

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 447—VOLUME XL

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

HOW would you choose books for the blind to read? I do not mean how would you choose a book for yourself, because that would depend upon your individual taste; but I mean how would you set about choosing for all the blind people who read Braille or who listen to the Talking Book?

You might answer that there is no difference between this question and the question "How would you choose books for a library for the general public?"

I would agree with this answer in so far as it indicates that the tastes, intelligence, education and experience of blind people are generally no different from those of other people; and, indeed, I feel sure most of us favour the view that we are, so far as possible, normal people. But there are some special limitations which must be taken into account. The first is that the cost of making Braille and Talking Books is a very heavy one indeed for the organisations for the blind to meet out of their resources, and consequently the number of books must be severely limited. We simply cannot afford to Braille or record thousands of detective stories, hundreds of travel books, and so on. Like the man who is told that he is going to be marooned on a desert island, and that he may have a small box of books, we have got to choose what might be called samples from the great store of literature, old and new. The next limitation is that we read slowly. Braille from twenty to one hundred words a minute for the ordinary St. Dunstaner (although I know one or two experts can do two hundred); and for Talking Books, say 150—200 words a minute. It may surprise you to know that sighted persons read two or three hundred words a minute, and, if they are skilled, say a sub-editor or trained barrister, perhaps four or five hundred words a minute. Then we cannot easily skip. Lastly, it is physically convenient to have a Braille book which goes into not more than two or three volumes, as a short novel does, rather than a Dickens, or a Scott, which may go into a dozen; and as far as the Talking Book is concerned, it is convenient if the book will go into one container or two. So, on the whole, short books suit us best.

We must, I think, exclude books which would only interest a very few people, however hard it is on them, and we must try to include books which will have as wide an appeal as possible.

I would add one other test, namely, for Braille. The writing should be as concise as possible so that the immense trouble which we take to pick up the words with our fingers is rewarded, because the words themselves are worth while; and so far as the Talking Book

is concerned, that it should be easy on the ear, which excludes, in my opinion, unfamiliar accents or awkward styles of writing.

I think a good guide should be the day-to-day demand on a popular circulating library, such as Boots' Lending Library, coupled with the limitations I have mentioned above and the opinions of readers over many years.

Personally, I would like some of the great books of the past as well as some of the long books of to-day condensed for me. I would feel that I was getting an insight into more books by that means even though I may lose a passage here and there which I might have liked. To adapt the old phrase, what the finger hasn't felt or the ear hasn't heard the mind cannot grieve about.

I am sure it would help the Committee which chooses books to know what St. Dunstaners think, so if you feel like it, write to the Editor.

IAN FRASER.

The Derby Sweepstake

As announced last month, applications can now be received for tickets in our Derby Sweepstake. Once again you are reminded that only St. Dunstaners can hold tickets and prizes will not be paid to any other person.

The closing date is Friday, May 24th. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each, and are obtainable only from the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. The draw will take place at the London Club on Thursday evening, May 30th.

Lee-on-Solent Camp

This is a reminder that we have again been invited to the Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, from Friday, August 9th, to Saturday, August 17th.

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

Entries should be sent to me as soon as possible and in any case not later than Monday, May 6th.

A. SPURWAY.

Miss Wilson's Presentation Fund

Miss Wilson's many St. Dunstaners friends will be glad to know that contributions have come in well and she is being consulted as to the gift she would like to have to remind her of her years at St. Dunstan's.

The presentation is being arranged to take place at the Leeds Reunion, where probably the largest number of St. Dunstaners from the Northern Area will be present. We shall invite one man, to be chosen by ballot, from each Welfare Visitor's area in the North, to come to Leeds for the presentation, though we are hoping that Miss Wilson will be able to attend one or two of the other Reunions as well.

A. D. LLOYDS.

M.A.

Many congratulations to D. E. Williams, of Brisbane, Australia, who has completed his studies at Queensland University, securing his M.A. Degree and a Credit in Political Science III. Our St. Dunstaner was a prisoner of war in Malaya and he took up his studies at Queensland University five years ago.

Municipal Election Candidates

Roy Crompton has been formally adopted as Conservative candidate to contest the Moston Ward in the forthcoming municipal elections, and Micky Burns has been nominated as prospective Liberal candidate to contest the Chalkwell Ward of Southend.

