

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 465—VOLUME XLII

DECEMBER, 1958

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

**A**LEC CRAIGIE, 75 years-old Australian St. Dunstaner, now resident near Brighton, has just passed his preliminary Braille Test and has received a Sir Arthur Pearson Prize of £2 0s. 0d.

Like me, I expect Alec learnt Braille during the First War and then forgot it. I call attention to this because 75 is a great age and this is a wonderful feat. Let the mere youngsters of 40, 50 and 60 years of age take note.

### Premium Bonds

I have just bought some Premium Bonds, and before doing so discussed various aspects of this investment with different people. You buy a Bond for a pound and you do not lose this money, but can always get it back by selling the Bond for a pound. You do not get any interest but instead your pound goes into a draw every month after the first six months and you may win a prize varying from a few pounds to a thousand pounds.

I thought of the merits of the Premium Bond compared with the Football Pools. In the Football Pool, of course, you do not get your money back; it has gone for ever. On the other hand, of course, you may win a prize which is quite out of proportion in magnitude. The chances of getting a prize in a Football Pool are extremely remote.

It seemed to me that if you were going to spend say, 3s. a week on Football Pools, you would do much better to accumulate the 3s. for seven weeks and then buy a Premium Bond for 20s. and put the odd 1s. back in your pocket, or even give it to your wife.

### Christmas

On Christmas night I shall be in London, and will be doing the Annual Broadcast for the Wireless for the Blind Fund at 8.55 p.m. With others, I was concerned with the formation of this Fund some thirty years ago and it has done a wonderful job, providing practically every blind person in this country with a wireless set. To be exact, we have never quite caught up with our task, though we got very near it one year. There are always a few thousand new blind persons each year, mostly in the older age groups, and there are also quite a number of sets which are so ancient that they require replacement.

I expect I shall eat my Christmas dinner in the middle of the day, because if I ate it in the evening, it would be spoiled by anxiety about this broadcast.

I wish I could send all St. Dunstaners a message over the air, and I will certainly be doing so in spirit if not in words. Lady Fraser and I will be thinking of you and your families and we wish you all a happy Christmas.

FRASER OF LONSDALE

### Annual Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson

The Ovingdean Chapel was filled on Sunday, December 7th, for the Memorial Service to St. Dunstan's Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt. The Service was conducted by the Rev. Stanley Oliver, assisted by the Rev. W. Taylor. Sir Neville Pearson read the Lesson. The Address was given by the Rev. S. Oliver (himself a St. Dunstaner). Lord and Lady Fraser were also present.

### At Sir Arthur's Grave

On Tuesday, December 9th, the thirty-seventh anniversary of the death of Sir Arthur Pearson, a party of St. Dunstaners—Messrs. L. Cadman, of London, N.W.3, S. K. Jerome, of Didcot, and T. Milligan, of London, W.8, escorted by Mr. R. May—accompanied Lady Fraser and Mr. A. D. Lloyds to Hampstead Cemetery, where a wreath was placed on Sir Arthur's grave on behalf of St. Dunstaners in every part of the world.

### Greetings from Overseas

Don Tacon, late of the Industrial Staff, who emigrated to Canada eighteen months ago, asks us to convey to his many St. Dunstaner friends his good wishes for a very happy Christmas and success in the New Year. He apologises for not being able to write to each one individually. He is working twelve hours a day at the moment.

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Hand-written in a Christmas card come greetings from Australia with these words:  
Ex No. 439 Sergeant . . . Battn. 2nd, A.I.F.  
No. 7000 L/Cpl. F. J. Hughes, Battn.  
4th, A.I.F.

But the Sergeant didn't fill in his name. We send back our own good wishes to L/Cpl. Hughes and our anonymous friend.

### Ruby Weddings

Many congratulations to the following who celebrate their Ruby Weddings this month: Mr. and Mrs. J. Batty, of Killamarsh, Sheffield, December 5th; Mr. and Mrs. H. Crabtree, of Wood Green, December 7th; Mr. and Mrs. J. Kay, of Heywood, December 11th; Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Osmond, of Walthamstow, and Mr. and Mrs. E. Bradford, of Upper Heeley, Sheffield, both on December 26th.

### From All Quarters

P. Saywell, who has been a driller for more than fourteen years at the Lockheed organisation, met Her Majesty the Queen Mother when she visited Warwick recently.

