

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 500—VOLUME XLVI

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(FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN)

## JOURNALISM FOR THE BLIND

by T. E. UTLEY

CAN a blind man be properly recommended to take up journalism as a profession? Let it be said in the first place that at this particular minute in the history of the British press, it is highly doubtful whether anyone, with or without sight, can prudently be encouraged to take that decision. The press is a shrinking industry and the topsy-turvy character of newspaper economics, which can now condemn an apparently flourishing newspaper with a mass circulation to bankruptcy or absorption, makes the writer's life hard and insecure. The old rule that the best test of a man's fitness for his career is his determination to persist in it in the face of continuous discouragement from the experienced is as valid as ever.

This said, it must also be added that a blind man in journalism labours, at least initially, under certain special difficulties. Braille, for example, though it is essential to him is of far less use than it is in other jobs. His material, hot or relatively hot news, does not get into braille in time to be of service, and he will never have the leisure to write an article in braille before dictating it. He will therefore need from the start the constant help of a secretary, and, since writers as distinct from administrators of newspapers, are not commonly regarded as belonging to the "boss" class, he will normally have to make enough money to pay her himself.

Then again, the traditional path to a successful journalistic career, years of humble employment as a reporter and sub-editor on a provincial newspaper, is firmly closed to a blind man. No provincial editor in his senses would trust someone who could not see to report broken legs and village fetes, or would be willing to carry on his minute staff a trainee who added blindness to inexperience in the list of his qualifications. Nevertheless, this preliminary training or some equivalent of it is an indispensable condition of successful newspaper writing.

After 20 years of journalism, during which I have always been totally blind, I am not inclined to underrate these limitations, but I am also persuaded that they can be overcome and that some of them are even balanced by corresponding advantages. Given a capacity to dictate fluently and the gift of absorbing the substance of passages read aloud rapidly, a blind journalist has one incidental boon of great importance: every fact he quotes must

perforce be checked by his secretary, and while this involves a comparatively slight loss of time, it protects him, I am convinced, against one of the strongest and potentially the most costly vices of the trade, the inaccuracy which results from verifying one's own statements in the atmosphere, at once casual and intense, of a newspaper office. Certainly, the knowledge that one is expected to make mistakes is a great stimulus to avoiding them. Then, again, I have always believed that errors of grammar, repetitions, inconsistencies of language and all the other pitfalls of fast writing, are rather more easily discernible when a piece is read aloud than when it is merely the object of a cursory glance. Altogether, a blind journalist is constrained to be thorough. Book reviewing is an excellent example: certainly, the number of books one can review in a given time is smaller if one has to have them read aloud, but the resulting criticism is probably the more thorough for this discipline.

I went into journalism in what is conventionally described as "the easy way." Having graduated in History from Cambridge, I took a semi-academic job on the staff of the Royal Institute of International Affairs in St. James' Square and there, by chance, met E. H. Carr, the chairman of my board of examiners, who, as part of the war-time plan for putting the services of the intelligentsia to a practical use (it was, of course, a purely emergency measure) had been made deputy editor of *The Times*. He asked me to contribute occasionally to the leader page of that paper, then invited me to accept a holiday appointment on it and finally gave me a temporary job as a foreign leader writer for the six months that remained of the war. By this means, I was launched on a career which had always had great attractions for me but which most considerations of prudence would have prevented me from adopting deliberately.

There followed a circuit of the national press—two years with the *Sunday Times* and Lord Kemsley, a year with the *Observer*, seven more years with *The Times*, and a year as Associate Editor of the *Spectator*. Since 1955 I have been a freelance journalist with regular connections with a number of papers including chiefly, at the moment, the *Sunday Telegraph*.

I would say that the decisive juncture in this career was my appointment to the *Observer*. In those days it had a comparatively small staff with a comparatively young average age. I was able to get there the varied experience which I would otherwise have been denied. I was sometimes a leader writer, sometimes a reporter, sometimes a stand-in diplomatic correspondent. *The Times* and its Literary Supplement, which remain the only papers for which I write with complete ease, had taught me the virtues of accuracy and caution, but the *Observer*, partly because of the atmosphere of frenzied argument in which it was produced and partly because I had the stimulus of belonging to a right wing minority on its staff, stripped me of a good many literary inhibitions with which it is possible for a young man to live comfortably in Printing House Square and made it impossible for me for example ever again to write a sentence remotely resembling this: "The attempt on Hitler's life cannot be regarded as other than in some degree significant of widespread opposition to the existing regime in Germany." As an opening sentence in a war-time leading article in *The Times*, this was no doubt suitable, but as the utterance of a young man of 24, I am disposed to regard it on reflection as intolerable. Above all, the *Observer* gave that experience of miscellaneous writing which is normally to be got only on a provincial paper.

As a class, journalists are self-indulgent, vain, erratic, quarrelsome, personally generous and intellectually ferocious. A newspaper, the daily production of which is a miraculously intricate operation, is to all appearances almost entirely free from hierarchy and almost entirely destitute of organisation. The journalist's life is extraordinarily free and almost entirely insecure!

