

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

**Air Commodore G. Bentley Dacre, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L.**

**A**IR COMMODORE DACRE died peacefully in his sleep on the morning of January 4th at his home at Rottingdean.

After a distinguished career in the Royal Air Force, he became Commandant of St. Dunstan's at Church Stretton and was responsible for the methods of re-education, training and rehabilitation which were developed there from the old St. Dunstan's tradition. It was a great advantage to our organisation to have a man in charge with Service experience and, particularly, one who had commanded the R.A.F. Station at Halton, with its very varied services, including the R.A.F. Hospital and the Apprentices' School there situated. Air Commodore Dacre continued in this office for four years and left his mark upon our organisation and upon the lives of many hundreds of Second War St. Dunstaners.

He was responsible for the removal of St. Dunstan's back to Ovingdean after the war and for the re-creation of that Centre which had been occupied by the Admiralty for the war years.

Air Commodore Dacre had a strong technical bent and this led to his devising many gadgets, including the Electronic Rifle Range, still in use at Ovingdean. After he retired from the post of Commandant, he became successively Chairman of our Inventions and Scientific Research Committees, and started the latter on its enquiries into reading and guiding devices.

He had gained his Pilot Aviator's Certificate (No. 162) in November, 1911, and in 1915 was the first airman to sink an enemy vessel with an air-borne torpedo; he occupied many important posts in command and in the diplomatic field and in later life became High Sheriff in the County of Sussex and a Deputy Lieutenant. From 1948-1956 he was President of the Sussex Council of the British Legion. A few months ago he joined the Council of St. Dunstan's.

His wife, who survives him, was one of the founders of the W.A.A.F., in which she held high office; his son, a rising ace Pilot, was shot down over Germany, so the Air Commodore and his family have set an example of high courage and devotion to the public service.

All Air Commodore Dacre's friends in many parts of the world, particularly amongst St. Dunstaners, on the staff, and his colleagues on our Council, will mourn the death of one who did so much to help our organisation and who was a firm friend.

**Mr. Godfrey Robinson, C.B.E., M.C.**

Mr. GODFREY ROBINSON, Chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, died on Tuesday, December 19th, quietly in his sleep from a heart attack. He was in his early

sixties and I had been in conference with him only a few days before his death when we had been discussing plans for the future of the Talking Book.

A lieutenant in the 3/1 Midland Brigade, R.F.A., Godfrey Robinson was blinded at Ypres in 1917 and I first visited him in hospital in England a few days after his arrival there. After a course at St. Dunstan's, during which he was a most popular member, he returned to his family business, a well-known importer, processor and distributor of food in Hull, in which he took an active part. Soon, however, he devoted himself to public work, taking his place in the British Legion in his village and county, in the Hull City Council of which he became a distinguished member and at one time Sheriff, and then in the Hull and East Riding Institute for the Blind. Some years later he was elected to the Council of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and after taking office as Chairman of Committees, became Chairman of the National Council on the retirement of Lord Ismay in 1952. In this capacity he joined the Council of St. Dunstan's and served with us for some years before his death. During the years of the Second War he returned to active direction of his family business when some of his brothers had joined the armed forces and became a leading figure in Britain's food direction, heading various committees in the Ministry of Food.

Godfrey Robinson's career was one of successful business enterprise and valuable public work and he most thoroughly deserved the C.B.E. which was conferred upon him in 1953.

We mourn the death of a leader of the blind whose work in the blind world was of an outstanding order and who was also a warm-hearted friend of all who knew him.

#### A Change of Address

Although our organisation is in some respects busier than ever, looking after and even developing our welfare services for St. Dunstaners as a whole, it is nevertheless past its peak in the sense that our numbers are beginning slowly to fall. In addition, older men are retiring, home workers are doing less work and our appeal methods are simpler.

This process has been maturing slowly over the last few years and we have been adjusting our organisation to meet it. For example, a little time ago we closed down Raglan Street, which was a wholesale and Stores Department, and other outside stores, and concentrated our activities more and more upon the Headquarters building at Marylebone Road. Another step in this direction is being taken at the end of this month when Commander Buckley, with the whole of his staff in the Appeals and Public Relations Department; Mr. Rice and his Legacies, Legal and Pensions Departments, and Miss Westmore, the Editor of this magazine, will all move over to 191 Marylebone Road. Their telephone number will be PADDINGTON 5021.

My office, Lady Fraser's office—with our secretaries—and the Council's Meeting Room, will be the only elements left at 1 South Audley Street. Our telephone number will remain GROSVENOR 4946.

This integration and concentration has no significance other than that it is an inevitable process in the evolution of St. Dunstan's.

FRASER.

#### New Zealand St. Dunstaner Honoured

Our warm congratulations to our New Zealand St. Dunstaner, J. E. May, who received the award of the M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List. Mr. May, who was blinded in the Second War, is Assistant Director of the New Zealand Foundation for the Blind, for which he has done splendid work.

Many St. Dunstaners and members of the staff had the pleasure of meeting Mr. May when, with Mrs. May, he visited this country in July, 1960, to take part in St. Dunstan's Commonwealth Conference.