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The Scottish Braille Press have begun work on the production of a braille edition of "The Memoirs of Field Marshal Montgomery."

★ ★ ★

J. T. Scrymgeour, O.B.E., of Warwick, Queensland, has had a book "Reminiscences of St. Dunstan's," published by Arthur H. Stockwell, Ltd., price 7s. 6d. After training at St. Dunstan's, Mr. Scrymgeour returned to Australia to become one of the foremost cattle breeders in the country. He retired only a year or so ago.

★ ★ ★

H. Bridgman, of Allenton, Derby, is Vice-President of the Allenton Branch of the Service Committee of the British Legion and has just been elected to the Committee for the fourth year in succession.

★ ★ ★

George Merriman, of New Plymouth, New Zealand, writes: "I caught twenty-four rainbow trout during my holiday and lost the inevitable big one that got away, after pulling my anchored dinghy round in a circle two or three times. (True!! Honest Injun!!!)"

### The Dark Mirror

*This is our heritage, this land so fair  
This is our birthright for all to share,  
This land so rich in beauty free,  
Its pages filled with history.  
From Sussex Downs to Cotswolds green,  
From Devon cliffs to Lakes serene.*

*I see the dawn break in the sky,  
I watch the larks all way on high,  
From grasses wet with heavy dew  
Where leverets play in fields I knew.*

*Your beauty lives where violets sleep  
And willow trees o'er waters deep.  
And still I see in memory clear  
And as days pass I have no fear,  
For this is our land whose beauty free  
In days to come will comfort me.*

W. W. HOLMES.

### London Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club will be held at Headquarters, 191 Marylebone Road, on *Thursday, January 8th, 1959*, at 7.30 p.m.

★ ★ ★

To St. Dunstaners and their families, wherever they may be, the old time wish—A Merry Christmas and Good Luck and Good Fortune for 1959.

S. WEBSTER,  
*Chairman.*

*Bridge.*—The Annual General Meeting of the Bridge Club was held on Friday, November 14th, at Ovingdean. About thirty members attended the meeting. Mr. A. E. Field was in the Chair.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—

*Captain/Secretary:* G. P. Brown. *Treasurer:* S. Webster. *Committee:* N. Downs, J. Fleming, F. Jackson.

The Bridge Club celebrates its 21st birthday next year, and in honour of the occasion we are having a special week-end at Brighton on May 30th-31st next. There will be a private dinner on the Saturday evening and a special Bridge Drive on the Sunday afternoon.

Will members please write to me at once stating whether they will be able to be present, and secondly, whether they will be coming with an escort.

G. P. BROWN.

### Walking

**St. Dunstan's Five Mile Handicap and Match v. Metropolitan Police and Bowring A.C., Regent's Park, Saturday, 15th November, 1958**

**Billy Miller beaten into third place in the Scratch Race**

The opening walk of the season, the five mile handicap, which consisted of three Inner Circles and one Outer, was held at Regent's Park on 15th November.

A match between our sporting friends of the Metropolitan Police and Bowring A.C. also took place. Twenty-one competitors got off to a good start from the commanding voice of Mr. M. A. Dunaway, of the Stock Exchange A.C. At the end of the first Inner Circle, C. Shields (Met.) and G. Comber (Bow.) had taken the lead and were walking shoulder to shoulder, followed by W. Wood (Met.) and J. Culver

(Bow.) with G. Hewitt fifth and the first St. Dunstaner. The positions remained the same for the next two Inners, with Billy Miller and Les. Dennis having a great struggle in the ninth and tenth positions, while that grand old chap, Archie Brown, was close on their heels and our newcomer to the sport, J. Simpson, putting up a gallant performance. Tommy Gaygan and Stan Tutton were at the rear, but they will come again with a bit more training.

On reaching the half distance, Shields had taken the lead and was walking well, with G. Comber second, five yards separating them. Wood was third but some three minutes behind the leader, our own G. Hewitt still walking well and holding fifth position. The leading competitors held their positions until the finish, while those in the rear were fighting it out for each point that counted in the match.

Congratulations to J. Simpson on being placed third in the handicap at the second time of walking in a match. Thanks to all who made this walk a success and a special vote of thanks to Mrs. Willis and her ladies.

The next race is a seven miles handicap at Regent's Park on 24th January, start at 2.30 sharp. Make this a bumper entry which Bob Willis will be pleased to receive.

C.H.