I see no reason why a blind man with the taste and talent for this sort of existence should not attempt it. He can be sure of one unusual satisfaction; the majority of his readers will not know that he is blind and he will never be published from compassion; he will certainly never be spared attack in print by this markedly fratricidal profession. The punches that are sometimes pulled, even in public life, are delivered remorselessly in the press: "The poverty of Mr. Utley's mind," remarked one reviewer, "is equalled only by the incoherence of his style."

## London Club Notes

To all St. Dunstaners living in the London area, may I remind you that the committee of the above Club cordially invite you to join them on Tuesdays to a whist drive, Thursdays to a domino drive, Saturday afternoons to play bridge followed by a whist drive at 7 p.m. The Club is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturdays from 2 p.m.

The Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophy Competitions start on Tuesday, May 1st, with an eight weeks' aggregate whist competition and Thursday, May 3rd, with an eight weeks' aggregate domino competition. The knock-out competition for dominoes (fives and threes), cribbage and darts will continue during the summer months, all games to be finished by November 24th. To anyone interested in bridge, please contact Jock Brown, who will be very pleased to help you.

Please send your names to the Club Steward, Bob Willis, 191 Marylebone Road, N.W.1, by April 1st, stating the competitions you wish to enter for.

W. BISHOP,  
Chairman, Club Committee.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Club on January 18th. The following Committee members were elected: W. Bishop (Chairman), G. P. Brown, G. Dennis, H. Melison and W. Miller.

## Bridge—Alteration to Fixture Card.

Will members please note that the Ovingdean Congress will take place during the week-end of November 24th and not November 17th as on the card. The Annual General Meeting will take place on November 23rd.

The fixture with Blue Circle is now changed to November 10th.

## "In Touch"

The next "In Touch" programme will be broadcast on Network Three of the B.B.C. on Sunday, February 25th, from 2.40—3 p.m. and will be repeated a fortnight later—on March 11th—at the same time.

There will be another programme broadcast on the same Network at the same time on Sunday, March 25th, and this also will be repeated a fortnight later.

## Royal Tournament and Trooping the Colour Ceremony

I would like to remind St. Dunstaners that we usually receive a few complimentary tickets for the Royal Tournament and Trooping the Colour Ceremony, which take place in June, and anyone wishing to attend should apply to me before March 31st. Our tickets for the Royal Tournament are usually for the Private View, which is held on a Tuesday afternoon and the Trooping the Colour is, of course, held on a Saturday morning.

If there are insufficient tickets to meet the demand, a ballot will be held to decide distribution after priority has been given to persons who have not attended either function before.

C. D. WILLS.

## Mr. Godfrey Robinson

A Memorial Service to Godfrey Robinson, C.B.E., M.C., Chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and Member of the Council of St. Dunstan's, was held at St. Marylebone Parish Church, Marylebone Road, N.W.1, on Wednesday, January 31st.

Sir Neville Pearson was unavoidably prevented from attending. Mr. A. D. Lloyds was present, representing St. Dunstan's. The Service was conducted by the Rector of St. Marylebone, assisted by the Rev. A. C. Nugee, who read the Lesson and the Prayers.

## Masonic

Elmer Glew, of Frankston, Australia, is a Freemason and a Past Master in two Craft Lodges—"The Bolton Memorial," 758 V.C., and "Lodge of Honour," 799 V.C. He shares this honour with three other Victorian blinded soldiers but is the only one to receive Mark Grand Lodge Honours, by the appointment of the Grand Master of Past Grand Sword Bearer.

## The Windsor Reunion

The Windsor Reunion takes place on March 31st. George Eustace is running a coach from Kingston-on-Thames and Ted Dudley is running one from Croydon. Will all those interested please contact them.

★ ★ ★

W. Shotter, of East Ham, won first prize for a polished wooden tray in an Autumn Handicrafts Exhibition while he was in hospital.

### Reunion Programme—1962

All Reunions will be held at 12.30 p.m. for 1 p.m. lunch, with afternoon tea, unless otherwise stated.

Date	Reunion	Member of Executive Council Presiding	Hotel
Sat. 31st March.	WINDSOR (Miss Stevens).	Mr. D. G. Hopewell.	White Hart.
Sat. 7th April.	BOURNEMOUTH (Miss Webster).	Sir Neville Pearson.	Pavilion.
Thurs. 12th April.	EXETER (Miss Webster).	The Rev. Darrell Bunt.	Rougemont.
Sat. 14th April.	BRISTOL (Miss Newbold).	Lord Fraser.	Grand Spa.
Wed. 2nd May.	CANTERBURY (Miss Stevens).	Colonel Ansell.	County.
Wed. 9th May.	BLACKPOOL (Miss Everett).	Mr. D. G. Hopewell.	Savoy.
Fri. 11th May.	CHESTER (Miss Broughton).	Lord Fraser.	Grosvenor.
Sat. 19th May.	MANCHESTER (Miss Everett).	Mr. Alan Pitt Robbins.	Grand.
Wed. 23rd May.	IPSWICH (Miss Meyer).	Colonel Ansell.	Great White Horse.
Fri. 25th May.	NOTTINGHAM (Miss Broughton).	Lord Fraser.	Victoria Station.
Sat. 26th May.	BIRMINGHAM (Miss Newbold).	Lord Fraser.	Queen's.
Sat. 2nd June.	DUBLIN (Mrs. Thompson).	Mr. D. G. Hopewell.	Shelbourne.
Tues. 26th June.	NEWCASTLE (Mrs. King).	Sir Neville Pearson.	Royal Station.
Thurs. 28th June.	EDINBURGH (Mrs. King).	Mr. D. G. Hopewell.	Roxburghe.
Sat. 30th June.	LEEDS (Miss Broughton).	Sir Neville Pearson.	Metropole.
Fri. 6th July.	BRIGHTON (Miss Blebta).	Sir Brian Horrocks.	Metropole.
Sat. 14th July.	LUTON (Miss Meyer).	Sir Neville Pearson.	George.
Thurs. 27th Sept.	LONDON (Miss Dodd).	Sir Neville Pearson.	Coventry Street Corner House.

