ST. DUNSTAN'S SPECIEW'S

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 511-VOLUME XLVII

FEBRUARY, 1963

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

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

St. Dunstan's Clubs

THE Concise Oxford Dictionary defines a Club as "an association of persons united by some common interest, meeting periodically for co-operation or conviviality."

Some of us like solitude, some companionship; but most of us like a bit of both.

I think it is a good thing to get away from home for an hour or two now and then, especially if you have retired.

St. Dunstaners have their own Clubs, namely, the London Club, the Birmingham Club, the Brighton Club, the Cardiff Club, the Liverpool Club and the Sutton Club. Your Welfare Visitor will tell you how you can get in touch with them.

These are, of course, blind men's Clubs, though very often wives and friends attend and sighted visitors are often present; especially is this the case for the Bridge Parties in London and Brighton.

I commend the activities of these Clubs which are generally reported in this magazine and can assure any St. Dunstaner who has not yet visited them of a warm welcome.

Other Clubs

But there are many other Clubs throughout the country and it is worth considering the value of these to St. Dunstaners.

There is the British Legion Club or Branch, for example, in almost every village and district. Here you will meet ex-Service men and find a common interest in experiences during wartime, or the problems of the day as they affect the old soldier such as war pensions, artificial limbs, employment, the quality of the beer, etc.

There is a close friendship between the British Legion and St. Dunstan's Headquarters for we co-operate in many matters, and a large number of St. Dunstaners are members of their local branch or club and some have held office at various levels in this great national organisation.

There are also the Regimental Associations, the Royal Air Force Association, the Naval Associations, B.L.E.S.M.A. and so on.

There is always the thought, "If I don't seem to get much out of joining, perhaps I can contribute something for the benefit of my fellows."

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In a wider field there are specialist clubs or associations such as Bowling Clubs, Darts Clubs, Angling Clubs and many others.

There is something to be said for a blind man joining a club which is wholly composed of sighted persons. He will, if he is himself a friendly person, make many friends, enjoy a party or an outing which will be a change from his ordinary routine and do him good.

Shyness

I have myself experienced the embarrassment or shyness of entering a new club, association or gathering and wondering how I will get on, whether I shall find my way about, whether I shall sit alone and wait for someone to greet me?

These are genuine apprehensions and may make you hesitate but my advice is to take the plunge, get over the initial shyness and soon you will feel at home.

Those who go to work every day have the necessary change from home surroundings which makes the return to their own fireside all the sweeter, but those who are at home all the time will, I suggest, benefit greatly by making some outside contacts and one of the easiest ways is through the local club.

Perhaps the difficulty of getting there and making a start discourages you. I understand most fully this feeling but nothing in this world can be attained without taking a chance and for what it is worth I would encourage St. Dunstaners to do just this. I think you will find it well worth while.

FRASER.

STOP PRESS

Message from the Chairman in South Africa

I am delighted that our efforts and those of the British Legion, etc., have led to the January Pensions award. I think St. Dunstan's can justly claim some credit for this because we were the first in the field last year to raise the matter by way of a serious study of the whole position in Britain and the Commonwealth countries, which we initiated and brought forward with Ministers and in Parliament.

I congratulate all St. Dunstaners on these improvements which will, I am sure, be very welcome, and I have written to thank the Minister of Pensions.

Lady Fraser and I deeply regret your long spell of bitter weather and trust that it has now thawed out completely.

I have attended meetings of St. Dunstan's Committees here and will go to a Reunion of St. Dunstaners in Cape Town in March. All is well with our organisation in South Africa.

We are exceedingly busy and South Africa generally and my family business in particular

Mare doing well. We send our best wishes 9th February, 1963.

Sir Arthur Pearson's Birthday Sir Neville to Broadcast

Sunday, February 24th, is the anniversary of the birthday of our Founder, the late Sir Arthur Pearson, and on that day, our President, Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., has been invited by the BBC to speak about his father in the "In Touch" programme on Network Three at 4 p.m.

Matron Ramshaw

The Chairman, in his notes in the January issue of the REVIEW, referred to the forthcoming retirement of Miss F. M. Ramshaw as Matron of St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, and several St. Dunstaners have expressed a wish to subscribe to a presentation to her.

Mr. Lloyds has offered to act as Honorary Treasurer of the Fund, and St. Dunstaners who desire to associate themselves with the presentation should send their subscriptions to him at 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

London Club Notes

Bridge.—We have had a Business Houses team in the Knock-Out Competition for the Leslie W. Dodds' Cup this year as well as in the League Competition. They reached the quarter-finals in the cup being beaten by Customs by thirteen match points. With two matches still to play in the League, their record to date is, Played 10, Won 5, Lost 5.