### RESULT:

Order of Finish	Club	Time	Pos.	
			All.	H'cp in H'cp
1.	C. Shields	M.P. 41-43	—	—
2.	J. Comber	Bow. 41-50	—	—
3.	W. Woods	M.P. 44-39	—	—
4.	J. Culver	Bow. 44-40	—	—
5.	G. Hewitt	St. Ds. 45-28	1-15	44-13 1
6.	F. Long	M.P. 45-29	—	—
7.	L. Dennis	St. Ds. 46-36	1-15	45-21 2
8.	L. Ward	M.P. 46-55	—	—
9.	J. James	M.P. 47-16	—	—
10.	G. Bourne	M.P. 47-18	—	—
11.	D. Hallett	M.P. 47-21	—	—
12.	W. Miller	St. Ds. 47-37	Scr.	47-37 5
13.	A. Brown	St. Ds. 48-00	1-45	46-15 4
14.	J. Gunn	Bow. 48-55	—	—
15.	G. Howse	Bow. 50-05	—	—
16.	J. Simpson	St. Ds. 52-19	6-15	46-04 3
17.	G. Watkins	Bow. 52-21	—	—
18.	G. England	M.P. 53-12	—	—
19.	A. Stone	Bow. 53-54	—	—
20.	T. Gaygan	St. Ds. 54-37	6-40	47-57 7
21.	S. Tutton	St. Ds. 54-54	7-10	47-44 6

### MATCH RESULT:—

1st, Met. Police, 37 points; 2nd, Bowring A.C., 71 points; 3rd, St. Dunstan's, 73 points.

MATCH RESULT:—St. Dunstan's v. Bowring A.C. Bowring A.C., 39 points; St. Dunstan's, 39 points. Bowring A.C. won on position.

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I am one of the men who took Lord Fraser's advice—to start "sorting out the dots" again.

I was blinded in 1918 and eventually went to St. Dunstan's, where I passed my Braille Test in the following year. Having regained a little sight, I am afraid, like lots of other men, I did not continue with it.

I have just had a five weeks' "refresher" course in Braille and am very pleased to say that I got on with it surprisingly well. This I owe mainly to my teacher, Joe Walch, who I consider is one of the best of teachers to learn from. In fact I cannot say enough—not only for the teaching, but for the understanding and companionship given so freely and good-heartedly during my tuition.

I should like to thank these teachers and also the rest of the staff for making my stay so enjoyable, and recommend any man who finds himself in the same position as myself to take advantage of this course.

Yours sincerely,

Carbis Bay.

F. GRIFFEE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been very interested in the stereophonic experimental broadcasts given by the B.B.C. on alternate Saturday mornings. A radio and television set are both needed to listen to these and I would urge any St. Dunstaner who has not done so to hear them.

This is a big step forward in sound broadcasting; one gets the impression of an orchestra being on a stage. In a play the characters seem to move about quite freely and sound effects are very natural and realistic. In a "Sherlock Holmes" play, a pony and trap seemed to approach from far away, trot across the stage and fade away in the distance. I think that this will be of immense advantage to us, even more than sighted people. It will certainly make our listening much more interesting and enjoyable.

I should like to know what other St. Dunstaners think about this. The B.B.C. invite listeners who are interested to write giving their impressions and asking for further information on this subject. This I have done.

Yours sincerely,

Warehorne,  
Kent.

ARTHUR G. LOVERIDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I recently attended a reunion of the remainder of my family at Great Yarmouth. I have two brothers and two sisters, ages ranging from 89-75. The total number of our years is 406. I am not boasting but wonder if any of the boys can beat this.

Yours sincerely,

Ovingdean.

ARTHUR OVERILL.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was much interested in George Fallowfield's letter regarding his much travelled watch. Perhaps he will be interested in my story.

After being blinded with mustard gas I was sent down to a Base Hospital, and in due course I was given my few personal belongings and going through them, I found an unused issue green envelope. Thinking I should not be going up the line again I decided to keep it as a souvenir.

During the last war I had two sons serving and I thought of the idea of enclosing the envelope in a letter I was sending to my son in Italy and asking him to post his next letter to me in that envelope. I had it initialled by a friend of mine on the inside to make sure that the same envelope came back, and it did, and as far as I know I have still got it in my possession. You see it was issued to me in the First War and used by my son in the Second War.

Yours sincerely,

South Molton.

