

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## Obstacles on Pavements

IN a Debate on the Road Traffic Bill in the House of Lords on May 9th, *Lord Fraser of Lonsdale* asked the Government to strengthen the law to prevent the parking of vehicles on pavements. He pointed out that motor-cars, mopeds, motor-bicycles and bicycles were frequently parked on, or partly on, the pavement, causing obstruction and even danger to pedestrians. The road is the place for vehicles, the pavement the place for walkers, he said. "It may surprise your Lordships to know that, having made some inquiries, I find that there are no fewer than 13,000 blind persons known to the major societies who are employed in this country and who do walk part of the way to work. I do not think that it is a good thing to pass special laws for the blind: they themselves would rather wish to be treated as ordinary persons. But if, by passing a little clause that is justified on its merits, we can help blind people, then perhaps we ourselves may be pleased."

*The Earl of Lucan* (Labour), supporting the amendment, said: "I believe that this practice is a menace to life in cities nowadays and it would be a good thing if it could be stopped."

*The Earl of Dundee*, replying for the Government, said that he thought it was unnecessary to strengthen the law, but that he would like to see the Police use, to a greater extent, the modern law with its heavier penalties. "The real question here," he said, "is one of enforcement, and it would not help the situation to enact a new clause in this Bill, when the existing law, if it is used, is already so fully adequate to meet the case. However, I am grateful to my noble friend for having drawn attention to the position, and for having ventilated it this evening."

*Lord Fraser*, concluding the debate on this Clause, said: "I hope that the few words we have said to-night may become known, and may cause the Police to clear motor-cars off the pavements when they see them. I may say that last night in Regent's Park, I counted eight cars which were on the pavement."

### The Derby Sweepstake

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake, which has now closed, will be held at the London Club on the evening of Thursday, May 25th. All those drawing a horse will be notified.

### The Reunions

The first Reunion of 1961 was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, CHESTER on Wednesday, 12th April, followed by one at The Casino, BLACKPOOL the next day, both under the Chairmanship of Colonel Mike Ansell, who thoroughly enjoyed meeting St. Dunstaners in the North-West for the first time.

The Queen's Hotel, BIRMINGHAM was the centre of another gathering of St. Dunstaners on Saturday, 15th April, where Mr. Hopewell presided at our Reunion and renewed his acquaintance with many St. Dunstaners in the area.

Our President, Sir Neville Pearson, presided at the EXETER Reunion at the Rougemont Hotel on Thursday, 27th April, and everybody enjoyed meeting him during the afternoon, but unhappily he was too indisposed to preside at the CARDIFF Reunion on Saturday, 29th April, at the Park Hotel owing to a bad cold. Everyone there joined in sending him their good wishes for a speedy recovery.

### Windsor Reunion

I am again running a coach for the Windsor Reunion on July 8th. Will those interested please telephone me at CROYDON 0596 after 6 p.m. any evening.

TED DUDLEY.

### Ruby Weddings

Many congratulations to the following who have recently been celebrating their Ruby Wedding:

Mr. and Mrs. P. Appleby, of Luton, April 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lambourne, of Bletchley, May 16th; Mr. and Mrs. Len Ollier, of Bury, May 21st.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. F. Hill, of Rochdale, who celebrated their silver wedding on May 6th, and to Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Morton, of Peterborough, whose anniversary was on May 13th.

### London Club Notes

*Bridge Reminders.*—*The Harrogate Week*—September 16 to 23rd. *St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress, Ovingdean*—Week-end of Friday, November 17th.

Entries for both events to be sent to Mr. Bob Willis as soon as possible please.

### Sutton Club Notes

The Club meeting on Saturday, April 29th, was well attended although one or two members were away through sickness. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Spurway, through considerable effort, has obtained the use of a bowling green near the Cheam Club for any of our members who wish to play.

The "Bring and Buy" Sale was very satisfactory. The next one will be at our June meeting. These sales help to pay for the prizes, and presents for wives and escorts at Christmas time.

We would all like to convey to the Red Cross members our thanks for the services they so kindly give to us at our meetings.

