

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

THE new £1 note to be issued early next year will be a different size from all existing notes, the Bank of England told representatives of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and of St. Dunstan's at a meeting on Thursday, December 3rd.

The new 10s. note, although of the same length as the £1 note, will be of a different width to enable blind people to differentiate between them. When the new £5 and £10 notes are being designed, the Bank will collaborate with our organisations as to the best means of incorporating some form of difference.

The meeting between representatives of our two organisations and the Chief Cashier at the Bank was arranged because blind people all over the country had been disturbed by reports that £1 and 10s. notes of the same size would be issued in 1961.

Every St. Dunstaner shopkeeper knows how to distinguish a £1 note from a 10s. note by feeling it. For those who are not familiar with this trick, I may say that the usual method is to place the note between two of the fingers, when it will be found that the £1 note is just a little wider than the 10s. note. A little experimentation will tell you which fingers to use for measurement purposes.

It now appears that the Bank of England is going to concede the point and I think the R.N.I.B. and St. Dunstan's did well to make immediate representations.

Many may have heard the Chairman of the R.N.I.B., who is also a member of St. Dunstan's Council, Mr. Godfrey Robinson, the Secretary of St. Dunstan's, Mr. A. D. Lloyds, and, at an earlier stage, Mr. J. C. Colligan, Secretary-General of the R.N.I.B., broadcasting on this subject which, if I may say so, they did exceedingly well.

### Magic Carpet

During the month of November, I went to Melbourne, Australia, and back for a short business visit. Most of the journey was by jet aeroplane—the first time I have travelled in such an aircraft. A Comet took Lady Fraser and me from London to New York, and this is a most remarkable machine. This aeroplane—which must weigh 70 tons fully laden—goes up in the air at a very sharp angle and in a short time is seven miles above the earth; then it proceeds at 500 m.p.h. or more, yet is as quiet and steady as a good car.

We left London at mid-day and arrived at New York, against a head wind of 100 m.p.h., nine and a half hours later. But when we landed at New York, it was only 4.30 in the afternoon because the time had gone back five hours. When we were two-thirds across the Atlantic, the sun was setting on the horizon and for two hours it seemed to remain constant, unable to go to bed. This strange phenomenon was due to the fact that at the latitude on which we were flying, say, half-way between the Equator and the Pole, we were travelling

at the same pace as the earth so that we were keeping up with the sun. It was not until we turned south-west that the sun beat us and went below the horizon.

There is something exceptionally tiring about travelling by jet, considering that it is so quiet and so comfortable. I am at a loss to know why this is so but perhaps it is the change of altitude and the alteration of the time table to which one is accustomed.

Continuing our journey to Australia, we found ourselves eating dinner at dawn and having breakfast last thing at night—or so it appeared until we caught up with time.

This time factor is very peculiar. As you approach the island of Fiji to land, going southwards, you jump one whole day. That is to say, you set off from Honolulu on a Friday and a few hours later you arrive in Fiji and find that it is Sunday. On the flight coming home, you leave Sydney on Friday afternoon and arrive at Honolulu twelve hours later and find that it is still Friday morning. I cannot understand this but at least I am satisfied that I am still as old as I was because, having travelled both ways, I have caught up the day that I lost.

### Old Friends

In Sydney, I talked on the telephone to Alfred Mace, one-time head of our Physiotherapy Department. Although he has suffered a heart attack and has had to retire from work, he sounded cheerful and well and sent his best wishes to all old friends.

In Melbourne, a great Reunion of St. Dunstaners took place and we met many old friends of the First and Second World Wars. There were 135 Australians who came to St. Dunstan's, most of them First World War men who had fought in France. The rest were Second World War men who came to us when hostilities ceased. They have good associations looking after their welfare and they follow many of the same professions, occupations and handicrafts as we do over here. The representatives from New Zealand also came and I learned that St. Dunstaners in New Zealand are, on the whole, doing well. I was asked to convey the best wishes of them all to St. Dunstaners here and to the many friends they made during their sojourn with us.

