

# 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

**M**RS. F. SPURWAY (Avis Hodgson as she was before she was married) has been appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.) "for services to St. Dunstan's."

Outstanding among those splendid voluntary workers whom we call "V.A.D.'s" or "Sisters," Mrs. Spurway has been a most valuable worker for St. Dunstan's since its early days, having become a Sports Sister at the Bungalow, Regent's Park, in 1920. Her organisation of such events as Walking Races, Sports and Swimming Galas has brought untold interest and pleasure to a large number of blinded men of both World Wars, and St. Dunstan's Council showed their gratitude and appreciation by making her a Governor of St. Dunstan's in 1958.

From October, 1921, to July, 1939, she was a moving spirit in the Birmingham St. Dunstan's Club, being its Honorary Secretary from 1921-1935, when she married. She has greatly assisted the work of numerous other St. Dunstan's Clubs, including Manchester, Brighton, London and Sutton, and has helped with the popular St. Dunstan's Camps throughout the years. From 1945-1959 she has run the Lee-on-Solent Camp where we are the guests of the Fleet Air Arm and which is eagerly anticipated and enjoyed by all those St. Dunstaners who attend it.

Also in a voluntary capacity, Mrs. Spurway has aided Welfare Visitors in their Areas as need arose, and from 1924-1935 she took on Areas in Northamptonshire and Nottingham, visiting St. Dunstaners in their homes and advising them on their problems.

I am sure a very large number of St. Dunstaners will join in congratulating Mrs. Spurway and will feel as I do that this award recognises to some extent the whole body of V.A.D.'s and Sisters to whom we have owed and still owe so much.

## B.B.C. PROGRAMMES

I have been delighted with the response to my note about radio in the April REVIEW and in concert with Mr. Colligan, the Secretary-General of the R.N.I.B., who has been making a similar enquiry, I will see that St. Dunstaners' comments reach the B.B.C.

Readers may be interested in a summary of the conclusions of this little enquiry, which is as follows:—

Of the letters received, more than fifty per cent complained of background music. "Often it is the voices which are in the background" . . . . "We dislike it intensely" . . . . "To me, background music is a curse" . . . . "A glaring (or should I say blaring) example—'The Valiant Years,' . . . were some of the comments.

Three thought there was too much music generally.



*Sport.* Two readers suggested the broadcasting of Hockey matches and two others wanted more Rugger.

*Talks, Discussions and Plays* were usually bracketed together and twenty-five per cent of the letters wanted more of these. One reader complained that often the voices in plays were not sufficiently distinctive and one wanted repeats of plays.

Informative programmes are obviously more popular amongst St. Dunstaners, who seem particularly to like Quizzes and "Science Survey."

Most disliked were unnecessary applause and the weekly repetition of certain "hoary old programmes," as one reader put it; in the same connection another St. Dunstaner thought that a repeat every three weeks would be better than a weekly one.

Suggestions put forward were for regular times for News and Serials on Television; full film plays for the blind (and the sighted—many old and disabled) who cannot get to the cinema to see films advertised in certain programmes; the extension of more Television items to B.B.C. Sound; the use of Network 3 for more extensive coverage of sporting events and "From To-day's Papers," and finally—a matter for the R.N.I.B.—Television programmes to be published as fully as Sound in the *Braille Radio Times*.

### Discovering Ovingdean

I call attention to two letters in "From the Chairman's Postbag," on page 7. In particular I am sure J. Todd was right when he said that there are some St. Dunstaners who resolutely refuse to go to Ovingdean because they misunderstand the function or the atmosphere of the Home. I have myself met one or two St. Dunstaners who have told me that after staying away for years, they have now made an experimental visit and look forward immensely to next time.

### Surgeon and Friend

Mr. Robert C. Davenport, M.B., F.R.C.S., died on June 17th at the age of 67. Mr. Davenport and I motored from London to Brighton in the early hours of the day on which the last war broke out. We were going to initiate the Second War St. Dunstan's of which he had been appointed Medical Commandant.

Davenport occupied this office for the duration, abandoning his private practice and the chance of high rank in one of the Armed Forces which his seniority and eminence as an ophthalmic surgeon would surely have brought to him. After the war, he remained as Honorary Ophthalmic Consultant for St. Dunstan's until he died.