E. FLYNN, (*Committee Member*).

### 5½ Mile Walk—Ewell

Seven men competed in this walk at Ewell on May 6th, but four of our usual walkers were not well enough to take part. Congratulations to Bob Young who won the handicap, covering the distance two minutes faster than last time. John Simpson was second, also with an improved time. He did the fastest time—48.55. Ernie Cookson was third in the handicap. The fastest loser was Billy Miller.

The Countess of Onslow presented the prizes. Micky Burns thanked Lady Onslow, and the handicapper, Mr. Harris, the Police escorts and Chief Inspector James, and our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Plant.

A. SPURWAY.

★ ★ ★

A. Taylor, of Wollescote, Stourbridge, was the honoured guest of his old regiment, the Worcestershire Regiment, at Norton Barracks, Worcester, when the Freedom of the Borough of Dudley was presented to it on April 8th.

### From All Quarters

John Stephens, of Ferryside, Carmarthenshire, has been elected President of the Ferryside Branch of the British Legion. He writes that he is having a recruiting drive to get new members and has enlisted five so far.

★ ★ ★

We learn from a press cutting sent to us by another St. Dunstaner that Jack Vincent, of Maidenhead, caught three salmon weighing 9lb., 10½lb. and 12½lb. during a three-days' fishing holiday at Castlebar. He was also a prizewinner in last year's world trout fishing competition sponsored by Castlebar Angling Club.

★ ★ ★

A. Hazel, of Merton, who has recently returned from South Africa, has sent us an interesting press cutting from the *Grahamstown Herald*. It has a photograph and description of a unique war memorial which was unveiled some years ago by our late St. Dunstaner, W. R. Meaker, of South Africa. It is unique because instead of a quotation from the Bible, Shakespeare, etc., it has words which are quite original and do not appear anywhere else but on this monument. "Remembering these, let no man think too highly of himself or meanly of Mankind." Below the English version is another in High Dutch. The author of the words was Arthur Ritchie Lord, Professor of Philosophy at Rhodes University College.

★ ★ ★

As Chairman of the Aldershot District Branch of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA), now in his fourth year of office, George Reed of Farnborough, recently attended the national conference of the Association at Margate. At the Mayor's Reception, Mr. and Mrs. Reed were presented to their Worships the Mayor and Mayoress of Margate, and the National President of BLESMA, the Earl of Ancaster.

During the evening another pleasant surprise awaited them. They were called from the body of the hall and presented, on behalf of the Executive Council and Headquarters of BLESMA, with a bone china breakfast set, as a tribute to their attendances to conference and their interest and service to the Association.

(If there are any St. Dunstaners who are limbless living within the area covered by Aldershot, i.e., Aldershot, Farnborough, Camberley, Farnham, Alton, Ash Vale, or anywhere near these places, who would like to join BLESMA, our St. Dunstaner would be very pleased to put them in touch with the Branch Secretary who will send them all details. Letters should be sent care of the REVIEW. ED.).

### Talking Book Library

#### Reading to greet the Summer

Four books, one containing two stories, are roughly outlined below and although each has a good claim to be read, my preference is for the last, the Paul Gallico "two in one."

"Friends at Court," by Henry Cecil, reader Eric Gillett, illustrates faithfully and amusingly incidents and progress in the life of a young barrister, Roger Thursby. *Cat. No. 579.*

"The Drunken Forest," by G. Durrell, reader Derek McCulloch, tells of an expedition to South America in quest of birds and animals. Rather frightening sometimes but well spiced with humour and surprise. The venture runs into an amazing number of snags and the arduous task of getting around them keeps this account very much alive. *Cat. No. 243.*

"The Story of My Heart," by Richard Jefferies, reader John Webster, sounds a bold title but got me in nearly as big a haze as the chap who wrote it. The author's attempt to put down in words his belief that there is something beyond immortality, something beyond eternity, simply gives an impression of someone lying under a warm sun and dreaming in print. Just a very mortal mortal trying to glimpse beyond the gods. *Cat. No. 245.*

"Flowers for Mrs. Harris," by Paul Gallico, reader June Tobin, is a sweet little tear-jerker about a London charlady with an ambition to own a Paris model dress. The good her pleasing personality does wherever she goes is touching and quite a tonic in this so impersonal age, and "The Snow Goose," by Paul Gallico, reader P. J. Reynolds, a most powerful sad-sweet story of a crippled painter, a goose, and Dunkirk in 1940. Read it and don't be ashamed to cry. *Cat. No. 246.*

NELSON.