Married 58 Years

On March 26th, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bentley of Finchley, London, N.12, celebrated the 58th anniversary of their wedding. Our congratulations to them. Mr. and Mrs. Bentley have ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Married 43 Years

Congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. W. Markwick, of North Moulscombe, Brighton, who on April 4th, celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary.

Ruby Wedding

We much regret that we have only now been notified of the Ruby Wedding on July 11th last of Mr. and Mrs. S. Game, of Lydford, near Okehampton. We send our delayed but nevertheless very sincere congratulations to them.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Nicholson, of Beeston, Notts., on March 26th. Congratulations.

London Club Notes

Bridge.—Have you sent in your name for the Harrogate Week? If not, please do so as soon as possible.

St. Dunstan's Seven Mile Championship Walk and Match with the Metropolitan Police. Regent's Park, Saturday, March 23rd, 1957

Order of Finish	Club	Time	Allow	H'cp.	Pos. Time in H'cp.
1.	W. Symes	M.P.	62:38		
2.	W. Miller	St. D.	62:50	Scr.	62:50 5
3.	C. Williamson	St. D.	66:28	5:15	61:13 2
4.	A. Brown	St. D.	66:34	4:15	62:19 3
5.	G. Hewitt	St. D.	67:56	5:30	62:26 4
6.	R. Hopper	M.P.	68:23		
7.	J. Robinson	M.P.	68:43		
8.	P. Collins	M.P.	69:15		
9.	W. Young	M.P.	69:17		
10.	T. Gaygan	St. D.	69:25	10:30	58:55 1
11.	H. Lightwing	M.P.	70:05		
12.	S. Tutton	St. D.	70:15	7:00	64:15 6
13.	C. Stafford	St. D.	75:25	11:00	64:25 7
Result of Match: 1st, St. Dunstan's. Points 36.					
2nd, Met. Police. Points 42.					

The Shell Mex Party

St. Dunstaners employed as telephonists at Shell Mex, Ltd., were again the guests of the Company at a party on March 19th. A feature of the evening was the presentation to Mr. Scaife of a space heater.

Sir Neville Pearson, our President, performed the presentation, saying in the course of his remarks, "It is more than twenty years since St. Dunstan's came into the Shell business, and only last year that the last St. Dunstaner joined. It shows that the Shell business is not entirely dissatisfied . . ." Sir Neville paid tribute to Mr. Scaife's sympathetic and enthusiastic help.

Mr. Scaife, in his reply, said there were two things which should not be forgotten. One was that it was the late Mr. Ernest Fidler who was responsible for these gatherings from their inception, and whose idea it was, and secondly, that they enjoyed having St. Dunstan's men there.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser attended the first part of the proceedings and the party then went on to a theatre.

Two St. Dunstaners were meeting for the first time since they were in training together at Church Stretton in 1944. They were Harry Petty, now of Leeds, and Jim Blackwell, now living in Bridgwater, Somerset.

Mr. Lloyds and Mr. Wills were also among those present.

Liverpool Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, March 23rd, when members and their wives or escorts, numbering thirty-two, were present. The President, Capt. E. Holloway, opened the meeting with a survey of the Club's activities over the past year, and expressed his delight with the enthusiasm shown by all members and the ready and whole-hearted support given to the various enterprises conducted by the Club. He also had a special word of thanks for the ladies, who not only managed our catering but were always willing to assist in every way possible. He went on to refer to the grand work done by Mr. H. Formstone, who, ever since the inception of the Club, has been responsible for organising Club tournaments and competitions, and extended to him our sincere thanks.

The Chairman, Mr. J. Blakeley, after endorsing Captain Holloway's remarks, added his own personal thanks. The Statement of Accounts was then read and unanimously agreed to. The election of the new Committee was then proceeded with. This was done by ballot and resulted as follows:—

President: Capt. E. Holloway; Chairman: Mr. J. Blakeley; Vice-Chairman: Mr. E. Cooper; Hon. Secretary: Mr. T. Milner; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. T. Kinder. Other Committee Members: Miss E. Aldred, Mrs. V. Formstone, Mr. G. H. Matthews and Mr. J. C. Owen.

The proceedings having been concluded, we settled down to enjoy tea and refreshments, kindly provided by the ladies.

T. MILNER,

Hon. Secretary.

* * *

H. Goodley, of Pulham Market, has again won first prize for hyacinths at Diss Blind Social. This is his fifth first prize for hyacinths.