*Evening Function.*

### Sutton Club Notes

Our Christmas Party took place on January 13th and was well attended by members, also our guests from Headquarters, Miss Mosley and Miss Warter, whom we were very pleased to see.

All members were very sorry that our President, Lady Onslow, owing to indisposition, was unable to be with us and all sent her our wishes for a very speedy recovery.

After a very nice tea, prizes were presented for games played at the monthly meetings during the year, then a very nice entertainment by the Owlers' Concert Party was thoroughly enjoyed by us all.

At the Annual General Meeting on January 27th, Mr. Ted Dudley was re-elected as Chairman; Mr. Swayne and Mr. Madgwick were returned on the Committee and Mr. Bob Dow in charge of games.

It was put forward by Mr. Dudley that he would try and arrange for bowls to be played at Cheam three Saturdays in every month, teams being made up of semi-sighted and totally blind members, and eventually for matches to be played with other clubs.

All new members will be made very welcome at our Club, where games of dominoes and darts can be played, and a general get-together once a month keeps St. Dunstaners, with their wives, in touch with each other.

Our yearly outing to Southsea will take place on June 23rd or 30th. Members will be notified.

We were all very sorry that Miss Stevens was unable to attend our Annual General Meeting as she had been ordered by her doctor to rest. I feel sure that all who know her will join with me in wishing her well again soon.

The next meeting of the Club is February 24th, which is a Bring and Buy.

E. FLYNN.

### Miss Jones Writes—

My dear St. Dunstaners friends,

Thank you very much indeed for the extremely kind and very generous present you all joined in giving me for my retirement. With it I am getting a good camera and all necessary equipment for colour photography (which I hope will be one of my future hobbies), and a couple of comfortable garden chairs and a table—to ensure rest and refreshment after taking pictures!!

And when I use these—your presents—I shall think especially and with great happiness of all your kind thoughts and good wishes.

The future will be enriched with many very happy memories of my twenty-five years among you all. May your future, too, hold many blessings and much happiness—and again—Thank you.

M. T. H. JONES

### Anagram Competition

There was a good entry for this competition and J. Boyd, of Roedean, was lucky in being first out of the hat for the five guineas. As this was Jock's second win in two months, we added another prize of three guineas and this time it was S. V. Tutton's turn. The correct solution was:

1. INDUCEMENT.
2. CANDELABRA.
3. NECESSITY.
4. UNWARINESS.

### Christmas Competition

#### An Apology

It has come to our notice that there was a mistake in the braille announcement of the Transposers Competition which must have caused confusion and exasperation to intending competitors, and partly explained the lack of response.

The word "blest" which appeared correctly spelt in the ink-print copy was unfortunately mis-printed in the braille issue as "blessed."

All entries have again been scrutinised and prizes of two guineas each are going to A. J. Radford, of Castle Cary (Oh, I changed my five lawn sheets, too) and P. S. Sumner, of Tunbridge Wells (When cold vain sheet bodes a mighty foe).

Roy Hyett followed the printed version but enclosed his entry with that for the other competition and it was overlooked. He, too, found a perfect anagram—The dawn fog inevitably chooseth me—and two guineas goes to him as well.

Our sincere apologies to everyone. Would anyone like to transpose with the Editor?

### Going Abroad?

Although, as we hope, the smallpox outbreak in this country has now been checked, it is still necessary in the case of most European countries to obtain an international vaccination certificate if you are thinking of going to any of them and you have not been vaccinated within the last three years.

Our St. Dunstaner, Peter Piper, works in an office concerned with passports, etc., and he draws attention to a fact which is frequently overlooked. Not only must the certificate be signed by the doctor performing the vaccination, but it must be countersigned by the local Health Department.

### Camp—Lee-on-Solent

Friday, August 24th, to Saturday, September 1st. An invitation has come to spend the week as guests of the Senior Service for the seventeenth year. Please send your entries along as soon as possible as beds are limited. Camp fee: £2. Fares over the first £1 repaid.

Mrs. SPURWAY,  
The Vicarage,  
Holmwood, Dorking.

Tel.: Dorking 73191.

### Thanks

A letter from Bill Harding, of London, N, appeared in the *Daily Sketch* on February 14th thanking G.P.O. workers for delivering braille books and talking book records to him and his friends during the "troublesome period."