#### Staff Retirement

Mr. J. Walch retires from St. Dunstan's service this month after more than twenty years as a Braille Teacher, first at Church Stretton and later at Ovingdean. Hundreds of St. Dunstaners, and in particular those of the Second War, will recall with gratitude Joe's patient teaching and above all, the personal example which he, as a St. Dunstaner himself, set them.

Joe has made many friends among his fellow St. Dunstaners and on the staff and all will join with us in sending him our warmest good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

#### ONE MAN AND HIS DOG

*Lieut. Commander R. C. B. Buckley, G.M., Appeals and Publicity Officer at St. Dunstan's, last year acquired a guide dog, Amber. We invited Commander Buckley to give us an account of his first six months with his dog and here it is.*

**B**ROUGHT up on the principle and practice of "a healthy mind in a healthy body" I found, in almost thirty years of sight, that if I looked after my body my mind would take care of itself, at least to the extent that it would remain alert and optimistic. Perhaps as a direct consequence, however, keeping fit has proved for me the greatest practical problem during the succeeding twenty years of blindness.

Blind people of adult age will doubtless agree that walking is the best form of exercise we can take. But walking to and from one's place of work, with or without a stick, is a slow and sometimes a hazardous business, and how many of us really enjoy walking alone as a recreation? For many years I pondered the possibility of guide dog ownership, but decided against because the alternatives of office routine and long distance journeys by train or car seemed to me no kind of life for a dog. Eventually I was persuaded that I was wrong, and so June, 1961, saw me at the Guide Dog Training Centre just outside Exeter.

It is not my purpose to give even a subjective account of the guide dog programme and methods of training, but I would just like to pay a tribute to the Controller, trainers, kennel maids and domestic staff at Exeter. They seem to have achieved exactly the right balance between firmness and impartiality on duty, and friendliness and informality off duty. Besides myself there were seven other students on the course, all of them civilian blind. We were six men and two girls, ranging in age from the early twenties to the late forties, and we got on famously together. We were given two alsatians and six labradors, all bitches. My dog is a fine looking yellow labrador named Amber, with a very friendly disposition.

Although saying nothing about the "how" of the guide dog training, I would like to say something about the "what", as this is often misunderstood. The training assumes that the dogs will normally be working in built up areas, so they are taught to walk straight down the centre of the pavement, sitting without command at every down kerb. They are also taught, when on the move, to stop instantly at the order "sit" and, from the sitting position, to obey the appropriate word of command to go forward, reverse direction, turn right or turn left. They are taught a set procedure for avoiding obstacles on the pavement and traffic on the road, whether moving or stationary, how to tackle flights of steps, up or down, how to board and alight from buses and trains, procedure for country walks and, of course, general obedience.

The student must learn how to control the dog by the use of voice and hand, and how to carry out the various turns and manoeuvres. He must learn how to feed, groom and care for the dog generally. There is much to learn in four weeks and, on returning home, the master and dog must put into practice the lessons learnt at the Training Centre. A really proficient and tidy-looking performance is not to be expected for some months, while experience is gained and mutual confidence grows.

There is a popular fallacy that, in guide dog travel, the dog decides the way and the master merely pads along at its side. Of course, the dog does get to know a number of well-trod routes, but the master should learn them first and remain in control. I try always to carry in my head a plan of the area in which Amber and I are working, filling in the picture in the round as we go along, so far as possible, through the evidence picked up by ear, nose and foot, and from the wind and sun. If the district is unfamiliar, or if I think we have taken a wrong turning, I stop someone and find out, thus drawing for myself a new mental plan.

A fairly high degree of concentration from both master and dog is required all the time one is working. Dogs are sensitive to the state of both the master's mind and of his body, so I endeavour to keep the former concentrated and the latter relaxed, for either wool-gathering on the one hand, or nervous tension on the other, adversely affects the dog's performance. Amber, too, like other dogs, is prone to her own forms of distraction, the most powerful in her case being those connected with her sense of smell. It is my business to try and recognise these distractions as soon as they occur, or even to anticipate them, and take the appropriate corrective measures.

Maximum concentration is naturally required when about to cross a busy road junction. Here we pause and make a quick "appreciation of the situation." There is usually a fair amount of information coming through Amber's ears and eyes, and through my ears, to apply to the traffic rules that both of us have learnt. There may also be information and advice, by no means always reliable, from other pedestrians. After summing up the position and deciding it is safe to cross, I give the order "forward," and over we go unless . . . unless Amber reckons it is unsafe, in which case she will not move until the danger has cleared.

Amber attracts admiration wherever we go, and enjoys it as much as most young ladies do. In the office she gives no trouble at all. On arrival, I remove harness and leash, leaving her quite free. She spends most of the day in the place of her choice, which is under my knee-hole desk, coming out to greet her friends with a wag of the tail as they enter. She takes pleasure in accompanying me from room to room whenever I walk around the building.

At home it is like having another happy and playful child, for Amber is very fond of fun and games. Indoors, she is always ready for a tug-of-war with an old slipper or some other object. Out of doors, on the grass, she goes rolling and pouncing, running and jumping, usually at a human target, myself or another member of the family. I sometimes bring the outdoor game to a close by hoisting Amber to a sitting position on my shoulders, where she surveys the world from a new angle with a sort of amused detachment.