He also thinks he holds a record or two. He has a cyclamen, ten years old, which has always been pure white. This year it has seventeen white flowers and one mauve one placed centrally.

He also has a broccoli plant, waist high, which has a very large head, and two rings of smaller ones about the size of tea cups. Six are in the first ring, eight in the other. Is this a record?

Letter to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Whilst talking to a friend a few days ago about St. Dunstan's, I was telling her how we St. Dunstan's men were trained, and the different subjects and trades that were taught. Then I said "Have you ever seen the place?" She said "Yes, I passed it on the 'bus last summer, and I saw a lot of men outside playing golf, which I thought was very clever."

Well, I had to tell her that we were not quite so clever as that and we both had a jolly good laugh.

Yours sincerely,

Hastings.

GEORGE JESSUP.

[There is a golf course a very short distance from Ovingdean].

Manchester Club Notes

We are sorry to report the resignation from the Club of Mrs. L. W. Lang, of Bowdon, Cheshire.

Mrs. Lang has concerned herself with the activities of St. Dunstaners in the Manchester area for more than twenty years, and when the Club, as we now know it, was established in 1948, she was appointed its Chairman, a post which she held until August, 1950, when she became Vice-Chairman, and held this post for the next three years. From 1953 until March, 1956, she attended Club functions and meetings regularly, and rendered valuable services in connection with Club matters generally.

On March 9th, 1956, she was appointed the Club's first President, in recognition of her long and varied services.

The members have placed on record their appreciation of all the good work that Mrs. Lang has done for the Club, and have conveyed their good wishes to her.

At her own request, there was no presentation, but we all hope that Mrs. Lang may retain many happy memories of her associations with our organisation.

J. SHAW, *Secretary*.

Mr. T. Watson

Several St. Dunstaners have written to me suggesting that those who have known Mr. Watson for a number of years might like to subscribe to a presentation fund for him upon his retirement. Will any St. Dunstaners desiring to do so please send their contributions to me at Headquarters, 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

A. D. LLOYDS.

Unemployability Supplement The "Earnings Rule"

In view of the correspondence we have lately printed on the subject of the so-called "earnings rule" and the unemployability allowance, the following passage from a letter written by the Rt. Hon. J. Boyd Carpenter, Minister of Pensions, to Sir Ian Fraser may be of interest.

The British Legion, in a deputation introduced by Sir Ian, had included this item amongst their claims, and our Chairman had also written personally to the Minister about it. In his reply the Minister said:

"The question whether the earnings limits that are attached to certain social service benefits deter disabled people from working at home is one of the matters which, I understand, has been under consideration by Lord Piercy's Committee of Enquiry on the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons. I am sure you will agree that it would be most advisable for us to have the Committee's recommendations before reaching a final conclusion on the subject.

"I think, however, that I should say straight away that the £52 a year figure is not in fact an 'earnings rule' in the sense of that applicable under the National Insurance Scheme to persons who reach retirement pension age but carry on in employment. For the pensioner who qualifies for the unemployability supplement there is unfortunately no question of employment in the ordinary sense of the word, but there can arise a very important question of occupational therapy and it is really in that context that the proviso in the Royal Warrant has to be considered. When the earnings figure was introduced, it was mainly with the intention that the unemployable pensioner should not be discouraged, through fear of losing the supplement, from engaging in activities, for example, of a homecraft nature which might earn him a little money. But the limit is a test of unemployability—not an earnings limit.

"The £52 is a *net* figure and is most flexibly applied. Enquiries are not made weekly into the earnings of a pensioner receiving the supplement, and he is not disqualified from receiving it in any week in which he earns more than £1. Our concern is with his average net earnings over a year, for it is realised that there may be many weeks in which he may be able to earn much less than £1 a week, and even nothing at all.

Round Africa

by H. GOVER

My wife and I left London on the *Braemar Castle* on January 16th for the round trip to Mombasa and back. The original idea was to continue through the Suez and the Mediterranean, calling at Genoa and Gibraltar and home, but our friend Nasser put a stop to that.

