

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

WAR PENSIONS

Where do we go from here?

SINCE the War Pensions improvements were announced in the House of Commons by the Minister of Pensions, Mr. John Boyd-Carpenter, I have had many letters from friends and strangers also. Almost without exception they express satisfaction and speak of the awards as being adequate, good, generous, or even very generous. I have naturally done a lot of thinking since the announcement, and it may be of some little interest to ex-Servicemen and women generally if I set down my thoughts, for what they are worth, and answer some of the questions that arose in my mind and no doubt in the minds of others.

What did we say? For ten years we have said that we wanted the basic rate of war pension for the private soldier to be 90s. a week as a minimum. This was a fair figure and could be thoroughly justified by any calculation at the present date. What have we got? A basic rate of 85s. This is 5.5 per cent. below our target, or to put it another way, 94.5 per cent. of our target. Disappointing? Yes, a little, but gratifying also because man seldom gets what he wants or deserves in this world and, as I said in the House of Commons, this award goes a very long way.

What do we say now? Let us examine a familiar analogy; not wholly appropriate, but I think illustrative. If the six hundred odd thousand war pensioners were employed by one nationalised industry, or by a number of firms and were all members of the same or associated Trade Unions, and if they had decided that unless they got "ninety bob" they would all go on strike, it is my bet that they would accept 85s. and call off the strike. But we cannot go on strike, and we have no bargaining power, and we can only get a rise by goodwill and the only way we can indicate our acceptance of an award with goodwill is by saying so. So I consider we ought to say 'thank you very much' to the Government who made the improvement, to the taxpayers who pay for it, and the salary and wage earners who create the wealth out of which we get it. We do not thank the Government for political reasons, or with political motive, but simply because they hold the purse strings and have opened them for us. Goodwill should be matched by goodwill. To fail to acknowledge our thanks to the Government, taxpayer and workers would, in my opinion, be discourteous, unfair and very unwise.

Do we lose face by a generous acknowledgment? Not at all. The only people who will feel that they lose face are those who cannot see the wood for the trees; St. Dunstaners, though blind, can see further than that.

What do we do now? The best thing we can do is to study the whole field of war pensions and see if there are any points at which the shoe pinches particularly severely and make representations to the Ministry thereon. In doing this one should bear in mind what the new awards really mean. For the 20 per cent. war pensioner, of whom there are 210,000, they mean that he is getting 1s. a week less than he would have had if we had got "ninety bob." Important as the "bob" is, it is hard to go to town about it. For the war pensioners between 40 per cent. and 90 per cent., they are a few shillings below what they would have had if we had got the "ninety bob," but everyone of them who is sixty-five years of age and upwards gets considerably more because of the age allowance; and many get a full increased Unemployability Allowance. For the 100 per cent. men we should remember these facts:—

Ten years ago, when our campaign started, the basic rate of War Pensions was 45s. and now it is 85s.; the War Widow's Pension was 35s. and is now 66s.; the Unemployability Allowance has been more than doubled and its benefits made more widespread; the Attendance Allowance has been nearly doubled, and the Comforts Allowance and Age Allowance have been introduced. We may, I think, feel that we have done very well to gain such generous improvements.

We have not got "ninety bob," but I do not think we should make a shibboleth of this figure, or any other figure, and ignore the general situation both as regards the welfare of war pensioners and the affairs of our country as a whole. The essence of the civilised life, and especially of civilised life in a Welfare State, with its advanced conception of kindness and consideration, is that no class presses its claims unduly or overplays its hand. It is, of course, true that special allowances benefit only a few tens of thousands, but they include many for whom the ex-Service movement as a whole, and indeed the people generally, will be particularly, and I think rightly, solicitous, namely the war blinded, the double amputees, the bedridden, and those who have been very badly hurt, and we rejoice that they receive so much more than 90s., which helps them materially to bear their lifelong handicaps.

In the House of Commons I also asked Members of all Parties, and made an appeal to the nation as a whole, to see to it that the value of money was maintained so that these awards, and indeed all pensions and other fixed incomes, maintain their value.

Staff Changes

The end of the year will bring a number of staff retirements, and among them will be those of friends of long standing. Some will be known only to a special group. All have given St. Dunstan's loyal service, and their departure will be regretted.