What about the disadvantages of guide dog ownership? Obviously the master must be prepared to devote a good deal of time to his dog, and this should include a free run of at least ten minutes' duration every day. I also find that I become very warm working Amber over distances exceeding about a mile, especially in the summer.

On the other hand, my dog has solved two very important problems for me. First, I am now able to make unaided, except of course by Amber, and using alternative routes, the normal daily journey between home and office, which includes the unusually difficult conditions created by the noisy reconstruction work in the large area between Hyde Park Corner and Marble Arch. Secondly I can take as much exercise as I like with a dog always ready and willing for a walk.

Working a guide dog calls into play the muscles of the arms and body as well of the legs. Incidentally, it also improves posture and mobility generally when walking without the dog. A guide dog provides a good method of escape from the fetters that restrict the freedom and rapidity of movement of any blind person in the open air, and another advantage is the pleasure to be derived from the constant companionship of these loyal and lovable creatures.

I believe it to be true that the horizon of achievement in guide dog travel is set more by the limitations of the master than by those of the dog. Amber and I have not yet embarked on any very ambitious journeys, but St. Dunstan owners, many with experience much greater than mine, may be tempted to comment. I also hope that others, who are not yet owners, will be interested to read this little tale of one man and his dog.

R.C.B.B.

### Ovingdean

St. Dunstaners are reminded that they should book as early as possible for Summer holidays.

This year the following special fortnights are suggested for St. Dunstaners who wish to meet other members who trained at the same time:

1915-1916 } 7th to 21st May.  
1940-1942 }  
1917-1918 }  
1943-1944 } 18th June to 2nd July.  
1919-1920 }  
1945-1946 } 16th to 30th July.  
1921-1925 }  
1947-1957 } 10th to 24th September.

### Many Happy Returns—

to Sammy Wain, who celebrated his 93rd birthday at Pearson House on January 5th.

### Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. E. Tatton, of Twigworth, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on December 30th.

### Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Luker, of Hampton, November 21st; Mr. and Mrs. J. Griffiths, of Brighton, January 5th. Congratulations to all of you.

### London Club Notes

On Tuesday, December 19th, members of the Club met to join in the Christmas Party, and the presentation of prizes to the winners in the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions played during the year.

The party started off with a very nice hand-round tea served by our very good friend Mrs. Willis and a party of willing helpers. This was followed by the presentation of the prizes by Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Lloyds. Mr. S. Webster gave a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyds for their kindness in doing so.

Mr. Bob Willis then read a telegram from Sir Neville and Lady Pearson wishing everyone a happy Christmas and an enjoyable party.

Mr. Jacques Brown, our very good friend, arranged a most enjoyable concert, the following artists helping to make it so—Mr. Bruce Trent sang many well-known ballads to the delight of everyone; Mr. Dick Bentley entertained us with many of his saucy stories; Mr. Ivor Dennis played the piano and did everthing he could to keep the party happy, everyone joining in to a good sing-song. Last, but not least, our sincere thanks to Mr. Jackson (Jacko to us all) for bringing along his friend, Mrs. Earl, to entertain us with a grand programme on the piano.

A very happy evening ended with the distribution of gifts to members and their wives.

Our sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Willis for all their hard work, which was appreciated by everyone.

To all Club members—a happy New Year.

BILL HARDING

### Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions

Results:

*Domino Aggregate*: 1st, C. Hancock  
Runner-up, G. Dennis  
*Whist Aggregate*: 1st, G. P. Brown  
Runner-up, W. T. Scott  
*Domino Knock-out*: 1st, W. Bishop  
Runner-up, G. P. Brown  
*Cribbage*: 1st, G. P. Brown  
Runner-up, S. Webster  
*Darts*: 1st, G. Dennis  
Runner-up, S. Webster

### St. Dunstan's Five-Mile Walk held in Regent's Park Saturday, December 16th, 1961

Competitor	Actual Time		Allowance		Handicap Time	
	min.	sec.	min.	sec.	min.	sec.
J. Simpson	45	31	Scratch		45	31
L. Dennis	47	40	2	0	45	40
W. Miller	48	32	1	0	47	32
C. Stafford	51	29	6	30	44	59
R. Mendham	53	47	11	30	42	17
R. Young	57	35	11	50	45	45
S. Tutton	59	59	12	0	47	59
J. Wright	61	24	15	30	45	54

Winner: R. Mendham.

Second: C. Stafford.

Third: J. Simpson.

### Christmas Competitions Result

The "Doubles" Competition was a popular one and we are increasing the prizes. The correct solution was:

S—ATCHE—L      TEACH  
H—AMLE—T      MEAL  
A—NSWE—R      NEWS  
D—IVIDEN—D      DIVINE  
O—RNAME—T      MANNER  
W—EALT—H      LATE  
E—MIGRAN—T      MARGIN  
R—ATCHE—T      CHEAT

The initial letters forming SHADOWER.

First out of the hat was the entry of H. NELSON, of Bakewell, who receives the prize of five guineas, and there is a special second prize of three guineas for J. BOYD, of Roedean, and a third prize of two guineas for ROY HYETT, of Wilson, Derbyshire.