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

While enjoying a before-breakfast stroll with a couple of old sweats at Ovingdean this Easter, we reminisced. We talked about the good old days. We tried to sing some of the snatches of those far-off days. There was one to the tune of "Way Home in Tennessee" which started "Way down on Table Three," and we wondered whether there was anyone who would recollect the parodied words. There was one classic I remember from St. Mark's, Chelsea, about "Are you coming round tomorrow afternoon at four-thirty," which I will gladly render when the time comes for us to have our own radio programme, or perhaps I might be paid to be silent.

Yours sincerely,

W. T. SCOTT,  
*Streatham.*

DEAR EDITOR,

Talking of coincidences, in July, 1940, I was in St. Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, and in the beds on either side of mine were Alf Snooks and I think a chap named Burchell. During conversations between these two it appears that they were in the same gunpit at the time the shell hit it and both received mustard gas burns, but neither had met until they were in hospital at that time.

Yours sincerely,

P. APPLEBY,  
*Luton.*

DEAR EDITOR,

We frequently read appreciations of holidays spent at Ovingdean, especially by men on their first visit, but may I, as an old-timer who has enjoyed many annual holidays there, express an especial appreciation to one especial individual at our wonderful place of reunion and rest. I mean to Mr. Gordon Smith, the physio-therapist.

I had been racked with arthritis in my knees for over five months and had had to be lifted into and out of the local ambulance for treatment at hospital fifteen miles away twice a week. I got great relief but was told that age and wear and tear precluded full use and my muscles had become weak. I was sent by my Welfare Department to Ovingdean for intensive treatment and have returned home with my full use and able to walk and climb stairs with ease.

I know I thanked Mr. Smith but there may be others who refuse to go to Ovingdean because of this same handicap. The daily treatment and vigorous massage made me wince, but of all the holidays I have had I shall remember this fortnight for treatment and not pleasure as the one that has given me the greatest pleasure. The first words that greeted me at our station were those of the porter who took our bag. "Mr. Radford is certainly like his old self and walking good."

Thanks a lot to all who made this special trip to Ovingdean possible and eternal thanks to Mr. Gordon Smith. May he long massage the pains from others and effect the same miracle for them as he did for me.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. RADFORD,  
*Castle Cary.*

### B.B.C. Programmes

There has been great interest in the article by Lord Fraser last month on B.B.C. programmes. We print below extracts from the many letters we have received.

★ ★ ★

How I agree with our Chairman about his likes and dislikes on the radio. To me, background music is a curse. There have been many items spoilt by it and time and again I have turned off what might have been a good programme because of it. I wonder what "The Critics" would have to say if some smart alec of a musician could devise background music for their programme?

One's daily round gives differing times for listening and I realise that all cannot be pleased all the time. Five minutes of Mrs. Stocks this week each morning at ten to eight, has been wonderful. Lord Birkett on "Famous Advocates" too, is splendid. Some school broadcasts get full marks but why, oh why, so much music? With records so plentiful it is easy for music lovers to listen to music all day long if they want to.

It amazes me why the B.B.C. has to employ announcers with a nasal twang, and the phrase "going to go" drives me up the wall.

Bible readings are good and comparison of the ancient and modern New Testament interests me greatly.

W. T. SCOTT,  
*Streatham.*

Although not a musician, I am very fond of good music, whether it be classical or light; but I do *not* include in that category the raucous, jangling noises that come over in "Top Pop" and "Juke Box Jury" programmes, not to mention the awful lyrics that are thrown in, presumably for good measure. Nor do I like even good music if it is so loud as to be intrusive when used as a background to a feature programme, whether it be sound radio or television. As a glaring (or should I say blaring) example of what I mean, I think, Sir Winston Churchill's "The Valiant Years" on the TV is utterly spoiled by the harsh strident background music which does its best to drown the narrator's voice. Admitted, it is an American production but the B.B.C. have also been known to offend in like manner.