Mr. Leslie Banks, M.B.E., leaves us after forty years, in the course of which he has played many parts, but it is as our Pensions Officer for the past twenty-five years that he will be best known. His work in this capacity, and the splendid personal service he gave to practically all St. Dunstaners of the two wars, was rewarded by King George VI with the honour of M.B.E. in 1948, and there could have been no more popular award. He himself was an Old Contemptible, and was severely disabled in the First World War. No one knows the rules better than he, and many St. Dunstaners have been helped by him to secure their rights.

Mr. Banks' work as Pensions Officer is being undertaken by Miss H. Warter, who has worked with him for the past twelve years.

Miss Frances Morris leaves us after nearly as many years. She was first a young and popular V.A.D. Later she became Sports Sister, first at the Bungalow, Townsend House, and St. John's Lodge, then at Brighton. For six years she taught the making of nets and wool rugs at Brighton, and after leaving us for a short while, rejoined the staff in 1935 to take charge of the Netting and Wool Rug Department at the Raglan Street Stores, and to be Sports Sister working with Corporal Major Bill Tovell. She, too, was a war casualty for in 1940, while motoring on the Kingston By-Pass, she was bombed and machine-gunned from a German aeroplane which swooped low, seriously disabling her for two years. She worked at Church Stretton and the St. Dunstan's Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, until the return to Brighton, and in latter years has been Occupational Therapist at West House.

Retiring after forty years is Mr. S. Durrant, Chief Boot Instructor and Technical Visitor, and Mr. E. I. Buckley, Basket Instructor and Technical Visitor, who leaves us after thirty-five years' service.

Our craftsmen will be grateful to Mr. Durrant and Mr. Buckley, whose visits to them in their homes were always so welcome and their friendship so appreciated.

Mr. N. Downs, whom everyone, St. Dunstaners and members of the staff alike, will know better as "Drummer," also retires shortly. He, too, joined the staff in 1922 and has remained with the Appeals Department on box collecting and as "unofficial representative" ever since.

In the Appeals Department there are other changes which will interest St. Dunstaners. Mr. Ernest Stanford, C.B.E., Appeals Organiser since the outbreak of the 1939-45 war when he came to us with a splendid record of successful appeals for the British Empire Cancer Campaign, is relinquishing his full-time position, and his place is being taken by Lieut. Commander R. C. B. Buckley, G.M., R.N., who served in the Royal Navy both before and during the last war and is himself a St. Dunstaner. Commander Buckley continued working for the Admiralty until three years ago, when he joined the staff at St. Dunstan's to work with Mr. Stanford. He will be assisted by Mr. J. Pringle, B.Sc. (Econ.), who has also given splendid service as Assistant Appeals Organiser for the past ten years.

To all these good friends who are retiring we wish health, happiness and contentment for many years, with our thanks for their devotion to St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstan's men. To those who will take their place we send our good wishes. IAN FRASER.

Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service

On Sunday, December 8th, at 11.15 a.m., a Service will be held at the Ovingdean Chapel to honour the memory of the Founder of St. Dunstan's, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart. The Service will be conducted by St. Dunstan's Padre, the Rev. W. J. Taylor, and our President, Sir Neville Pearson, will read the Lesson. Sir Ian Fraser will give the Address.

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On the morning of Monday, December 9th, the day on which Sir Arthur died thirty-six years ago, a party of St. Dunstaners will leave Headquarters for Hampstead Cemetery, where a wreath will be placed upon Sir Arthur's grave.

Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Lloyds, at 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

Remembrance Day, 1957

On Sunday, November 10th, St. Dunstaners in all parts of the country paid tribute at War Memorial Services to those who lost their lives in two World Wars. In London, St. Dunstaners were among the ex-Servicemen and women of all arms who, led by Sir Ian Fraser, paraded at the Cenotaph.

On the evening of Saturday, November 9th, St. Dunstaners were in the audience at the Royal Albert Hall for the Remembrance Festival and Service, at which Sir

Ian, for the last time as President of the British Legion, spoke the deeply moving exhortation: "They shall grow not old. . ."

London Club Notes

Bridge.—As we go to press our Bridge team in the London Business Houses League has played four matches and has won them all. Their opponents have been Carreras, Aquarius, Civil Service and Uni—they have six more matches to play.