When passing through New York, I visited the American Foundation for the Blind where I met Mr. Barnett, the very able blind head of the organisation, and Mr. Boulter, Field Director of the Overseas society, who is himself a St. Dunstaner. Mr. Boulter and his friends took us to a play which illustrates the first few years of Helen Keller's life, and depicts in very moving terms the victory over blindness and deafness achieved by her remarkable teacher, Miss Annie M. Sullivan (Mrs. Macy). This does not seem a likely theme for a successful play but I was told that the theatre is sold out and that the play looks like having a considerable run. Certainly the author and the actors show great imagination and sincerity in portraying the remarkable events which enabled Mrs. Macy to establish contact with this little blind and deaf child whose unusual intelligence was cut off from all communication with the outer world.

### Basil Curtis

Major Basil Curtis is leaving St. Dunstan's at the end of the year to take up a job in connection with public relations and appeals for the National Spastics Society. This is an important appointment in a well-known, growing organisation which does a fine work of rehabilitation, and I think he has admirable qualities for such a post.

Major Curtis has been responsible for our public relations work for some ten years, as well as dealing with publicity and advertising for groups of St. Dunstaners and individuals, and we are much indebted to him for the many references to St. Dunstan's which have appeared in the newspaper press and on broadcasting and television.

St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners will miss Basil Curtis, but all his friends will join with me in wishing him the best of good luck.

Lieut. Commander Buckley, our Appeals Organiser, will assume responsibility for public relations in future, and I will of course, continue to give a good deal of attention to this matter, which has been one of my special interests and responsibilities.

### Christmas

A happy Christmas from my wife and me to all St. Dunstaners and friends of St. Dunstan's.

FRASER OF LONSDALE.

### London Club Notes

From the London Club to all St. Dunstaners and their families, the compliments of the season, a merry Christmas, and good health and good fortune for 1960.

★ ★ ★

On Tuesday, December 8th, Club members were delighted to welcome Mrs. Sykes and Mrs. Sassoon. To Mrs. Sykes—"Thank you, madam, for your continued generosity."

S. WEBSTER.

*Bridge.* St. Dunstan's Bridge Club held its Annual General Meeting on Friday, November 13th, at Ovingdean. Commandant took the chair and did the job to perfection. About thirty members were present and the meeting lasted about one hour and a half. A number of problems were dealt with satisfactorily. G. P. Brown was re-elected captain, Mr. Webster, treasurer, and Messrs. Gover, Jackson and Drummer Downs made up the new Committee.

The Club held its annual Bridge Congress on November 14th and 15th. The battle commenced on Saturday morning with the first round of the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Cup pairs competition. This was followed in the afternoon by the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Cup for teams of four and I can assure you, competition for both events was very keen. Sunday morning saw the final for the pairs, and a bridge drive for all in the afternoon finished off what I believe to be considered by all members, another wonderful weekend. A notable feature of the Congress was the fact that the Club's only two lady members carried off the first prize in the free-for-all bridge drive. Well done, girls! Matron kindly presented the prizes to the various winners, and Drummer then presented Matron with a lovely bouquet of flowers and thanked the staff on behalf of the boys, for giving us such a pleasant time. Matron then brought the week-end to its close by thanking all those who had worked so hard to make the Congress such a success, with a special word of praise for Mr. A. E. Field and Mr. C. Stokes.  
G. P. B.

RESULTS:

*Pairs:* 1st, B. Ingrey, A. Smith; 2nd, M. Delaney, R. Wylie; 3rd, H. Gover, P. Nuyens.

*Fours:* 1st, A. J. Wiltshire, J. Douglass, J. Walch, C. Kelk; 2nd, F. Winter, J. Andrews, W. H. Henry, S. Webster; 3rd, A. Craigie, R. Armstrong, M. Delaney, R. Wylie.

*Bridge Drive, Sunday Morning:* 1st, G. P. Brown, J. Fleming; 2nd, H. Cook, F. Jackson; 3rd, R. Armstrong, Mrs. Stokes.

*Bridge Drive, Sunday Afternoon:* 1st, Mrs. Formstone, Miss Simon; 2nd, S. Webster, W. H. Henry; 3rd, R. Freer, A. Needham.