As for the "Transposers" competition, the less said the better. Only a handful—less than a handful, in fact—attempted it, unless the rest are still in the post. The sentence in the Editor's office was, "When the victim of a hotel bed's agony." (You can lie on the bed and lay on the agony). No one found it. No one even came near finding it, and the other entries were not perfect anagrams.

We are offering the prize of five guineas again, therefore, this time for the following set of four anagrams. The prize will go to the first correct one opened:

1. TUNE IN, C.E.M.D.  
2. REAL DAN CAB  
3. CITY SENSE  
4. SARUN'S WINE

The closing date is Thursday, February 15th, and entries should be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I thought the Memorial Service broadcast from St. Dunstan's Ovingdean, on December 9th, was most moving and sincere. Like many other St. Dunstaners, I was present at Sir Arthur Pearson's funeral at Hampstead Cemetery, and it recalled memories and grateful appreciation to him for his wonderful work and also his kindly approach to each individual.

Yours sincerely,  
W. J. HARE,  
*Cheltenham.*

DEAR EDITOR,

Our Chairman's Address in the broadcast Service took me back to 1917 when he and I were beginning at St. Dunstan's. I liked the Lesson given and I thought of Sir Arthur as the Vine and the wonderful workers as the big branches and even myself as a little branch, and think how Sir Arthur would be pleased if he could see the result of his genius and spirit.

Yours sincerely,  
WALTER BURGIN,  
*Southwick.*

DEAR EDITOR,

One day I was introduced to a French clergyman who had been seeing something of our activities, then at West House. After exchanging a few commonplaces, I asked for his impressions of our organisation. "Ah, monsieur, c'est la maison du bon Dieu." Need I translate this into, "Ah, sir, it is the house of the good God."

Yours sincerely,  
T. ROGERS,  
*Huddersfield.*

### "My Story of St. Dunstan's"

We print below extracts from some of the many letters Lord Fraser has received following the publication of his book:

"I, too, had a bullet wound which took both eyes, one of which was removed at Versailles, and it was some weeks before I learned that my sight was completely gone. I had the same experience at St. Mark's Hospital of visits from Sir Arthur Pearson and Miss Mace, and the description in the opening chapters of your book bring back recollections very vividly to my mind."

T. S. COOPER, *Bridlington.*

"Being a joiner, I was very interested in your remarks about the Workshop. Mr. E. Hope Atkinson was my instructor, a very clever man and a fine instructor. Many of us, as you say, used to stay well after the hours and had to be reminded of the time by the staff. I made some furniture and framed all my pictures while in training, ready for my marriage after finishing my training, and how thankful we are for those days. I am still enjoying memories of 1916 and 1917. Looking back over the years I well remember Sir Arthur Pearson as he admitted me into the ways of St. Dunstan's. I was naturally feeling very depressed as I, like yourself, had had both my eyes removed. I well remember Sir Arthur who sat with me on my right, rubbing my knee with his left hand as he related all the activities and training I would receive, and when he handed me my braille watch I felt I was on top of the world. The watch is still keeping excellent time and has never needed any attention."

T. TILL, *Lancaster.*

"It revived many treasured memories and gave me the feeling of meeting many old friends." J. G. HEALY ("Tim"), *Blackpool.*

"What a stimulant for reviving the past and reviewing the present every St. Dunstaner will find in the pages of *My Story of St. Dunstan's*."

T. ROGERS, *Huddersfield.*

"I must write to tell how I liked your memoirs appearing in the *Liverpool Echo* these last few days. It reminds me so much of my late father, James Howard, of the 1st Dragoon Guards who fought in the Crimean War, 1853-56 and then in the Indian Mutiny, 1857-58, in which he lost his sight and became totally blind. He worked for thirty-five years at the Liverpool Workshops for the Blind in the brush shop. I used to take him to work in the mornings before I went to school, but he always found his way home in the evenings on his own, which was very good as we lived nearly two miles away. He often played cards with us, had his pint of beer and smoked his pipe, and had a few shillings on the horse races. My father only got 1s. 0d. per day pension, which was increased to 1s. 6d. a few years before he passed away in 1912."

E. R. HOWARD, *Liverpool.*

### Changes of Visitors

#### Retirement of Miss M. T. H. Jones

Our Welfare Visitor of Sussex for the past twenty-five years, Miss M. T. H. Jones, retires on January 31st and we all wish her a long and happy retirement. Miss Jones has been a very good friend to many St. Dunstaners and we deeply appreciate all that she has done over the years.

Miss Jones is succeeded by Miss B. R. Blebta, who has been transferred from the Midlands area where she has been our visitor for the past four and a half years.

From January 1st, our new Visitor for the Midlands is Miss I. Newbold, who comes to us with nursing qualifications and wide experience of welfare work.

We wish both Miss Blebta and Miss Newbold success in their new posts.

### Liverpool Club Notes

The members of the Club, together with their wives and escorts, celebrated Christmas with a dinner at Reece's Restaurant on Friday, December 22nd, followed by a visit to the Royal Court Theatre to see the famous TV "Black and White Minstrel Show." With such an excellent meal and a grand evening's entertainment, the outing was voted a great success.