We were sad that morning because we knew that, at the best, a few, at the worst, many, young men would be blinded.

Davenport and his team of Sisters and Nurses seconded from Moorfield's, saved good sight for a few, a little sight for many, but it fell to his lot to tell the majority that they would not see again. This he did with such grace and kindness that he became their friend and counsellor and eased the transition from light to darkness.

More than a thousand blinded ex-servicemen and women and the members of their families will warmly remember him.

FRASER.

### Official Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen

On the occasion of the Official Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen on June 10th, the following telegram was sent to Buckingham Palace by Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, our Chairman:

On behalf of St. Dunstan's men and women throughout the Commonwealth, I

wish your Majesty many happy returns of the day.

FRASER OF LONSDALE.

The following reply was received from Her Majesty:

I send you and all St. Dunstan's men and women throughout the Commonwealth my sincere thanks for your kind message on the celebration of my birthday.

ELIZABETH R.

### London Club Notes

On Wednesday, May 31st, members of the Club, with wives and escorts, assembled at Headquarters for the annual trip to Epsom for the Derby. After enjoying a welcome "cuppa" arranged by our good friend, Mrs. Willis, we took our places in the coach and set off in good time. It was a glorious morning and everyone was in a happy mood and throughout the journey the coach was filled with happy laughter and merry chatter. We arrived in good time and settled down to an excellent lunch-pack and drinks, after which we dispersed to study form and try to find the winners, with not much success I am afraid. After the last race, we started the homeward journey, lighter in pocket but still happy. Everyone agreed that it had been a most enjoyable day. Mr. Roy Armstrong proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Willis for all the hard work that had been put into it to make it such a very happy day. I am sure we shall all look forward to our next trip when we hope many more St. Dunstaners will join us.

Why not come along to the Club any Tuesday or Saturday for cards and Thursday for dominoes? Time 7.30 p.m.

A perfect day ended as it had started—with a nice "cuppa."

BILL HARDING.

### Derby Sweepstake Result

The Derby Sweepstake was its usual success, more tickets than ever before—3,333—being sold, and as a result a record first prize. After the deduction of £6 12s. 6d. for administrative expenses, a sum of £410 was left to be divided as prize money in accordance with the published rules. The final result was as follows:—

1st, PSIDIUM.

W. F. CORK, Elham (2370), £205.

2nd, DICTA DRAKE.

W. W. BURDEN, Brighton (2252), £82.

3rd, PARDAO.

F. GUISELEY, Ilkley (2077), £41.

Each of the following twenty-five ticket-holders received £3 5s. 8d. for horses which started in the race:

Aliosha, E. J. Jenkins, Porth (1616); Belliquex II, P. Appleby, Luton (1884); Bounteous, G. B. Swanston, Edinburgh

(1073); Cipriani, J. Ball, Ovingdean (3140); Dual, W. White, Little Clacton (753); Fontana di Trevi, A. A. Gemmel, Southampton (2815); Gallant Knight, R. Chandler, Richmond, Yorks. (699); Hot Brandy, J. F. Harris, Stoneleigh (1987); Just Great, A. E. Patton, Ovingdean (1603); Latin Lover, A. A. Gemmel, Southampton (2814); Moutiers, G. Moore, Blackpool (2904); Neanderthal, S. Webster, Forest Hill (3197); Nicomedus, C. J. Pennels, Brighton (867); Oakville, W. H. Masson, Aberdeen (2660); Owen Davies, R. Dow, Chessington (2095); Patrick's Choice, P. J. Conlin, Maldon (3083); Perfect Knight, H. R. Biggs, Hove (2150); Pinzon, G. Bowen, Chalfont St. Giles (122); Ploermel, F. Stratton, Shirebrook (961); Polyktor, J. McDermott, Davy-hulme (3072); Prince Tudor, W. Brugge-meyer, S.E.24 (1397); Scatter, W. Murray, Enfield (2790); Sovrango, G. B. Wood, Northampton (2180); Supreme Verdict, S. Tutton, Hounslow (3276); Time Greine, S. Game, Hastings (230).

Those who drew non-runners and therefore did not qualify for a prize, were:—

W. F. Cork, Elham, *Aurelius* (2369); P. E. Carman, Epping, *Bal Musette* (706); R. Dow, Chessington *Pinturischio* (2096); P. J. Conlin, Maldon, *Rayon Vert* (3086); T. P. Hart, Cape Town, *Rullahgeelagh* (2036).

