

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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(FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN)

THE BLIND SCIENTIST

BY

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"IS it possible for a blind man to pursue a scientific career?" That was the question I had to ask myself when I lost my sight just over three years ago. I had plenty of time to deliberate while undergoing eight operations for retinal detachment. For after such operations it is essential for the patient to be on "bed absolute" for at least two weeks and during this time I was not only in a private room but I was not allowed to have visitors. I consequently had plenty of time to contemplate my future and I knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life before I left hospital for the last time in February, 1959. This was to continue my career as a research biochemist.

At the time I lost my sight, I was the Senior Lecturer in Chemical Pathology at University College Hospital Medical School, where I had been carrying out research for the past twelve years on biochemical problems related to disorders of the thyroid gland and of the blood. During that time I had also spent one year in the United States on a Rockefeller Fellowship. At the time of losing my sight I had had nearly twenty years' experience of a practical nature in research. This past experience as a sighted person greatly influenced my decision to carry on my career as a research biochemist. My experience in hospital was also a major factor in the decision that I finally reached, for I came to realise that many forms of blindness were caused by slow but progressive changes of a biochemical nature within the eye. I therefore decided to devote the rest of my life to a study of the chemical pathology of the eye, to direct research into the causes and prevention of blindness and to encourage others to do likewise. Before leaving hospital therefore, I knew what I wanted to do and I was impatient to get started. Thus I did not experience the period of frustration that most of the newly blind go through before they find their feet. This was yet to come.

While still in hospital I started to learn braille and I had the standard works on the biochemistry of the eye on my bedside table, which my wife read to me during visiting hours. As soon as I returned home I started to learn to touch type and I spent ten hours a day learning to read and write again, i.e. braille and typing. This was in March, 1959, and by the time I went to the Royal National Institute for the Blind's rehabilitation centre at Torquay in May of that year, I had read my first detective novel in braille. At the same time my colleagues in the Medical School were recording scientific books and articles on to

tape and I returned from Torquay filled with enthusiasm and anxious to get started. In the meantime the Medical School had terminated my appointment, for they did not think it would be possible for a blind person to continue a scientific career.

I was still convinced that I could carry on, for at that time I knew of three blind men, all of whom had continued to be very successful biochemists and to reach positions of eminence after losing their sight in the middle of their careers—Professor W. O. Kermack, F.R.S., Professor of Biological Chemistry at Aberdeen, Professor M. F. Jayle, Professor of Biochemistry in Paris and Dr. D. W. Woolley, one of the leading American biochemists, who works at the Rockefeller Institute in New York. All of these men I had known or met at scientific meetings before I lost my sight and I had taken their positions, ability and normality for granted, never thinking that blindness could ever happen to me. Soon after returning from Torquay I was introduced to two very successful blind chemists, Mr. R. Furness, a St. Dunstaner who lost his sight in the First World War and has only recently retired after being the director of research of a large industrial organisation for many years; and also to another St. Dunstaner, Mr. J. Oriel, who includes amongst his many other scientific activities that of being a Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge. Professor Kermack, Mr. Furness and Mr. Oriel all gave me invaluable help and I have benefited much from their years of experience. Even though I am not a St. Dunstaner, I received much encouragement and help from Lord Fraser.

Enthusiasm is contagious and the Medical School very generously offered me a Fellowship for three years in order to see whether or not I could continue in my chosen career. I was to be allowed to carry out research on any subject I liked to choose on condition that the quality of the research was to be judged, not later than two years after the commencement of the Fellowship. This was a challenge; I had to prove not only to myself but to two distinguished external examiners that I, a blind person, could still conduct effective research in a field that was new to me. My chosen field of eye research is all-absorbing and I had no time to become depressed or despondent; there was too much to be done. My two years' work has now been assessed and as a result the Medical School have conferred on me the status of Senior Lecturer in Biochemical Ophthalmology until October, 1965.