### St. Dunstan's Two-Mile Invitation Handicap Walk Highgate, Saturday, 26th September, 1959

Order of Finish	Time	Allowance	Handicap Time
1. J. Simpson	18:31	2:15	16:16
2. L. Dennis	18:32	0:25	18:07
3. G. Hewitt	18:31	0:20	18:11
4. L. Halliday	22:18	4:00	18:18
5. W. Miller	18:25	Scr.	18:25
6. C. Stafford	21:29	2:55	18:34
7. A. Brown	19:26	0:50	18:36
8. S. Tutton	21:29	2:45	18:44
9. M. Burns	23:18	3:00	20:18
10. E. Cookson	20:54	4:30	20:24
11. T. Robinson	25:44	4:30	21:14

### St. Dunstan's Seven-Mile Championship Walk Regent's Park, Saturday, 21st November, 1959

Order of Finish	Time	Allowance	H'cap Time	Pos. in H'cap
1. G. Hewitt	67:15	Scr.	67:15	4
2. J. Simpson	67:41	2:10	65:31	2
3. L. Dennis	68:53	2:10	66:43	3
4. W. Miller	69:48	1:45	68:03	5
5. A. Brown	74:25	3:55	70:30	6
6. C. Stafford	75:07	10:20	64:47	1

### Proposed College Reunion

It is proposed to hold a Reunion some time at the end of July, 1960, of men and staff who were at the College Annexe, Regent's Park.

The reunion would be held at Hanover Lodge, Regent's Park, and there would be no charge, so when arranging your holiday at Ovingdean, would those interested bear such a reunion in mind?

Anyone who is interested is asked to be good enough to get in touch with me at 46 Leigham Avenue, London, S.W.16.  
W. T. SCOTT.

### Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson

The annual Memorial Service to the late Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., Founder of St. Dunstan's, was held at the St. Dunstan's Chapel, Ovingdean, on Sunday, December 13th. Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, read the Lesson, and the Address was given by St. Dunstan's Padre, the Rev. W. J. Taylor, who conducted the Service.

The crowded congregation included Lady Pearson, Lord and Lady Fraser, Mrs. Aitken (Sir Neville's sister), Mrs. Dacre (Lord Fraser's sister), and Christopher and Caroline McDonald (Lord Fraser's grand-children).

On the morning of Wednesday, December 9th, the thirty-eighth anniversary of Sir Arthur Pearson's death, a party consisting of First War St. Dunstaners H. Abbey, of Enfield and J. Murray, of New Southgate, Messrs. H. Wheeler, of Merton Park, and D. Williams, of Australia, with Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, and Mr. H. Lean, went to Hampstead Cemetery, where a wreath of poppies was placed on Sir Arthur's grave on behalf of war-blinded service men and women all over the world.

### Static Cycles

I have had several requests recently for Static Cycles, needed for health reasons, and it occurred to me that there may be a few St. Dunstaners who have these machines but do not use them. In such cases I should be pleased to meet the cost of carriage and overhaul if the machines were made available to other St. Dunstaners.

C. D. WILLS.

### Bowls

I recently appealed in the Press for gifts of woods for our Brighton Bowling Club, and the response was so generous that I now have a number of sets available for other players.

Bowls has proved to be one of the few outdoor games a blind person can learn to play successfully and any St. Dunstaners interested in taking it up, or already playing it, may write to me for a pair of woods if they can really make good use of them.

C. D. WILLS.

### Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. B. Jarvill, of Thorne, Doncaster, who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on November 29th.

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

For many years I have been bothered by my Junior Imperial portable skidding around on my desk in accordance with the vehemence of my mood. I did nothing about it, considering it to be one of the little things.

The other day, after I had sealed off every sneaky little draught in the house so that the fire would not go, I looked around to find a use for the three feet of adhesive foam-rubber strip left over.

The moment of inspiration led me to the typewriter. Turning it upside down, I removed the four small non-skid buttons with their mirror-like surfaces. Using the back holes as guides, I applied the strip from one to the other and turned the machine right way up. Result—absolute satisfaction! You can get the strip in Woolworth's. Be sure it's adhesive.

Yours sincerely,

Hillingdon.

STEWART SPENCE.

DEAR EDITOR,

"Never fear—the 14-18 boys are here." Yes! the old boys are here, and what would St. Dunstan's contingent be without them on "Remembrance Sunday"?

I am a 39-45 man myself and have attended this event for the past seven years, and through my escort I have learned just how the numbers are shrinking. To me this is a disgrace.