*The Field* was drawn by W. C. Keast, Clacton (379).

The Draw was made at the London Club on Thursday, May 25th, by St. Dunstaners G. Dennis and J. Lomas with Mr. Bob Willis supervising the proceedings and in the presence of Club members and their friends, Miss Morrah, Mrs. Giorgi and the Editor.

### Ovingdean Sports Day

Ovingdean Sports and Garden Party will be held on *Saturday, July 22nd*. Entries for the field events will be taken on the field. St. Dunstaners wishing to attend, if they will not be staying in the building, are asked to apply to me in writing. A ticket for tea for a St. Dunstaner and escort will be sent. Any additional tea tickets can be obtained for one shilling, which should be sent with the application.

L. FAWCETT,

Commandant.



### National Insurance and National Health Service New Combined Weekly Rates

National Health Service Contributions are being increased, and as a result, the new combined weekly flat-rate contributions for National Insurance and for the National Health Service from July 3rd, 1961, will be as follows:—

The employed person not contracted out of the graduated National Insurance Scheme will be asked to pay 10s. 7d. (men) and 8s. 8d. (women) instead of the present rates of 9s. 9d. (men) and 8s. 0d. (women), and in addition will of course pay any additional graduated contribution for which they are liable. Employed persons contracted out of the graduated scheme will pay 12s. 2d. (men) and 9s. 6d. (women) as against the present rates of 11s. 4d. (men) and 8s. 10d. (women).

The self-employed man will pay 14s. 2d. as against the present 13s. 6d. and the self-employed woman 11s. 6d. as against the present 11s. 0d.

For non-employed persons the contributions will rise from 10s. 9d. to 11s. 5d. for men and from 8s. 3d. to 8s. 9d. for women.

St. Dunstan's is paying the whole of the contribution for the non-employed St. Dunstaner and is helping with the contribution of the employed and self-employed St. Dunstaner. When the new contribution rates become effective, St. Dunstan's will continue to pay the whole of the non-employed contribution and will pay 6s. 1d. of the contribution of the self-employed St. Dunstaner, and of the employed St. Dunstaner whether he has been contracted in or contracted out of the graduated Scheme.

### Staff Retirement

#### Mr. E. W. Roberts

Mr. E. W. Roberts retires this month after forty years on the staff of St. Dunstan's. Mr. Roberts joined the old Sales Department in June, 1921, as a salesman, and in April, 1943, became a Technical Visitor with the Industrial Department where he has since been responsible for the placement of men in industrial posts.

His many St. Dunstaner friends, to whom he has become far more than a "Visitor" will join with his colleagues on the staff in wishing Mr. Roberts many happy years of retirement.

### Scottish Invasion

On Tuesday, May 16th, a reception party comprising St. Dunstaners C. Kelk, A. Martin, F. Rhodes and Messrs. D. Castleton and R. Willis of St. Dunstan's staff, went to London Airport to welcome twenty Scottish war-blinded ex-servicemen from Linburn, Midlothian, and Newington House, Edinburgh, to escort them to Ovingdean for a return fixture with St. Dunstan's bowlers.

Matron and Commandant were at Ovingdean to greet them.

After supper we took possession of the Winter Garden for a dominoes tournament, then to Rottingdean to introduce our visitors to the beverages of "The Victoria" and "The White Horse." For this occasion Commandant made special transport arrangements which were much appreciated.

Wednesday was the day we had all been waiting for as this was the day for the bowling match. The weather was extremely kind to us. The result: a win for the Scots by 89 to 56 shots. The rink of the day was that on which four totally blind St. Dunstaners, Messrs. T. Ashe, F. Walker, J. Griffiths and F. Rhodes, played against a team of four totally blind Scottish bowlers, Messrs. Angus Macintyre, Jimmy Abel, Harold Elkan and Harry Forbes. On this rink, Scotland won by one shot and that had to be a measure, the result being Scotland 14 shots, St. Dunstan's 13 shots.

On Wednesday evening, Lord Fraser presided at a dinner at the Dudley Hotel when the Cup, which he had presented, was handed to Mr. Bill Kay, skipper of the Scottish team. The Cup was well and truly charged with a liquid which has made Scotland and the Scots renowned the world over and handed round as a token "Loving Cup."