Besides directing research I had to have read to me a considerable amount of scientific literature in order to write papers and articles and to prepare lectures. In order to do this effectively and to save my assistants time, everything that we read was also simultaneously recorded on tape so that it never had to be read by a sighted person for a second time. I thus accumulated a vast quantity of tape and in order to find any particular recording it was necessary to have a tape position indicator that I myself could use. Details of this have now been published in the January issue of the R.N.I.B.'s publication *Tape Record*. I also had an identical tape recorder at home as well as in the laboratory so that I could carry recorded tapes home in my pocket and use them as talking books. Other aids that I use are the Perkins upright braille writer and the Ochner braille calculating machine. The latter enables me to calculate our experimental results and I am sure that this type of small office calculator which the Swedes supply with special adaptations, such as braille numerals and locating dots, would be a great asset to many other blind people. One can do straightforward multiplications and divisions of any number of figures as quickly as a sighted person can do the same calculations with the aid of logarithmic tables.

I have tried to live as full a life as possible, having been inspired by the second book I read in braille which was Lord Fraser's *Whereas I was Blind*. During the past two years I have served on the Braille Science Notation Committee, the Executive Council of the National Federation of the Blind, a Ministry of Labour Disability Advisory Committee and the Prevention of Blindness Committee of the R.N.I.B. The last committee is performing a very important and vital task. At the present time the incidence of blindness in this country is increasing and in order to prevent this much more research is needed. The fact that basic research can be effective has been clearly demonstrated in the cases of retrolental fibroplasia and of ophthalmitis neonatorum. The first disease was caused by maintaining premature infants in an atmosphere too rich in oxygen and once this was realised it became quite a simple matter to prevent this form of blindness. The use of antibiotics has also greatly

reduced the incidence of blindness in children. So great in fact has this reduction been that the R.N.I.B. have found it necessary to close some of the Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies as there are no longer enough blind children to fill them. Research in this field obviously yields results but much more research is needed. There is at present a shortage both of the trained personnel needed to carry out such research and of the necessary financial support. Adequate funds, however, would soon increase the number of scientists available. Each year, newly qualified chemists are leaving our universities, but few enter the field of ophthalmic research. They can much more easily obtain grants to study problems connected with cancer, rheumatism, poliomyelitis and mental health than they can to work on the prevention of blindness. In America there are several organisations that encourage eye research; such as the National Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness, Fight for Sight Inc., the Retina Foundation and the government controlled National Institutes of Health at Bethesda. Until now, there has been no such organisation in this country but there is every hope that such an organisation will soon be formed.

I began this article by asking "Is it possible for a blind man to pursue a scientific career?" The phrasing of this question reflects an attitude of mind but it is the way that most people, both blind and sighted, would put the question. I think, however, that it would have been better to have asked, "Why is it not possible for a blind man to pursue a scientific career?" The organisation and direction of research requires a knowledge of the known facts and the ability to make decisions; to be able to decide which experiment should be carried out and to interpret the results. The ability of blind people to practise law efficiently is in many ways analogous. The lawyer has to have a comprehensive knowledge of his subject and then to arrive at conclusions in a given set of circumstances. The scientist who loses his sight in the middle of his career is therefore still able to continue in his career so long as he has the necessary assistants to carry out the technical manipulations, since most scientific advances or discoveries are made in the human mind. This may not seem to be readily apparent but let us take a simple hypothetical experiment. In this a colourless compound A is mixed with another colourless compound B, and the solution turns red. These are the observed facts which can be learned as readily by the blind man by being told them, as by actually seeing them for himself, but the fact that the solution turned red is unimportant; what is important is *why* it turned red, and this can only be worked out in the mind; or if enough facts are not already known to enable an answer to be derived, then another experiment must be planned so as to supply the information which is lacking. A blind person who has less visual distractions than his sighted colleagues and more time to ponder over the results is at an advantage, but this is counteracted by the fact that he cannot intelligently skip certain passages when being read to and so the accumulation or checking of information is a slower process for him.

The greatest difficulty that a blind person encounters in attempting to follow a scientific career, and indeed any career, is the attitude of the sighted. It may appear from this account that the transition from a sighted to a blind career has met with little opposition. This is not so; and, it has not been for any lack of compassion or generosity of the authorities concerned; it is very difficult for the sighted person to appreciate that a blind person is not just the same as a sighted person who imagines he cannot see. All animals, even humans, possess powers of adaptation and blindness is more of an inconvenience than a handicap, since it brings with it the reinforcement of the other perceptory senses.