I enjoy very much the majority of talks, discussions and plays, especially Saturday Night Theatre. I can enjoy also, within certain limits, the TV plays, but I must confess to having become rather weary of the "angry young men" and so termed "kitchen-sink" plays which seem to predominate these days.

I like most Quiz programmes such as "My Word," "What do You Know?" and "Ask Me Another" but I find the "Round Britain Quiz" rather heavy going. I find very interesting the Friday lunch-time programme, "Pick of the Week" which gives excerpts from selected items that one may have missed during the past week. There is so much of interest in this programme as to suggest that it might well be put on at a more convenient time.

Finally, how helpful it would be to the likes of us if the B.B.C. could be more regular in their timing of programmes, particularly TV news and some weekly serials. The way they keep dodging about with the late evening news, beginning at anything from 9.15 to 10 o'clock is most disconcerting. Surely this could be averted by fixing and adhering to specified times, as on sound radio.

J. S. HODGSON,  
*Fotheringhay.*

I wish we had more plays, especially in the afternoons, and maybe a serial in the mornings. Plays, and especially serials, should be repeated, and in the case of serials a synopsis given as to what has

gone before. Neither Paul Temple serials nor the current "The Avenue Goes to War" are repeated.

At about 7.40 and 8.40 a.m. we get five minutes' talk on food. This is much too early because we housewives are usually too busy getting breakfast to take it all in. I suggest we have at least half an hour, with a recipe thrown in and household hints given on the two days in question, Wednesday and Friday.

A whole afternoon's programmes on the Network 3 wavelength especially for blind listeners would be a good idea, too.

I hate unnecessary applause, especially in such programmes as "Any Questions," and quite often we listeners do not hear the remarks.

And please ask the B.B.C. to tell their interviewers not to say "Thank you very much indeed." What is wrong with "Thank you"?

MARGARET STANWAY,  
*Morecambe.*

My wife and I were very pleased to read from Lord Fraser's Notes that he gets cross as well on having so much music on the wireless.

We don't think it fair that they have switched a lot of things over to television; for old people at times there is nothing. We must be fair to music lovers and young people, but why take everything away from us, who are unable to use television, and are unable to go out and about to seek other entertainments or pleasures. We live right out in the country.

Here are a few of the things we like—"Any Questions," "Top of the Form," Wilfred Pickles, "Does the Team Think?" Alistair Cook ("Letter from America"), "The Archers," "Ask Me Another," "Farming Today," "The Flying Doctor," "Women's Hour," Gardeners' Question Time," "What Do You Know?" "Any Answers," "Science Survey," "Children's Hour," "Visiting Day," "Down Your Way."

I sincerely hope that we shall get some decent talks and discussions on B.B.C. sound.

P. J. C. BEOLINS,  
*near Lewes.*

My plea to the B.B.C. Give us back the 9.0 p.m. news.

R. C. B. BUCKLEY,  
*London, S.W.13*

Usurping the so-called "glamour" in relation to other Public Corporations and nationalised industries, as does the Foreign Office in relation to other Government Departments, the B.B.C. suffers from chronic conservatism (with a small "c"). This is reflected in its range of programmes on both sound and television. Hoary old programmes are dug out of the limbo year after year, so that one feels that the Programme Planners merely select tried items with which to fill up the odd half hour for a run of fourteen weeks. How long are we to be inflicted with "Twenty Questions," "This is Your Life," "Desert Island Discs," etc.?

An "Ideas Man" to give the public new programmes is what is needed—some will prove unpopular but others may hit the jackpot.

On technique, one has only to watch and listen to B.B.C. TV alongside American tele-films to realise how lamentably poor is the standard of B.B.C. scripts and microphone mixing. How often is a good song drowned by orchestras and even dialogue made inaudible by the wrong mike being left open.