We called at Rotterdam and were there time enough to have a short charabanc ride to the Hague, and then on to Las Palmas and a wonderful crossing through the Bay of Biscay, where we picked up some ship's stores, chiefly bananas, and water. We next called at Ascension Island for a few hours and here we left stores for them, chiefly eatables, with quite a few barrels of beer and a motor car. These were all landed on a raft, as there is no quay or dock here. Between here and St. Helena we passed H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh on the *Britannia*, and our Captain sent a message on behalf of everyone, and the Duke replied. Also about this time we crossed the Line and we had a wonderful ceremony, quite a number of the officers and crew taking part—King Neptune and his Court all coming from Davy Jones' Locker, and they were a sight to see. Next we stayed at St. Helena for a whole day, so we landed with difficulty from small boats and we toured the island, visiting Napoleon's prison home, and also his first grave, or at any rate until the body was taken by the French to Paris.

Of course we had by this time well started the usual ship's games, and I and Mrs. Gover went in for the Bridge. I was fortunate enough to be drawn with quite a nice player, and with steady bridge we went on to win the final. The night before Cape Town was a Gala night, and also Captain Holland gave out the prizes, and my partner and I had a great ovation. Mrs. Gover also had to go up to receive a first prize for Whist. It was indeed a great night, with dancing after and also a late supper, and all this time we were on the Cape Town rollers.

Next day we landed at Cape Town, but we had a note from Mrs. McGivern to stay in our cabin until we were called for by Mrs. Opperman, who is a great friend of St. Dunstan's.

During our two-day stay we visited the home of Captain and Mrs. Anderson, and

"The experience of the Department has been that when a seriously disabled war pensioner is able to earn more than £52 a year, he is usually able to earn considerably more, in which case, of course, he ceases to satisfy the conditions of unemployability for which the supplement was intended. And as regards those pensioners receiving the supplement, who are engaged on home crafts, recent enquiries of our local offices have confirmed that these pensioners' earnings rarely approach the £52 a year figure.

"On the evidence I have at present, therefore—and my mind is by no means closed on the subject—I do not feel that an amendment of the Royal Warrant to increase the £52 a year figure is really called for."

From All Quarters

Jock Macfarlane, of Ilford, had a new experience on April 2nd when, as Chairman of the 'Telephonists' Grade Committee of the Civil Service Union, he led a deputation to the Treasury. He has received the congratulations of the Secretary of the Union on the activities of his Committee.

★ ★ ★

J. H. Burton, of Fareham, and Mrs. Burton are members of the "Peter Pan Club" (all over sixty) and they visit organisations giving concerts. In February they gave one at Lee-on-Solent to the "Over 60's Club," with an invitation to go again. Their March programme was also a full one.

★ ★ ★

W. Griffiths, of Blackburn, gained 83 out of a possible 100 for singing at Burnley Musical Festival. The winner had 88. Our St. Dunstaner, who is a baritone, was complimented by the Adjudicator, Michael Head, upon his singing.

★ ★ ★

Jack McGill, of Auckland, New Zealand, writes that life goes on much the same. His garden keeps him busy. He lives in a house on a peninsula and when he wrote he said that Sir Anthony and Lady Eden were to stay in a house just across the water.

★ ★ ★

D. B. Elrod, of Sheffield, tells us that his guide dog, Dianna, appeared in a B.B.C. Television programme on April 6th, which featured the training of guide dogs.

of course we met Jimmy Ellis and his lady, but we saw more of them on our return. We then went on to Port Elizabeth, East London and then Durban, where we were met by people we were asked to see. At Durban, in fact, Mrs. Morris was wonderful in finding friends each day to take us round and show us Durban in their cars, and then on to Lourenço Marques, where we met yet another friend who was recommended by Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Hawkes.

Our next port was Beira, also Portuguese East Africa, and we landed yet more cargo, as we had done at all the other ports, chiefly motor car parts and paper pulp, and here we landed quite a few toilet basins for Rhodesia, so to make our ship a little more steady, our Captain picked up 5,000 tons of copper, which we could have picked up on our return. Beira was very hot, but our next port was also hot and yet a different kind of heat, and also nearer the Equator. We had three good days here for, as you know, Mombasa is the port for Kenya and Nairobi. Mombasa is a very mixed town, consisting of Arabs, Indians, African natives, all kinds of Europeans and all kinds of Jews.

We had a conducted tour round Mombasa, which is an island, and visited the markets of all these different people, and another day we went over the Causeway Bridge and into native African territory. All these three days our ship was loading as fast as possible and they work all night (black labour), 5,000 tons of coffee and cases and cases of tea. I understand that the tea-growing in Kenya is increasing in leaps and bounds yearly, and many tea planters have come here from India and Ceylon. Our port of call on our return was Dar-es-Salaam, where I lost four of my bridge friends, who are working on Local Government.