St. Dunstaner is Mayor-elect

Our warmest congratulations to Alderman Harry White who has been nominated Mayor-elect of Stalybridge, Cheshire.

The Mayor-making ceremony will take place on Monday, May 28th, and the Mayor's Reception will be held on Friday, June 1st.

Chess Week-end

The Chess Week-end will take place at Ovingdean this year from the 16th to 18th November, inclusive, and all chess players, whether experts or beginners, are welcome. Those interested should write to me at Headquarters.

C. D. WILLS.

London Club Notes

Bridge.—The **Harrogate Week** will be held this year from September 15th—22nd. Arrangements have been made for our party to be accommodated again at the Dirlton Hotel, Ripon Road, and the terms per day will be 30s. inclusive.

As we must make our final reservations at the hotel, will all members who would like to join the party send in their names to Mr. Bob Willis as soon as possible.

The **St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress** will take place at Ovingdean during the weekend of **Saturday, November 24th**, the Annual General Meeting being on Friday, the 23rd.

Will all bridge players who are interested and wish to enter for the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup Competitions—namely, for Pairs and Teams of Four—send in their names to Mr. Willis, at the London Club, at the same time giving the name of the partner they have arranged to play with. This will enable the Committee to make the Draw and ensure the smooth running of the competitions at Brighton. If I have any single names, I am afraid I cannot guarantee a partner, but I will do my best.

G.P.B.

Camp Reminder

The Lee-on-Solent Camp will take place from Friday, August 24th to Saturday, September 1st. Entries should reach Mrs. Spurway not later than Monday, April 30th.

An Invitation

Dear Campers,

We are planning a Fête in the garden here, probably early in July, to help Camp funds, and for the Holmwood Guides. If any of you care to send me something to put on a stall, I shall be grateful.

Any St. Dunstaners living near are invited to tea at the Fête. Three years ago we had a very happy afternoon, and you know you are welcome in the Village Club in the evening.

I must know beforehand who are coming because of providing teas. The date will be given in the next REVIEW.

AVIS SPURWAY.

"In Touch"

The next "In Touch" programme will be broadcast on Network Three of the B.B.C. on Sunday, March 25th, from 2.40 p.m. to 3.10 p.m., with a repeat a fortnight later.

Derby Sweepstake, 1962

Applications are once again invited from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW Derby Sweepstake. The attention of everyone is drawn to the rule **that every application for tickets must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.**

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and application for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on **Wednesday, May 23rd.** Each application must bear the name and full address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and, with a stamped addressed envelope enclosed, must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered.

Tickets will be issued consecutively and will be limited to twenty-four to any one applicant.

The total money subscribed, less the cost of printing and sundry postage and stationery expenses, will be distributed as follows:

- 50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse;
- 20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse;
- 10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse;
- 20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

No prize won in the Sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

The Draw will take place at the London Club on the evening of Thursday, May 31st.

Sutton Club Notes

A meeting of the Club was held on Saturday, February 24th, which was very well attended.

A splendid effort on behalf of our members enabled us to hold a Bring and Buy Sale, the proceeds of which go towards the escorts' prizes.

An excellent start was made on our games tournaments.

Although we have had a few new members, we shall be pleased to welcome even more.

We all send our best wishes to Miss Stevens and look forward to seeing her back at the Club very soon.

G. JENRICK.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I believe that there are a number of St. Dunstaners who have tape recorders and who have found, as I have, that one of the problems is repairing a broken tape. The same problem arises if one wishes to edit a tape.

Recently I came across a splicing gadget which costs 32s. 6d., is obtainable from John King, East Street, Brighton, and completely solves this problem. With it one can repair a tape unaided in a matter of seconds and one can learn how to operate it also very quickly.

I have been using mine now for some weeks and find it saves a lot of blood and tears, and sweat and toil.

Yours sincerely,

A. C. POINTON,

Bexhill-on-Sea.

DEAR EDITOR,

I have just been appointed as the Blind and Hospital representative of the Royal Air Force Tape Recording Society.

If any St. Dunstaner wishing to make use of this service will write to me, I will see if it is possible to link up a message tape between him and a friend or relation in the Royal Air Force, providing full particulars of names and addresses are given.