#### The Pleasures of Thinking

*When all is done and said,  
In th' end, thus shall you find,  
He most of all doth bathe in bliss  
That hath a quiet mind;  
And, clear from all worldly cares,  
To deem can be content,  
The sweetest time in all his life,  
In thinking to be spent.*

*The body subject is  
To fickle Fortune's power;  
And to a million mishaps,  
Is casual every hour.  
And death in time doth change  
It to a clod of clay;  
When as the mind, which is divine,  
Rms never to decay.*

*Companion none is like  
Unto the mind alone;  
For many have been harmed by speech;  
Through thinking, few or none.  
Fear oftentimes restraineth words,  
But makes not thought to cease;  
And he speaks best that hath the skill  
When for to hold his peace.*

*Our wealth leaves us at our death,  
Our kinsmen at the grave;  
But virtues of the mind unto  
The heavens with us we have.  
Therefore, for Virtue's sake,  
I can be well content,  
The sweetest time of all my life  
To deem in thinking spent.*

LORD VAUX (1510-1556)

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIR,

On February 8th I completed six years of companionship, travel and adventure with Dianna, my well-known guide dog.

In five and a half years, we have travelled over 70,000 miles all over the country, using every kind of transport except air travel. We have done all this mileage without assistance. Many of our journeys involve changes of trains and buses yet I find that with well thought out planning, all goes well. Dianna accepts the challenge with me and there is no doubt that my early view that a guide dog can only be a efficient as its owner is justified by our journeys. When I hear people compare the guide dog as of human intelligence, I object; the guide dog is in a mental category of its own. It never goes on strike or goes slow; it is loyal to a very high degree that many people could follow.

I find on travelling that more sighted people will talk to you than is the case when carrying a white stick.

I agree with Commander Buckley that providing you are fit, and have a good sensory perception, you are free from sighted people.

I find that so long as Dianna and I have planned our travel with care, we always get there.

In the argument of white stick versus white harness, I am sure that white harness is the perfect answer to the problems of companionship and mobility.

Dianna opened a new life of adventure for me as most of my mileage has been done for St. Dunstan's; it has enabled me to meet people and visit places I would otherwise have never been to.

I have been in close touch with Commander Buckley since the first day he met Amber and will follow their happy life with interest.

Yours sincerely,

D. B. ELROD,  
*Sheffield.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I am writing to congratulate R.C.B.B. on his splendid article, "One Man and His Dog," and at his invitation would like to make the following comments.

I have had my dog since he was four weeks old and he will be eleven next June.

Unfortunately, when I made my application to Captain Liakkoff at Leamington Spa Training Centre, I was 55 years of age and the age limit at that time (1950) was 50. The Captain advised me to get a puppy collie dog and train him myself. This I did and although it took a great deal of patience, I have the satisfaction of having a pal I would not take an open cheque for. I have trained my Prince to ride in all types of transport and he will take me for walks over the Sussex Downs, winter and summer. He has taken me to London, Manchester and Kent by train, bus and taxi, and I have the utmost confidence in him at all times.

To Commander Buckley I would say—your article gave me very much pleasure when my wife read it to me and I wish both you and Amber all the best of good luck in your future outings. I know from experience that nothing will give you more pleasure than going for long walks with her. I am 67 years old and when the weather is normal we go for a seven or eight miles' walk.

I do hope that others who own a dog will send articles to the REVIEW for I am sure they are all very proud of their animals, who have far more intelligence than many humans.

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR BRAMSON,  
*South Woodingdean.*

DEAR EDITOR,

We are often fascinated and sometimes puzzled by the amazing intelligence which is shown by properly trained guide dogs for the blind, but a few days ago a friend of mine told me of two South African finches which he has and one of these birds also definitely possesses this extra sensory perception.

Both birds are cock birds aged about five and six years respectively. The eldest bird recently went completely blind but the sighted bird seemed to realise immediately what was the matter with his companion and "led" him to the food and water troughs by means of peculiar calls and nudging. He applies the same methods when it is time to go to sleep.

To prove his observations beyond any doubt, my friend changed the position of the food and water troughs but the result

### Australian Letter

Replying to a letter sent to him when London was under four to six inches of snow, Bill Seabrook writes from Macleod Repatriation Hospital, Victoria:

"I am writing this in a temperature of just 104 degrees. Which would you sooner have? The bush fires are all in a semi-circle around us and we are copping the heat from them on top of the 104 degrees. The smoke is just terrific and you can only see about 150 yards from the windows. The Army has been called out to help the volunteer workers trying to stop the onrush, but what a hope on a 120 mile semi-circle? We have the wireless going all the time as many of the staff who work here, plus a couple of the patients, have their homes there. Over the radio we have been told that the temperature has dropped to 101. The temperature is given every half-hour. Everybody, of course, feels the heat, but the patients here can't stand up to it... We are all in singlets and shorts and some are short, too! It's a case of 'legs eleven.' Over the radio more calls for people to make up sandwiches for the fire-beaters and take them to Ringwood, which is the nearest they can get with food and drink. We have planes overhead contracted by our Commercial Wireless stations passing on information to their respective stations, plus the telecast which you will get later on, or perhaps have already. The temperature is still 101 plus the bush-fire heat. "Cheers to my snow-bound friends!"