Thursday was a really hectic day. In the morning we were greeted by the Mayor of Brighton at the Pavilion; we then had a tour of the various rooms. In the afternoon we visited Arundel Castle for a peep into the mysteries of long ago. This was followed by an excellent tea at the Norfolk Hotel.

For the evening we adjourned to the "Plough Inn," Rottingdean. This was the farewell party when a most excellent buffet was provided and the atmosphere was charged with a spirit of good friendship which had to be experienced to be fully

### Talking Book Library

#### The "Flaming" Month's Books

Four books in this column but five in reality since there are two under one cover.

"Ordeal by Innocence," by Agatha Christie, reader John de Manio, is an entertaining book concerning the murder of a woman who, with her husband, has adopted a family of seven or eight children. Naturally everybody is suspected, but circumstantial evidence points strongly towards Jacky, the most harum-scarum of the adopted family. A secretary and a housekeeper complete the household, and the story opens with the entry of a stranger whose evidence provides an alibi for Jacky. Picture the dismay and tension the stranger's advent brings to the household and read on from there! *Cat. No. 580.*

"Proof Positive," by John Drummond, reader Stephen Jack, is a yarn set mainly on a Scottish Isle. The story-teller suspects that an aunt and uncle, playing host to a young nephew who has inherited a fortune, have designs on the youngster's life. Although the suspicions are vague and nebulous, an accident up on the island does dispose of the young man, but for the life of me I can't recall whether the "proof positive" was of the guilt or of the innocence of the aunt and uncle. *Cat. No. 271.*

"Charles," by Michael Joseph, reader Eric Gillett, is an intimate personal tribute to a favourite Siamese cat. Although this is an essentially individual relationship, I feel that many owners of a similar animal will almost recognise their own pet in this simple, straightforward narrative; and "A Seal Flies By," by R. H. Pearson, reader John de Manio, is a fascinating account of the acquisition, rearing and training of two seal cubs. *Both Cat. No. 241.*

"The Work of the Queen," by Dermot Morrah, reader Alvar Lidell, is a documentary, if such a term can be applied to a book detailing the day by day duties and activities of Her Majesty. The arduousness of her routine tasks was an eye-opener to me. Unfortunate it is that those who ought to read it are too busy wagging their tongues in unwarranted criticism of Her Majesty ever to have time to appreciate the true facts of her overall activities.

Every journalist in the kingdom should be compelled to read this. *Cat. No. 247.*

NELSON.

appreciated. After a terrific evening we got back to Dormitory 5 at about 11 p.m., when the convivialities continued into the early hours of Friday morning. Out of consideration for the staff and other residents in the House, I had to call "last tune" on the bagpipes at midnight.

Friday morning was a free period and our guests had an opportunity of seeing Brighton, queen of watering places

No words can adequately express our appreciation of all the work and thought expended by Matron, Commandant and the staff to ensure the success of this venture.

F. RHODES

★ ★ ★

Our Scottish friends become the first holders of the silver Cup which has been presented by Lord Fraser for annual competition between the two teams. Congratulating the Scottish team on their second success—they also beat our team last year on their home ground—Lord Fraser praised bowls as a game that blinded men can play with very little help from outside, and he asked every Bowling Club in Britain to find out one or two active blind men in the neighbourhood and invite them to play in friendly games.

We were delighted to welcome also Mr. A. G. Vallance, Superintendent of the Scottish National Institution, and Mr. R. D. Ramsay, the Secretary and Treasurer.

★ ★ ★

The Scottish team have since written to say how much they enjoyed the visit to Brighton and that their stay at Ovingdean was one of the most happy experiences they have ever had. They would all like to say how much they appreciated the kindness and friendship shown to them by Lord Fraser, the Commandant, Matron and her staff and all the St. Dunstaners they met during their stay in Brighton.

### Briefly

C. W. Cooper, of Worthing, was the seconder in the election of Councillor Michael Daly as Worthing's new Mayor. Councillor Cooper's excellent speech, delivered without notes, was one of the chief topics of comment at the ceremony, and in the press afterwards.

★ ★ ★

Margaret Stanway, of Morecambe, will be twice in print in July. She will have a letter in the magazine *Today* and a suggestion for a cake in *Woman*.