On the credit side, Third Programme experiments with foreign and translated plays and documentaries are altogether laudable. Could not performances of the Comedie Francaise be "canned" for sound radio with a suitable adaptation to radio by means of spoken interjections?

Talking of "canned" reminds me of "Music in the Mo(u)ning"—one visualised some dreary light orchestra recording music in the late afternoon which is destined to be heard in the early morning—which is why I listen in to Radio Hilversum before 8 a.m., who select cosmopolitan records of a gay and cheery kind more in keeping with the new day.

BOB FULLARD,  
S.W.16.

I was interested in the Chairman's last editorial in the REVIEW about radio programmes and agree most heartily about the nuisance of background music.

N. McLEOD STEEL,  
Saltdean.

I have noted the remarks by our Chairman about the B.B.C. and would like to send you a few jottings, not only my own, but based on chats with my many patients.

Now in the first place the B.B.C. does not allow for the average intelligence of its listeners and puts over too much trash, and many more would like to listen and learn. Now we have ITV there is plenty of "entertainment" and thus there should be more time devoted to keeping us informed about things, telling and showing more items and places of interest, and recalling events past and present. Explaining topical events more, and how economics work, and for the interviews to be far more pungent in their questioning. They want far less interviews by the B.B.C. of the teenager and the teenager's disgraceful habits. There is far too much of placing people on pinnacles, especially of leaders being asked questions in advance of conferences.

When there are occasions such as the recent dock strikes, public indignation could be high-lighted more. Politics come into too many decisions and if only the reporters could find out what the public think, and then put on a feature, it would high-light the events as seen by us, and perhaps indicate more to those who have occasion to be in the wrong, what we think of them.

I agree so much about the music, the background and other music to plays and programmes. Only last night the play opened with a horrible piece of noise, totally unnecessary as it appeared to be, and we had it once or twice during the play and then at the end. There is too much noise on the B.B.C. today and we would, in the main, be pleased for a more restful leisure.

Too often any decent programme of interest is at quite the worst time for listening. The peak listening period should be shared with popular programmes more.

Thrillers are popular with many. I have only heard one new thriller, Paul Temple, in one year on the B.B.C. other than on Children's Hour, and they do some damn good ones. On the Tele. they have a new one continuously, why not the B.B.C. Sound?

Why are the Tele. (B.B.C.) on the third series of "Spy Catcher" when B.B.C. Sound only re-hashed its first series? Are we so much forgotten now who have to listen?

*Sport.* There is a general opinion that far too much time is given to soccer during the season. Once one of my patients saw hockey on Tele. He said what a dashed

good game it was and why did we not see more of it, always football. Except when it is an international there is seldom a rugby game showing other than rugby as played in the North; that is not the game as played in the South so should we not have a good club game down South showing?

Women have an hour to themselves and it is quite a good programme, even interesting to men at times. Why not an hour, or even half an hour, for men?

Programmes of local interest are quite good but often there might be more of local history and antiquity, for there is a greater interest than people seem to think in these.

Often there are items which become news and then fade into the background and little is heard of them. Could there not be a programme following up such stories? A small item was the finding of a six-sided fish with a beak recently; I wonder how much more we shall hear of it? What happened to the final findings on the strange fish found near Mauritius—the Coelacanth?

P. B. BAKER,  
St. Austell.

I think that both Sound and TV are integral parts of an admirable whole unit and that in course of time, with so many worthwhile events being included in TV, each blind person should be able to have both Sound and TV.

I agree with the Chairman about the incidental music. To me it is reminiscent of the pallid, poorly dressed pianist in silent film days droning on the old "joanna"—just as dreary and just as unnecessary.

Unlike the Chairman I do adore music, be it good jazz, good rock and roll, good light opera, pop, titles and so on, but I hate some of the awful caterwauling we do get on the Light Programme and on a Saturday when there is so-called music for hours.

By all means let us have a special programme of our own. But let St. Dunstaners have a fair crack of the whip in this business. Many of us have the intelligence and so on to appear in a programme like the "Brains Trust," "Any Questions," "Woman's Hour" and so on.