Owing to illness, we regret our President, Captain Halloway, and one or two of our members were unable to be present. It is also to be regretted that the inclement weather and circumstances beyond our control prevented the Misses (Rags and Tatters) Davies of Blackpool from joining us.

The Liverpool Club send their fellow St. Dunstaners everywhere sincere good wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

T. MILNER,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

### Old "Reviews" Wanted

The Editor would be very glad to hear from readers who can help with the following numbers of the REVIEW: March, 1932; September, 1934; December, 1939.

These copies are needed to help the R.N.I.B. complete their collection.

REVIEWS for November, 1938, and January, 1949, would also be appreciated for the Editor's own use.

No other copies are needed.

### Australian Notes

One of Tom Melbourne's first acts as Hon. Secretary of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association was to send us a copy of *Bowls*, which described the Victoria Blinded Soldiers' Bowls Presentation Night. One hundred and ten guests were present. The trophies were awarded as follows:—

*Singles Championship*: Gabe Aarons (trophy received on his behalf by Charlie Daw);

Runner-up, Geo. Watson.

*Handicap Singles*: L. Cropley; Runner-up, L. Gibson.

*Pairs*: E. Bell and E. Glew; Runners-up, G. Aarons and W. Gray.

*Triples*: F. McConnell, J. Urquhart, C. Daw; Runners-up, E. Glew, E. Parsome, A. Aldersley.

At the Blinded Soldiers' Bowling Club annual meeting, the following officials were elected:

*Chairman*: Tom Melbourne.

*Deputy*: Gabe Aarons.

*Manager-Treasurer*: Les. Hoult.

*Two Committee Men*: Retiring Chairman, Charlie Daw and Bert Aldersley.

\* \* \*

We have had sad news from the O'Sullivan's, of New South Wales, Australia. Their son was killed in a car accident on November 23rd, as reported on another page, and our St. Dunstaner himself, Eugene O'Sullivan, was involved in an accident whilst out driving with two friends. He is now in the Repatriation Hospital suffering from broken ribs and injuries to his left hip and back. His friends escaped unhurt.

Their other son, David, is married and lives away from home. He is a dentist.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery, Eugene.

### "In Touch"

The next "In Touch" programme will be broadcast on Network Three of the B.B.C. on Sunday, January 28th, from 2.40-3.10 p.m.

#### Indispensable

*We may live without books—what is knowledge but grieving?*

*We may live without hope—what is hope but deceiving?*

*We may live without love—what is passion but pining?*

*But where is the man who can live without dining?*

OWEN MEREDITH.

## Talking Book Library

### News Wrung Out from the Old

This month seven books join the library shelves and the bag is mixed as follows:—

"The Captain's Table," by Richard Gordon, reader Andrew Timothy, is the experience of a ship's doctor, told with the accent on mirth rather than tears and possessing a wealth of amusing anecdotes. *Cat. No. 633.*

"The Baby and the Battleship," by Anthony Thorne, reader W. Greenslade, is a rollicking little saga concerning a Mediterranean Fleet exercise which began too suddenly. Two ratings on shore leave rescue a baby from a pram and are compelled to bring it back aboard when the signal comes through for a "top secret" exercise to start. The shifts the ratings improvise to dispose of the baby make a very funny picture, heightened by periodic glimpses of a grieving mother ashore. *Cat. No. 633.*

"Man Overboard," by Monica Dickens, reader Arthur Bush, is the story of a naval officer, a widower with a young daughter, cast out of his profession and thrown on the tender mercies of a hard world. His ups and downs and numerous impossible jobs are an amusing indictment of the age we live in, i.e., amusing for all except himself. His appearance on TV is an epic. *Cat. No. 481.*

"Missing from Home," by M. Halliday, reader Robin Holmes, tells the story of a young girl held hostage by a gang of bank robbers who have killed a man in their bank-robbing exploit. Eventually the girl's terrible ordeal ends with a spectacular grandstand finish. *Cat. No. 897.*

"The Northern Light," by A. J. Cronin, reader Robert Gladwell, is a local newspaper up on Tyneside and this is the story of the proprietor cum editor's fight to withstand the bid of a national daily to take over his family concern. Despite the fact that his health gives under the perpetual strain, the editor with his steadfastness holds out satisfactorily against every low-down trick the cynical Londoners can dream up. *Cat. No. 504.*

"When There's Love at Home," by Grace Richmond, reader Eric Gillett, is a satisfying story of the rescue of a declining Yorkshire mill. The master, rendered helpless and speechless by a stroke, is not of much help to his son and wife from London

in their efforts to straighten the business out. The attempt to estrange husband and wife by the father of an old flame of the husband in the hope of buying up the business cheap fails. The attempt of the old flame to rekindle the husband fails too, and the master finally says enough to save the situation. *Cat. No. 406.*

"Crescendo," by Phyllis Bentley, reader Laidman Browne, was also released. *Cat. No. 248.*

NELSON.

## Family News

Christine, nine year old daughter of our late St. Dunstaner, George Ellis, of Liverpool, has obtained a pass plus in the Primary Examination of the Royal Academy of Dancing for ballet.

★ ★ ★

Senga Boseley, Wallasey, came second in a Singing Competition at Wallasey Tower. She is now a member of Wallasey Operatic Society.

