

Pensions

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 506—VOLUME XLVII

SEPTEMBER, 1962

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Our Gardeners

I have never had a great deal to do with gardens myself but that hasn't stopped me taking a personal interest in the subject. In fact, you may remember that some years ago I took part in a gardening feature on the BBC when we talked about blind gardeners generally, and the sweet-scented plants or herbs which naturally give them most pleasure.

I was reminded of this the other day when St. Dunstan's was sending the special gifts of bulbs to our doubly disabled and bedridden St. Dunstaners. They were, of course, for growing in pots, and most of the varieties were especially selected for their scent. From the many letters we receive we know that they give tremendous pleasure to our men and women who, because of their additional disabilities, are not able to enjoy the more arduous forms of gardening.

Gardening is a hobby at which hundreds of St. Dunstaners excel. We have rose specialists, chrysanthemum specialists, dahlia specialists, taking prizes every year at local (and national) shows; and we have all those others who do not exhibit but whose gardens are a delight to themselves and their families. Quite a few raise bedding plants for sale to neighbours or to a local retailer; others use their greenhouses and gardens to produce vegetables and flowers just for the sheer pleasure of having them in the house or giving them to friends. For a gardener always has friends. Nothing draws people closer than a garden and there is no better topic of conversation, unless it is the weather.

It seems to me that gardening is an ideal hobby for a blind man and particularly for the blind man whose retirement is near. It is healthy because it gets him out into the open, and it will also help his wife who, delighted as she may be that he will now be at home with her all day, will still appreciate some free time to herself when her household jobs are done.

"Who loves a garden loves a greenhouse, too," wrote the poet, William Cowper. I hope that this is so because we are helping and encouraging those of our men who are retiring to purchase greenhouses. "I can hardly wait for it to arrive," wrote one man to our Country Life Superintendent not so long ago. Those already in agricultural occupations will have been helped to buy their greenhouses, while others for whom gardening is only a hobby are helped in the same way. For some years we have sent vegetable seeds to those who ask for them, and invited others to buy seed potatoes up to 28 lbs. for which we have reimbursed them. The Gardening Supplement to the "ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW" is eagerly looked forward to by those who have asked to have it sent to them, and the greatest encouragement is given to all St. Dunstaners to send in gardening queries.

Mr. Tommy McKay

I am always glad to receive first hand information about the progress my St. Dunstan's friends are making in their particular field of activities and a short while ago Tommy McKay wrote to tell me of the variety of articles he has been making and selling during the past few years. These include grandmother clocks, refectory tables, firescreens cum dumb waiters (which are his speciality), bookcases and coffee tables.

Among gifts to his wife for their home, Tommy has made a carved chair, musical cigarette box, radiogram, bookcase with sliding doors, and the clock which won first prize at the International Handicrafts and Do It Yourself Exhibition at Earls Court in 1957. In addition, Tommy does all necessary woodwork in his own home, including a sink-unit and fitted cupboards in the kitchen, as well as outside jobs for others.

In March, 1962, he presented twin schoolboys who live nearby with two beautifully made school desks and stools as a birthday gift, and in May he achieved his latest triumph. This was the presentation to him by the Minister of Pensions and National Insurance of a Shield, first prize in the National Handicrafts and Art Competition organised by the War Pensioners' Homecrafts Service of the Ministry. The prize exhibit was a clock in an oak case which he built to his own design, incorporating sliding book ends.

Before the war Tommy McKay was a foreman mason. He served in the Royal Engineers and was blinded in Germany about three months before the end of the war in 1945. Among other severe injuries he lost a leg and three fingers of his left hand. He was mentioned in despatches.

Tommy showed outstanding and consistently improving ability during his training in woodwork at St. Dunstan's and his success since then is a fine reflection of his determination to be a complete master of his craft.

Mrs. McKay is a great source of strength to her husband, not only in the smooth running of their home, but also in helping to deliver articles he has made to his customers.

FRASER.

"In Touch"

We are informed by the BBC that, starting in October, the "In Touch" programme for blind listeners will again be broadcast on Sunday afternoons. The first of these new Sunday programmes will be on October 7th, at 4-4.30 p.m. on Network 3.

The Calgary Stampede

Apropos of Jack Radford's part in the famous Calgary Stampede (last month's REVIEW), Jack has heard from our St. Dunstan's officer, D. J. M. Stephens, of Ferryside, Carmarthenshire, that he too was present on that occasion. Mr. Stephens writes: "I was there and saw Tom Three Persons, the half-breed, ride Cyclone to a standstill. I went to Canada in 1910 and was on a ranch six miles west of Claresholme on Willow Creek. I cannot place the Bar Z Severn. I had a horse from the Bar U ranch when I was transport officer in the Royal Welch Fusiliers."

Luton Reunion

A warm and appreciative reception was given to the Vauxhall Girls' Choir which entertained some 35 St. Dunstaners, their wives and staff at the George Hotel, Luton, during the afternoon of Saturday, 14th July.