The programmes I like are those where I like the speaker. I think personalities count with us a great deal. During the war we liked to know who was reading the news

and I think this is just as important today.

I think the B.B.C. could liven up the "Woman's Hour" programme and let us have some down-to-earth subjects and people instead of so many toffee-nosed folk talking as if they had too many plums for their tea. In other words, make it a programme to appeal to every woman, not just the same few who cannot live without a background of noise.

I like a programme about gardening, "Olde Time Dancing," and "The Archers," but I would cheerfully strangle Mrs. Dale. I like "What's My Line." I think it would be nice if we had one programme of this for blind people with the names kept secret from the panel.

MAUREEN V. LEES,  
Birkenhead.

The Braille *Radio Times* gives extremely scanty details of television programmes and many items are omitted which are of interest to the blind. Apart from this, it may be helpful to the blind member of a household to know what is to be seen and heard on TV having regard to the interests of the other members of the household. Is it possible for the Braille *Radio Times* to publish details of the day's TV programmes as fully as those of sound broadcasting?

Use has been made of the Network 3 wavelengths to give ball-by-ball commentaries of Test Matches up to 6 p.m. Recently Network 3 has been made available on Saturday afternoons for sundry sports commentaries. I am sure that Wimbledon fans would appreciate a more extensive coverage, subject to the counter-attractions of the Test Match which is usually played during the Wimbledon fortnight. Apart from these sporting events, Network 3 also offers scope for a more extended coverage of such items as "From Today's Papers," and this would benefit not only the blind, but those such as hospital in-patients who are unable to read the newspapers for themselves.

No doubt an extended use of Network 3 would add to the costs of transmission, but it does appear to offer greater scope for specific interests and minorities. If it is possible to include full details of TV programmes in the Braille *Radio Times*, what are the prospects of publishing the *TV Times* in Braille?

J. D. CALDER,  
Coventry.

I, too, find all this background music both irritating and tantalizing and cannot understand why every spare moment at the B.B.C. is used to crash in some record or symphony even when the interval does not allow its completion. I would like to suggest a petition from all blind listeners for the inclusion on sound radio of full film plays or comedies instead of those other irritating "Movie Time" and "Movie Go Round" that merely advertise for the cinemas without consideration for those listeners, sighted or blind, who cannot get to the cinema.

Another thing that is an anathema to me is the variety and speciality programmes in which certain artistes regularly appear, regularly appeal for applause, regularly repeat some inane phrases at which the studio audience is supposed to regularly laugh uproariously as though it were the first time they had heard it.

A. J. RADFORD,  
*Castle Cary.*

A little music as a kind of overture or as interludes to mark the passage of time between scene and scene—all that is both traditional and perhaps legitimate. But I cannot understand the purpose served by music as a background. It is seldom appropriate since the voices themselves should be sufficient to create the sensations of mystery, excitement, sentimentality, or whatever else is intended. I should like to know *why* the producers think music is desirable. . . . To put it crudely, of course, it might give a job to the boys who compose or select this kind of music. I would, however, want to know whether they have ever found out the opinions of the listening public. If the public prefers to have music at such times, I can only assume that we are in the minority.

As to other matters, I personally like poetry well read; and much of it is in my judgment quite well read, as poetry should be read. We might indeed, for my taste, have more of it.

I have only one criticism of the dramas and that is that the producers are sometimes careless and indiscriminating in casting the "voices." It should be quite possible so to vary the pitch, timbre and accent of the voices that the listener never has a moment of doubt as to which character is which.

F. LE GROS CLARK,  
*N.W.2.*

Bed seems to be the great common denominator of our kind, for it is here that I find my best listening time, too. I agree with Lord Fraser in his preference for the spoken word, although I consider music has its place. Where I disagree with him is that I consider the spoken word to be enhanced and even supported by some other dramatic sound to put the receptive senses in the mood, as it were.