### Retirement

T. Milner, of Liverpool, has retired after forty-three years of service with the R.N.I.B., and in recognition of his splendid work, he has been presented with a gold braille wristlet watch by Lieut. Col. T. L. Frankland on behalf of his colleagues.

Mrs. Milner was also given a beautiful leather bag.

### Photograph Wanted

The daughter of our late St. Dunstaner, George Strutt, of Sheffield, who died in March, 1959, wonders if anyone has a photograph of her father and if so, whether they would consider parting with it, or letting her borrow it to have a copy made.

If anyone can help, will they please contact Miss Midgley at Headquarters.

was the same and the blind bird is happy and flourishing.

This is, as far as I am concerned, the first really authenticated example of any animal realising what was required of him instinctively and it would be very interesting if any of your readers have heard of similar cases.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN MARTIN,  
*London, W.11.*

### Correction

There was a mix-up of type in last month's printed REVIEW. The second letter to the Chairman on "My Story of St. Dunstan's," should have read:

"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 my workshop and would not like to think of giving up yet.

ARTHUR CLOVER,  
*Long Melford."*

In the printed REVIEW, Arthur's name was omitted and his letter was joined on to the next one which also happened to be from a joiner—T. Till, of Lancaster.

### 5½ Mile Walk—Ewell East

A 5½ Mile Walk was held on Saturday, February 3rd, at the L.C.C. Ground, Ewell East, by kind invitation of Mr. Plant.

Chief Inspector James brought his Metropolitan Police as escorts and he himself acted as judge and handicapper. The Countess of Onslow started the race, Mrs. Sheila McLeod presented the prizes, Miss Diana Hoare was there to help and so it was a reunion of the Camp helpers.

#### RESULT

	<i>H'cp.</i> <i>Time</i>	<i>H'cp.</i> <i>All.</i>	<i>Actual</i> <i>Time</i>
1. Mendham, R. ...	46.37	8.30	55.07
2. Wright, J. ...	46.50	17.00	63.50
3. Stafford, C. ...	47.26	8.00	55.26
4. Miller, W. ...	48.09	2.30	50.39
5. Taylor, John ...	49.21	16.50	66.11
6. Simpson, J. ...	49.22	Scr.	49.22
7. Newton, R. ...	53.05	9.00	62.05
			A.S.

### Personal

Mrs. G. B. Dacre writes:

"I am most grateful for the many very kind letters I have had from St. Dunstaners on the unexpected death of my husband. I hope by the time the REVIEW goes to press to have acknowledged the many kind letters individually. In case I have not been able to do this, may I thank my husband's good friends for their letters and the generous things they have said of him. I can assure you these tributes have been a great joy and a very real consolation to me and I am deeply touched and very grateful."

### Mr. E. W. Roberts

When Mr. E. W. Roberts, of the Industrial Department, recently retired, the many St. Dunstaners he had served so well for many years presented him with a cheque to cover the cost of his chosen present—a Zetomatt colour-slide projector. Mr. Roberts writes:

"I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all my St. Dunstaner friends for their very generous contributions to my retirement gift; this was a colour-slide projector which is affording my wife and myself endless hours of enjoyment and will also serve to remind us of our many friends. Thank you also for the very nice tributes you have paid me. I look forward to meeting you again at reunions.

ROBBIE"

### Alarm Clock for the Blind

Recommended by a St. Dunstaner is an Alarm Clock made in Switzerland which has been specially designed for the use of the blind. It has a thirty-hour movement fitted into an attractive round brass case. It is 2¼ inches in diameter and weighs seven ounces.

The price is £2 13s. 0d. net, and it can be obtained from the R.N.I.B., Catalogue No. 9399.

### T. V. Appearance

On Friday, February 9th, R. Mendham, of Chadwell Heath, appeared in the I.T.V. programme "Here and Now." This edition was presented from Cruft's Dog Show, high-lighting interesting breeds and especially those who are still used for work. Roy talked to the interviewer about his Golden Labrador guide dog, Lindy Lou, who is now eight years old and has been guiding her master for seven years.

### Birmingham Club Notes

On February 10th, Club members experienced something that has not happened for years, namely, a Saturday meeting and that in the form of a theatre party.

The occasion was an afternoon visit to the pantomime at the Alexandra Theatre where a bright and pleasing performance of "Aladdin" delighted a crowded audience.

After the show, coaches and cars transferred the majority to the Red Cross Headquarters where Miss Wall and her friends had prepared a sumptuous tea, with "hot dogs," varied sandwiches and cakes, scones, buns, etc., in quantities that defied the best efforts of our hearty appetite.

The pleasure of the day was enhanced by the presence of Mrs. Spurway, the founder and for many years the inspiration of the Birmingham Club. All members were glad to welcome her. It was also a great pleasure to have with us St. Dunstan's new Visitor for the Midlands, Miss I. Newbold.