It was the occasion of the Luton Reunion, at which Sir Neville Pearson presided and in an amusing, yet touching, speech, welcomed the guests and proposed a special toast to Lord and Lady Fraser, thanking them for the forty years they have devoted to the service of St. Dunstan's. These sentiments were conveyed to the Chairman in a telegram sent from Sir Neville, bearing the good wishes of all present.

Sir Neville later thanked Mr. Green, Manager of the Choir, and all his girls for their wonderful entertainment and giving up their time voluntarily.

Among old friends present were Miss Hensley, Miss Hester Pease, Mrs. Giorgi and Mr. Lale, also Mr. Eddie Taylor, a member of St. Dunstan's (South Africa) and Mrs. Taylor, who are over here on holiday.

Sutton Club Notes

Although our meetings for June and July were not fully attended owing to holidays, they were enjoyed by all those who were present. The games are well under way and several members are enjoying their games of bowls. Any member of St. Dunstan's who would like to join the Bowls Section is very welcome to come along and join in.

Our outing in June was a great success and everybody enjoyed themselves.

We wish to thank Mrs. Spurway for her Garden Fete at Holmwood. A good time was had by all, our friend George Emerson winning the "Bowling for a Pig" competition.

All members would like to take this opportunity to convey our deep sympathy to Mrs. Moss Parker in the loss of her husband.

W. KENNEDY.

Aches Cured "On the Cheap"

From *The Times*, September 15th, 1962:

Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, chairman of St. Dunstan's, told members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy at their annual dinner in London last night, "We are getting our aches and pains and disabilities cured on the cheap."

He said that while the average wage of a very large body of skilled and unskilled workers aged 21 and over in industry was £15 12s. 0d. a week, physiotherapists under the National Health Service received only £10 to £12.

"The National Health Service has many vacancies for physiotherapists, which, in the circumstances, is not very surprising. Successive Ministers of Health have been stalling, but now at last the question of the salaries is going to arbitration. May we hope they will get a square deal, especially when we take into account that every one of them must be a man or woman who has passed the G.C.E. reasonably well and has done three years' unpaid training."

Lord Fraser said there were about 3,000 physiotherapists in private practices. "I do not know how well they do generally, but some do very well, and I know of a substantial number of blind ex-Servicemen of the two wars who are my particular protégés in St. Dunstan's who do very well indeed."

I Remember

On September 6th, 1912—just fifty years ago—I went for a walk and wandered round a bit. I had once seen an aeroplane make a forced landing during the air race round England in 1910, and I had seen the famous "Colonel" Cody fly over Hitchin, Hertfordshire. But the aeroplane I saw this particular day had two men in it and they were sitting tandem with the rear man a bit higher than the one in front of him. The plane came quite close to me at one time, then seemed to make a swerving move towards some trees and then it seemed to break in half and drop. The two men were killed and the next day I went to the scene and I picked up a piece of the plane. It was about eighteen inches long, round and like a pencil, being fluted so that it was hollow and seemed held together with thin wire and coated with black sticky stuff.

The firm my father was manager of, a joinery works, made two coffins and, as was the rule then, some of the joiners discarded their white aprons for a silk hat and frock coat to attend the funeral service of the airmen. I was smuggled into St. Saviour's Church, Radcliffe Road, Hitchin, where the service was held. There were many troops, all cavalry, and I found it difficult to get out of the churchyard after the service, because there were so many photographers and reporters.

Seeing I could not catch up with the leaders in the funeral procession, I turned about and doubled down the road, turned to the right and ran hard, then another turn to the right up Dacre Road where at the top I pushed through the crowd and went as far as Hitchin Station with the procession, where the coffins were put on a train for Nottingham.

Later, the villagers of Graveley, the nearest village to the disaster, subscribed for a stone to be erected near to the spot where the plane crashed. It is still there with the date and the names of Captain Patrick Hamilton and Lieutenant A. Wyness Stuart of the Royal Flying Corps.

I did not know then that one day I would be entertained to lunch by Air Commodore G. Dacre with a party of our deaf-blind men, and sitting next to him, tell him the story I have just related. When I had finished he said he had known Captain Hamilton and Lieutenant Stuart very well.

I did not know that last January I would attend his funeral service at the village of Rottingdean almost fifty years after I had that of his old friends and it would be the first airman's funeral I had attended since 1912.

GEO. FALLOWFIELD.

[George sent us this article a month or so ago. On September 6th—the 50th anniversary of the air crash—he visited Graveley where he saw the memorial stone set up there. He read for himself the inscription on the beautifully kept stone and laid a small floral tribute to the memory of the two airmen.]

The Distinction

Mr. White was very fat and much overweight so he decided to call and see his doctor. After a long consultation the doctor gave him six pills with the instruction to take one each night before going to bed. Mr. White retired to bed the first night and took a pill and soon fell asleep and had a wonderful dream. He dreamt he was on a small island and saw a beautiful maid in front of him. He set off after her but as he followed her, she drew away and he could not catch up with her and he awoke in a great sweat. This same dream occurred each night and at the end of the sixth night he was relieved to find he had lost about two stone and felt very much better.