I know some of the lads have added disabilities, but there must be scores of the comparatively fit ones who reside in and around the London area. What do they do with themselves on Remembrance Sunday? Could they not spare just a few hours with us, once a year?

I marvel at the old boys. They turn out year after year; some of them would be better off at home in the warm, but no, they come along and as things are, it is a good thing they do. What was a decent turn-out has shrunk to twenty.

I can remember not too far back when we had our luncheon at the Seymour Hall, and a free bar, we had a real turn-out. Surely this is not the reason? It certainly makes me think.

No doubt I am wide open for some replies. I hope there are many.

Yours sincerely,

Welwyn Garden City.

S. S. BROOKS  
(Brookie).

### Remembrance Day, 1959

St. Dunstaners were among those who paraded at the Cenotaph on Sunday, November 8th, and again a party were among those in the vast audience at the Royal Albert Hall for the Festival of Remembrance. At the "Not Forgotten" Association 14th Armistice Remembrance Dinner in Belfast, St. Dunstaners J. Humphrey, A. Scott, A. W. Rutledge and H. G. Greene were among those who attended. J. Humphrey replied to the toast, "Our Guests."

### Retirement Presentation

W. Storer, of Rugby, recently retired after eighteen years as telephonist at St. Cross Hospital, Rugby, and at a reception in his honour on October 30th, three cheques were presented to him—one from the Matron and the nursing and general staff, another from the surgeons and medical staff, and a third from the chairman of the House Committee, who also took the chair and paid warm tribute to the wonderful work that our St. Dunstaner and his wife had done for the hospital. A bouquet of carnations was presented to Mrs. Storer and then came the toast—"to Mr. and Mrs. Storer in their retirement, with a job of work well done."

### A Christmas Competition

Can you construct a Word Square from the following clues—that is, a square in which the letters of the hidden words spell the same both across and downwards? There will be three prizes of two guineas for the senders of the first three correct solutions opened after the closing date, which is January 11th, 1960. Entries to the Editor, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1, marked "Competition."

A happy Christmas, everyone, and good hunting.

### Clues

1. A lozenge which nearly makes father mum.
2. Ma's hat turned this shape gives you a pain.
3. The very reverse of sportsmen.
4. Admits of, or has the meaning of pins.
5. A little devil begins to hinder.
6. Losing their lead of fifty, these girls look foolish.

### The House of Lords

In the House of Lords on December 9th, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale asked Her Majesty's Government whether they can state the situation as regards unemployment of disabled persons, and what steps they are taking to keep the obligation of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Acts in the minds of employers.

The Minister without Portfolio (the Earl of Dundee) replied that on November 16th there were 58,489 registered disabled persons unemployed, compared with 59,727 in November, 1958. The Ministry of Labour made enquiries each year from all employers with 20 or more workers to see whether they are carrying out their obligations under the Acts to employ at least three per cent of registered disabled persons. In addition, the Ministry constantly kept before employers the need to employ suitable disabled people.

Lord Fraser asked if it was not possible that some new employers in a small way did not know of the obligations; could further publicity be given to the matter?

The Earl of Dundee replied that a new circular was now with the printers which would meet that point; a television film was also being prepared.

### Remploy

Later on the same day, Lord Fraser asked Her Majesty's Government whether they are now in a position to state what arrangements have been made to increase Government contracts to Remploy.

The Earl of Dundee said that sales by Remploy to Government Departments during the first 34 weeks of the present financial year totalled £523,000, compared with £497,000 for the same period last year.

Lord Fraser asked whether the Government Departments would bear in mind that a very substantial subsidy has to be paid by Parliament to maintain these sheltered workshops and that it is both financially expedient and humanly desirable that work should be given to these shops, so both saving the taxpayers money and giving the men employment—which was far more important than money.

The Earl of Dundee said that the Priority Suppliers Committee was constantly bringing to the notice of all branches of spending Departments all over the country the kind of goods which can be produced by Remploy and other sheltered workshops.

### Early Days in Radio

Forty-five years ago almost to the day, I was handed a document which, amongst other things, said that I was qualified to operate a wireless telegraphy installation on any British ship anywhere in the world. I stuffed the thing in my pocket and ran out of the school where I had been trained in Manchester, in case there was some mistake or the examiners changed their minds.