War Pensions Award

The following letter was sent to Sir Ian Fraser from Commandant Fawcett, on November 8th, 1957:

"DEAR SIR IAN,

Following the announcement of the Pensions awards, and having heard the recording of your address at the British Legion Rally, I have been approached by a spokesman for those St. Dunstaners at present resident at Ovingdean to express their deep and sincere appreciation for all your efforts on behalf of ex-Servicemen generally, and to congratulate you, and through you your Committee, for the most successful culmination of your campaign.

The general acceptance of the awards is almost unanimously described as 'generous.'

I read this letter to the men in the Dining Room. It was approved by a show of hands without any dissensions. The letter was composed from suggestions made by a small delegation of the men.

Yours sincerely,
L. FAWCETT,
Commandant."

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

The Chairman's article regarding most of us getting into a groove was, I thought, rather interesting and to the point. I must say that I strongly endorse his views.

I have just returned from a fortnight's visit to the Lake District and, despite the fact that my own particular job keeps me "on my toes," I was startled at some of the changes that have taken place and, indeed, which are still going on! I especially noted the way people are living nowadays, the attitude of workmen, the almost disappearance of good restaurants in favour of the "Help Yourself Service," etc.

I made one very interesting discovery, though, which I feel some St. Dunstaners might like to pursue. At Ambleside I visited the "Studio," where they sell beautiful pottery, woollen articles, paintings, etc. There I spoke to Mr. Cook, the proprietor, at his potter's wheel, and was delighted when he agreed, without hesitation, that a blind person could quite easily do this sort of work. It was quite fascinating to watch him turn balls of Cornish clay into vases, bowls and ashtrays, etc., by the simple manipulation of his fingers. The wheel, by the way, was treadled by his feet. I understand that the painting of these articles can be done before or after "firing." This studio also has several machines for knitwear.

I would suggest that those who are interested could pursue this craft independently and sell their produce personally, or create a common market. It would be interesting to see how many to whom this type of work would appeal.

Incidentally, the Lake District affords a wonderful holiday for walks, which need not be strenuous, either! There is an excellent Ribble and Cumberland 'bus service, and the best centre is, without doubt, Keswick.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN F. PROCTOR.

* * *

DEAR EDITOR,

Sir Ian's remarks concerning the possibility of getting set in a groove is very timely in view of the fact that the men of World War-II are themselves approaching that period when the armchair and the

fireside appeal more than the pursuit of those former youthful diversions, such as bird-watching, bunny-hugging, football, etc., etc. It is a curious trait of the civilised world that the zest for life and new experiences seems to come to a complete stop when the hunter has caught his "bird" and settled back to reminiscences on the days of his youth. One cannot help noticing this when visiting Ovingdean or the annual reunions, and much as we enjoy meeting all our old pals of ten, twenty, thirty, forty years ago we find that the mind is always carried back with "Do you remember?" instead of "What do you think?" Most of us are born into a groove and service with the Forces for most merely means or meant a temporary stepping out of one groove into another, and then stepping back into the old groove chiselled out by parents. I have noticed in our village how young men who played with my own children went to the war or national service and have returned to follow in the same groove as their fathers and grandfathers.

We St. Dunstaners have everything at our hands to make life interesting, but the snag is that typewriters, Braille books, talking books, dominoes and cards all have a spot of glue gluing us to that chair Sir Ian tells us to get out of.

I have a formula that may be of service.

Morning, work; afternoon, weather permitting, walk; evening, workshop and wireless (a grand combination). Punctuate this with Braille reading after each meal and a visit to the local after the nine o'clock news to get the local news, and then off to the pictures in dreamland. I have not escaped the middle-aged spread, but I have escaped from the grooves or at least rounded off those rough edges that irritate.

You can't see? Well, never mind, you can think, and remember, you think better with your eyes shut.

Yours, etc.,

A. J. RADFORD,
Castle Cary.

"Cast Off the Darkness"

There have been many books on blindness and several autobiographies by blind authors, but "Cast Off the Darkness,"* a book which was recently published by Peter Davies, Ltd., is of a blindness which was self-inflicted.

*"Cast Off the Darkness," Peter Davies, Ltd., 16/-

Gardening Successes

With five entries, E. J. West, of Egham, Surrey, won a first, second and third prize for his outdoor chrysanthemums at the Staines "Lino" Horticultural Society Annual Show. In the Society's Chrysanthemum Show two months later, he took a first, a second and six third prizes. He entered for ten classes and took prizes in eight.

At Grange-over-Sands Local Chrysanthemum Show, J. Wood's entries won two firsts, two seconds, and a fourth prize, and the Cup for the highest number of points. Mrs. Wood's entries took second place.