★ ★ ★

Jack Whyte, Gainsborough, has won a Diploma for French from the University of Tours.

## Grandfathers

B. R. Cole, of Tiverton; J. Mash, of St. Helier; R. Goodhead, of Sheffield; and new grandchildren also for D. C. R. Cole, of Gloucester; L. W. Calvert, of High Wycombe; H. G. Cooke, of Billesley; J. G. Wishart, of West Stanley; C. H. Brown, of Burton-on-Trent (for the second time); A. Hold, of Yeovil (the third grandchild).

★ ★ ★

The wife of the son of our late St. Dunstaner, E. Kift, of West Norwood, gave birth to a daughter on October 25th.

## Mr. R. ("Bert") Martin

St. Dunstaners of the 1920's who were walkers will hear with regret of the death of Bert Martin who, along with others from the Polytechnic Harriers escorted them on their Walks.

Bert joined the R.N.V.R. during the war and at the invasion of Normandy in 1944 was in charge of a tank-landing craft. After the war he had a shipping agency and it was on one of his visits to the docks that he had a serious accident which led to his untimely death on October 29th.

## Ode to Joe

Joe Corrigan runs Bingo sessions at his amusement arcade at Ramsgate and the following lines were written by one of his Bingo players:

*Eyes look down, we're racing now,  
A great big "Hush, let's have less row,"  
Joe's Bingo session has begun,  
There's lovely prizes to be won.*

*Joe Corrigan stands with mike in hand,  
While Terry prepares to mount the stand,  
Susan, Jane and Arthur, too,  
Are at their posts their jobs to do.*

*Terry's voice comes loud and clear,  
Across the hall for all to hear,  
A number is called, a counter is dropped,  
There's silence now, the din has stopped.*

*The balls are rolling, the die is cast,  
The counters are falling thick and fast,  
The game proceeds, the tension grows,  
Who's going to win? Only Leggett knows.*

*Then from out the silence is heard a shout,  
"I've Bingo here without a doubt,"  
The card is checked and Sue O.K.'s,  
Then Joe, with a voucher, the winner pays.*

*"Leggett's won," the word soon spreads,  
And all the players nod their heads,  
"We know," they say, "With all due respect,  
When the Leggett's are here, what to expect."*

*Some players, however, won't stop at that,  
They vent their spleen on poor old Pat;  
Susan, Jane and Terry brave,  
Combine to prove that Pat's a knave.*

*Then there's "Moaning Minnie" whom I'll not  
name,  
She cries, "I never win a game,"  
In point of fact, that's not quite true,  
She's won vouchers, choes., and chickens, too.*

*The evening passes by apace,  
There's still a smile on every face,  
It's very plain for all to see,  
They're a great big happy family.*

*Then Joe in a voice that, shamming fierce,  
Calls on that angel, Mrs. Pierce,  
"Put on the kettle, the tea to make,  
For my dear friends, their thirst to slake."*

*Then pretty Susan vacates the ring  
To help Ma Pierce the cups to bring,  
From their efforts they're puffing hard,  
As they lay a cup by each player's card.*

*Each player is given a "choc. bic." new,  
To some a one, to some a two,  
"May I have another, dear Sue?" asks Pat,  
"No! No! Big boy," and that is that.*

*The tea arrives, the cups are topped,  
And at this stage the game is stopped  
To allow the players, attendants too,  
To have a breather and start anew.*

*At Corrigan's Hall there's real good cheer,  
And a very pleasant atmosphere,  
So when you visit, please stay awhile,  
And take note of Joe's perpetual smile.*

*He smiles in rain, he smiles in snow,  
If he can't say "Yea," he won't say "No,"  
He wears a smile and not a frown  
And nothing ever gets him down.*

*So you see, my friends, what right have you  
To be so glum and look so blue?  
A certain cure for all your pain,  
Play Bingo at Joe's and you'll laugh again!*

P. BRANSFIELD

## Cardiff Club Notes

Our Annual Dinner was held on December 16th, at the Bristol Hotel, Cardiff, and we were happy to have our Welfare Visitor, Miss Blebta, with us. At the same time we were sorry that this was her last time with us owing to her being transferred to another area.

She was held in high esteem, and during the evening a presentation was made to her as a token of our appreciation of the kindness and understanding she has shown to us.

We had looked forward to meeting Miss Newbold on this occasion but unfortunately the fog prevented her coming to Cardiff that day.

After dinner we were entertained by a pianist and had dancing, games and raffles.

Everyone agreed it was a very successful evening.

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, January 6th, when the following members were elected:

*Chairman:* Jack Caple; *Secretary:* Bert Evans; *Treasurer:* Harry Pople.

H. POPLÉ, *Hon. Treasurer.*

### Personal

Very many thanks to all St. Dunstaners and their families for their good wishes for Christmas and the New Year, which I appreciated so much, and the kind thoughts which were conveyed. I would so much like to write to each one of you but this is impossible. May the New Year be filled with happiness and good health is my sincere wish to you all. MATRON.

★ ★ ★

This Christmas we have received even more cards than last year and in thanking you all, may I say how much we have appreciated the cards sent by St. Dunstaners and their families who have moved away or technically transferred to "the Northern Area."