Soon after this he met his friend, Brown, who, too, was very fat and overweight. Brown congratulated him on his better appearance and asked how it had happened. White told him and Brown also decided to go and see the doctor. After a short interview the doctor gave Brown six pills with the same instructions. The first night Brown had a dream. He, too, was on a small island but he was being chased by a small group of savages and he too woke up in a great sweat. This same dream occurred each night but he, too, lost a lot of weight. Brown was rather unhappy about this so he went along to see the doctor and explained about his dream and the one that White had had. The doctor looked at him. "Mr. White was a private patient," he said, "You are a National Health Service one. That's the difference."

F. J. GUISELEY,
Menston, nr. Ilkley.

From All Quarters

J. Laffey, of Bradford, has been a telephonist for sixteen years with Messrs. G. Garnett and Sons, Limited. Recently a book has been published giving the firm's history—"The Garnett Story." Apart from senior members of the staff, our St. Dunstaner is the only other staff member to be mentioned by name and there also appears a pencil sketch of him at the board.

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L. Faulkner, of Northwick, won a bowling competition held at I.C.I. recently. His name will be engraved on a silver shield and he has received a small replica.

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E. J. Burley, of Stithians, Cornwall entered five hens at the local Show. He took four firsts; he also took one reserve and one special prize for the best hen in the Show and a special for the second best.

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L. Webber, of Tewkesbury, has been asked to serve for a second year as Chairman of the Tewkesbury Chamber of Commerce. Leslie, of course, continues his activities on the local Borough Council.

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At their local Flower Show on July 31st, Mr. and Mrs. J. Emerson, of Reigate, between them took fifteen prizes. Our St. Dunstaner took a first for his potatoes, beans, peas and the longest bean in the Show; another for a collection of vegetables used in salad, and second and third prizes respectively for potatoes (professional class) and rhubarb. Mrs. Emerson's prizes were a first for stocks and a garden grown on a dinner plate; a second prize for a plum pudding, anthirrhinums, a bowl of salad ready for table, and roses, and thirds for a specimen plant in a pot and a buttonhole.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Laffey, of Bradford, July 31st; Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Reed, of Farnborough, July 31st; Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Harris, of Stoneleigh, September 4th; Mr. and Mrs. R. Slade, of Addiscombe, September 11th; Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Pettipher, of Keresley, Coventry, September 18th. Congratulations to them all.

Family News

We have heard with regret of the death of two St. Dunstaners' widows. Mrs. W. H. Jones, of Kemp Town, Brighton, and Mrs. W. Shute, of Horley, Surrey.

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The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Greaves, of Sheffield, a qualified physiotherapist, has been appointed Assistant Superintendent on the staff of Leicester Royal Infirmary.

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Jimmy Webster, Farnworth, has recently won a scholarship in biology and a place at Liverpool University.

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Julie Holland, Newton Abbott, has gained a Second Class Honours Degree at London University. Julie, who has been at King's College, London, for the past three years, has obtained a good post at Tiverton Grammar School. She was married on September 1st.

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Joy Palfrey, of Osterley, has been awarded the Connell Challenge Cup for dancing.

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Patricia Nicholson, Beeston, Notts., gained 141 marks out of a possible 150 in a recent music examination, and has also secured a diploma for ice-skating.

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Robert Ince, Norwich, has become a Queen's Scout, the highest award in the movement which can be won by a Senior Scout.

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In a handwriting competition run by a national newspaper, Yvonne Taylor, Fordhouse, Wolverhampton, won a award of merit.

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Marriages of Sons and Daughters

On July 28th, Pamela Jensen, Wembley, to Peter Edwin Oliver.

On August 18th, Kathleen Shotter, Ilford, to Colin W. Harris.

On September 1st, David Hutchings, Sutton, to Joy Price.

On August 11th, Peter Fitzpatrick, Barrow in Furness, to Joan Whitworth.

On September 1st, Eileen Bice, Bourne-mouth, to Michael McMullen.

Also on September 1st, Julie May Holland, Newton Abbott, to John Jago.

Lee-on-Solent Camp

On August 24th some fifty of our fellows made their way from all parts of the country to Lee-on-Solent for the Annual Camp where we were the guests of the Royal Navy aboard *H.M.S. Ariel*, which to you landlubbers is a shore station, and what a wonderful week we all had. There were sea trips to the Isle of Wight, flights over Hampshire in a Heron (a great experience), and a visit to the *Transvaal Castle*, outward bound for South Africa, a lovely ship. I wonder why ships look like hotels and pubs look like ships?

We were looked after from reveille until lights-out, and long after by the ratings, and were entertained in the C.P.O.'s Mess. And of course the W.R.N.S. could not be left out. On Thursday there was the Walk, 2½ miles round the airfield, and what a good show our chaps still put up.

Our warm and sincere thanks are due to the Officers, C.P.O.'s, P.O.'s and ratings of *H.M.S. Ariel* for a wonderful week, and a word for Mrs. Spurway and her back-room girls, who have done the behind-scenes work to make this week such a success.

P.A.

Golden Weddings

Warmest congratulations to a new St. Dunstaner, Mr. F. W. Setterfield, of Slough, and Mrs. Setterfield who celebrated their Golden Wedding on September 8th, and to Mr. and Mrs. A. A. H. Brown, of Reading, whose golden wedding was on September 17th.