Unfortunately the prime mover of the Club's present activities, Mr. Shakespeare, was not able to be with us. We all missed him but all are sensible of the debt we owe him and our Hon. Secretary, Miss Streets, for all the arrangements for the attendance at the theatre, the transport to tea and home again through the help of the Voluntary Transport Services, and all the things which resulted in a memorable afternoon and evening, for which each member would wish to express grateful thanks. R.T.C.

### Golden Wedding

On February 14th—St. Valentine's Day—Mr. and Mrs. T. Till, of Lancaster, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. Our warmest congratulations to them both.

### 45 Years Married

On January 20th, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Cooper, of Bridlington, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to them also.

### Silver Wedding

We have just heard that Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Whitley, of Romsey, celebrated their Silver Wedding on October 17th. Congratulations.

★ ★ ★

In the January REVIEW we gave the late Mr. L. R. King's age as 68. Our St. Dunstaner was in fact 64 when he died.

### Family News

Tony Smith, son of "Smudger" Smith, of Wembley Park, is musical director and plays the tenor sax. and baritone sax. in the seven-piece band, the Flintstones, now touring the country and U.S. bases in Britain. This band has just made its first record, "Big Feet" (H.M.V. Pop. 981) under the label of "The Stonehengenmen." On February 17th, on Radio Luxemburg, "Big Feet" was played in honour of Tony's 21st birthday.

Many early St. Dunstaners will remember Tony's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lovett, now in their 80's. They celebrated their Golden Wedding on December 25th last.

★ ★ ★

Their friends will hear with regret that J. Hamilton, of Nottingham, and P. Todd, of Shrewsbury, have recently lost their fathers-in-law. Mrs. Todd's father will be remembered by many who were at Church Stretton.

★ ★ ★

We have also heard with regret of the death on January 9th, of Mrs. Robinson, the widow of our St. Dunstaner, W. A. Robinson, of Grimsby; Mrs. Robinson survived her husband by only a few months.

### Marriages of Sons and Daughters

On August 11th, Kenneth George Greenwood, Worthing, to Judith Patricia Bell.

### From All Quarters

Double-Centurion Les Dennis was present at the Mansion House on February 9th, when new Centurions received awards from the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Frederick Hoare.

★ ★ ★

W. E. Ridley, of Grand Forks, British Columbia, has been presented with a Life Membership in Branch 59, Royal Canadian Legion. Only a handful have had this honour conferred upon them. It is in recognition of active participation in the work of the Legion and our St. Dunstaner has been a member since 1927. He assumed every executive position until 1946, when he gave way to younger members.

### Grandfathers

G. T. Edmonds, of Ewell, Surrey; and new grandchildren for the following: W. Bentley, of Manchester (the ninth); G. Weldrick, of Hull (the sixteenth and the fourth great-grandchild).

### Godfrey Robinson, C.B.E., M.C.

Brian Worrall Smith writes:

"Godfrey Robinson arrived at Uppingham School in September, 1911, along with the usual quota of new boys, and like the rest of us had to go through the initial minor tribulations which so quickly fade into obscurity after the first year.

"During 1912-13, it became increasingly clear that he promised to develop into an excellent all-rounder at games, and in the autumn of 1912 he was a formidable opponent as scrum-half in the Under-16 House rugby matches and games. He had a wonderful eye and given half a chance would have the ball out to his three-quarter line like lightning. Godfrey was lithe and wiry, and not being very tall would often slip through the defences and score while half of them were looking round to see what had happened to the ball.

"There was one hazard which Godfrey and all the smaller members of a House team had to face in the autumn term of 1912.

"Sooner or later one had to play hard against the School House, and among its rugby team was a very tall boy, two years our senior. He was not only in the School XV, but seemed to have an almost telescopic hand-off. He also had very long legs and hard bony knees. The only hope of salvation—if one had managed to elude the hand-off—was to hurl oneself at where the ankles of those legs ought to be. The last time I spoke with Godfrey Robinson, about three years ago, he had been saying how very pleased he was that 'the tall boy,' Sir Brian Horrocks, had joined the Council.

"In 1914, Godfrey became outstandingly good at all games. Why he was not selected as scrum-half in the First XV still remains a mystery.

"In 1915 he won his place in both the Hockey and the Cricket XIs. At the latter game he was first-class. He had the eye, the speed and neatness of action which were a pleasure to watch, and there is little doubt that had he come through the war unscathed, he would have figured prominently in county cricket, and might well have gone higher.

"At Fives he was nothing short of brilliant, winning his place in the School Fives IV in 1914 and captaining it in 1915.

"In all these activities Godfrey Robinson

showed a determination and single-mindedness of purpose which has characterised his whole life. In spite of his successes he never had a trace of conceit, and whether he won or lost always remained the same friendly chap.

"Of Godfrey it is indeed true to say that the boy was father to the man."

### Gregory Matrenin

A. Sterno writes:

It is very often said that old soldiers never die but only fade away. This was true about my very old Russian friend, G. Matrenin, who really did fade away on February 6th.