### B.B.C. Programmes

Here is a further selection of letters on the subject of B.B.C. programmes sent to the Editor following Lord Fraser's remarks in the April REVIEW:

The only things of interest to me on TV are talks and debates and I do like music—symphonies and light classical. Although I played dance music for many years with the band, it was never my real love. I have tried many times to listen to plays but the lack of "effects" make them rather difficult to follow. I agree that music in the background makes it more difficult to concentrate and the music is often so loud that it is the voices which are in the background.

Radio is a different matter altogether. I am sure that blind people listen more intently and inwardly digest what they hear much more than most sighted people.

I like the news, any talks and debates, nature talks and any quizzes; the morning programme, "To-day," and the Sunday broadcast, "The Countryside in January," etc.; any plays and talks about other peoples and countries. Being an old School and Army Rugby footballer, I enjoy very much the Rugby internationals, and two other programmes which to me are both most interesting and instructive are "Eye Witness" and "Science Survey."

May I conclude with some criticisms.

Firstly, the music supposed to be in the background of some plays.

Secondly, why are some excellent musical programmes faded out a few minutes before the end when boxing broadcasts often go on well beyond their scheduled time.

Thirdly, a Ladies' Hockey International between England and Scotland is played at Wembley every year on a Saturday, but it is never mentioned in "Sports Parade," not even the result. A description of this game would be much appreciated by lots of people who take an interest in Hockey, especially when played by two of the best teams in the country.

Lastly, many of the entertainments and variety programmes are put on week after week, each time just the same—"the mixture as before." Couldn't it be arranged in some kind of rota so that each one was broadcast every three weeks, then perhaps they might not become quite so monotonous.

ARTHUR G. LOVERIDGE,  
*Warehorne, near Ashford.*

We have been intrigued by the correspondence in St. Dunstan's REVIEW about background music which we dislike intensely.

E. W. BENTEN,  
*Hale, Cheshire.*

With reference to the trend of B.B.C. Sound broadcasting, I feel there has been a marked deterioration since the Autumn of 1957. Basically, the reason is that the accent has been on Television to which, obviously, B.B.C. finances have been mainly devoted.

I think, in fact, that there are many Television features and programmes, the sound of which could well be put out on one or other of the Radio programmes, i.e. Home, Light or Third. There has, indeed, been a certain amount of this, but if extended it could add considerably to the interest and variety of Sound broadcasting.

An unfortunate development in Radio programmes during the last few years has been the excessive repetition of items, such as plays, and one hopes that this tendency will not become more aggravated through persistent dilution of available material.

One would also regard undue American influence on B.B.C. programmes, both Sound and Television, as undesirable.

J. E. ROSTON,  
*Iver, Bucks.*

I reckon the official responsible for the Home Service interval signal—the damn bells which never let up—was short of imagination. Why all this emphasis on London? If they wish to keep it that way, what about a few bars of "Old Father Thames" and then a break before being repeated? Personally, I would prefer a bar or two of "Greensleeves" and a slight pause, then repeated.

H. POLLITT,  
*Farnworth, near Bolton.*

### Golden Weddings

Warmest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Owen, of Liverpool, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on June 4th, and to Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Howes, of Thornaby-on-Tees, whose fiftieth wedding anniversary was on June 5th.

### Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. E. Watts, of Rock Ferry, May 30th. Many congratulations.

### Birmingham Club's Annual Outing

At 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 11th, two coaches set off from the Red Cross Headquarters, Highfield Road, Edgbaston, filled with St. Dunstaners and their families for the Birmingham Club Outing. The weather was not at all bad, quite dry in fact, and to really make things better, the sun came out as we travelled along out of Birmingham and towards the Vale of Evesham. We arrived at Evesham in time to have a quiet look at the "locals" and then into a very excellent lunch at "The Riverside Cafe." After lunch we all went our different ways for walks along the riverside or in the nearby park.

At 3 p.m. we once more boarded the coaches and were taken for a very lovely run through the beautiful Cotswold country and on to Stratford-on-Avon in time for tea with our very old friends at the Stratford British Legion. A really lovely tea had been prepared for us and everyone did real justice to it. At about 8 p.m. we once more boarded the coaches and made our way back to Edgbaston.