Whilst it would be more in keeping with the spirit of Christmas to send each of you a personal "Thank you," I hope you will all accept our most sincere thanks through the columns of the REVIEW.

Best wishes to you all for a Happy New Year.

P. J. ROGERS,  
*Southern Area Superintendent.*

★ ★ ★

We have been more than delighted by the flood of Christmas cards which has reached the office this year, and it is most warming to think that so many St. Dunstaners and their families remember us at this time. In fact, we have received so many cards that it would be impossible to answer them individually and we hope that you will accept our thanks via the REVIEW.

May I, along with all Northern Area staff, renew my good wishes to you all for a happy and prosperous New Year.

M. A. MIDGLEY.

★ ★ ★

To all my St. Dunstaner friends and their families I send my warmest good wishes for the New Year.

Thank you all for the many lovely letters and Christmas cards I received. It was so very kind of you to remember me and I hope this acknowledgment will show how greatly I appreciate your thought of me.

MARGARET COX.

★ ★ ★

Thelma Meredith, of Chester, has won a gold cup and cash prize from the Chester and District Blind Welfare Society for a small wool rug.

### Miss Nesta Morrah

Miss Nesta Morrah died on December 21st at the age of 79. St. Dunstaners of both wars will hear this news with deepest regret, as also will the members of the staff who knew her and held her in great affection.

Miss Morrah came to this country from New Zealand in 1920. In 1923 she began her life-long association with St. Dunstan's. One of the most modest and unassuming of people, she was always ready to help at socials, whist drives, sports meetings, and Bridge Club activities, to meet St. Dunstaners and to visit them in hospital, in fact, to do anything which was asked of her. When the war came in 1939, she would not leave London but joined the Appeals Department as a voluntary member of the staff, and every working day, throughout the war and all the air-attacks, she came to wherever our offices happened to be in London, to work a full stint—and a hard one—in the Post Room. And this at an age and time when most women would have been justified in thinking of retiring. The Bridge Club, too, carried on—and Miss Morrah was there to help them as usual.

The war over, she returned to New Zealand, although she continued to keep in touch. Eight years ago she came back to this country and again took up the threads as far as indifferent health allowed. Again she helped regularly at the Bridge Club and in the St. Dunstaners' Dining Room at Headquarters. She was not well enough to attend the London Club party as usual on Tuesday, December 19th, and she died very suddenly two days later.

The funeral took place at Golders Green Crematorium on December 29th. St. Dunstaners W. T. Scott and Tommy Gaygan represented our men of the two wars, Miss E. Westmore represented St. Dunstan's, and other St. Dunstan's friends present were Miss J. Hensley, Mrs. R. Willis and Mrs. H. Cook.

### Marriage

POWNELL—MCDONNELL.—On December 28th, H. Pownell, of Caterham, to Miss Lena McDonnell. Miss McDonnell is the sister of our St. Dunstan's late wife, and her brother, Father T. McDonnell, conducted the ceremony.

### Funeral of Air Commodore Dacre

The funeral service for Air Commodore Dacre took place at Rottingdean Parish Church on January 9th, and among those present were Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, Mr. A. D. Lloyds (representing Lord and Lady Fraser and Lord Normanby), Matron F. Ramshaw, Commandant L. Fawcett and many St. Dunstaners and members of the staff. There were also present dignitaries of the County of Sussex and of the Royal Air Force and representatives of Brighton organisations and of the British Legion.

★ ★ ★

George Fallowfield writes:

"I would like to pay tribute to our very good friend, Air Commodore Dacre. Neither he nor Mrs. Dacre passed a deaf St. Dunstaner in the street, and he has often come over for a chat when he saw me in the "White Horse," and has collected me from the green and taken me home for a drink and brought my V.A.D. escort and I back in his car. He was a true friend to the deaf-blind."

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy is sent this month to the following:

CAREY.—To M. Carey, of South Ockenden (recently of Tottenham), in the loss of his wife after a long illness. Mrs. Carey became ill in July and she and her husband went to live with their married daughter, Mrs. Fleet. Mrs. Carey had spent many of the past months in hospital where she died on December 27th.

CASTLE.—To W. S. Castle, of Sparkhill, Birmingham, who lost his wife on

Christmas Eve. Mrs. Castle had been in poor health for some time and a bad fall in November had aggravated this, but her death was nevertheless most unexpected.

DENNISON.—To C. Dennison, of York, in the recent death of his eldest brother.

LEWIS.—To E. F. Lewis, of Mitcham, whose sister has died after a long illness and much suffering. Within twenty-four hours, her husband also collapsed and died suddenly.

MEDWAY.—To J. Medway, of Chiswick, whose mother has died as the result of a street accident. She was killed while crossing the street and a friend with her was seriously injured by the same car.

O'SULLIVAN.—To Mr. and Mrs. Eugene O'Sullivan, of New South Wales, Australia, whose son, Eugene, was killed in a car accident on November 23rd while driving to work. He had a Science degree and was employed as an engineer in Victoria.

ROBINSON.—To W. Robinson, of Welby, in the loss of his mother. She died on Christmas Eve at the age of 85. His sister is the wife of our St. Dunstaner, A. Rowe, of Burslem, and our deep sympathy goes out to her, too, in her bereavement.