Forty-Five Years Married

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Swannell, of Great Kimble, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on August 15th and Mr. and Mrs. W. Stamp, of Grimsby, had the same anniversary on August 22nd. Many congratulations to them all.

Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. G. Power, of Filton, Bristol, June 22nd; Mr. and Mrs. J. McNicholls, of Manchester, August 5th; Mr. Reginald Parsons, of Cardiff (another new St. Dunstaner) and Mrs. Parsons, September 4th. Many congratulations.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

My wife and I have just celebrated our Silver Wedding, and to celebrate this occasion, I opened a bottle of Scotch whisky which I managed to obtain soon after I joined St. Dunstan's in 1946. At that time whisky was very scarce and, if you could get it, it was very often at black market price, anything from £5 to £10 a bottle. I did not and would not entertain black market dealings at any price and so when I managed to get this bottle at the current market price of eighteen shillings, I was so pleased that I vowed that I would not open it until my Silver Wedding. My friends around me at that time declared that I would not be able to keep it that long. I was also told that it would evaporate quite a bit even though the bottle was kept intact. In fact, the evaporation, according to the markings on the bottle, did not amount to sufficient to make one raindrop.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE B. REED, *Farnborough.*

DEAR EDITOR,

In a recent television programme, Lord Reith, who is six feet four, said that any height over six feet is an affliction. I don't entirely agree with him, not beyond the point of describing it at times as being an adjectival nuisance.

For example, the collapsible stick we use is just a few inches too short for me, as I am the same height as Lord Reith. This difficulty can be overcome by taking a piece of one of the elements of a BBC television aerial which fits well over the ferrule of the collapsible stick, drill a hole through both and either rivet or hold in position with a nut and bolt.

Another problem and one for which I have no solution is that of getting a bed long enough and at a reasonable price. I understand that the bed should be six inches longer than its occupant, and as all beds seem to be six feet three inches, they are obviously made for people of less than five feet nine inches.

As I said, being tall can be and often is an adjectival nuisance.

Yours sincerely,

A. C. POINTON, *Bexhill-on-Sea.*

DEAR EDITOR,

The Ministry of Pensions will not grant a war widow's pension if the pensioner has

not died as a result of his war disability. A St. Dunstaner dies who has been receiving a 100% pension but unless he has died through his disability the Ministry won't accept it. It must be a very small number who have died through their disability. I believe that all the Colonies grant a war widow's pension where the man has received a 100% pension, irrespective of whether he has died through his disability or not.

I think that it is time something was done about this matter.

Yours sincerely,

SAM RUSSELL,

Audenshaw, nr. Manchester.

Mr. Rice comments:—

The British Legion and other Ex-Service Organisations, including St. Dunstan's, are continually pressing the Government to improve the rates and conditions of War Disability Pensions and Allowances and of Pensions to War Widows. It is, however, accepted that before a War Widow's Pension can be granted there must be some connection between the Pensioner's death and the disability for which he was pensioned, and there are certain diseases and complaints which the medical people cannot certify as being in any way connected with a man's War Service or any disability connected with that service.

The Ministry of Pensions deal with the applications which we put forward on behalf of the widow sympathetically and as generously as possible within the frame work of the Royal Warrant, and the number of pensions now being awarded to widows of St. Dunstaners is nearer 50% than the very small number suggested by Mr. Russell.

The Government cannot make any special rules for St. Dunstan's men which do not apply to all pensioners disabled at the maximum rate, and as successive Governments have always resisted the cry "fit for service fit for pension" they would equally resist the suggestion that a pension be granted to all widows whose husbands had been in receipt of a 100% pension.

So far as our Colonies are concerned, the rules and regulations governing the award of war pensions in each country vary considerably, but I think I am correct in saying that only in Canada is a War Widow's Pension given automatically to widows of men with a 100% disability.

THE QUEEN AT OVINGDEAN

July 16th, 1962



Photograph by "Evening Argus."

As the Queen enters the Lounge accompanied by our President, Sir Neville Pearson, Miss E. Whiteman, the oldest woman St. Dunstaner, presents Her Majesty with a bouquet.



Photograph by "Brighton & Hove Herald."

Lord Fraser calls for three cheers for Her Majesty and Prince Philip after they have addressed St. Dunstaners assembled in the Lounge.

National Reunion of New Zealand St. Dunstaners

We have received from Donald McPhee the following report of the National Reunion for St. Dunstaners in New Zealand.

The biggest Reunion of members, wives and children of St. Dunstan's (New Zealand) Blinded Services Association took place in Wanganui over the week-end of January 26th-29th. Some thirty-three members of the Association were present, this representing a high percentage of our membership which totals 87; many of our members being unable to be present owing to failing health. The Wanganui Returned Soldiers' Association, assisted by the Advisory Committee of the Foundation for the Blind, were hosts for our Association during the week-end, and the Wanganui Rotary Club, the P.O.W. Association, the Air Force Club and Ex-Naval Club also played their part with transport and assistance.