" M.I.N.E."

Ray Benson, A.M.I.Mech.E., of Orpington, has been elected and given full membership of the Institute of Nuclear Engineers (M.I.N.E.).

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In his spare time Mr. Benson has also become an Instruction Officer with the local Air Training Corps Squadron, lecturing on guided weapons, workshop practice and theory of flight. Incidentally this is the first time he has undertaken any public lectures and this particular series follows a reference in the REVIEW several months ago when another St. Dunstaner told us how much interest and pleasure he had obtained from helping with the local A.T.C.

Chairman's Grandson Engaged

From The Times, January 28th, 1963:

Forthcoming Marriages

Mr. C. A. F. McDonald and Miss Glencairn-Campbell

The engagement is announced between Christopher Anthony Fraser, son of Mr. Anthony and the Hon. Mrs. McDonald, of Chartwood House, Punchbowl Lane, Dorking, and Catriona Charmian Cecil, daughter of the late Brigadier Walter Glencairn-Campbell, O.B.E., and the late Lady Muir-Mackenzie, and step-daughter of Sir Robert Muir-Mackenzie, BT., of Kingsdene, Hampstead Lane, N.W.3.

Reunion Programme-1963

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
Tues.	2nd April.	EDINBURGH (Mrs. King).	Colonel M. P. Ansell.	Roxburghe.
Thurs.		NEWCASTLE (Mrs. King).	Mr. D. G. Hopewell.	Royal Station.
Sat.	6th April.	LEEDS (Miss Broughton).	Colonel M. P. Ansell.	Metropole.
Fri.	19th April.	EXETER (Miss Webster).	Lord Fraser.	Rougemont.
Sat.	20th April.	BOURNEMOUTH (Miss Webster).	Mr. A. Pitt Robbins.	Pavilion.
Sat.	4th May.	SWANSEA (Miss Newbold).	Mr. D. G. Hopewell.	Mackworth Hotel, High Street.
Wed.	8th May.	CANTERBURY (Miss Stevens).	Sir Neville Pearson.	County.
Sat.	18th May.	WINDSOR (Miss Stevens).	Sir Neville Pearson.	White Hart.
Sat.	25th May.	DUBLIN (Mrs. Thompson).	Mr. D. G. Hopewell.	Shelbourne.
Wed.	12th June.	BLACKPOOL (Miss Everett).	Lord Fraser.	Savoy.
Fri.	14th June.	CHESTER (Miss Broughton).	Sir Neville Pearson.	Grosvenor.
Sat.	15th June.	MANCHESTER (Miss Everett).	Lord Fraser.	Grand.
	20th June.	BRIGHTON (Miss Blebta).	Sir Neville Pearson.	Metropole.
Sat.	29th June.	WELWYN (Miss Meyer).	Mr. D. G. Hopewell.	Cherry Tree.
Fri.	5th July.	NOTTINGHAM (Miss Broughton).	Sir Brian Horrocks.	Victoria Station.
Sat.	6th July.	BIRMINGHAM (Miss Newbold).	Sir Neville Pearson.	Queen's.
Sat.	20th July.	IPSWICH (Miss Meyer).	Lord Fraser.	Great White Horse.
Thurs.	26th Sept.	LONDON (Miss Dodd). Frening Function.	Lord Fraser.	Lyons Corner House, Coventry Street.

FRASER. 21-2 frindons

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Among the obituaries in the January issue of the REVIEW was that of Rifleman John Walter Mahony.

In deep respect to John Mahony, I think the REVIEW should give the correct name of his regiment—the second oldest T.A. Regiment with such famous names as the second Duke of Wellington and Sir John Hunt, a regiment that has been adopted by St. Marylebone and whose headquarters are in the heart of Mayfair.

The name of this great and wonderful regiment is not London Victoria Rifles but Queen Victoria Rifles whose Hon. Colonel was until recently the Earl of Avon, or Sir Anthony Eden as he is best known.

Again in respect for John, will you please put this grave error right as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

G.W.R. SHEPHERD, Whitchurch Hill, Berks. (Queen Victoria Rifles)

(We are most grateful to Mr. Shepherd for drawing our attention to this inaccuracy; our records, which showed John's regiment as the London Victoria Rifles, have been amended accordingly.— ED.).

DEAR EDITOR,

I noted with interest Lord Fraser's suggestion re Radio Amateurs among St. Dunstan's folk. I think it is a great idea and I should like to put my name, etc., on the list.