Our port of call was, of course, Beira again, for we are now on our return, but before reaching Beira at 10 a.m. one morning on the public address speaker it was announced that at 11.30 we would be coming up to the *Kenilworth Castle* and would at that time slow up and stop in order that our doctor could be taken from our ship to theirs to be of assistance. We saw our doctor and ten men on the sun deck with their lifebelts on, get into the lifeboat, then it was lowered by others and sent away to the other ship and the doctor was there for over forty minutes.

It was a great sight, this helping of one another at sea, and then the return and being hauled aboard by machinery, of course, men and boat, to the sun deck again. The *Kenilworth Castle* was, of course, entirely cargo, and did not carry a doctor. The man had fallen and very nearly broken his neck, but we were pleased to hear a few days later that he was getting on very well.

Mrs. Morris again got all her forces together and saw that there was never a dull moment for the Govers, in fact, the day we arrived was at Committee, which immediately broke up for tea and chat. We were interviewed by a representative of the *Natal News* and photographed, and the friends who had met us at East London and Port Elizabeth also came to see us. Then Cape Town again, where Mrs. Opperman and Mrs. McGivern took charge of us. Mrs. Opperman took us for a drive and then on to her house for lunch with her daughter, who had spent two years resident on the Outer Circle, Regent's Park, so we had much in common.

Mrs. Hart came and took us for a drive in the afternoon and to collect her husband and back to her house to tea. Many of you will remember Mrs. Hart as Miss Hodge, when she was secretary to Miss Pain at Church Stretton. Mr. Hart, who was blinded in the last war, overwhelmed her and married her.

We were then picked up by Mrs. Ellis and Jimmy, with Mrs. McGivern. We were the guests of Mrs. McGivern, with Jimmy, to dinner, and then on to Signal Point (rather more than half-way up Table Mountain) to see the lights of the town and the ships and the bay by night. They then took us back to our ship, so they all came on board for a binder. Next day we were met by Mrs. Gill, who took us for a long drive to visit many bays and also the Naval Station, which we have now so recently handed over to the South African Government. We left in the afternoon with many happy memories and telegrams and flowers and fruit. The journey home was a good passage, calling at the usual ports. We both went in for the Bridge, but were knocked out in the second and third rounds. We ran into some nasty fog off Folkestone, where the pilot should have come aboard, and we were delayed nine hours. I think I have made it clear that on the return journey we had quite a few passengers who were colonials coming home on leave, and what a thrill they and we had to see just

on our port side passing by Folkestone, the white cliffs of Dover, then round to the left and St. Margaret's Bay and Deal, Ramsgate, Margate, Herne Bay, Southend, Leigh-on-Sea and Tilbury for, without the fog, we were supposed to be doing all this in the dark.

The First Reunions

About one hundred St. Dunstaners and their escorts attended the Reunion at Windsor on April 6th—the first to be held there for a number of years.

Sir Neville Pearson presided and this most happy and successful meeting was an auspicious beginning to the 1957 series.

Mr. D. G. Hopewell presided at the Maidstone gathering on April 11th; not quite such a large gathering but no less pleasant.

Family News

Brenda Hodgman, Sutton, Surrey, has passed her Finals and is now a S.R.N.

Marie Temperton, Hull, has been successful in passing Parts 1 and 2 of the State examinations. She is at present nursing at the Royal Infirmary Hull.

Valerie Shread, King's Lynn, has passed her preliminary State examination, Part 2.

David Holmes, Stonehouse, Gloucester, has recently passed, at Cheltenham, the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art first grade examination in elocution. He has also been awarded a certificate in "The Art of Speaking Verse" for those under ten years of age.

We send sympathy to Mrs. C. E. Beck, Salfords, Surrey, in the loss of her only surviving brother.

Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Patricia White, King's Lynn, was married on March 30th.

On March 23rd, Margaret Mary Jean Brooks, Bournemouth, to Dennis Budden.

On March 9th, Alan Moore, Blackpool, to Miss Marjorie Elsbury.

On February 23rd, Catherine Langton, Bottesford, to Sergeant Edward Grimes, Sherwood Foresters, now stationed in Germany.

On April 6th, George Dunwoodie, Walker, near Newcastle, to Miss Eileen McAlister.