His Worship the Mayor, E. A. Millward, Esq., O.B.E., during the Civic Reception, extended on behalf of his Council the Freedom of the City to the visitors and expressed the hope that the Conference and Reunion would prove beneficial and enjoyable to all concerned. It was a thrill to us and especially to His Worship that the Reunion coincided with the Athletic Meeting at which Peter Snell put Wanganui on the world map by creating the world record for the mile. Several of our children watched this memorable event.

Zero hour for the commencement of proceedings was 5 p.m., Friday, with a Cocktail Party in the Main Lounge of Fosters Hotel. This was strictly an informal gathering giving members and wives an opportunity of getting together and meeting representatives of our host organisation. Dinner should have brought this function to a close but the musical talent of Tai Paul, Stuart Craig, Joy Oakley and George Denbow, who no doubt would wish to remain anonymous, carried the party through to a late hour.

Saturday was the most busy and important day of the Reunion. Proceedings commenced with a Civic Reception in Wanganui's luxurious Memorial Hall. The gathering was addressed by David Jones, President of the Wanganui R.S.A. who introduced His Worship the Mayor. The

next speaker was George Denbow, representing the Dominion President, N.Z.R.S.A. Our Association President, Jim May, and Donald McPhee, representing St. Dunstan's, England, suitably replied.

The Official Luncheon at Fosters Hotel was an auspicious occasion as it marked the first occasion at which the Association had had the opportunity of entertaining the Minister of War Pensions, Mr. A. E. Kinsella. Other distinguished guests included Mr. A. E. Allen, M.P., Chairman of N.Z. St. Dunstan's and Messrs. Spooner and Jack, M.P.'s representing Wanganui and Patea. Mr. J. H. James, Acting Chairman of the Commercial Travellers and Warehousemen's Association Blinded Services Trust Fund, together with the Honorary Secretary, Mr. S. J. Johnston, represented the Commercial Travellers Association Trustees. During his speech Mr. James conveyed an apology from Mr. E. E. Brooking and members expressed a wish that a message of goodwill be returned to him.

During the Luncheon the Association's Secretary, Bob Sadler, read cables of greeting from Lord Fraser of Lonsdale and Lieut. Col. E. A. Baker of Canada.

The afternoon proved delightful as members were the guests of Service Organisations and were taken on a car drive of the City's scenic spots, concluding with afternoon tea at the Memorial Building. Programme organisers erred again here in leaving sufficient time for a "Naafi" lapse before dinner.

Saturday evening, officially listed for the "Smoko" at the R.S.A. Club, must have looked like a straggler's muster on a sheep station but nevertheless all heads were counted as present and correct by 20.30 hours. A delightfully informal evening was enjoyed by all with special thanks again to Stuart, Tai and George for their music and to the numerous "Tucitalas" for their many ribald stories. Programmes more appropriate to sex and age were provided in a Picture Evening for Wives and Widows and a visit to the Athletic Meeting for the children.

Sunday in Wanganui dawned fine and hot. By 9.30 a.m. at the Cenotaph Parade there must have been quite a few who wished that more hours had been spent in bed the night before. The Service was conducted by the Rev. W. H. Austin and

we are also indebted to Andrew Johnston, one of our veteran members, for a most inspiring address. In the course of it he said: "As an old St. Dunstaner I feel that you will all be with me in paying tribute to our late Chief, Sir Arthur Pearson. In his blindness he had foresight, capacity and drive, sufficient to blaze the trail into a sphere of usefulness for the blind hitherto unknown. We honour the memory of Sir Arthur Pearson to-day. I could wish that 'My Story of St. Dunstan's,' written by Sir Arthur's worthy successor, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, be read by sighted people throughout the world."

Sunday afternoon, members, wives and families were transported by Greyhound Buses to Marton where they were entertained by the Women's Section of the Marton R.S.A. at the delightful home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lister.

Those responsible for the programme thought that a breather would be necessary on Sunday evening and so it was declared Free Time. However, everybody was in top gear and revelry continued "a la Naafi" at the hotel until a late hour. We are indebted to those souls who conducted the milk round the next morning in lieu of Sick Parade. This also may have eliminated some of the arguments which might have arisen at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 9.30 a.m. on the Monday.

After several matters affecting the welfare of blinded servicemen had been discussed, the following Officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Patron: His Excellency the Governor General.

Vice-Patrons: Sir Clutha Mackenzie and Donald McPhee, O.B.E.

President: J. E. May, M.B.E.

Vice-Presidents: S. G. Schofield (Auckland), T. W. Wilson (Wanganui), E. L. Tozer (Christchurch), S. Craig (Invercargill).

Executive: J. N. Simpson, L. A. Cook, R. E. Jenkins and W. H. Cocker (*ex officio*) representing N.Z. St. Dunstan's, Donald McPhee, St. Dunstan's.

The Reunion was brought to a very happy conclusion by an informal luncheon at Fosters Hotel after which members and their families proceeded homewards.

We are especially indebted to the Wanganui R.S.A., the Foundation for the Blind Advisory Committee and all others who helped to make this the most successful Reunion in the Association's history.