We also have members who are interested in corresponding by tape to blind persons throughout the world. If any St. Dunstaner has a tape recorder and would like to link up with an R.A.F. or ex-R.A.F. person with a view to corresponding by tape, will he let me know tape speeds, interests, etc., and I can undoubtedly fix him up with a tape pal.

I know personally what pleasure this type of correspondence can give to your members. Just before Christmas I sent a tape to Mr. W. C. Carnall, of Bampton. Mr. Carnall was a firm friend of my father's and I lived with him during the war years and just after, while my mother was looking after him. As a result of this tape, I was able to give him much pleasure in hearing my voice during the last few days he spent on this earth, although miles away overseas myself. Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL TOZE.

(Letters concerning this service should be sent to: 4256501 J/T Toze, Station Signals, Royal Air Force, Wildenrath, B.F.P.O. 42).

DEAR EDITOR,

With reference to the new type braille alarm clock. I have had one in regular use for some time and I should like to mention one important feature not included in the notice in the REVIEW last month. This is the ease and simplicity of the alarm setting. A metal disc in the very centre of the clock dial itself carries a single raised dot at its circumference, and this disc is rotated by a very easily turned knob fitted with a ratchet so as to bring the dot in line with the inner edge of the braille hour markings of the clock face, a great improvement over the old style which had a separate and far too small alarm dial marked out on the clock dial. The new style clock, made by the well-known firm of "Cyma" (makers of our braille watches) has a fully jewelled movement. There is a possible snag, however—although the alarm bell is quite loud, the maximum ringing time is in the region of only twelve seconds and might not rouse a heavy sleeper.

Yours sincerely,

TOM FLOYD,

Teignmouth.

DEAR EDITOR,

May I extend to the Welfare Department congratulations upon the decision to hold all provincial Reunions at mid-day, and also all of the functions during the better months of the years as regards weather and so forth.

I am sure many of the older members of our family will feel more inclined to venture forth to meet the other chaps they knew in days of yore.

I look forward this year to larger reunions, with more time to chat and less interference by a "blasting" dance band; maybe this year I shall not return home with a sore throat!

Jolly good show, Welfare.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN A. MUDGE,

Saltdean.

DEAR EDITOR,

There must, I fear, be something wrong with me! Something vital must have been omitted from my make-up. I cannot, alas, get excited about space travel. Indeed, the only rockets in which I was ever even mildly interested in were the light-the-blue touchpaper-and-retire-to-a-safe-distance variety.

I am really worried about this appalling lack of interest in these latest marvels of science. Especially as I *could* get quite excited in trivial things like a certain cure for cancer, or even a reduction in road slaughter. Silly, isn't it?

Mind you, I can understand mankind, having made such a mess of things on this planet, trying to get off it. But this, I am told, is not the purpose of the exercise. The idea is, I gather, to get "up there" in order to make life even less pleasant "down here." I give up.

The only grain of amusement I can find in this business of violent circumnavigation is that the microbe, man's oldest enemy, could so easily have the last word.

*"They can shoot a man into the air,
He'll fall to earth they know just where.
But the whole thing's scuppered if the*

Spaceman bold

Falls victim to a nasty cold!

Yours sincerely,

PHILLIP WOOD,

Hyde, Cheshire.

National Library for the Blind

The 33rd E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held on Saturday, May 19th. Full details can be obtained from the Editor.

Mind the Bend

Patrick went into his bedroom in the dark with arms stretched out in front of him, but they missed the bedpost which came into sharp contact with his nose. Pat jumped up and exclaimed, "Begorra, that's the first time I knew my nose was longer than my arms!"

This chestnut may remind many St. Dunstaners of the times when they have stooped down to pick up something, only to bring their head into violent contact with the top of a chair or table. I doubt whether their remarks were as mild as Pat's. But it occurs to me that if we made a habit, when stooping, of bending from the knees and hips, and so keeping our back straight, we might avoid these agonising occasions for blasphemy.

This kind of advice has often been given in another connection. It is a good way of stooping to pick up anything heavier than a pint pot. To lift with a straight back is the best way of avoiding damage to the spine.