Mountain Rescue

We take the following from the *Holmfirth Express* of March 9th. The R.A.F. man—Gerald Horner—referred to, is the son of our St. Dunstaner, R. Horner, of Holmfirth.

"A Holmfirth man serving in the Royal Air Force took part in a heroic piece of work last month on the icy slopes of a mountain in Perthshire, Scotland. He is Leading Aircraftman Gerald Horner.

"A party of 27 men were taking part in a practice exercise on Ben Lui, a 3,700 ft. mountain near Tyndrum, as members of an R.A.F. Mountain Rescue Crew. Four of the party were together swept 300 ft. down the mountainside in an avalanche of snow, while a 100 miles an hour gale was blowing.

"Slowly the men began to stir from the covering snow, and found they were all alive, though injured. One had a broken leg, another had a broken arm. The man with the broken arm went down to seek assistance.

"Meanwhile Armourer Aircraftman Bill Halford and Leading Aircraftman Horner decided to try to get the man with the broken leg, Corporal John Law, down the mountainside. Using their pickaxes as splints, they crossed his legs and let the cold of the blizzard freeze the break to numb the pain.

"Then, with Halford hanging grimly to the top rope and Horner on the bottom rope, the two men lowered their companion stage by stage two thousand feet down the mountain side, an operation which took five hours. In the struggle they forgot their own injuries. Halford had a severe cut across the forehead and several bruises, and Horner had a twisted wrist in addition to several bruises."

Birth

BRIGGS.—On March 2nd, to the wife of H. Briggs, of Birkdale, a second daughter.

Talking Book Library

April Aperitif

This month's harvest yielded five books and in addition I shall try to outline two of the "other titles" of last month. Thus: "Mary Anne," by Daphne du Maurier, reader Robin Holmes, is a very live historical documentary of the mistress of the Army Commander, Duke of York, in Napoleonic days. The heroine scrambles from the squalor of the East End, makes a disastrous marriage, rears a brood of children, captivates and ruins the Duke of York, and when finally cast off retires to France to live peacefully, but returning to London to the Duke's funeral, she achieves almost full circle. Her rise and decline hold the attention without ever altering one's pulse rate.—*Cat. No. 109.*

"In Kedar's Tents," by H. Seton Merriman, reader John de Manio, is a story of official travel through the Aden Protectorate during the early thirties. Now that it has some topical interest it has an added attraction.—*Cat. No. 110.*

"Father of Nobody's Children," by Norman Wymer, reader Timothy Brinton, is a full and interesting biography of Dr. Thomas Barnardo. It is an eye-opener to us smug citizens of the welfare state that there was so much for this one man to accomplish less than a century ago. A quite gripping revelation!—*Cat. No. 111.*

"The Boy from Greece," by James Kinross, reader Patricia Hayes, is a proud, pathetic story of a Greek youngster shattered by a bandit's grenade and his coming to England for treatment and training. His heartbreaks and triumphs and the love and understanding of those who tend him should warm the reader's heart.—*Cat. No. 114.*

"The Tollgate," by Georgette Heyer, reader Robert Gladwell, is set in Derbyshire, in the Napoleonic period. The hero, an ex-soldier and a young buck, is instrumental in recovering stolen bullion grabbed by friends of the heroine's brother, and everyone in the end gets his or her just deserts.—*Cat. No. 970.*

"Against Whom," by Phyllis Bottome, reader Timothy Brinton, has a sanatorium in Switzerland as its setting. A young Canadian doctor and his wife run the place with two other doctors and nursing staff.

A new patient, very sick, wilful, seventeen, and female, tries to captivate the young doctor, who is already estranged from his wife. Another patient, an R.C. priest, helps sort out the naughty patient and the estrangement of doctor and wife. The moral and spiritual issues are here so neatly woven as to make a fascinating story throughout.—*Cat. No. 59.*

"House of Mirth," by Edith Wharton, reader Robert Gladwell, is cast for the main part in New England among the upper crust of U.S. society. A girl reared in this environment falls on lean times and, being unable to face leaving the circles she knows, has to live on her social accomplishments. A fine study in hopes, miseries, likes, dislikes, sophisticated treachery and back-biting, puritanism and abandon, all neatly wrapped in cloth of gold to make a change from everyday reading.—*Cat. No. 19.*

"NELSON."