Three days later I joined my first ship. All my hopes and dreams of what life at sea would be like were soon shattered. The so-called wireless cabin on this particular ship was situated in the 'tween decks just above the waterline.

We crossed the Atlantic in December, 1914, and the equipment we had at our disposal was crude in the extreme. A rotary spark gap for a transmitter and a clockwork magnetic detector for a receiver. Both of them museum pieces nowadays, and their range under good conditions did not exceed 200 miles.

We went to Boston, Massachusetts, and picked up a cargo of 750 horses for the Western front. The voyage to France with this cargo of frightened, half-crazed animals was a nightmare in terrible weather, and one can well imagine the stench below decks in that so-called wireless cabin.

One thing I soon learned on that ship. All wireless men were looked upon with great suspicion. It was something new, and some old salts thought it was tempting providence to mess about with such uncanny things. One old sailor stuck his head through the door one day and he saw me lighting my cigarette between a nine-inch crackling spark gap. He never spoke to me again.

Four years later those old superstitions still stuck and we wireless wizards were blamed for any bad weather or misfortune that came along.

On November 12th, 1918, whilst serving on another ship, I heard by radio that the war was over and that the Armistice had been signed! I dashed up to the skipper's cabin and told him the glad tidings. He stared at me with the utmost suspicion and asked me where I had got the news from. I had to admit that the signals were very weak and that I had been unable to identify the station. We were in the Pacific Ocean

at the time, headed for the Panama Canal. He regarded the whole thing as a hoax by some wireless fool and he forbade me implicitly to tell anyone else on board. Before dismissing me he brought out a bottle of whisky and poured out a couple of real snorters. We drank a silent toast without even a smile.

Next day I got the shock of my life. For four long years I had heard nothing but morse telegraphy on the headphones. Suddenly I heard piano music quite distinctly! When I was quite sure that I was not dreaming I dashed up to see the Old Man again.

He smiled and tapped his head significantly.

"Most of you fellows go barmy sooner or later, Sparks," he said. "Take more water with it next time," he added casually.

Two days later we arrived in the Panama Canal and tied up alongside. The first news that we heard was that the war was over, but the Old Man never batted an eyelid.

That night the one and only Anna Pavlova gave a show in an empty warehouse on the quayside for all the sailors in port.

That's a long time ago and thank goodness things have changed in the radio department on board all ships.

Those were pioneering days, those were.

JOHN MARTIN.  
London, W.11.

### Yuletide

*The festive mood in Yuletide garb  
Of joy and laughterd peal,  
Disdains accumulated age  
And flings a gaysome reel.*

*Around the Christmas tree ablaze  
And fairy-pinnacled,  
Each face reflects its conscious glow  
Of season, mirrored.*

*Soft wisping snow frames robin's vest,  
Holly intriguing curls,  
Hung mistletoe allows a kiss  
Under its glist'ning pearls.*

*On wings of peace the carols soar,  
Reminding us again  
Of manger crib, of infant birth,  
The Star of Bethlehem.*

J. CRUSE.  
Newcastle-on-Tyne.

### Talking Book Library

#### Final Batch, 1959

Hereunder is a rather dull selection to beguile away the tedious hours of "deep midwinter."

"Votes for Women," by Roger Fulford, reader Alvar Lidell, traces the disappearance of the sweetly feminine from early last century to the more discontented and vociferous creature who passes for Eve in this present day. Perhaps that is a little harsh but my frank opinion is that about 1 in 20 men and 1 or 2 in a 100 women deserve a vote. But then, who could possibly arbitrate for such a higgledy-piggledy ideal? This is the chronicle of a struggle of which any woman can be proud until the last ten years before the vote was achieved when, lacking brazen bravado, she has every reason to feel honestly ashamed of the hysterical convulsions of the "weaker sex." How women degraded themselves to secure equality at a cost of their superiority! *Cat. No. 63.*

"The Cherry Tree," by Adrian Bell, reader Stephen Jack, is a most readable account of farming in the depressed days of the early thirties by a small farmer in Suffolk. Nowadays farming is a science, yesterday it was an art. The modern farmer considers the old farmer haphazard and slovenly, the old farmer considers the modern unfeeling and artificial. Nature herself will let the world know eventually which is right. In the meantime we do know that although there may not be progress there is, most assuredly, constant change. *Cat. No. 506.*