S. A. CHAMBERS,
Northfield, Birmingham.

Talking Book Library Spring Revolutions

Five books this month provide a well-mixed supply of reading matter under the following titles:—

"The Called and the Chosen," by Monica Baldwin, reader Olive Gregg, is the story of a nun told by herself. She subjects herself to perpetual heart-searching and constant vocational doubts which, while she is in a Belgian convent, are just endurable. However, the Order to which she belongs acquires her old family home in Kent as a reserve convent, and her transfer there embroils her in a great amount of nostalgic suffering on top of her other frailties. *Cat. No. 649.*

"Dead Men Don't Ski," by Patricia Moyes, reader Laidman Browne, as its title suggests, is a detective story. A killing at a Swiss hotel in the Italian sector of Switzerland brings together a Yard inspector and an Italian counterpart to seek out the killer. Enquiries among the holiday guests is a trying pastime, but these two policemen immediately smell out a smuggling racket and the case winds up with an exciting ski chase. *Cat. No. 898.*

"The Gilded Lily," by Ernest Dudley, reader John de Manio, is the biography of the hard, glittering, fabulously beautiful Mrs. Langtry. Maybe the author has been kind, maybe unkind, but the truth about any person who becomes a public figure perforce becomes smudged and motives are all too easily misconstrued. *Cat. No. 602.*

"Life in My Hands," by Wally Thomas, reader Peter J. Reynolds, is a short account of a Bomb Disposal man who suffered horribly when a pile of explosive blew up, literally in his face. His blindness and deafness have proved permanent injuries and he attempts in this book to portray the nightmare of the years immediately afterwards, with success only because the pain and shock is driven back by the light-hearted anecdotes the perky author manages to sprinkle through the whole book. This book is more interesting, in its practical fight against disability, than touching, on the side of pawky sentimentality. *Cat. No. 78.*

Also released:

"An Affair of the Heart," by Dilys Powell, reader Dilys Powell. *Cat. No. 694.*

NELSON.

I Remember

Although the Western United States had become settled at the beginning of this century, there was still a great deal of the thrill of the old West still left. One of the greatest cattle drives was the round-up of American herds in the northern Mexican province of Chihuahua and Sonora in 1913, and the cow-puncher of fifty years ago led as hard and sometimes as exciting a life as his predecessors of the old Santa Fe and Chisholm trails.

This operation involved several hundreds of top-hand cowpunchers from all over the West who were organised and mobilised by the Cattlemen's Association along the Texas and Arizona borders under a Major Kloof, reputed to be a German cavalry officer. All these men were hard-riding, quick-shooting young men, out for adventure and certainly getting it. Their job was to save the American cattle ranging on the Mexican side from the depredations of the Insurrectos under various leaders.

Each man in this devil-may-care army carried (usually his own) .45 Colt, Webley-Scott, or Smith & Wesson, and a Winchester .303, though little use was actually necessary. Still, there were skirmishes and sometimes the cattle that had been commandeered, appropriated or just plain stolen had to be collected from these camouflaged outlaws. There was one comic opera occasion when two rival forces were between the cattlemen and the herd that was being moved north. The leader of the one band, knowing his rivals were a couple of miles to the north, approached our trail boss with a request that we stampede the herd over them and he guaranteed safe conduct without future interference. The boss, an old-timer of over sixty, told him what would happen to him and his gang if we did not have safe conduct, but he cunningly approached the leader of the rivals with the possibility of such a stampede. The latter also was profuse in promises of safe conduct and even used his own men to assist us across the river. The original rascal, following behind the herd, beat a hasty retreat when he found the others ready and waiting.

A. J. RADFORD.

(Other reminiscences of pre-enlistment days would be welcomed. There will be a guinea for each one used.)

Births

REVELL.—On March 6th, to the wife of G. A. Revell, of Watford, a daughter—Paula Ann.

MUNDAY.—On March 11th, to the wife of B. J. Munday, of Norwich, a son—David Robert.

Marriage

DOLBY—DOWN.—On December 14th, at Brighton Register Office, A. S. Dolby, of Hove, to Mrs. Ada Winifred Down.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy is sent this month to the following:

FARRANT.—To Jane Farrant, of Bridgend, Glamorgan, whose father has died after a serious illness.

HOLD.—To A. Hold, of Yeovil, whose mother has died, just a year after the death of his father.