I was first sent to visit him in 1917 when he arrived from France, very badly wounded, to go to the 3rd London General Hospital at Wandsworth. I was taken there by the late Miss Ayre, who asked me to go to see him to translate to him in Russian what St. Dunstan's stood for. He could not speak any English at that time. He visited my home at Bath for fifteen years or more, every summer holiday, and any other odd times he wanted to come. He was a really very happy-go-lucky and jolly fellow, and always had good jokes and funny sayings for everyone he talked to. This, nearly all our first-war St. Dunstaners can say.

My wife and I visited him from February last year at Pearson House every month until he left us. We never expected him to be on this earth for so long.

### Deaths

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the following:

DAVIES.—To J. Davies, of Wirral, Cheshire, who has suffered a double bereavement in the deaths of two sisters, within twelve days of each other, during January.

HORTON.—To J. Horton, of Barnsley, who lost his wife on January 30th.

MOORE.—To A. D. Moore, of Oxhey, Watford, whose father died suddenly in January.

PURVIS.—To S. Purvis, of Seghill, in the death of his only brother in February.

WOODHALL.—To W. J. Woodhall, of Birmingham, who lost his father on January 23rd.

### Miss B. V. MacAndrew

We have heard with deep regret of the death, on February 4th, of Miss B. V. MacAndrew. She was 84.

Miss MacAndrew offered her services to St. Dunstan's shortly after the outbreak of the First World War. She had learned braille in order to pass on her knowledge to our men. She also took a great interest in the Surrey County Association for the Blind where she helped in many ways.

Between the wars, as the training of St. Dunstan's men grew less, she returned to her home but always kept in touch with many old friends.

When the Second War came she again offered her services, and hundreds of St. Dunstaners will remember her at Church Stretton and later at Ovingdean, not only as a braille teacher but as a general instructor for there were few subjects in which she did not excel. In fact, she was affectionately known as the "Walking Encyclopaedia!"

It is difficult to relate the many kindnesses and the help she has given to so many over the years; we mourn her death but have memories of a sincere and kind friend.

### Miss Winifred Shand

St. Dunstaners who were at the College and at Cornwall Terrace will hear with deep regret of the death on February 9th of Miss Winifred Shand.

Miss Shand was a V.A.D. at the College from 1918 until 1920, then Matron at Cornwall Terrace following the retirement of Miss Hacking in 1920. She remained at Cornwall Terrace until July, 1921, when the Bungalow was closed and Matron Power took over.

Miss Shand, who was 80, leaves a sister who is 86.

### Mr. W. C. Carnall

Our attention has been drawn to an error in last month's obituary notice of the late Mr. W. C. Carnall, for which we must apologise.

It was stated that Mrs. Carnall was Billy's second wife. This was not so. When our St. Dunstaner married Miss Leyshon in 1946, it was his first marriage and a most happy one.

We regret the distress this error must have caused Mrs. Carnall.

## "In Memory"

### Driver Frederick John Brown, Royal Horse Artillery

With deep regret we record the death of F. J. Brown, of Brighton; he was 71.

He was an old soldier, having enlisted in October, 1908, and he left the Army in December, 1917, coming to St. Dunstan's the following year. He trained as a basket-maker and worked at his craft in Birmingham until 1956 when he moved to Brighton. He had suffered with his chest for some time but it was only early in January that he became ill and he went to Pearson House. His condition became serious and he was admitted to Brighton General Hospital where he died on January 20th.

Our deep sympathy is sent to his widow.

### Private Thomas George Christy, Welch Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of T. G. Christy, of East Ham, at the early age of 42.

He enlisted soon after the outbreak of the Second World War and received his discharge in February, 1946, but it was not until August, 1955, that he came to us. He was then an invalid which ruled out any training. There were periods when he was better and his death on January 21st came quite suddenly and unexpected.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Christy, who is left with two young children, Linda, aged 11, and David, aged 8.

### Private Joseph Davidson, Royal Irish Fusiliers

We record with deep regret the death of J. Davidson, formerly of Co. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, but recently of Pearson House. He was 77.

He served from the beginning of the First World War, being wounded at Suvla Bay in 1915. He came to St. Dunstan's the following year where he trained as a basket and mat-maker, carrying on these crafts for many years. He became a permanent resident at Pearson House in 1949. He became ill only at the beginning of February and he died a fortnight later, on February 15th.

Our sincere sympathy is sent to his married sister and his other relatives.

### Rifleman Joseph Edwards, 2/6 London Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of J. Edwards, of Tottenham. He was 73.

His war service was from November, 1915, until June, 1918, and he came to St. Dunstan's the following year where he trained in telephony. He remained in this occupation until his retirement in December, 1957. Mrs. Edwards had died only a few months prior to this and since then his son had lived with him while his married daughter had done a great deal for them both. Our deep sympathy is sent to them.

### Private Gregory Matrenin, 26th Australian Imperial Forces

We have to record with deep regret the death at the age of 73 of Gregory Matrenin, a permanent resident since 1951 at Pearson House.

Russian born, he went to Australia and later served in the Australian Forces from 1915 to 1918. He was wounded at Bellecourt in 1917 and came to St. Dunstan's the next year. He trained in rug-making and basket-making and he carried on these crafts until he became a permanent resident at Brighton. He was a widower and although he had been in poor health for some time, his death was a sad loss to his daughter and son-in-law, to whom we send our sincere sympathy.