I do not favour, as some do, separate grouping "on the air" of St. Dunstan's men, etc. I took up Radio to look outwards. Always very pleased to meet up with St. Dunstan's "hams," I like to "mix it." One gets all kinds of contacts with all kinds and conditions of people.

I hope you'll get a good response and a good list.

Yours sincerely,

ANTHONY LAW, Pensax-Stockton, Worcs.

(We hope all St. Dunstan's "hams" will

follow Mr. Law's example and send in to the Editor their names and call-signs, for publication in a few months' time.)

An Income Tax Query Answered

Mr. Rice writes:

"A number of enquiries have been made regarding the Income Tax concession to certain blind persons given under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1962, and it may help if I give an explanation.

The effect of the Section is to grant an Allowance of relief from tax on $\pounds 100$ to any taxpayer if either he or his wife living with him is a registered blind person (if both husband and wife are blind, the Allowance is $\pounds 200$). The Allowance is, however, subject to a reduction if the taxpayer is in receipt of a tax-free Disability Payment, and is cancelled out altogether if such tax-free payment is more than $\pounds 128$ 10s. 0d. in any one year, or $\pounds 257$ if both husband and wife are blind.

The object of the concession was to benefit those civilian blind persons who are not otherwise entitled to any tax-free benefit, and those blind persons who have only a small war disablement pension or industrial disablement benefit on account of their blindness. It is of no benefit to St. Dunstaners as a whole, as their Disability Pension and Allowances, which are non-taxable, take them outside the limits imposed."

National Insurance Revised Contributions

The increased contributions, details of which were given in the Supplement to last month's REVIEW, are to come into force as from 3rd June, 1963.

At present, St. Dunstan's is paying the whole of the contribution for the nonemployed St. Dunstaner, and is helping with the contribution of the employed and selfemployed St. Dunstaner. St. Dunstan's will continue to pay the whole of the increased non-employed contribution, and will pay 7/1d. of the weekly contribution of self-employed St. Dunstaner and of the employed St. Dunstaner whether he is contracted in or contracted out of the Graduated Scheme.

Retirement

F. Green, of Sunderland, has retired after fifty years as a telephonist with Messrs. Short Bros.

Talking Book Library

February Discs

Four books released from the deep freeze this month with the pious hope that there will be enough electric current to permit a little reading.

"Not in Front of the Children," by Henry Sherek, reader Laidman Browne, is a fascinating story of the experiences of a great producer. The whole book lives and breathes "theatre" and if variety is the spice of life, this chap has certainly lived. His vitality and fullness of living comes across in the book from Vienna to the farthest reaches of the U.S.A. and back. London seems to be his Mecca and most anecdotes are from there. *Cat. No. 290*.

"Return to the Islands," by Sir Arthur Grimble, reader Robin Holmes, is another series of interesting and amusing incidents from the Gilbert and Ellice group of islands. The author can look back at the difficulties of negotiating the superstitions and complex customs of the people, which at the time they occurred must have seemed almost impossible ever to understand, with affection and without any trace of pride but, I am sure, with a degree of satisfaction for a job well done. *Cal.*. No. 513.

"The Widow's Cruise," by Nicholas Blake, reader Stephen Jack, is a thriller set in the Mediterranean. The story revolves around two sisters and various, pleasant and insufferable, people surrounding them on their holiday cruise. It is all made exciting by suicide and a switch of identity among the Greek islands. *Cat. No. 1000*.

"Singing in the Shrouds," by Ngaio Marsh, reader Arthur Bush, was also released. Cat. No. 288. NELSON.

The late Capt. N. Liakhoff

We are glad to reprint the following notice which has been sent to us by Miss Phyllis Robinson, of Caversham:

In response to many requests it has been decided to open a fund for a commemoration stone to the late Captain N. Liakhoff, M.B.E. Any guide dog owner, or friend of the movement, wishing to contribute, should send to the Nicolas Liakhoff Memorial Fund, 183, Rugby Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

O Icy Blast

Now it came to pass that at the end of the dying year of 1962, within the Stockades of the Dark-Eyed Ones, there was great sorrow. For did it not occur that on the 26th day of the dying month the wrath of the heavens did fall upon the land.

Even as the flippers of paste-board and the rattlers of dominoes did joust for the prizes came a great cry from the leader of the Hand-Maidens. "It is terrible outside, how will you all reach your villages and tents?"

The flipping of paste-board ceased, the dominoes ceased to rattle and the ones competing did fall upon the viands prepared for the feast and did gobble and sup and then scream for the means of travel, and the cry came, "The ambulance is doing its last run."

All was well, however. All the visiting Dark-Eyed Ones and the Wives and Escorts did reach their shelters ere too late.