At Diss Social Centre Show, E. F. Goodley took two firsts, two seconds and a "commended" for his plants and vegetables.

Grandfathers

J. Macfarlane, of Ilford; N. Singleton, of Mark, Somerset; T. Callaghan, of Woodbridge (the thirteenth grandchild).

A New Club

In May, 1957, Ted Dudley, of Croydon, suggested the formation of a Club for St. Dunstaners living in or near Croydon. He asked St. Dunstaners who were interested to contact him and, as a result, a St. Dunstan's Club has been formed in Sutton, Surrey. The first meeting was on September 28th when twenty-six St. Dunstaners, with their escorts, had their first "get-together." There were also present Lady Onslow, Miss Stevens, and that indefatigable Club helper and friend, Mrs. Spurway.

The next meeting will be at the Adult School in Benhill Avenue, Sutton, on Saturday, November 30th, and Ted says: "I hope that everyone who is coming will let me know as early as possible as this will help Mrs. Spurway with the catering. At this meeting we hope to form our Committee and from there on things should run quite smoothly. We are laying on darts, cards and dominoes as a start.

"So until our next meeting, good luck, chaps."

P.S.—On Saturday, November 30th, there will also be a "Bring and Buy" Sale to raise funds for the Club.

Peter Putnam was an undergraduate of twenty-one at Princeton University who, deeply disillusioned, decided to end his life. He shot himself, but only succeeded in blinding himself for life. What were his reactions? Not remorse or despair or lasting grief, but relief. He had found himself and "what was blindness or eyesight beside the miracle of my new-found invulnerability?"

The way in which he adapts himself to the life of a blind person is familiar, but the interesting point is that the author does so unaided and unprompted. In the familiar surroundings of his home, he finds his own way about, soon he is swimming in the sea alone, he type-writes, and he uses a large watch, substitute for the later Braille watch.

Then he acquires a guide-dog and much of the early part of the book is devoted to Minnie, his guide dog, and his days of training with her. She represents the "sole bridge to the future," and with her, and with some misgiving on the part of the University authorities, he returns to Princeton, there to win his M.A. and Ph.D., to fall in love and later to marry, to win recognition as an historical scholar and translator—and to ski (he writes with justifiable pride of his ski-ing prowess, acquired painfully and patiently with the help of his wife).

To-day, at thirty, Mr. Putnam leads a very full life, with numerous interests, many of them on behalf of the blind.

Press Cutting

From the London "Evening News":

"A blind man of 74 is head of one of the biggest sweet-firms in the United States, with three thousand people on his pay roll and shops in more than two hundred cities.

He has been blind for thirty years, travels a minimum of 30,000 miles a year, and does not read a word of Braille.

His name is John D. Hayes. He is Chairman of Fanny Farmer Candy Shops which, under his direction, has grown into the largest manufacturing retailer of sweets in the nation and is still growing.

Of the three things executives do most—read, travel and make decisions—Hayes does as much as any. Instead of Braille, everything, from statistical reports to novels, is read to him by his wife—and two good secretaries."

News from Australia

The Victorian Blinded Soldiers' Association Bowling Club's Annual Report showed a wonderfully successful and happy season. During the season they had visited some fifty odd clubs, engaging in all some seventy-one games—and how they enjoyed every minute of it. The Championship results were as follows:—

Singles—Winner: L. Cropley.

Runner-up: E. Drew.

Handicap Singles—Winner: G. Aarons.

Runner-up: R. Archer.

Pairs—Winners: G. Aarons and T. Corboy.

Runners-up: L. Hoult and E. Bell.

The Club has twenty-two members.

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At the 13th Biennial Conference of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association, held in Adelaide in April, the opening ceremony was performed by the State Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Sir Robert George, and delegates to the Conference were delighted and highly honoured when they heard that His Excellency the Governor General of Australia, Field Marshal Sir William Slim, had expressed a wish to meet them the following day. On that memorable occasion, Mr. J. A. Whittle introduced His Excellency to the gathering, and Mr. P. J. Lynch officially welcomed the Governor General who said he was always proud to meet ex-Servicemen and particularly pleased to meet those present that day, whom he knew represented blinded ex-servicemen from all parts of the Commonwealth.