H. COBLEY (Uncle Tom).

(This letter arrived too late for inclusion in the Braille Edition.—Editor).

★ ★ ★

Mr. J. W. Mahony, Physiotherapist at Ovingdean, has retired after twenty-five years' service on the Staff of St. Dunstan's. He was at Brighton before the outbreak of the 1939-45 war, then at Church Stretton, and he returned to Ovingdean with us when the war ended.

His St. Dunstaner friends, as well as members of the Staff, will join with us in sending our very good wishes to him on his retirement.

### Great-Grandfather

J. Kelleher, of Cork.

### Grandfathers

F. Griffiee, of Carbis Bay, Cornwall; and new grandchildren for H. Hurst, of Great Longstone, near Bakewell; D. Murphy, of Glasgow; E. Watts, of Birkenhead; C. J. R. Fawcett, of Bournemouth; F. Stew, of Shuthonger, near Tewkesbury.

### Mustard Gas Still Blinds

Mustard gas used by the Germans in the 1914-18 war is still causing blindness in British soldiers exposed to it, Lord Fraser told the House of Lords on December 2nd. He was making an earnest plea to the Government not to limit to ten years the period within which claims for damage by atomic radiation may be made under the Nuclear Installations (Licensing and Insurance Bill). Lord Fraser said: "It may surprise your Lordships to know that this year no fewer than twenty men entered St. Dunstan's now wholly blind as the delayed result of mustard gas affecting their eyes long ago . . . it may be said that there is no analogy between this and what we are talking about, but I think it is up to the Government to prove that that is so. Who can tell what will be the effect of these radiations, any more than one could have told what would be the effect of mustard gas?"

The amendment to seek the removal of the ten-year limit was, after the discussion, withdrawn.

### Christmas Competition

Will you join the Editor at Christmas dinner? Don't accept right away, but study the menu first.

*Hors d'oeuvre*

DRINK SAME DOSES

*Soup*

YOUR POSSET

*Fish*

ONE SOLID LAMB

*Poultry*

TRY OUR STEAK

*Vegetables*

TASTE SOAP ROOT

CALL OUR WIFE

*Sweets*

NILE POEM

MICE RACE

*Savoury*

HEBREW TRIALS

Food for thought, isn't it? If you can find the real names of the dishes, send the menu to the Editor not later than Thursday, January 15th. There will be three prizes of two guineas each for the first three correct solutions opened after the closing date. Address your envelopes to the Editor, St. Dunstan's Review, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1, marking them, "Menu."

### St. Dunstan's Annual Bridge Congress

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club held its annual Congress at Ovingdean on the week-end November 15th-16th, forty-six players taking part. This shows an increase on previous years and I sincerely hope that the number will be even greater next year. There is plenty of room in the Winter Garden for many more and we will be delighted to see you.

The programme for the two days is made up as follows: The two principal events are played on Saturday—the Pairs Competition for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Cup, and the Teams of Four Competition for a similar Cup. On the Sunday there are two Bridge Drives to complete the week-end.

The Congress this year seems to have gone remarkably well according to the members themselves, the comment on all sides being "the best ever." I have come to the conclusion after making a few inquiries, that the great success of the Congress was due to the fact that the standard of play was much improved, there was greater co-operation between the men and the markers, and the movement from table to table was much quieter. And, of course, we had the skill and patience of our two stalwarts, Mr. A. E. Field and Mr. C. Stokes, who controlled the whole of the proceedings.

I would like once again to thank the Matron, Commandant and the whole Staff at Ovingdean for a most glorious week-end.

RESULTS:

*Sir Arthur Pearson Cup:*

*Pairs Competition:* H. GOVER.  
P. NUYENS.

*Sir Arthur Pearson Cup:*

*Teams of Four:* H. GOVER.  
P. NUYENS.  
M. DELANEY.  
R. SLAUGHTER.

G.P.B.

★ ★ ★

E. Miller, of Leamington, took second prize with his tomatoes at the Warwick Show.

### Talking Book Library

#### For Your Christmas Perusing

Seven more attempts this month to tickle varying reading palates.