"Memoirs of Field Marshal Lord Montgomery," reader Andrew Timothy, is as simple and straightforward an account of the war as there has been by any of our foremost commanders. Perhaps "Monty" is a controversial figure and perhaps he does leave a trail of sore toes behind him, but listen to B.B.C.'s "Any Answers," and look how difficult it is to please any significant proportion of a Democracy with one directly stated idea. Since he is honest, direct, and decisive, speaking only of and from the depth of his individual experience, the Field Marshal is subject to monstrous distortions by press and by any persons without goodwill. Just a wee bit too long but interesting and informative. *Cat. No. 509.*

"Teacher," by Helen Keller, reader Caryl Spenser, is no book for the soft and sentimental. If a miracle is "The will of God, allied with the greatest possible human endeavour," then the emancipation of Helen Keller is certainly a miracle of our time. This book is not entertaining. It is interesting, yes, but it hurts the heart to think over what one is reading. *Cat. No. 529.*

NELSON.

### Sutton Club

Our Annual General Meeting is to be held on Saturday, January 23rd, at the Sutton Adult School Hall, Benhill Avenue, Sutton, at 2.30 p.m. We should like to see all members on that day and also any new members.

Come along now, chaps in the Surrey area!

TED DUDLEY,  
Chairman.

### Liverpool Club

On December 5th the Club held its annual Christmas Party in Sefton Hall. Members and guests to the number of forty turned up for this festive gathering.

The principal guests were Miss B. Vaughan Davies and her friend, Miss Davies (Linen) of Blackpool memories. Miss Everett and Miss Broughton, our Welfare Visitors, and our good friend from Lewis's, Miss Madison.

After a sumptuous meal our President proposed the "Loyal Toast," and then with crackers popping and cigarettes well alight, the party took on a gay mood. The floor being cleared, we sat down to enjoy a very fine concert given by our old friend George Lamb, and his party. After the concert a domino drive was held, with cash prizes.

We would like to thank all those who gave gifts for the party, and also the ladies who prepared and served the refreshments, and those backroom people who worked so hard to make this party a success.

The Club wishes all St. Dunstaners on Merseyside "The compliments of the season."

A hearty welcome is extended to any St. Dunstaner who wishes to join us. Why sit lonely at home when you can be among friends and enjoy yourself?

JOE BLAKELY.

## Tales of Ind

### The Robber Baron

Looking back on a long life, during which I have received a fair share of variety and adventure, I think that one of the outstanding periods was when I found myself in charge of a Watch and Ward 500 mile section of the metre gauge system of an Indian railway. The country through which the railway passed was very flat but for a small rise approaching a station, and at the crest of the rise was a bridge, and this spanned a deep cutting along which passed the permanent way of a broad gauge State railway system. The broad gauge line was known by the locals as the burra line and the metre gauge the chota; burra meaning big and chota small.

The Watch and Ward system was a kind of private police force of the railway, the object being to protect all goods carried by goods trains and lying in goods sheds and on goods platforms.

For about thirty miles west of the railway bridge had always been a black spot in the past for attacks on the goods trains; this was due to the fact that along this section of the track lived members of a criminal tribe. These people from childhood were brought up to be thieves. The British had placed officials all over India to look after them and if possible reform them. I was warned that an outbreak of crime was imminent and I informed my superiors, who were retired officers of the Indian police. Sure enough the first attack took place near the railway bridge and 26 bags of sugar were stolen from a running goods train. When I arrived at the scene of the crime a strange story was told me. It appeared that a miracle had happened, for a well about a mile from the robbery had suddenly had the water in it changed into sherbet in one night. The news of this strange happening had quickly spread and pilgrims in their hundreds had hurried to drink the miraculous water. When I arrived at the well the water had fallen to a few feet and the smell nearly knocked me down. The water on the surface was literally boiling as the result of fermentation and a large number of frogs lay dead on the surface. I will not insult the intelligence of my readers by attempting to explain how the "miracle" had taken place.

The attacks on the chota line increased and the thieves became more daring,

eventually the armed police were called in to escort goods trains.