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After sixteen years as physiotherapist at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, without a day off through illness, S. C. Tarry, of Clapham, has retired. He was presented by the Deputy Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. R. Ascott, with a silver tankard, who spoke of him as "a wonderful example in overcoming his disability . . . one of the most cheerful people about the hospital."

Mr. Tarry, who will continue in private practice, serves on many varied committees and is president of the local branch of the British Legion.

WISE WORDS

Merely having an open mind is nothing. The object of opening the mind is to close it again on something solid.—G. K. Chesterton.

From All Quarters

John A. Oriel, C.B.E., M.C., F.R.I.C., is now a National Member of the Executive Council of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

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F. Hawes, of Swindon, who is President of the Swindon Branch of the International Friendship League, is also Chairman of the Swindon and District Writers' Circle.

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W. E. Bignell, of Edmonton, won a certificate of merit at the Edmonton Arts and Crafts Exhibition early this month for a pair of car rugs. He is a keen worker for the British Legion and the R.A.O.B.

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Charles E. Temperton, M.M., of Hull, represented his regiment, the 1/4th East Yorkshire Regiment, at the 10th East Yorkshire Regiment dinner on October 19th.

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H. Bridgeman, of Derby, won a certificate of merit at the International Handicrafts Exhibition for a lady's centre cane shopping basket. Other winners of Certificates of Merit were Mrs. M. Stanway and G. H. Fisk, of Colchester.

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Writing on October 18th, George E. Fox, of Horndean, said that it was fifty years to the day that he was issued with a regimental number.

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Sir Ian Fraser was the speaker in "The Week in Westminster" on November 2nd, when the series began again after the Parliamentary recess.

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Mr. Arthur Garbett preached at the Memorial Service at Stockton Parish Church on Remembrance Sunday. The Mayor, Alderman H. G. Atkinson, was in the crowded congregation.

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Yet another successful entrant in the International Handicrafts Exhibition at Earls Court. C. J. Nichols, of Weybridge, submitted a fire-screen and was awarded a Certificate of Merit for General Craft Work. When he was first wounded, and before his sight went, he worked the tapestry; now he has made the wooden frame.

Family News

Alfred Jennings, son of S. Jennings, of Bradford, is retiring from the Police Force after ten years' service to take up an appointment as House Master of one of Dr. Barnardo's Homes. Mrs. Jennings will be Matron.

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Brian Hold (Yeovil), who is apprenticed to Aircraft Machine Tool Making, has passed the Intermediate Examination of the City and Guilds in all subjects.

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Sydney Wass (Brighton) has passed his General Certificate of Education in English and French.

Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Edward Carney, Dunstable, on October 12th, to Miss Eve Marion Scott.

Barbara Ann Scott, to David John Smith, on October 17th—her parents' wedding anniversary and her own 21st birthday.

Chess

We had another very successful Chess Week-end this year and a record entry, despite the absence of several regular players.

Bill Hodder and I both scored three and a half points in the Cup Competition, but on the Sonnen Berger count, the trophy came to me. Kirkbright and Blackmore (who did well in his first attempt), were joint third and fourth with three points each. George Fallowfield, who was not in his usual form, was out of the prize list for a change.

On Saturday evening, Mr. R. W. Bonham gave his usual simultaneous display, this time tackling eight players, giving some of them a Knight and some a Rook. He won all eight games and gave bits of advice during the display. Interest was very keen and the standard of play improves every year. We may try a handicap next year, to give the weaker players a better chance. Mr. Bonham knows the strength of each player and I shall probably ask him to work out the handicap. It should prove most interesting.

I should like to express our thanks again to Miss Carlton for making our week-end such an enjoyable one. She is getting quite expert in working out the rather complicated systems. Our thanks also to Matron for her interest and for presenting the prizes.

CHARLIE KELK.

Miss M. Bamberger

Early St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret of the death of Miss M. Bamberger, who was one of our first V.A.D.s, and remained one of our most loyal and generous friends. In recent years she had lived privately at Seaford, but her interest in St. Dunstan's never grew less. Her health had deteriorated in the past few months and it was with reluctance that she was persuaded to enter a nursing home, where she died on November 6th.

Mrs. J. Broughton

Her friends will also hear with deep regret of the death of Mrs. J. Broughton, a well known and much loved Braille teacher and good friend of many St. Dunstaners of both wars. Mrs. Broughton had been living a very active life until quite recently, for she took a great interest in many things, but St. Dunstan's always came first with her. She was making good progress from a previous heart attack when she died suddenly at Walmer on November 10th.