"The Pursuit of Love," by Nancy Mitford, reader Marjorie Anderson, is a fellow volume of "Love in a Cool Climate." The early days of two sisters in an atmosphere of stately homes, and their blossoming into Society and circles of the intelligentsia. A plentiful admixture of comedy, tragedy and anecdote. Perhaps it should be labelled "Ladies Only." *Cat. No. 297.*

"Victorian Love Story," by Nerina Shute, reader Laidman Browne, is the romantic life of an eccentric painter-poet, Dante Gabriel Rossetti. The careers of his lovely model and himself are set in jewelled sidelights on Millais, Ruskin and William Morris. A most un-Victorian and decidedly entertaining frolic. *Cat. No. 424.*

"Beyond the Black Stump," by Nevil Shute, reader Stephen Jack, tells of neighbouring sheep stations in the parched vastness of Australia. One inhabited by a heterogeneous mixture of an Irishman's family—hard-drinking, hard-working characters—one by a young, solitary Englishman, working desperately to establish his sheep run against perpetual drought. Enter oil-prospecting team led by an American geologist who snatches young solitary's Irish lady love. So far so good, but if you wish to hear a good story unfold I recommend that you read on. *Cat. No. 457.*

"Anna Karenina," by Leo Tolstoy, reader Alvar Lidell, is a mighty Russian classic. The tragedy of Anna's incandescent love for a soldier Count, conflicting with the love for her small son by her government official husband, has two lesser romances of sisters Dolly and Kitty running parallel. This is a long book and if you are addicted to happy endings it is not for you. *Cat. No. 368.*

"The Golden Journey," by Agnes Sligh Turnbull, reader Laidman Browne, is refreshingly different. A young American lawyer with an eloquent tongue fights to combat the crooked manipulation of city politics. There is much personal grief and struggle, apart from the fact that he finds himself opposed to his father-in-law, the city "big boss." *Cat. No. 379.*

"The Traitors' Gate," by Edgar Wallace, reader Laidman Browne, is a fast moving thriller. Somehow the Tiger's foolproof

plan to filch the Crown Jewels is fortuitously thwarted. There is excitement, action, love interest and all in this little offering. *Cat. No. 642.*

"The Vermilion Gate," by Lin Yutang, reader Stephen Jack, is the story of a Chinese family. A much interwoven kaleidoscope of tyranny, courage, romance, starvation, ignorance, intellect, war, luxury and stark tragedy. There are two or three main characters who make the story less abstract than my short summary can. *Cat. No. 100.* "NELSON."

#### All Present and —?

At the beginning of 1942, I was a member of a contingent of Royal Air Force trainee pilots attached to the South African Air Force under the Empire Air Training Scheme. I was stationed on the veldt seven miles outside Pretoria at what was then called Lyttlestone Camp.

It was the usual practice for the whole station to muster on the main parade ground for roll call at 6 o'clock every morning, and as breakfast was not until eight, we found this rather irksome. As Lyttlestone Camp was some 6,000 feet above sea level, the early mornings were very chilly and we were allowed to wear our greatcoats over our khaki drill tunics and shorts. The "dodge," of course, was to wear your greatcoat over your sleeping attire, thereby enabling you to have those last few minutes.

On the morning in question, we were standing to attention on the parade ground waiting for the roll to be called when the order came, "Remove greatcoats." There was a gasp of dismay. Instead of smartly pressed tunics and shorts, a parade ground full of multi-coloured pyjama-clad men with trousers rolled above the knees stood shivering in front of the horrified commanding officer. Unfortunately the R.A.F. contingent newly out from clothes-rationed Britain came off worst of all, for some, having no pyjamas (they were not then an issue), stood coyly to attention in short shirts trying to look as military as the circumstances permitted.

*Colindale.*

R. WOOD.

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Would any St. Dunstaner who would be willing to send on his braille magazine, *Hora Jocunda*, to Mr. Ben Sutton, who is deaf and blind, write to the Editor.

### German Tribute

In the current number of *Der Kriegsblinde (The War-Blind)*—the equivalent of our ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW—after referring to our Chairman's move to the House of Lords, an article recalls that it was Lord Fraser who, during the winter of 1945-46, helped from London to overcome the great political difficulties which stood in the way of re-constituting a German war-blind society. At that time it was Herr Voigt, of Hamburg, who was able to avail himself of his friendship and contacts with Lord Fraser. He was prepared to help immediately and thus the Military Government approved the creation of the Society at that time called "St. Georg," which soon counted 4,000 members in the British occupation zone and in Hesse.

The friendship between our Chairman and Herr Voigt survived the war, although they were cut off from communication for many years. St. Dunstan's rowing men will remember that at a dinner some twenty years ago, Herr Voigt, who happened to be in London, was their guest.