ROBERTS.—To A. W. Roberts, of Buckley, Flintshire, who lost his only brother at the beginning of this month.

WOMACK.—To W. Womack, of Leicester, whose mother died on February 18th.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. J. Gardner, of Wirral, March 20th. Congratulations.

Ruby Wedding

We have just heard that Mr. and Mrs. H. Ollington, of Crookham, Hampshire, celebrated their Ruby Wedding on December 20th last. Our warm congratulations.

Golden Wedding

A three-line headline in the *Morecambe Visitor* of February 21st, drew attention to the story of T. Till, of Lancaster, who as reported last month, celebrated his Golden Wedding on St. Valentine's Day.

A happy picture of Mr. and Mrs. Till illustrated the half-page story which recalled that our St. Dunstaner's father, Alderman Thomas Till, was Mayor of Lancaster in 1929-30. In fact, four of his tea-trays, purchased by his father as Mayor, are still in use at the Town Hall today.

* * *

"Smudger" Smith has always been good at "magic," but this is the first time he has made ten years disappear. He told us that his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lovett, celebrated their Golden Wedding last Christmas. He should have said Diamond Wedding, for they have been married for sixty years.

"In Memory"

Private George Fletcher, *5th Royal Berkshire Regiment*

We have to record with deep regret the death on March 9th of G. Fletcher, of Marple, Cheshire. He was 65.

He served from 1915 until 1919, being wounded on the Somme in 1918 and coming to St. Dunstan's the following year. He took up poultry-farming and he followed this occupation until as recently as 1960. He was ill at his home for only a few days before he died; his death was very unexpected.

He was a bachelor, living with his sister, and our very deep sympathy goes out to Miss Fletcher in her loss.

A.B. Gwynne Goldsworthy, *Royal Navy*

With deep regret we have to record the death of G. Goldsworthy, of Wallington, Surrey. He was only 35.

Enlisting in March, 1944, he served throughout the remainder of the Second World War and until January, 1948, when he received his discharge. He came to St. Dunstan's in December, 1955, but he had been an invalid since he left the Navy and he was unable to do anything more than take a keen interest in hobby crafts. Although he had been an invalid for so long, his death in hospital on February 24th was sudden and unexpected.

Our deep sympathy goes to his parents, who had cared for him, and to his schoolboy son.

Private Edmund John Humphrys, *East Surrey Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of E. J. Humphrys, of Addlestone, Surrey. He was 81.

"Pop" Humphrys, as everyone knew him, served in the 1914-1918 war and then enlisted again in June, 1939, being discharged the following year.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1940 but owing to his age did not undertake training. He did, however, take on a little mat-making, as well as hobby training. His health in the past few years had not been good but it was only recently that his condition had worsened. In February he was admitted to hospital where he died on March 6th.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Humphrys and to his other relatives by his first marriage.

Private Christopher McCairn, *Royal Field Artillery*

We have to record with deep regret the death of C. McCairn, of Grays, Essex. He was 79.

He was an old soldier, having served in the 49th Battalion of the 40th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, from 1902 until 1914. He was wounded during the action on the River Aisne and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1915. He trained as a mat-maker and in netting and he worked at these occupations for several years. He had not been in good health latterly but his death was nevertheless sudden and unexpected.

Private Michael O'Hara, *2nd Leinster Regiment*

We have to record with deep regret the death of Michael O'Hara, of Offaly, Eire. He died at his home on March 11th at the age of 79.

He served from 1915 until 1916 when he was wounded in Belgium. He came to St. Dunstan's in that year.

He trained as a mat-maker and carried on this occupation for a few years before taking up poultry-farming and later, dairy farming as well. He followed these two occupations for many years until age and ill-health compelled him to give them up. He had been in poor health latterly but his death was sudden and not expected.

Our sincere sympathy is sent to Mrs. O'Hara and her family.

Driver Harry Mortimer, *Royal Field Artillery*

Mrs. Mortimer asks us to make the following correction to the obituary notice concerning her late husband, Mr. Harry Mortimer.

Our St. Dunstaner was a driver and not a private in the Royal Field Artillery. He gave up his green-grocery business in 1923 and not 1931 as we stated. After giving up this business, he made wool rugs.