St. Dunstan's was represented at the funeral services of Miss Bamberger and Mrs. Broughton by St. Dunstaners and members of the staff at Brighton.

M. Henri Izaac

We have learned with great regret of the death of M. Henri Izaac, President of l'Union des Aveugles de Guerre. M. Izaac, himself a blinded man, rendered outstanding service to French blinded ex-servicemen and our deep sympathy goes out to our French comrades in the great loss they have sustained.

Brighton Club Notes

Important—Calling All Brightonians

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the second Thursday in December, the 12th, to be followed by a grand domino drive and excellent refreshments. All St. Dunstaners and escorts in the Brighton area are cordially invited.

Our latest venture is a Bridge Team taking part in the Sussex County Contract tournament. Up to the time of writing not much success, nevertheless we are having some most enjoyable games and making lots of new friends.

FRANK A. RHODES.

"In Memory"

Private James Barley, 8th Lincolnshire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of J. Barley, of Crosby, Scunthorpe, which occurred very suddenly on November 7th.

He served from October, 1914, until his discharge in January, 1916, having come to us in November of 1915. He trained as a mat-maker and carried this on until 1945, when his health would not allow him to continue. He had been in poor health for many years.

He was a widower and our sincere sympathy is sent to his five children.

Private Henry Herbert Barnard, 8th Royal Sussex Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. H. Barnard, of Wanstead, E.11. He was sixty-five.

He came to St. Dunstan's in July, 1916, and trained as a bootmaker and basket-maker. He gave up baskets after a short time but continued with rugs until the outbreak of war, when he worked on rugs and, later, netting. He had been in poor health, however, for some time. He was admitted to hospital on October 4th and he died there on October 28th.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow and her family.

Mrs. Agnes M. Clewlow, O.B.E., Royal Arsenal, Woolwich

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on October 21st, of Mrs. A. M. Clewlow, of Winchester, who lost her sight in 1917 while working as a munition worker at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.

"Peggy" came to us in January, 1924, after winning a scholarship to the Royal Normal College for the Blind, but she suffered very poor health and was not able to continue her studies. She was the first girl to come to us for training and she was a true St. Dunstaner.

Our deep sympathy goes out to her relatives, and particularly to her sister and brother-in-law with whom she lived.

Corporal Timothy John Fitzgerald, Royal Army Medical Corps

We record with deep regret the death of T. J. Fitzgerald, of Kirkstall, Leeds, which occurred in hospital on November 1st. He died fortified by the rites of the Catholic Church.

He served from August, 1941, until his discharge in January, 1946, but when he came to us in February, 1953, he was then far from being a fit man. On account of his poor health, he could not undertake any training.

Requiem Mass was at the Church of the Assumption, Leeds.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Fitzgerald and her son and daughter.

Private Albert Edward Ratcliff, Royal West Kents

We record with deep regret the death of A. E. Ratcliff, of Chatham, at the age of sixty.

Discharged from the Army in June, 1916, he first came to us in May, 1949, as a borderline case, but in September, 1952, he was admitted to full benefits. His health, however, prevented any training and had deteriorated over the past two years. He died suddenly on October 17th.

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

Private William John Berry, 2nd Royal Irish Rifles

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. J. Berry, of Belfast.

Enlisting in August, 1914, he was wounded at Kemmel the same year, and coming to St. Dunstan's in April, 1915, was among the first St. Dunstaners. His general health has always been poor but he trained originally as a mat-maker. He gave this up in 1927 to do centre-cane work and settled in Bangor in 1929. He was well-known in the district for his local sales, mainly trays; he was also keenly interested in poultry-keeping in a small way.

He was twice married and he leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Our St. Dunstaner, Albert Spierling, of Bridgend, died on October 4th, and not October 5th, as reported last month.

Births

DURANT.—On November 1st, to the wife of G. Durant, of West Worthing, a daughter—Jill Lesley.

TYBINSKI.—On November 11th, to the wife of M. Tybinski, of Ipswich, a daughter—Monika.

Marriage

GADD.—On October 21st, R. Gadd.

Forty-four Years Married

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. F. Smith, of Blackpool, married 44 years on October 14th.

Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. W. Westaway, of Yeovil, whose fortieth wedding anniversary was on October 25th. Congratulations.

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We extend our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. W. Samworth, of Edgware, whose daughter-in-law has died.