Correction.—The Catalogue No. for "This Fascinating Animal World," reviewed last month, should be *No. 94* and not *91.*

Renaissance

He who says the past is dead and therein sees no life ahead
In vain would cut the magic thread which links creation's vital spread.
But the past is the present reborn else there'd be no night or morn,
The heavenly bodies would lose their glow, all flora and fauna would cease to grow.
See that field of ripening corn, soon to answer the reaper's call,
Not to fall and rise no more, but to return again through another door.
Regal in beauty, perfect in shape, with colour pure as a virgin's cape,
The lily steps with angel feet from what was yester's festering heap.
Watch the babe at its mother's breast, forging its link in survival's quest,
Instinct with life though by reason untaught, the present and future from the past beget.
In virgin soil and desert sand, in forest deep ne'er trod by man,
The seed which fell from nature's hand renews itself in life's eternal plan.
Thus the wheel full circle turns, losing naught but what it gains,
Birth, life and death in it evolves, but only the Maker its mystery can solve.

T. ROGERS.

(These verses are not in the Braille "Review," but will appear next month.)

Mrs. Olive Arnold

St. Dunstaners of the early days will hear with deep regret of the death, on March 21st, of Sir Arthur Pearson's last surviving sister, Mrs. Olive Arnold.

Mrs. Arnold was Matron of the house in Queen's Road, Brighton, until 1919, when she went to Cheltenham to become Matron of our Annexe there. When this house, too, was closed in 1923 and Mrs. Arnold left us, she wrote: "I shall never forget the six years I spent with my St. Dunstan's boys, to whom I still feel I belong—indeed, as my brother's sister I could never feel otherwise."

Mrs. Arnold's "boys" of those days will remember her with affection.

Grandfathers

W. Samworth, of Edgware; H. V. Frampton, of Welling; Arthur T. Brooks, of Bournemouth (for the ninth time); E. James, of Darlington; P. Martin, of Thornton Heath; W. E. Bignell, of Edmonton.

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The thoughts of his friends will go out to W. T. Scott, of Streatham, who has become a grandfather, but in very sad circumstances. Josephine, his second daughter, had a son, Christopher Roy Smith, on March 16th, but his father did not live to see him. He died three weeks before. Josephine is at present living with her father and mother.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

BAKER.—To C. B. Baker, of Enfield, whose wife died on March 28th. She had been

seriously ill for many months but had made several recoveries.

EVANS.—To W. R. Evans, of Rhyl, who lost his mother on March 23rd. She had been blind for the last six years. She was 85.

EVANS.—To Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Evans, of Rhyl, whose only daughter, Mrs. Foy, died on April 11th in childbirth. She leaves a husband and four young children.

HURRELL.—To A. Hurrell, of Kenley, whose remaining sister died on January 10th. Our sympathy also goes to Mrs. Hurrell, who lost her eldest brother the following month.

JEROME.—To S. K. ("Jerry") Jerome, whose wife, Marjorie, died in hospital in Sydney, Australia, on March 5th, after a long and painful illness. Their friends will recall that "Jerry" who served in the Australian Imperial Forces in the First World War, settled as a poultry farmer in England, but he and Mrs. Jerome went back to Australia for a prolonged holiday with their son in November, 1953.

PHILLIPS.—To C. Phillips, of Dartford, Kent, whose mother died on April 3rd. Our St. Dunstaner lived with his parents.

WATSON.—To G. V. E. Watson, of Melbourne, Australia, whose wife, Hilda, died in February last. Many will remember our St. Dunstaner (who trained as a physiotherapist) and will have met Mrs. Watson on one of her visits to this country.

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Our sympathy also goes to Mrs. D. D. Edwards, of Sandy, and her husband in the loss of Mrs. Edwards' mother. Our St. Dunstaner says that she was more like his own mother to him.

"In Memory"—continued

Private John Henry Tindall, 6th East Yorkshire Regiment

We have to record with deep regret the death of J. H. Tindall, of Newby, Scarborough. He saw service from June, 1916, until April, 1919, being wounded in France in October, 1918. He came to us the following April and trained as a basket-maker, and he carried on his craft right up to the time of his death on April 15th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Tindall.

