eye and flushing cheek,
The wrathful Sister turned to seek
The cause of this defection.*

*Her gaze alighted on a youth;
He guiltless as a babe, forsooth!
And him she called by name.
But the impish grin on Tommy's face
Soon brought about his dire disgrace
And fettered him in shame.*

*And Tommy doing what he didn't oughter,
Was sent to bed on bread and water.*

TIM ANDAL.

Family News

Mrs. A. H. Robinson, of Rayleigh, has lost her father.

★ ★ ★

Dorothy Cole, Lower Tuffley, Gloucester, came second in the Music Festival held by Lower Tuffley Community Centre. Many singers from the surrounding districts competed.

Sons' and Daughters' Marriages

Barbara Jean Patience, Croydon, on February 16th to Brian Willey.

Sheila MacDonald, Oldham, on February 23rd.

Barbara Rutter, Eccles, Manchester, to William Booth on February 23rd—two days before her 21st birthday.

Henry Bowring, Bristol, was married on February 9th but owing to the sad loss of his father on February 13th, the honeymoon was cancelled.

Hazel Cole, Lower Tuffley, on January 21st, by special licence.

Grandfathers

J. Stibbles, of Pitlochry; G. H. Richards, of Manchester (for the fourth time); L. W. Calvert, of Southport (the eleventh grand-child); A. H. Dembenski, of Cheltenham (two grand-sons and a grand-daughter since August); F. Stew, of Shuthonger, Glos. (a grandson and grand-daughter within the last month).

The Rest of the News

G. Eustace, of Tolworth, a keen accordionist, has passed his examination with 87% marks and a Certificate of Merit.

★ ★ ★

When the Lord Mayor of Leeds entertained the Social Services of the City at a Reception on March 1st, our St. Dunstaner, Ernest Russell, was chosen to represent his Department. Mr. Russell is with the Entertainments and Building Department.

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W. Hare, of Cheltenham, is Vice-Chairman of the Cheltenham Branch of Toc-H.

★ ★ ★

E. V. Barwick, of Launceston, Tasmania, Australia, is, in his own words, a poor correspondent and therefore it was a special pleasure to have a long, interesting letter from him last month. In it he gave a detailed description of life and conditions in Tasmania, and of the countryside covering thousands of miles.

"In Memory"

Private Harry Bray, *Welch Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of H. Bray, of Wythenshawe, Manchester. He served with the regiment from April, 1917, until his discharge in 1919 and came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1924. He was trained as a mat-maker and netter but entered industry during the last war and was with his firm, the Coventry Chain Company, on inspection work for fifteen years.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and her family. (The eldest daughter is in Australia).

Private William Judd, *Royal Field Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Judd, of Hillingdon. He was fifty-eight. He left the Army in November, 1919, and came to us in January, 1924. He trained as a basket-maker and worked at this craft up to his last illness, apart from a break during the war when he did factory work. On March 5th he was admitted to hospital and he died there on March 13th.

To his widow and her family our deepest sympathy is offered.

Births

DAVIS.—On March 7th, to the wife of R. G. Davis, of Hounslow, a daughter.

FOWLER.—On February 22nd, to the wife of S. J. Fowler, of Beeston, a son—John Stanley.

PAGE.—On February 11th, to the wife of L. R. Page, of Hove, a son—Ian Reginald.

SHORTER.—On March 17th, to the wife of J. Shorter, of Shortgate, near Lewes, a daughter—Penelope Ann.

Marriage

LOOMIS-CASHEL.—On February 20th, G. Loomis, of Cricklewood, to Mrs. Cashel.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

DREW.—To A. Drew, of Moston Lane, Manchester, whose only sister died on March 3rd.

HAROLD.—To T. A. Harold, of Harold Wood, Romford, whose brother has died.

HEXT.—To E. Hext, of Curry Rivel, Somerset, who has suffered a double bereavement by the death of a sister in January and a brother in February.

HUTCHINGS.—To C. Hutchings, of Sutton, Surrey, whose wife died suddenly on February 28th.

KEMPSTER.—To J. Kempster, of Hemel Hempstead, who has had a further bereavement by the death of another brother. He has lost two brothers and three sisters since last September.

NOLAN.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Nolan, of Acton, whose little daughter, Susan, died on March 12th, at the age of three months.

My Friendly Stream

*In slumber deep, enriched by dream,
I traverse slope to friendly stream,
It sings to dyke now crisp with winter's frown,
It kisses willow roots and reeds of brown.
It trips and chants o'er rock and pebble bed,
And then reclines in tranquil pools ahead,
Where once it mirrored banks of radiant hue,
With meadow sweet and forget-me-nots of blue.
But now the pools reflect a changing scene,
For all is withered, gone the beauteous greens,
And moody nature demonstrates her might,
And shrouds the dying things with frosty white.
The sun then peeps through fleeting clouds of grey,
To glorify this artistry with golden ray,
And in its glancing smile a moment now so rare,
Robes the Earth in splendour with Jewels that
beggars share.
The pools then swell and overflow with pride,
Onward, onward o'er pebble bed to ride,
By fir 'neath stony bridge past poplars tall,
By oak and ash, through hollied arch, down
waterfall.
A spray leaps forth as though in joyous fun,
A shower of pearls kissed by a fitful Sun,
To cascade forth, on sandy bed it dies,
To spring to life again its choirs to harmonize.
Then solitude and quiet for now its race is done,
Its energies are spent and rest must surely come,
To seek a pond and creep 'neath Winter's icy
cloak,
And there will sleep till roused by Nature's
hungry folk.*

RONALD SMITH,
Seaford.