### Under "Virgo"

Do you, for the fun of it, sometimes enquire what your horoscope is for the day? And do you sometimes think how far it is from the truth? If you are like me, you do. But let me relate a recent occasion when I was taking a holiday at Ovingdean when, unknown to me at the time, my lucky star, "Virgo," really did foretell an actual fact.

On Tuesday, November 25th, 1958, I was going down to the kiosk to replenish my supply of cigarettes when I followed, step by step, another St. Dunstaner who was on a similar errand. I spoke to him and he asked who I was. Having told him, I also asked who he was. Immediately the name rang a bell in my memory. I allowed him to get his smokes and I got my own, but when I turned round I said, "Excuse me, you said your name is David Hatter?" He replied, "Yes." I said, "Do you happen to remember anything about 106 and 264 Batteries, Garrison Artillery?" He stood erect and said, "Yes, I should think I do." I took him by the hand and said, "Meet Jim Shaw, who served with you in France."

Readers of this little story will appreciate

that the handshake became a lasting grip, and it was the prelude to several long chats as our minds were cast back to the days from 1915 to 1918, which covered the period when we had served together and had shared almost identical experiences from Ypres to the Somme, in a spell of over two years.

We first came together at Weymouth when we were nearing the end of our training, which was completed at Lydd. Then we went out to France with the 106 Battery and, after eighteen months, we were both transferred to 264 Battery; the complement of this latter Battery consisted of troops newly arrived from England.

For the rest of our time, until May, 1918, we continued to serve together, until May 9th when we both became victims of serious mustard gassing.

Since our recent meeting, we learned from each other that we were both taken to the same Base Hospital, but there we were separated. He was taken to Sheffield whilst I was taken to a London hospital.

We never knew anything of each other from that time until forty and a half years later, when the chance meeting by the kiosk took place.

Of course, I wrote to my home to say that I had met an old pal of "our" war days. In the reply letter from my home was enclosed a cutting from the *Daily Express* for Tuesday, November 25th. For that very day my star, "Virgo," foretold the following: "This morning you will meet an old friend. It will be a heart-warming day."

I wonder if there are any other cases similar to this one experienced by David Hatter and myself.

*Ashton-in-Makerfield.*

JIM SHAW.

### The Sutton Club

There is just room to say that we had a very good meeting on November 29th, when we concluded the play-offs for the Sir Arthur Pearson prizes.

On December 20th, we hold our closing meeting of the year and I can now give you the date of the A.G.M., which is January 24th, 1959.

Good health, good luck,

Your Chairman,

TED DUDLEY.

### "Covered With Money"

It sounds somewhat incredible and far-fetched, but in the main it is nevertheless true. It happened while I was in the United States as a member of the A.B.F.B., the American, British, French and Belgian "Permanent Blind" War Relief Fund. In addition to making speeches, attending receptions and interviewing numbers of people who called at the offices of the Fund, my wife and I were present at most of the great Allied Bazaars that were held in New York, Chicago, Boston and Detroit. The first of these bazaars was held early in June, 1916, in the Central Palace Gardens, New York City. My wife and I were present when the death of Lord Kitchener came through, and it was most impressive when the vast crowd went suddenly silent.

The A.B.F.B. occupied a stall in the Bazaar, presided over by my wife and a group of very pretty young New York society girls, who distributed pamphlets describing the objects of the A.B.F.B. I sat at the end of a table which had a large collection box near me. Any visitor to the Bazaar who wished to come inside the stall to speak to me had to place a donation in the box. I used to make string bags to pass the time away. Twice daily, once in the forenoon and again in the evening, I made a tour of the building, accompanied by two of the young ladies from the stall. I generally wore "undress uniform" and attracted quite a lot of attention. On one of these parades, a Mr. Walter Scott, a business man on Broadway, shook hands and pinned a ten dollar bill on the peak of my Glengarry cap. Other people followed suit and by the time I returned to our stall I was literally "covered with money." My cap was soon covered right down to the end of the cap ribbons, across my shoulders and back, down my arms and the legs of my trousers. All the "green-backs" of the dollar bills were facing outwards so that I looked like an overgrown prize turkey. This decorative method of collecting dollars occurred on several occasions in New York and Chicago. In the latter city, on one occasion, I had twenty pounds in dollars pinned on my Glengarry. I received many pinpricks but I came to no harm.