Everyone had a very enjoyable day and we all join together in thanking Mr. Shakespeare and Miss Streets for all the hard work they both put in to make it possible.

D. E. CASHMORE.

### St. Dunstan's Lecturer

Aged 11

Eleven-year old Elaine Johns, granddaughter of P. Johns, of Torquay, recently gave a lecture at school on St. Dunstan's and this is how she described it in a letter to her grandfather at Ovingdean:

"About braille, I know nearly all the letters; there are only about six I don't know. And the deaf and dumb language on the hands, I know all that.

Pearson House and St. Dunstan's—I told them about those, too.

Miss Dakin, our English teacher, wanted to know what occupations you did so I said that you worked on the switchboard, then as a joiner and made bathroom stools, etc. I said how you told the difference between a £5, £1, and 10/- note, a florin and a half-crown.

I drew a braille watch on the blackboard and explained all about it."

What a splendid little ambassador!

### From the Chairman's Postbag

"I note your invitation to more St. Dunstaners making a point of enjoying a break at Ovingdean during the winter months. This invitation reminds me of something I have thought about quite a lot—the hesitation, or reluctance, of so many men to try a holiday at Ovingdean, and I gather that the reason is that they are under the impression that the atmosphere and conditions may be something on the lines of a military hospital with its restrictions and limitations. I write as one who held this complete misconception for a good many years until I paid my first visit to Ovingdean just over two years ago—when I learned what a mistake I had been making—until now I find it difficult to be patient between my two holidays at about Easter and again during September/October.

"Ovingdean is the very essence of freedom, care and attention and consideration and I wish I could find the best channel to bring this home to those men who are making the same mistake as I made—for some fourteen years or so."

J. TODD,  
*Wembley.*

"I enjoyed taking the Braille tests with Miss Ramshaw.

"My first holiday at Ovingdean was wonderful and I am already looking forward to my next visit. It gave me great pleasure, too, to meet my fellow St. Dunstaners."

E. C. JOHN,  
*Wallasey.*

"You say you want the pavement kept clear. O.K., but if it was kept clear and the blind went about as some of the men go about Ovingdean, God help other people, especially the old and cripples. When I came here first time our late Matron Pain took the late R. J. Williams and I round and laid great stress on the fact that we should keep to the RIGHT, and I still do, but how many others do? They swing round and come full tilt through the *left-hand* gate at the top of the stairs and only this afternoon as I pushed the *right-hand* gate open, another twerp pushed the left-hand gate open with the result that the fingers of my left hand were badly trapped.

"If those chaps who rush about so much here were as clever in other directions! Few can go out without a V.A.D. holding



their arm and I reckon there is only about one in twenty now who can type themselves a letter; and judging from what I'm told, they want the Sisters to write long letters to long-lost brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles and pals all over the globe, which, in my opinion, their own wives will not be bothered with. It's high time the Sisters were told only necessary letters are to be written. No, my Lord, please do not suggest they start typing again; these machines are in better condition than ever they were, either here or West House, before the war and I don't want them smashing up and our Tibby, who keeps them in such excellent condition, to lose heart and pack up.

"As to doing a bit of reading for themselves, there's not one in thirty can read now."

G. FALLOWFIELD,  
*Ovingdean.*

"I was very interested to read your notes re Braille written during your bout of 'flu. I was fortunate enough to take Braille from the first and although I consider the Talking Book a priceless acquisition, it has not prevented me keeping up my reading, for there is nothing on record so far to compare with the *Intelligence Digest* which keeps me *au fait* with foreign policy, thus enabling me to take part in conversation."

LEONARD ARNOLD,  
*Parkstone, Dorset*

### Obstructions on Pavements

Apropos of Lord Fraser's question in the House of Lords recently on obstacles on pavements, J. T. Cook, of West Worthing, writes that he agrees with our Chairman's protest about keeping the pavement for the pedestrian. He himself has met with the following snags: cars, half or completely on the pavement, cycles, motor cycles, a tricycle, an ice-cream tricycle, a large lorry, a courting couple, a profusion of cycles belonging to Electricity, Water or Gas workmen on a job, and hedges, trees, and climbing roses overhanging the pavement.