Lo, the Ones which did reside in village and outside the Stockade did lie close by the fires, and did grumble and cry "Woe," for the snow did continue and the winds did blow, and the Centigrade and the Fahrenheit did get lower and lower.

What of the Brethren within the Stockades? Woe, indeed, was for them. for the cry did come after the whistle, "No transport to the Arlington." Yea, even "No transport to the White Horse," but the drivers for the Transport did travel whenever possible.

And there were moanings and groanings amongst the Beer-Hall Keepers within the village, for did they not miss these Dark-Eyed Ones and the regular consumption of the beverages within the Drinking Places. And the weeping of the escorters was heard, by Dome and Hippo, yea, even outside the Theatre.

But now the sun shines forth once more and soon the white grim days will be but a memory, and the Hand-Maidens shall lead the Dark-Eyed Ones forth again, yes, even to the Coffee Rooms and the Beer Halls of the Village, and all will smile again.



National Library for the Blind

E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition

The thirty-fourth E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held on Saturday, May 18th. Classes of interest to St. Dunstaners are:

- Class A .- Advanced readers in competition for the Blanesburgh Cup.
- Class. B.-Other readers in competition for the Stuart Memorial Cup.
- Class C .- Readers who have lost their sight since 1939 and who have learnt to read braille since the age of 16 (and who do not feel competent to enter the more advanced classes) in competition for the Lady Buckmaster Cup.
- Open Competition .- Open to all readers eligible to enter Classes A and B, for a reading from the poetical works of John Milton.

Class D.-Open to readers of Moon type. Class E. Deaf-blind readers.

Fuller details of the competition can be obtained from the Editor of the REVIEW.

As We Think

"Thought is the greatest sculptor of all."

I saw the face ere thought was born, Smooth and serene as a perfect dawn, Bestowing new life on this earthly zone. The meaning and glory of the Creator's loan. Not yet cast on the relentless stream, Or caught in ambition's alluring scheme, Knowledge and power evoked no dream, Neither saint nor sinner unwound a reel.

Again I saw the face sublime, With features enhanced by passing time, Tender and warm like late sunshine That paints the dust in stained glass shrine. But time moves on without a care, Yet stays behind to check each fare, Since all must pay for their heart's desire, Whether social scourge or cloistered friar.

Again I see the face devout, Reflecting the gold of its inward thought, No cynic's sneer or illusion bought, Mars the beauty of that calm report. Thus the master-sculptor plies his skill Content to follow his subject's will, Carving each line for good or ill With a power no Greek could ever reveal. T. ROGERS.

Marriages

GRAY-WILKINS .- On Thursday, February 14th, E. Grav, of Romford, to Mrs. Wilkins.

PATTON.-A. Patton, of Croydon, on January 28th.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy is sent this month to the following:

ALDRIDGE .- TO T. Aldridge, of West Gorton, Manchester, in the loss of his wife on January 29th.

MACKAY .--- To W. R. MacKay, of Caithness, whose wife died on January 23rd.

Golden Wedding

Very many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. Tillotson, of Cleveleys, near Blackpool, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on February 4th.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Scaife, of Hewarth, Yorkshire, whose Silver Wedding was on December 26th last. Many congratulations.

Family News

We have heard with regret of the death at Kenley of Mrs. W. Bignell. Her son and his wife and family lived with her.

Pat Stanway, Morecambe, is a student of judo. She recently entered for her White Belt but did so well that she was awarded the Yellow Belt.

Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Janet Lillian Brougham, Liverpool, on January 12th, to William Nish.

Bernard C. Enefer, Birmingham, on January 10th, to Wendy Ashton.

Great-Grandfathers

I. Stibbles, of Pitlochry (Mr. and Mrs. Stibbles' granddaughter in Holland has had a son); and another great-grandson for A. Blaker, of Lancing.

Grandfathers

V. Dale, of Worthing (Dorothy had a son on December 28th); and the seventeenth grandchild for T. Callaghan, of Woodbridge.

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"In Memory"

Private Thomas George Brodie, 2nd East Surrey Regiment

With deep regret we record the death at the age of 82 of T. G. Brodie, of West Kingsdown, near Sevenoaks.

Although he served in the First World War from January, 1915, until September, 1918, he was admitted to St. Dunstan's only as recently as December last. His health was already poor and a little more than a fort-night later he was admitted to hospital where he died on January 17th. Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Brodie and her family.

Private Andrew Keegan, Worcestershire Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death at his home on January 20th of Andrew Keegan, of Cork. He was 68.

He served throughout the 1914-1918 war, coming to St. Dunstan's in 1937. He trained as a matmaker and was able to follow his craft for many years. He had been in indifferent health for some time but nevertheless his death was sudden and unexpected.