In my opinion it is all largely a matter of age-groups—with, of course, some exceptions. In apologising for a personal note I would say the Chairman is in the old age of youth. I am in the youth of old age. My son is in the youth of youth. I find the first intolerant of music because perhaps of a slowing down of reactions and a slight difficulty in hearing. I am not trying to be rude or funny. I have the support of medical opinion for this.

The second needs some embellishments to the spoken word to satisfy a more elastic imagination. We have been conditioned to this over the past thirty or forty years so it is not really surprising.

The third has witnessed the evolution of broadcasting and the onset of television. It requires a background which to my mind is discordantly hysterical and which can only be applied to visual movement, physical, not mental. They haven't been blinded yet so they do not know, nor do they think of it in the majority.

I loathe destructive criticism and I cannot offer any constructive about modern broadcasting for I think it is pretty good. However, I agree that there is a slight overlap of musical programmes which is a job for the programme planners. Perhaps they could make more use of Network 3. I am quite happy so long as they do not mix music with News and Information, but keep it to Dramatic Entertainment.

My favourite programmes are the informative ones. I find listening planning a great help in this. My day starts with the B.B.C. European transmission at 7 a.m. for news and press commentary. At 7.30 over to the Home Service till 9 a.m. by which time I have got up, washed, dressed and had breakfast. Then I switch off my little transistor portable except for planned listening until bedtime again. I listen to Radio Moscow at 11.30 p.m., switching over to the Light just as some music breaks out from Russia to get the News

and just as the announcer is saying, "That is the end . . ." I go over to the American Forces Network for a five-minute round-up of world news. If I have been "out with the boys" I quickly drop off the hooks, otherwise I try to follow Radio Diffusion Francaise, followed by a German station which never seems to sleep. It is a splendid general anaesthetic! Soporific, to say the least!

Finally, I shall withdraw my foot from whence I put it and say with reference to the first age group, "Thank you, Lord Fraser, I consider you one of the exceptions."

STEWART SPENCE,  
*Hillingdon.*

### When Grandfather Papered the Parlour

There is a widespread belief that the popularity of wallpaper is very much a question of fashion; that it is periodically neglected for paint. In fact, its popularity has been more or less constant since 1699, when John Houghton, a Fellow of the Royal Society mentioned it in *A Collection of Letters for the Improvement of Husbandry and Trade*.

"A great deal of paper," he wrote, "is nowadays printed to be pasted upon Walls to serve instead of Hangings; and truly if all parts of the Sheet be well and close pasted on, it is very pritty, clean and will last with tolerable Care a great while . . ."

In its early days it was very much a rich man's luxury, but by the 19th century nearly all ranks could buy a paper to suit both their taste and their pocket. The first third of the 19th century was a golden age of pictorial and highly decorative papers. After all, this was the era of Napoleon, the Prince Regent and Wellington (who papered a whole room with press cuttings of his victories).

Notable papers of the middle part of the century were the French panoramic-type of block-printed wallpapers which vied with the Chinese painted varieties in beauty and originality. They were generally hung from cornice to chair rail, showed no repeat, but formed a continuous scene round the room. From then on, I regret to say, British design went through a period of the doldrums, but revived for the end of the century.—*Daily Telegraph*.

### Family News

John Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. H. Brown, of Reading, has been inducted to the living of Widecombe in the Moor, Devon. His parents were present at the ceremony.

Nicholas Mitchell, Guildford, who is only nine years old, has just represented his School and House in a Junior Boxing Tournament.

Jack Whyte, Gainsborough, has won a six-months scholarship to Tours University in France. Jack is President of the Literary Society of his College.

Little Julie Vowles, Portsmouth, won the Cup for Song and Dance at Portsmouth Festival competing against children up to and including 13-year-olds. Since then she has won her heats for the All-England finals to be held in London later this year.

Glenda Harris, Stoneleigh, who is sixteen, has received her Guildhall Certificate (Grade 5A with merit) for elocution and has also been awarded the Lilian Page Cup which is presented to "the most outstanding pupil of the year."

Jacqueline Morgan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Scrimgeour, of Middlesbrough, has been promoted to the position of Ward Sister in her hospital; she is only twenty-two years old.