From the Chairman's Post-bag

"I am at present reading 'My Story of St. Dunstan's' and I would like to refer you to a passage on p. 29—'Probably the first man blinded in war was a Belgian soldier.' Yes, he was and his name, Camille Verbrugghe. I was working at Bignor Park Auxiliary Military Hospital at the time and at the end of hostilities, when the place closed down, the Commandant asked my wife and myself if we would have Camille to live with us until things settled down and he could return to Belgium. He stayed with us for about 12 months. At the time he was about 29 and had a very bright and cheerful disposition."

J. NASH,

West Harting, nr. Petersfield.

(Early St. Dunstaners will certainly remember Camille. We last heard of him in July, 1960, when, to our regret, he was not well enough to come over with the party of Belgian war-blinded who were visiting this country at that time. Ed.).

Great-Grandfathers

C. E. Bolton, of Belvedere; J. O'Brien, of Liverpool; P. Yuile, of Glasgow.

Grandfathers

S. Fletcher, of Tooting; A. Gadd, of Hastings; T. Cheshire, of Studham, Dunstable; H. Wallis, of Whitchurch Hill; H. Wordsworth, of Gainsborough (for the ninth time—their youngest daughter in America has had a son); J. McDonald, of Oldham, (twin grandchildren making thirty-nine in all, as well as two great-grandchildren); L. Price, of Upton Park, (a grandson after three grand-daughters).

St. Dunstaner and his wife killed in car crash

St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret that Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Churchill, of Walton-on-Thames, have died as the result of a car crash on September 9th. A tribute will appear in next month's REVIEW.

A Trip to the U.S.A.

My wife and I have just come back after visiting my daughter and family in Orlando, Florida, and having enjoyed such a very good holiday, I feel I must tell you some of the lovely places we visited.

We had a nice easy trip crossing, sailing on the *Sylvania* which is a very nice ship with plenty of fun on deck.

Orlando is a beautiful place, full of orange groves, and my daughter's house is built in the midst of orange and grape fruit trees. The fruit we fully enjoyed.

Our visit lasted five months and here are some of the places we visited.

At Tampa there is a large brewery built in beautiful grounds with palm trees and pine trees covered in Spanish moss; there were also all kinds of wild birds of lovely colours and a good show of different kinds of parrots which had been trained to perform tricks. Believe me, they were very intelligent. My wife said she enjoyed that part fine and took lots of photographs but I really enjoyed the brewery. It was a German beer and they gave us plenty of free samples.

The next place we visited was Gytran Towers where there was a huge tower overlooking miles of orange groves. We went just at the right time for the trees were full of oranges ready to be picked. The sun shone all the time from early morning until evening.

We also visited Cape Canaveral and my wife saw a rocket fired. There is a lovely beach there called the New Smyrna and we went there many times.

My daughter and her family who live in Canada travelled two thousand miles to spend a fortnight with us. An amusing thing that made the family laugh happened when we were all swimming in the sea. My young grandson shouted, "Look out, Grand-dad, here's a big wave." The next thing I knew it hit me and out went my teeth!

One of the most lovely places was Anna Maria Island in the Gulf of Mexico. The sands were white and growing on the beach were beautiful palm trees. The temperature was 104 so the water was warm for swimming.

We also paid a visit by invitation to the works where they made the Pershing Rocket. My son in law, who is a design

draughtsman, conducted us all over it. It was most interesting.

I have also played in one of the largest bowling alleys in America where one can buy refreshments and icy cold beer any time in the day.

There were many more places which were too wonderful to describe. We enjoyed them all, especially the people, who were so friendly and kind.

W. MCCARTHY,
Manchester.

Ex-Campers Meet

On August 17th an interesting little Reunion of St. Dunstaners living in the Bath area was revived. This was at Hinton Charterhouse, the home of Mrs. Robertson-Glasgow. Besides the St. Dunstaners and their wives and escorts, the guests included the Rev. Frank and Mrs. Spurway, Miss Oliphant and Mr. Allen. Our Welfare Visitor, Miss L. Webster, had arranged this first little reunion which it is hoped will be repeated next year at an earlier date. Even though the holiday season reduced the numbers who attended, a very pleasant afternoon and evening was enjoyed by us all. Fortunately the weather was glorious following a week of rain and storm. Old friends met again and enjoyed the lovely gardens, and conversation went back to camping days at Lee-on-Solent, Warminster and Westbury. There were several competitions and ancient athletes tried throwing the cricket ball. The evening was spent as the the guests of the local British Legion at the Rose and Crown Inn. After tea we were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Gregory and friends who treated us to a piano recital and songs.

This first revival of another reunion was voted by one and all a complete success.

A. J. RADFORD,
Castle Cary.

Prizewinners

R. Finch, of Bartley Green, Birmingham, one of our mat-makers, gained a Certificate of Merit for his entry in the 1962 War Pensioners Homecrafts Section, National Competition.

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At North West Middlesex Association for the Blind Show, Horticultural Section, on August 18th, H. N. Symnes, of North Harrow was awarded seven prizes.