★ ★ ★

Peter Piper, of Watford, also writes:

"It is true, as Lord Fraser says, that there are hundreds of blind persons who get around on their own, for they know their road like the back of their hand, only to suddenly collide with a parked vehicle on

the pavement . . . In the area in which I live, this illegal practice is ever increasing and yet the Local Authorities and the police do nothing about it. A blind person comes to the cross-roads controlled by lights. There are cars, lorries, buses, motor bikes, and a large air liner droning overhead; altogether the noise is deafening, so much so that the blind person has difficulty in knowing which section of the traffic is about to stop . . . the whole thing is like a nightmare.

"It was written in the days when Queen Victoria was a little child that the day would come when the horse-drawn vehicle would disappear from our highways in towns and cities. In its place would be a horseless carriage which would enable man to travel in greater comfort and cover long distances in very quick time, but at the same time the horseless carriage would prove a curse to all mankind. How true this has now become.

"Now for other obstacles. Often a blind person leaves home after breakfast and returns at mid-day only to find that in the meantime either the gas works or the water works or the electricity board have dug a trench across his pavement in the course of laying a new service to a house or other property. It is mid-day, the workmen down tools and go off for their lunch, leaving the trench wide open. At night this trench is roped off and red lamps hung in position, but no precautions are taken to protect blind persons. It is an offence to leave an open trench unattended . . . You are walking through the shopping centre; it's a warm sunny day, the shop blinds are out, and how many do you find are at the regulated height? We six-footers collide with the blind, knocking off our hats and getting a good bump on the head. The regulation height of a shop blind should be not less than seven feet.

"How often does a blind person suffer through owners of gardens, hedges and other shrubs allowing them to overhang the garden fence or wall? It is an offence not to keep them cut back, but no-one bothers."

★ ★ ★

R. D. ("Bertie") McConnell, of Bangor, County Down, topped the poll when he won his fight to retain his seat on Bangor Borough Council in the recent local elections.

### Static Cycles

I have received several requests recently for static cycles and would be very grateful to any St. Dunstaners who have these machines but are no longer using them if they would kindly return their cycles to me at H.Q. I will, of course, meet the cost of carriage.

C. D. WILLS.

### Mr. E. W. Roberts

Elsewhere in this issue is an appreciation of the service given by Mr. E. W. Roberts to many St. Dunstaners over the past forty years. More latterly, of course, for almost twenty years, he has been more directly concerned with St. Dunstaners entering industry in various parts of the United Kingdom.

Already a number of St. Dunstaners have indicated that they wish to mark the retirement of Mr. Roberts by contributing to a Presentation Fund.

Mr. G. P. Owens, at Headquarters, will be pleased to receive donations from any St. Dunstaners who feel that they would like to contribute.

### Broadcasters

Lord Fraser was interviewed by Nan Winton in the B.B.C. Home Service on May 13th in the programme, "In Town To-day." After some general questions, Lord Fraser was asked, "Have you become used to blindness?" He replied, "Yes, I think so. It is a handicap all day long but it doesn't trouble me all day long. I don't really remember it unless I get in a particular jam . . . I suppose the worst feature of blindness, outside of the question of employment and poverty, is the tendency to loneliness . . . and since I am probably talking to a great many people, let me say that one of the kindest things you can do, if you pass a blind person anywhere, in your village or the street or in your club, is to just go up and say 'Hello,' or 'Good morning.' Make the contact yourself."

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On May 19th, on the B.B.C. Home Service, in the programme "Science Review. R. Dufton, A.M.I.MECH.E., St. Dunstan's Director of Research, was interviewed by Dr. Archie Clow. Mr Dufton answered questions on developments in the field of science and technology, with particular reference to reading aids for the blind.

### Miss Gertrude Cunyngame

Miss E. L. Wilson, of Belfast, who is a St. Dunstaner of the First World War, writes: "Miss Gertrude Cunyngame, who was one of the first, if not the very first, V.A.D. at St. Dunstan's, died on May 25th at the age of 91. Miss Cunyngame was with us before the move was made to St. Dunstan's house in Regent's Park; there were, I think, four men to start with. Miss Cunyngame left St. Dunstan's in 1923 . . . her sister lives at Bath and they have been two of my best friends ever since."

St. Dunstaners will hear with regret of the death of this old friend.