R. MIDDLEMISS.

P.S. It was 60 years on October 1st last, since I enlisted in the Army.

### "Life At My Fingertips"

St. Dunstaners know for themselves how splendidly their own deaf comrades have overcome their double handicap.

A book has just been published, "Life at My Fingertips," which is the story of Robert Smithdas, who lost his sight and hearing when he was only five. To-day, in his early thirties, he holds a Master's degree of New York University and fills a responsible position in which he travels the United States, giving lectures on behalf of the deaf and blind.

We can only give briefly his amazing career.

He went first to a School for the Blind where he was introduced to the manual alphabet, and the most momentous step in his life was taken when he was sent on a scholarship to Perkins, the famous school in Boston for educating blind and deaf-blind children.

At Perkins, Robert learnt new techniques. He had to give up using the manual alphabet and was initiated into the Tadoma method of lip reading, learning to think in terms of vibration. His studies were wide and varied. He made excellent progress and was equally good at sports.

When he was twenty he graduated from Perkins and went on to the Industrial Home for the Blind in Brooklyn. After less than a year at the Industrial Home, it was decided that he could go on to St. John's University in Brooklyn. Much more was at stake than the success or failure of an individual, for only one deaf-blind person had passed through college before, and that was Helen Keller, fifty years earlier.

A search for a student companion resulted in Johnny Spainer, a high-school graduate, accepting the task, and he was to spend the next nine years at Robert's side.

Gradually they settled into the college routine and after years of intensive work, Robert graduated with honours. His college days were over, he was a national celebrity. In 1952 he received his Master's degree from New York University as a specialist in the field of vocational rehabilitation for the handicapped.

The full story of Robert Smithdas's achievements is told in his autobiography, "Life at My Fingertips," published by Elek Books, Limited, 18s.

(This notice is not in the Braille REVIEW, but will appear next month.—Ed.)

### Ovingdean Notes

Commandant, Matron and Staff at the Brighton Homes send their greetings to all St. Dunstaners throughout the country and wish them a very happy Christmas and New Year.

At Ovingdean we shall look forward to welcoming a large number of men to us for Christmas and it is nice to know that once again the girls will be at Port Hall in full force. We hope, too, that a record number of local St. Dunstaners will come along to Ovingdean for one or other of the entertainments which are being arranged for Christmas week.

We should like to tell you that the Chapel collections at Ovingdean during this year have been distributed to the following organisations:—

Pearson's Fresh Air Fund ... £10  
St. Matthew's Church Comforts Fund £10  
Tarnor Home, Brighton ... £15  
Brighton & Hove Girls' Orphanage £15  
November and December always herald

two events most popular with local St. Dunstaners. The first, the dinner and dance arranged under the terms of the will of the late Mrs. M. Pittman, took place at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on November 4th and the second, the Brighton, Hove & District Grocers' Association Christmas Party, was also held at the Grand Hotel, Brighton. On this occasion, we are told, some 450 people were entertained by the Association, including representatives from a number of Grocers' Associations in the South of England. The local branch was responsible for all the arrangements, and most generous was their hospitality to St. Dunstan's. Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., in replying to the toast proposed by Mr. Wenham (President of the local Grocers' Association) of "Our Guests," referred to this wonderfully kind generosity and hospitality always extended to St. Dunstan's, since the first contingent after World War I began coming to Brighton. Through their warm-hearted friendliness St. Dunstan's Home at Portland Place (now called Pearson House) had been provided and, added Sir Neville, "They found a quiet haven and protection from the storm of life in that home—St. Dunstan's owes undying gratitude to the Grocers' Association for their past and ever present kindnesses."

Later in the evening the Mayor and Mayoress of Hove (Councillor and Mrs.

Nixon) joined the party in the Ballroom where dancing was taking place to the music of Percy Warden and the Grand Hotel Orchestra.

Now we are getting ready for Christmas here at Brighton. Just a reminder to those of you coming down here—there will be a Fancy Dress Dance on Boxing Day and prizes for the best costumes—so come along with plenty of good ideas.

### Family News

Daphne Rutledge, Belfast, has passed her Senior Certificate with two credits and passes in six subjects; her sister Lucinda, who is at Stranmillis Training College, has been awarded an extension of her three years' course so that she will be qualified to teach in a Secondary Modern School.