### Private Joseph Baxter, Labour Corps and Royal Cheshires

With deep regret we record the death on February 2nd of J. Baxter, of Ashtead, Surrey. He was 68.

His war service was from November, 1916, until November, 1917, and he came to St. Dunstan's in November, 1925. He trained in telephony and followed this occupation until 1940 when he went into business. In 1947 he took up dog breeding as a hobby, in addition to his handicraft work. His health began to deteriorate in 1961 and at the end of last year he was admitted to hospital where he died a month later.

He was buried at Holmwood, Surrey, and among those present were his St. Dunstan's friends, Messrs. G. Eustace and R. Botly, and Mrs. Spurway.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Baxter and his other relatives.

### Private Hugh Frederick Allcock, Labour Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. F. Allcock, of Pearson House, at the age of 78.

Enlisting in December, 1915, he served until March, 1918, but it was not until 1938 that he came to St. Dunstan's. He took training in wool-rug work but did not pursue it seriously. Early in the fifties he spent much time at his son's home but in 1955 he became a permanent resident at Pearson House.

His son died several years ago and our deep sympathy goes to his daughter-in-law and his grandchildren who had visited him regularly at Pearson House.

### Private William Bower, Yorks. and Lancs. Regiment

We have to record with deep regret the death at his home of W. Bower, of Sheffield. He was 83.

His service began at the outbreak of the 1914-1918 war and he left the Army in 1917, having been wounded at St. Julien, coming to St. Dunstan's in 1921.

He was a poultry-keeper for some years but gave this up in 1934. He had only been ill for a few weeks before his death.

He leaves a son to whom our very sincere sympathy is sent.

**"In Memory"** (continued from page 11)

**Private Reginald Lugg, Wiltshire Regiment**

With deep regret we record the death on January 18th of R. Lugg, of Zeals, Warminster. He was 73. Although he served in the First World War from December, 1915, until February, 1919, it was not until November, 1956, that he entered St. Dunstan's when, owing to his age and poor state of health, he was not able to take any training. He had been bedridden throughout almost all this time, being nursed by his daughter, Constance. Our deep sympathy goes out to her and to the other members of his family.

**Company Sergeant Major Robert Middlemiss, 2nd King's Own Scottish Borderers**

We have to report, with deep regret, the death on January 23rd after a prolonged illness in Bevendean Hospital, Brighton, of Robert Middlemiss, of Kidderminster. He was 80.

This fine old soldier was wounded at Gallipoli in 1915, receiving his discharge from the Army and coming to St. Dunstan's that same year. He had the privilege of going to America in 1916 to lecture on behalf of the Permanent Blind War Relief Fund and on his return trained first in poultry-keeping and then as a physiotherapist. He continued in this profession for many years.

He was a widower and our deep sympathy is sent to his married daughter and her family.

**Private Harry Mortimer, Royal Field Artillery**

We have to record with deep regret the death at his home on January 13th of Harry Mortimer, of Hull. He was 67.

He served from the outbreak of war until 1917, being admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in 1923. He trained in netting and rug-making but ran a small greengrocer's business until 1931. He then took up boot repairing but his health, which was never very good, forced him presently to give this up also. It had deteriorated considerably in recent months and he had suffered a long illness before he died.

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

**Sergeant Philip Lynch, 13th Durham Light Infantry**

With deep regret we record the death on January 23rd of P. Lynch, of Brandon, Co. Durham. He died at his home; he was 78.

He served from 1914 until 1919 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1952. Owing to his age then, he was not able to take training but his garden gave him a great interest. He had a large family, both in children and grandchildren, and their company was one of the great pleasures of his life.

To Mrs. Lynch and to all his family we offer our deep sympathy at his passing.

**Gunner John Orrell, Royal Field Artillery**

We have to record with deep regret the death in hospital after a brief illness of John Orrell, a permanent resident at Pearson House. He died on January 19th, at the age of 69.

His war service was from 1914 until 1915 (he was wounded at Festubert) and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1917, where he trained as a mat-maker and in boot repairing. Both of these crafts he carried on for a good number of years.

He was a bachelor and he had been a resident at Pearson House for many years. Our sincere sympathy is extended to all his relatives.

**Private Samuel Sephton, Royal Fusiliers**

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of S. Sephton, of St. Helens, Lancashire. He died at his home on January 22nd at the age of 72.

He had served with the Royal Fusiliers from 1914 until 1915 when he was gassed in Belgium; he came to St. Dunstan's two years later. He trained as a basket-maker and was able to carry on with this occupation until 1950 when ill-health intervened. He had been very seriously ill recently but his death nevertheless was sudden and unexpected.

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

**Corporal George Christopher Stacy, 12th Middlesex Regiment**

We have to report with great regret the death in hospital on January 21st of G. C. Stacy, of Marks Tey, Essex. He was 70.

He served in the First World War and came to St. Dunstan's in 1916. He was first a masseur but later he took training in poultry farming and this he did until 1937. Thereafter his health deteriorated slowly and he was obliged to live very quietly. He had been seriously ill before Christmas but his death still came as a great shock to us all.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow and daughter and her family.