Sir Cecil Ellerton

We deeply regret to announce the death of Sir Cecil Ellerton at the age of 70.

Sir Cecil was a life-long banker, attaining the eminent position of Director and Deputy Chairman of Barclays Bank, and he was a much respected figure in financial and City circles.

For the past four and a half years he was Honorary Treasurer of St. Dunstan's and our organisation owes him a deep debt of gratitude.

Our Chairman writes:

"Sir Cecil not only looked after our financial affairs in the most able way, but he took a keen personal interest in every aspect of the work of St. Dunstan's and the effect of our financial decisions on the lives and families of our men. He was a good friend to all of us and the members of the Council and of our staff who were in close contact with him will greatly miss him. I echo the words of the *Daily Telegraph* which wrote of him, 'Amongst his outstanding qualities were accessibility, kindness, unflinching courtesy and a disarming frankness.'"

All connected with St. Dunstan's express our sympathy with Lady Ellerton and the members of her family.

Mr. H. H. Brewer

It is with very deep regret that we report the sudden death of Mr. Harold H. Brewer who has been our Technical Visitor (Baskets) since March, 1958. In the comparatively short time he was with us, Mr. Brewer, who was only 56, had become a good friend to all our basket-makers and a most popular Visitor. He died in a London hospital on July 26th. He had visited our Headquarters only a short while before.

Miss E. M. Bird

Early St. Dunstaners will hear with regret of the death on July 18th of Miss Ethel M. Bird. Miss Bird will be remembered as a V.A.D. at the Bungalow and then at Cornwall Terrace, and later as a helper when our Headquarters were in the Inner Circle, Regent's Park.

Birth

COOPER.—On July 27th, to the wife of K. Cooper, of Havant, a son—Paul Kevin.

Marriage

BLAKE—POPLE.—On August 11th, H. S. Blake, of Brighton (at present a trainee) to Joan Pople, daughter of our St. Dunstaner, H. Pople, of Cardiff.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy is sent to the following:

GITTO.—To A. W. Gittos, of Dagenham, whose wife died on August 19th.

GRIFFITHS.—To J. Griffiths, of Downs Way, Woodingdean, in the loss of his wife on August 7th. Although she had suffered from migraine and her sight was very bad, Mrs. Griffiths had not previously been seriously ill. She was taken to hospital on August 1st where she died a week later.

KNIGHTON.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Knighton, of Ilkeston, who mourn the death of a son who died in June last.

LAKER.—To E. J. Laker, of Cambridge, whose mother died in August.

LUKER.—To C. A. Luker, of Hampton, Middlesex, whose wife died on August 7th. Mrs. Luker had been admitted to hospital a week previously and was to have been transferred to another but she died before this was possible.

MACPHERSON.—To W. L. Macpherson, of Chiswick, whose father died suddenly on July 29th whilst they were all away on a family holiday.

MEGSON.—To W. Megson, of Ovingdean, formerly of Carterton, Oxford, whose wife died in hospital on July 26th after a short illness. Our St. Dunstaner was only remarried on May 26th of this year to Mrs. Kenefick, herself the widow of another St. Dunstaner.

ROUGHLEY.—To J. Roughley, a resident at Ovingdean, whose brother died on August 27th. He was 85.

SCRYMGEOUR.—To J. Scrymgeour, of Queensland, Australia, in the recent loss of his wife, Helen.

SNELLING.—To E. Snelling, of Lockleys, South Australia, whose wife, Connie, died on April 10th last. They have four children. Mr. Snelling is President of the Blinded Soldiers' Association of South Australia.

WILSON.—To H. J. Wilson, of Chesterfield, whose wife died very suddenly on September 16th.

"In Memory"

Acting Corporal Joseph Ashmore, Royal Army Medical Corps

We have to record with deep regret the death at his home on July 24th of Joseph Ashmore, of Whaley Bridge, Cheshire. He was 78.

He served from 1914 until 1918 but he only came to us as recently as March of this year. On account of his age training was not possible but he did take a great pleasure in tending his garden. He was taken seriously ill at the beginning of July.

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

Private Alfred George Bright, Labour Corps

With deep regret we record the death of A. G. Bright, of Blackpool. He died at his home on September 5th.

He served in the First War from 1915 until 1919, and came to St. Dunstan's in 1935. He trained as a basket maker and carried on this occupation for a short time. He had been in very poor health recently but his death was quite sudden.

We send our sincere sympathy to his relatives and to Mrs. West with whom he lived.

Private Sidney Harry Bush, Cheshire Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of S. H. Bush, of Telscombe Cliffs, at the age of 64. His war service was from January, 1916 until November, 1919, and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in April, 1925. He trained as a telephonist and continued with this work right up to his retirement in 1958. In June of that year he remarried and moved to Sussex. Since his retirement from full-time employment, he had on occasions helped with telephony instruction at Ovingdean. His health began to deteriorate in the spring of this year. He was recently admitted to hospital where he died on July 28th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Bush.

Acting Corporal James Campbell, Royal Scots Fusiliers

With deep regret we record the death of James Campbell, who became a permanent resident at Pearson House soon after his admission to St. Dunstan's in February of this year. He had been in a London Home and was within a month of his 80th birthday. He enlisted on August 10th, 1914, and served until April, 1920.