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The daughter of P. Long, of Ballincollig, Co. Cork, is a good linguist, and her work for a Dublin Travel Agency often takes her abroad. She is at present in Spain.

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Cedric Langton, of Bottesford, had his School Colours for Junior Cricket last season and is also a good footballer.

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Imelda Spring, Chessington, is only fourteen, but has already passed an examination in the Preliminary Course of Home Nursing, St. John Ambulance Association. She spends her spare time helping at the Surbiton Eye Hospital.

### Marriages of Sons and Daughters

On September 13th, in Bristol, Sylvia Morgan, Stroud, to Robert Dymond.

On November 22nd, Pamela Woodget, Winton, Bournemouth, to Leonard Allbut.

On December 8th, Edward Robinson, Cookstown.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

BALL.—To J. Ball, of Gateshead, whose brother died on November 22nd. Our sympathy also goes to Mrs. Ball, his sister-in-law. Our St. Dunstaner lived with his brother and his wife.

MCCREA.—To H. G. McCrea, of Belfast, whose mother died on December 3rd.

SHEARN.—To R. Shearn, of Bridgwater, whose wife died on November 7th.

## "In Memory"

### Driver Jenkin Lewis, M.M., *Royal Field Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Lewis, of Gabalfa, Cardiff. He was 66.

He served from his enlistment in September, 1914, until May, 1919, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until as recently as August, 1957. He had been engaged in Welfare work prior to this and his age prevented him undertaking any training with us.

Our deep sympathy is sent to his widow and married daughter.

### Corporal Percy James Sparkes, *Royal Field Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of P. J. Sparkes, of Grimsby, at the age of 72.

He had enlisted in 1904, and was wounded in France in April, 1917, he came to St. Dunstan's the following year. He was one of our first physiotherapists and he carried on in his profession until his retirement in 1953. He had been in poor health for some time and had been taken to hospital, where he died on November 22nd.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Sparkes and her married daughter.

### Private R. Clark McNeil, *Royal Scots Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of R. Clark McNeil, of Haddington, East Lothian. He was 74.

He served with the regiment from May, 1916, until his discharge in November, 1918. He entered St. Dunstan's in May, 1932, but since he had for many years helped to run the family business, he had not come to us for actual training. The business was disposed of in 1946. In May of last year he entered hospital, and following an operation had not been in good health. He died on December 3rd. Prior to his illness, he had been a keen and active member of the local Burns Society.

He lived with his sister, and to her and to the other members of his family our deep sympathy is sent.

### John Louis Ferry, *52nd Canadian Infantry*

We have also heard with deep regret of the death of J. L. Ferry, which occurred on December 4th, 1957, at the age of 63.

He enlisted with the Canadian Forces in September, 1917, and was wounded a year later. In January, 1919, he came to St. Dunstan's and after training in shorthand, typewriting and netting, he returned to Canada in June, 1920. He recommenced his studies at College and obtained a diploma for a B.A. Degree in June the following year.

He was a single man.

### Ernest Henry Maisey, *Hong Kong Dockyard Defence Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. H. Maisey, of Honicknowle, Plymouth. He was 63.

He was discharged from the service in December, 1945, and was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in November, 1952, but although he completed hobby training and was a very good mat-maker, he did not take up this work actively. Instead, he concentrated on making historical notes on East Cornwall, helped by his typewriting and braille knowledge; he was well-known to the local branch of the Workers' Educational Association, in which he took an active interest.

He leaves a widow and married daughter to whom our sincere sympathy is sent.

### A. E. Johns, *53rd Bn. Australian Imperial Forces*

Bertie Johnston, *Australian Forces*

### G. J. Morrell, *11th Bn. Australian Imperial Forces*

George C. Wasson, *Royal Australian Navy*

### Walter West, *56th Bn. Australian Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the deaths of the above Australian St. Dunstaners.

A. E. Johns, of Kingsfield, New South Wales, who was a widower, died on August 27th, 1957, and Bertie Johnston, also of New South Wales, died in July of this year. Writing at Christmas time he had told us that his health was not good.

G. J. Morrell, of Collie, Western Australia, was wounded at Gallipoli and was paralysed. He had been bedridden for many years.

George C. Wasson, of Sutherland, New South Wales, served with the Royal Australian Navy. He died on April 14th and our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and her son.

Walter West, of Sydney, New South Wales, died on November 9th, 1957. He left a widow and our deep sympathy is sent to her.