In the area of the crimes lived a worthy who was the local Nawab, or Baron. He was the leader of these criminal tribes and was suspected of being a receiver of their ill-gotten gains. My inspector and I decided to pay the Nawab a visit. So one evening we called at the "Palace," a castle-like structure, and we were taken up to the flat roof where we awaited the Nawab. After a suitable interval he appeared. He was a tall, stout man, his face was large, and reflected good humour and benevolence—in fact he looked like a character out of Chu Chin Chow. After the customary flowery compliments we all sat down and conversed about the crops, the prospects of a good monsoon and in fact everything except the object of our visit. Finally I said, "Nawab Sahib, I am sure you are quite unaware of the attacks on the chota line, but I have come to ask you to use your great influence with your followers to cease attacking the chota line." The Nawab rose slowly from his chair and speaking slowly, his voice thick with emotion, he said, "Sahib, what you tell me is a terrible shock to me and fills me with shame and confusion," then raising his voice, "how dare those sons of pigs disobey my orders—I warned them not to rob the chota line... only the burra line."

Shortly after our visit to the old rascal the raids on the chota line stopped, but as to the burra line I would not know.

DUNCAN McALPIN.

### A Christmas Message

Miss A. Smith, who lives in Sussex, is, as she puts it, "an old woman of 90 years and very bad eyesight." Recently she sent a donation to Ovingdean and with her gift she enclosed the following lines which she herself had written.

*Why be so sad, oh heart of mine,  
By sorrow, why cast down?  
Dost thou forget those words divine,  
"Where there's no cross, no crown"?*

*Take up thy cross and follow on,  
Cast out all doubt and fear,  
Though long and lonely, dark the way  
There's help and refuge near.*

*The Lord is ever at thy side,  
To strengthen and defend,  
He is thy guardian and thy guide,  
Thy saviour and thy friend.*

## Christmas Greetings

The Commandant, Matrons and staff at all the Brighton Homes send greetings and good wishes to St. Dunstaners everywhere for a happy Christmas and New Year.

## From All Quarters

It was good to have a line from John Martin, of Durban, South Africa, where he says they are now starting their summer weather—rain for a few days, then the sun shining the next.

★ ★ ★

K. W. Hedges, of Bexley, has a delightful aviary of fifty-four West African birds and makes all their very large cages himself.

★ ★ ★

A book by Wally Thomas, of Southampton, "Life in my hands," is to be published in January by Heinemann. Extracts from the book have been appearing weekly in the *Sunday Graphic*.

★ ★ ★

R. Brown, of South Shields, is a very keen pigeon fancier and this season he scored a great triumph by carrying off the *Star* prize, worth over £30.

★ ★ ★

J. MacFarlane, of Ilford, with his Committee, has been to the Treasury seven times within the last two months discussing Pay Research Unit.

★ ★ ★

G. Price, of Berryarbor, N. Devon, has made and fitted storm windows to his bungalow, and made and fixed posts and chain fencing for the garden. At one time a Councillor, Mr. Price still takes a very keen interest in all local affairs.

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J. Mitchell, of Edinburgh, who is not now taking such an active part in the business of his Regimental Association and Club, has had another decoration for his good work as Chairman of the Edinburgh Branch for the past five years.

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J. Salt, of Morecambe, obtained 140 lbs. of tomatoes from thirty tomato plants this year. He has a 12ft. by 8ft. greenhouse, unheated.

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T. Taylor, of Farrington, was the speaker at the first meeting of the winter session of Hesketh Lane Men's Fireside. His subject—St. Dunstan's.

## The National News Letter

As a result of a decision by the proprietors of the letterpress edition of the *National News Letter* to cease publication and instead to publish a quarterly as from next January, the R.N.I.B. has decided not to publish a braille edition separately; instead, the *National Braille Mail* will now be published twice weekly as from January 6th and the *National News Letter* will be included as a quarterly supplement.

This means, therefore, that only those receiving the *National Braille Mail* will receive the quarterly *National News Letter*.

If you are not at present on the list to receive the *Braille Mail* but now wish to do so in order that you may receive as well the quarterly *News Letter*, please inform Mr. Christopher.

## Grandfathers

R. Goodhead, of Crosspool, Sheffield; F. T. Morgan, Stroud, Glos.; A. H. Rodgers, of Barrow-in-Furness; and a third grandchild each for H. Wheeler, of Wimbledon Chase, and W. J. S. Pearce, of Hendon.