He was most anxious to join the St. Dunstan's family circle at Pearson House, when he was admitted, and as soon as possible he went to Brighton where he settled down very happily. Unhappily, his stay with us was very short and he died on July 30th.

He leaves a daughter and our sincere sympathy is sent to her and to his other relatives.

Sapper Anthony Peter Cox, Royal Engineers

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death at Pearson House of A. P. Cox, of Hull. Tony was only 22 years old.

He served in the Royal Engineers from 1959 until 1960 and came to us the following year but on account of his ill-health, training was not possible. He died at Pearson House, where he was staying temporarily, on August 13th.

Our very deep sympathy goes to his parents and to the other members of his family.

Stoker Hugh Campbell McCrea, B.E.M., Royal Navy

We have to record with deep regret the death in hospital on July 19th of H. C. McCrea, B.E.M., of Belfast, Northern Ireland. He was forty years of age.

He served in the Royal Navy from 1940 until 1941 and came to St. Dunstan's that same year. He was trained as a telephonist, which occupation he carried on until he was taken seriously ill in March of this year. Although he was so gravely ill, his death nevertheless was sudden and rather unexpected.

It gave him great pleasure to be awarded the British Empire Medal "for services in the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance." He heard of his award whilst in hospital.

He leaves a widow and two sons to whom we send our deepest sympathy.

Private Henry Charles Ollington, 1st East Surrey Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of H. C. Ollington, of Crookham, near Fleet, Hampshire. He was 64.

He enlisted in 1917 and that same year came to St. Dunstan's where he trained as a boot repairer. He continued with this work until his retirement in April, 1961, when he moved from London to Crookham. His health began to deteriorate seriously in May of this year, and for some weeks he had been seriously ill at his home where he died on July 27th.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Mrs. Ollington and her family.

"In Memory" (continued from page 13)

Private Moss Parker, Royal Defence Corps

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Moss Parker, of Carshalton, at the age of 68. Although he had served in the First War from July, 1915, until March, 1920, it was not until April, 1958, that he came to us. He was then too old for training and not in good health. He visited Ovingdean frequently, however, and did some handicraft work in string bag and rug-making. In 1961 his health began to deteriorate and in between hospital treatment, he spent frequent holidays at Ovingdean. After his final discharge from hospital in April last, he became very ill again and he died after a long illness on July 17th. He leaves a widow and family to mourn his loss and our deep sympathy goes out to them.

Rifleman Alfred Henry Patient, Rifle Brigade

We have to record with deep regret the death on July 24th at his home of A. H. Patient, of Loughton. He was 81 years old.

He served in the Rifle Brigade from 1915 until 1918 but came to St. Dunstan's in 1953 when his age ruled out any training. Although he had been in poor health for some time, his death was nevertheless sudden and unexpected.

He was a widower and we send sincere sympathy to his family, especially his daughter, Mrs. Curtis, with whom he had been living.

Private John George Wishart, 6th Northumberland Fusiliers

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death at the age of sixty-nine of J. G. Wishart, of West Stanley, Co. Durham.

He served with his regiment from 1915 until 1917. He was wounded on the Somme and he came to St. Dunstan's immediately. He trained as a mat-maker and boot-repairer. He was an excellent craftsman and was making mats as recently as last year although he had given up boot-repairing some time before.

He had been in poor health of late but his death was sudden and unexpected.

We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. Wishart and her family.

Charles Chamberlain Bryant, 1st Machine Gun Battalion

We have heard with deep regret from the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association of the death on April 6th of C. C. Bryant, of Pennington, South Australia. He was 71.

He was a First War St. Dunstaner and was a widower.

Harold Richard Butterworth, Australian Forces

The news has also reached us from the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association of the death on June 30th of H. R. Butterworth, of South Yarra, Victoria, Australia. He died in Heidelberg Hospital, Melbourne, after a long illness.

He was a widower and our sincere sympathy is sent to his two sisters, Miss Butterworth and Mrs. Dickson.

J. R. Shanks, Australian Imperial Forces

With deep regret we have heard of the death of J. R. Shanks, of Canley Heights, New South Wales, Australia. He was 65 and he died in the Cairns Base Hospital, Queensland, on August 10th.

Mr. Shanks was a Scot by birth but emigrated to Australia in 1925. He enlisted with the 2/B.M.T. Company, A.I.F., in March, 1941, and lost his sight whilst a Japanese prisoner of war. He was discharged in December, 1946. He was trained in typewriting and braille reading and writing but followed no occupation. His health had not been good for some years.

His death was notified to us by his only son, Mr. R. J. Shanks, to whom our deep sympathy goes.

E. Drew, Australian Forces

L. J. Dwyer, Australian Forces

With deep regret we hear from Tom Melbourne, of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association of the deaths this year of E. Drew, of Victoria, and L. J. Dwyer, of New South Wales, and our sincere sympathy is sent to their relatives. E. Drew, who leaves a widow, was one of the Association's most esteemed bowlers.