Brian Morris, Southbourne, who is thirteen, is a keen angler. Recently he entered in open competition for the "Tit-Bits Community Service Perpetual Challenge Cup," presented by George Newnes, Ltd., to the Boscombe and Southbourne Fishing Club, which is run in aid of the Victoria Home for Crippled Children. Brian won the Cup and a fishing rod for the best catch—a fish weighing over 4 lb.

### Marriages of Sons and Daughters

The eldest son of L. Halliday, of Saltdean, was married on December 3 to Miss Rosemary Shergold.

On March 18th, George Edward Stubbs, Liverpool, to Miss Emme Jean Wrack.

On May 20th, Graham White, Stalybridge, to Miss Jean Bardsley.

### Grandfathers

E. A. Green, of Peterborough; A. A. Dembenki, of Cheltenham (the ninth grandchild and another grandson).

## "In Memory"

### Private Shadrach Aves, R.A.S.C. (*Motor Transport*)

With deep regret we record the death of S. Aves, of Hayling Island. He was 77.

Enlisting in June, 1916, he served until March, 1919, and came to St. Dunstan's two years later where he trained in joinery. He continued with this work until as recently as 1960 although during the past few years his health had given him trouble, his condition gradually deteriorating. In March of this year he was admitted to Pearson House where he died on March 29th.

He leaves a sister and brother to whom our deep sympathy goes.

### Sergeant Alfred Edmond Coman, 12th East Yorkshire Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. E. Coman, of Pearson House, at the age of 78. For many years he lived at Dunswell, near Hull.

He had enlisted in September, 1914, being discharged in February, 1919. He came to St. Dunstan's in November, 1922, training in poultry-keeping and mat-making. He gave up mats in 1947 but continued with his poultry until the death of his wife in 1959, when he became a permanent resident at Pearson House.

Although his health had been failing this spring, his death was a sad shock.

We send our sincere sympathy to his family.

### Private Thomas Eaton, King's Liverpool Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of T. Eaton, of Southwick, at the age of 76.

He enlisted immediately on the outbreak of the First World War in August, 1914, but served only a year, coming to St. Dunstan's in September, 1915. He trained as a joiner and followed his craft up to 1956 when his health began to fail. Since then he has had many periods in hospital, becoming seriously ill in April of this year. He was admitted to Pearson House and he died there on May 10th.

He leaves a widow and daughter to whom our deep sympathy goes.

### Private James William Fletcher, 41st Labour Corps

We have to record with deep regret the death of J. W. Fletcher, of Lenten Abbey, Nottinghamshire; he was 70.

He served from 1916 to 1919 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1924 when he trained as a telephonist. He carried on this occupation for several years but later gave it up to take training in netting and wool rug-making. He was, in fact, able to produce articles for our Stores until ill-health recently compelled him to give up. He died at his son's home on April 27th.

Mrs. Fletcher died only in February of this year and our deep sympathy goes out to his son in this double bereavement.

### Births

**COTHAM.**—On April 24th, to the wife of W. Cotham, of Erdington, Birmingham, a daughter.

**LOVEJOY.**—On April 6th, to the wife of E. Lovejoy, of Trotton, Petersfield, a son—Richard Ernest.

### Deaths

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to the following:

**BURTON.**—To J. R. Burton, of Portchester, whose brother died in April at the age of 74.

**CONLIN.**—T. P. Conlin, of Malden, in the loss of a brother who passed away at the beginning of May.

**GWYN.**—To A. Ivor Gwyn, of Lowestoft, who lost his sister on May 9th.

**KEMMISH.**—To Vera Kemmish, of Leyton, who lost her father on April 28th, after a serious illness.

**LUCOCQ.**—To J. M. Lucocq, of Llandaff North, in the loss of his only brother.

**STEW.**—To F. Stew, of Tewkesbury, whose youngest brother died on December 31st last, and to Mrs. Stew, whose father died on the previous day.

### Marriage

**LANGHAM—CALDERLEY.**—On May 10th, at Arnold, Derby, J. Langham to Mrs. Calderley.