## Great-Grandfather

B. Jarvill, of Thorne, Doncaster—a third great-grandchild.

## Family News

Her friends will learn with regret that Mrs. Percy Ashton's father died at the end of November.

We are also sad to learn that the seven-months old baby of the daughter of H. Pearce, of Leighton Buzzard, has died.

Geoffrey Pearce, Hendon, has obtained his degree of B.A. (Geography) at London University.

At the Southern Area Musical Festival, eleven year old Sheila Reas, of New Haw, Surrey, gained a Certificate for a pianoforte solo.

W. Thomas, of Wakefield, tells us that his grandson has just signed on to play for Wakefield Football Club.

Jacqueline Morgan (née Scrimgeour) has passed her Final Nursing Examination and has been promoted to Staff Nurse.

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Peter Ross, Petersfield, was married in the autumn.

## "In Memory"

### Private Ernest Leonard Bowcott, *Royal Berkshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of E. L. Bowcott, of Mitcham. He was 63. He was already in the Army at the outbreak of the 1914-18 war—he had enlisted in December, 1913, but he did not come under our care until April, 1950, when the state of his health prevented him undertaking any training. Owing to the poor health of Mrs. Bowcott, he went into Pearson House in 1957, where he had remained. His health had deteriorated recently and he died on November 13th.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Bowcott and her daughters.

### Private Harry Roper, *Royal Army Veterinary Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of H. Roper, of Hove, at the age of 73. He had served from his enlistment in December, 1915, until November, 1918, but when he came to us in 1951, his age and the state of his health ruled out serious training. He did, however, undertake a little hobby work. His health had grown much worse in recent years and he returned to hospital a few weeks back; he was then discharged but he died at home on November 15th.

We send our deep sympathy to Mrs. Roper in her loss.

### Sergeant Nelson Horatio Rand, *Labour Corps 5th Essex Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of N. H. Rand, of Addlestone, which occurred in hospital on November 17th after a brief illness. He was 68.

He had enlisted ten days after the outbreak of war in 1914 and had served until March, 1919. He came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1930, and trained as a shopkeeper. He went into business at Byfleet and he continued this until his retirement in 1949. He then settled in Addlestone, where for a time he did a little handicraft work. He was taken suddenly ill on November 14th and he died in hospital three days later.

He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

### Private Hubert Norman Matthews, *Labour Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of H. N. Matthews, of Bracklesham Bay. He died in St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, on November 29th, at the age of 67.

He saw service from December, 1914, until March, 1919, and came to St. Dunstan's a few months later where he trained in joinery and netting. He continued with these crafts until 1951, when his health began to deteriorate and for some time now he had been a chair case. He was admitted to hospital and he died there very suddenly.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to Mrs. Matthews in her loss.

### Sapper John Wilkie, *Royal Scots Greys*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Wilkie, of Burton-on-Trent. He was 64.

He had enlisted prior to the 1914-18 war—in December, 1913—and served with his regiment until March, 1925. A year later he came to St. Dunstan's, where he trained in basket-making. He was a first-class craftsman and he carried on this occupation until April last, when failing health at last compelled him to give up. He had been very seriously ill since May and he died at his home on November 25th.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Wilkie and her family.

### A.B. Arthur Rose, *Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve*

We record with deep regret the death of Arthur Rose, of Middlesbrough. He died at his home on October 29th at the age of 63.

His service was from July, 1915, until 1918; he had been gassed on the Somme the same year, but he was only admitted to St. Dunstan's as recently as two months ago, when he was already a very sick man.

We offer our sincere sympathy to his widow and family.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

**BENNETT.**—To A. Bennett, of Dover, whose sister, Theresa, died on November 15th, in her 78th year.

**FORSTER.**—To R. Forster, of Leeds, whose father died suddenly at the beginning of December.

**MARTIN.**—To T. E. D. Martin, of Wolverhampton, whose sister died very suddenly at the beginning of November.

**TOMLINSON.**—To T. C. Tomlinson, of Beaminster, Dorset, whose wife died on October 6th after a long illness.

## Braille Tests

*Preliminary Test:* E. Carpenter, Kings Langley; F. Greenaway.

*Advanced Test:* E. Slaughter, Salisbury.

*Senior Test:* E. Slaughter, Salisbury.

*Repeat Senior Test:* M. Delaney, Maidenhead.