SEABROOK.—To J. W. Seabrook, of Victoria, Australia, whose wife has recently died. Our St. Dunstaner himself is at the moment in the Macleod Repatriation Hospital, Victoria.

WRIGHT.—To R. G. Wright, of Exeter, whose wife died on December 21st, following an operation.

### "In Memory" (continued from page 12)

Private Victor Wicken, 5th Worcestershire Regiment

We have to report with deep regret the death in hospital of V. Wicken, of Wolverhampton. He was 66. He served from 1916 to 1918, being admitted to St. Dunstan's the following year. He trained as a mat-maker and netter, which crafts he was able to carry on for many years until failing health compelled him to give them up.

He had been in hospital just before Christmas but seemed to have recovered, and his death was an unexpected blow to his wife and family, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

Sapper Frederick Williams, Royal Engineers

We record with deep regret the death of F. Williams, of Worcester. He died in hospital on January 2nd at the age of 82.

He was an old soldier, serving from 1900 until 1917, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1951. A widower, he lived with a son and daughter-in-law; he had been in poor health for some time but his death was unexpected.

Our deep sympathy is sent to all members of his family.

## "In Memory"

### Private William Thomas Baxter, *Loyal North Lancs. Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of W. T. Baxter, of Walkden, Manchester, at the age of 71.

He served in the First World War but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1953, when his age and state of health prevented him taking training. He continued to live quietly at home but he had not been well for some time. Nevertheless, his death on December 23rd was sudden and unexpected.

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

### Lance Corporal William Charles Carnall, *2nd Royal Irish Rifles*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. C. Carnall, of Bampton, Devon. He was 69.

Enlisting in September, 1914, he left the Army in February, 1916, and came straight to St. Dunstan's where he trained in boot repairing and poultry keeping. He continued with this work and was still keeping poultry up to August, 1960. He had intended to renew his stock but in the autumn of 1961 his health broke down and in October he went to Pearson House. He became seriously ill but returned home at his own wish on November 10th, where he died on January 6th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Carnall, who was Billy's second wife, but whose friendship with our St. Dunstaner went back some forty years before their marriage in 1946. At the outbreak of war in 1914 he had gone to France and Miss Leyshon, as she then was, went to the United States.

### Regimental Sergeant Major Herbert Colley, *Durham County Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death of H. Colley, of Ventnor, Isle of Wight. He was 82.

An old soldier—he had enlisted in May, 1898—he saw service in the First World War, receiving his discharge in June, 1919. It was not until March, 1952, that he came to St. Dunstan's, when his age ruled out any training. Some two years ago his health began to deteriorate. This worsened following a fall at the beginning of December and he passed away on December 18th.

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

### Lance Corporal Leslie Robert King, *1st Cameron Highlanders*

With deep regret we record the death of L. R. King, of Brighton, at the age of 68.

He served from October, 1914, until June, 1916, coming to St. Dunstan's immediately. He trained as a physiotherapist and he followed his profession until the late 1940's when his health began to deteriorate. Even so, he did retain a few patients right up to 1961, although of late his health had been very poor. He was taken seriously ill a few days before Christmas and he died on Christmas Eve. A hobby which had given him pleasure over many years was "magic," at which he was extremely good.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. King and to the son of his former marriage.

### Private William H. Oxenham, *Royal West Kent Regiment*

We have heard with deep regret of the death in Toronto, Canada, of W. H. Oxenham. He was 67.

Blinded in January, 1917, at Ovilleurs, he came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1917, and trained as an osteopath. Dr. Oxenham settled first in London, where he had a practice in Wimpole Street, and later at Hove. He went to Canada in October, 1940, but has returned to this country on one or two occasions, the last time being a few months ago. He had always been a keen golfer and even before he settled in Canada, he had visited the United States by special invitation to give demonstrations. Later he became Canadian Blind Golfing Champion. His death occurred very suddenly on January 6th.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Oxenham, who has herself been ill, and to her family.

### Private Bernard Quigley, *1st West Yorkshire Regiment*

We have to record with deep regret the death of B. Quigley, of South Shields. He died at his home on January 2nd, at the age of 67.

His war service was from 1914 until 1916, and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in 1928. He trained as a basket-maker and followed his craft for a considerable time. He then took up gardening, first as a hobby; he became increasingly interested in it, acquiring a greenhouse, too. When he remarried in 1945, he moved to Potto, near Northallerton, where he took up poultry-keeping. To this he added a small-holding, keeping pigs and cows also. He moved to South Shields in 1961, having to give up his garden and his stock. His health grew poor but his death was nevertheless sudden and unexpected.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow and relatives.

### Radio Officer Joseph W. Snowden, *Merchant Navy*

It is with deep regret that we record the death on December 8th of J. W. Snowden, of Manchester, at the age of 68.

After many years in the Merchant Navy and service in both World Wars, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1955. He did not then train for any employment, but took a very keen interest in typing and braille, and was an enthusiastic visitor to Brighton, where he stayed on a number of occasions. He was taken very seriously ill in the autumn and was at home awaiting admission to hospital for treatment, but he died a few minutes after being taken there by ambulance.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to his brother and his wife, with whom he made his home.

(continued on previous page)