Alphonse Van den Bosch, 7th Regt. de Ligne, Belgian Infantry

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Alphonse Van den Bosch, who came to St. Dunstan's in December, 1916. He trained in mat-making and boot-repairing, later being appointed pupil teacher in the boot-repairing department. He left us in April, 1919, and returned to Belgium. The news of his death has come to us through his friend and fellow St. Dunstaner, Alfred Bennett, of Dover, who writes:—

"Alphonse Van den Bosch was a very fine fellow and liked by all of us. He was called 'Alphonse the Belgian,' and I grew to be very friendly with him. I have always kept in touch with him, he sending type-written letters and I replying in English Braille. I have even been over and had a holiday with him. He could speak several languages and his English was perfect. He played the cornet in our band. I played the mandoline-banjo with seven others. Alphonse died on August 19th."

Our deep sympathy is offered to the relatives of Alphonse and to his friend, Alfred Bennett.

"In Memory"

Gunner Richard George Beard, *Royal Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of R. G. Beard, of Reading. He was sixty-two. He enlisted at the outbreak of the 1939-45 war, and was discharged from the Army in 1947. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits two years later, but did not come to us for actual training, being employed at the British Legion Poppy Factory. His health was very poor indeed. He was a prisoner of war in Java from 1942. His injuries had resulted in the amputation of his leg in 1951.

He died on March 28th in hospital, where he had been taken a week before. Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow and two step-sons.

Private Robert Boyter, *8th Seaforth Highlanders*

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on April 4th, of R. Boyter, of Pittenweem, Fife. He served with his regiment from September, 1915, until his discharge in July of the following year; he had been wounded at Hulloch in May, 1916, and he came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1916. He trained as a poultry-farmer and followed this occupation for nine years; he then took up basketry again and continued with this right up to the time of his death. He had been in indifferent health for some time and he had suffered the additional disability of deafness for very many years.

He leaves a widow and two grown-up daughters, to whom our sincere sympathy is sent.

Private Joseph Charles Brown, *8th Army Brigade Canadian Field Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of J. C. Brown, of Trench, near Wellington, Shropshire. He served in the First World War from August, 1916, to his discharge in March, 1919. He had been wounded in France in March, 1918, when he received severe burns on his face and both hands; he came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1918, and trained first as a poultry farmer, which occupation he followed for a few years, then as a netter. Of late years, however, his health had been very poor.

He leaves a widow and four grown-up children, to whom we offer our deep sympathy.

Private William Deeks, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Deeks, of Great Bentley, Colchester. He was seventy-four.

He had been discharged from the Service in March, 1919, but it was not until October, 1948, that he was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits. He was then too old and ill to take up any training. In February, 1955, owing to the state of his wife's health, he entered West House, Brighton, as a permanent resident. His own health gradually deteriorated and he died on April 12th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Deeks, who is herself in hospital.

Sergeant John Eccleston, *King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Eccleston, of Leigh, Lancashire. Enlisting in September, 1914, he was wounded on the Somme in July, 1916, and came to us in the following year. He trained as a boot and clog repairer and was engaged on this work for many years; on giving this up he changed to rug and mat-making and string bag making. Latterly, however, his health had been very poor indeed.

He leaves a widow and a family of nine (he was twice married) and our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Eccleston. (She and her husband had celebrated their Silver Wedding anniversary on May 2nd last year).

Private Arthur Sidney Henderson, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. S. Henderson, of Dagenham. He was seventy-two. He served in the First World War and on his discharge in 1917, came to St. Dunstan's. His poor health, which had prevented him taking any training, remained so throughout the rest of his life. On March 11th he was admitted to hospital and he died there on April 7th.

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

Private Albert Flower, *1st Battalion, The Buffs*

With deep regret we record the death of A. Flower, of Nuneaton, at the age of seventy-four. He had served with The Buffs from December, 1915, until May, 1919, when he received his discharge. He had suffered the effects of mustard gas, but it was not until January, 1955, that he came to us, when he was already a very sick man. He was not able to undertake any training and suffered constantly from bronchitis as a result of the gassing.

He leaves a widow and two sons, to whom we offer our deep sympathy.

Private John Henry Lea, *Machine Gun Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. H. Lea, of Hartshill, near Nuneaton. He was 62. Enlisting in July, 1917, he was wounded in France in February, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's that year. He trained as a poultry farmer and netter and until 1954, farmed generally on the farm where he was born, and which was kept by his father before him. He then worked solely as a poultry farmer right up to the day of his death, April 6th, although he had been in ill-health for some considerable time.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Lea.

E. V. Martin, *32nd Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of E. V. Martin, of Greenmount, Western Australia. He was sixty-nine years of age. He was gassed at Ypres in 1917.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Martin.

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