### Sutton Club Notes

Our last Club meeting was well attended but we are still looking for new members. Why not come along? We can guarantee you an enjoyable afternoon. Our Club holds its monthly meetings at the Adult School, Sutton, Surrey. Let's be seeing you. Further particulars can be had from Ted Dudley; *Tel.*: CRO 0596 after 6 p.m. E. E. SWAYNE.

### From All Quarters

S. T. Stephens, who is the Whip of the Country Party in the New South Wales Legislature, was a member of a Parliamentary delegation from New South Wales which recently visited this country. "Stepper" Stephens is a Second World War St. Dunstaner who has had a most successful political career and has also taken a great interest in blind welfare in Australia.

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On the recommendation of the Isle of Man Scout Commissioner, Norton Christal was awarded the Silver Acorn (the second highest Scout decoration) by the Chief Scout in the St. George's Day list of honours "in recognition of specially distinguished services."

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After successfully taking the Associated Examining Board's examinations in Pure and Technical Mathematics at Advanced Level, R. A. Benson, of Orpington, has been transferred to a more responsible position at the Armament Research and Development Establishment, at Fort Halstead. His new post carries with it more varied duties and considerable travel both in the United Kingdom and, at a later date, possibly abroad.



## "In Memory"

### Private Frank Jesse Chatfield, *Royal Sussex Regiment*

We have to record with deep regret the death on May 22nd of F. J. Chatfield, of Brighton. He was 82. He served throughout the First World War, having enlisted in September, 1914, and being discharged in August, 1918, but it was to be forty years later—in December, 1958—that he came to St. Dunstan's, but his age then ruled out any possibility of training.

When Mrs. Chatfield became ill a few months ago, her husband went to Ovingdean but he became worse and was transferred to Pearson House where he died.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Chatfield who is herself still in hospital. There were no children.

### Private Thomas William Dee, *8th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death of T. W. Dee, a permanent resident at Pearson; he was 64.

Enlisting at the outbreak of the First World War, he was wounded in Belgium in 1917 and came to St. Dunstan's the following year. He trained in basket-work and he carried on this occupation for many years. His health, however, had never been good and recently he had spent long spells in hospital. It was there that he died on May 21st.

He was a bachelor and our very sincere sympathy is sent to his sister, Mrs. Nichols.

### Rifleman Frederick Herbert Kirkbright, *9th Rifle Brigade*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. H. Kirkbright, of Patcham, Brighton, and late of Deal. He would have been 65 next month.

He enlisted in March, 1915, and was discharged from the Army in October 1916, coming to St. Dunstan's the following year. He trained and worked as a telephonist until 1932 when he decided to become a poultry-farmer but two years later returned to telephony which he did until 1945 when he retired. He was a doubly disabled man and suffered a great deal, but it was only in recent weeks that he became seriously ill and he died comparatively suddenly on June 15th. He was a keen bridge player and a member of the London and Brighton club.

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

### Private John Morris, *7th King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of John Morris, of Gorton, Manchester. He was 68.

He had served with the regiment from 1914 until 1917, being wounded at Ypres, and he came to us that same year. He trained as a mat-maker and boot-repairer but preferred later to concentrate on mat-making. Latterly he had been in poor health and had to undergo an operation from which he seemed to be recovering well, but he had a relapse and he died in hospital on May 23rd.

Our deep sympathy goes to Mrs. Morris and her family.

## Correction

We said in the April issue that our late St. Dunstaner, H. A. Hammett, enlisted in March, 1914, but Mrs. Hammett tells us that our records were not correct; Harry's date of enlistment was actually November, 1914.

## Ovingdean Chapel Collection

A donation of £20 has recently been sent from Ovingdean Chapel Collection to the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief to help in their work overseas.

## Birth

BURNS.—On June 12th, to the wife of M. Burns, of Westcliff-on-Sea, a son—Christopher.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:

HILLS.—To W. Hills, of Wingham, Canterbury, whose wife died on June 2nd after a long illness.

JONES.—To V. Jones, of Northwich, whose sister died at the end of May.

ROBINSON.—T. A. Robinson, of Aylesbury, whose eldest brother died in May.

SHAYLER.—To W. Shayler, of Liverpool, whose wife died on June 3rd. Mr. and Mrs. Shayler would have had their 45th wedding anniversary on June 21st.

## Great-Grandfathers

C. T. Condon, of Southampton.

## Grandfather

G. Fallowfield, of Southwick.