We send an expression of our deep sympathy to his widow and family.

Lance-Coporal Henry George Gransby, 17th London Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. G. Gransby, of Greenford, Middlesex. He was 66. He saw service in the First World War from March, 1915, until November, 1917, coming to St. Dunstan's immediately on his discharge. He trained in mat-making and boot-repairing and he carried on both these occupations until the Second World War when he went into industry. He again became a very proficient worker and continued with industrial work until 1960 when ill health forced him to retire. He visited Brighton frequently but we knew him to be a very sick man. He died quite suddenly on the morning of January 29th after having only been admitted to hospital a few minutes before.

Our deep sympathy goes to his widow and to his family by a previous marriage.

Sergeant Henry Alfred Calcutt, Royal Corps of Signals

With deep regret we record the death of H. A. Calcutt, of London, S.E.2. He was 48. He enlisted in January, 1941, being discharged in February, 1946. He did not, however, come to St. Dunstan's until September, 1957, when, owing to his poor health, he was not able to take any training. Although he had always been a sick man whilst he was with us, his death came rather suddenly in the end. He was admitted to hospital on January 28th and he died the following morning,

He leaves a widow and a schoolgirl daughter, Barbara, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

Lance-Coporal John William Manley, East Lancashire Regiment, and Coldstream Guards

We have to record with deep regret the death of J. W. Manley, of Padiham, Burnley. He was 74 and he died at his home on February 2nd.

He served in the East Lancashire Regiment and later in the Coldstream Guards from 1914 until 1916. It was not, however, until 1919 that he came to St. Dunstan's and he was at that time in poor health. He was able to spend some time at Pearson House and was looking forward to returning for another holiday when the weather improved.

He was a widower and we send sincere sympathy to his niece, Mrs. Bryce.

Gunner Lawrence Price, Royal Artillery

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of L. Price, of Upton Park, E.13. He was 55. A Territorial when the Second War broke out in 1939, he served until July, 1944. When he came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1951, he trained as a capstan lathe operator and he continued in this work until his health gave rise to anxiety. After a period of convalescence he was forced to give up this type of employment. He then became a journeyman mattress maker in a municipal workshop for the blind but again ill-health forced him to retire in May of last year. He then spent long periods at Ovingdean. During the week-end of January 19th, he went home from Ovingdean where he was taking a hobby training course, was taken ill and died suddenly on January 21st.

He leaves a widow and grown up family to whom we send our deep sympathy.

Bombardier James Shaw, Royal Garrison Artillery

We have to record with deep regret the sudden and unexpected death on February 4th of James Shaw, of Ashton-in-Makertield, Wigan. He was 67.

Although he served in the First World War from 1915 until 1919, he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1949, his sight having gradually failed as a result of a mustard gas attack. For some time he had a shop from which he retired as lately as 1959.

To his widow, daughter and son-in-law we send an expression of our deep sympathy.

"In Memory" (continued)

Acting Sergeant Cyril Alfred Becker, Australian Imperial Forces and F.T.V.D.C.

We have heard with deep regret of the death last November of C. A. Becker, of Fairlfield, Australia. He was 68.

He served as a private in the First World War with the Australian Imperial Forces, being wounded by gun-shot in the left arm in July, 1918. In the Second World War he was blinded whilst serving as Acting Sergeant with the F.T.V.D.C. from February, 1942 until July, 1943. His health had prevented him from following an occupation after he was blinded.

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

Leslie James Farrington, Australian Imperial Forces

We have heard with deep regret of the death on December 18th last of L.J. Farrington, of Sydney, Australia. He was 69. He had been in poor health for three months but nevertheless his death came very suddenly.

He enlisted in June, 1915, with the 54th A.I.F., was wounded at Hollebeke in November, 1917, and was admitted to St. Dunstan's in March, 1918. After training in braille, typewriting and netting he returned to Australia in January, 1919, and we have since received little news of him.

He was a single man and the news of his death has been sent to us by his sister, Miss Gertrude M. Farrington, to whom our deep sympathy goes. Miss Farrington wrote: "He never forgot St. Dunstan's and always spoke of his days there with pride."

Sergeant James Rae Hanna, Australian Imperial Forces

We have heard with deep regret of the death of J. R. Hanna, of Hurlstone Park, New South Wales, Australia. He was 74. He died last October.

He served with the 33rd Btn. A.I.F., from November, 1915, until May, 1920, being wounded in April, 1918.

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

Corporal Edward James King, Australian Imperial Forces

With deep regret we have heard of the death of E. J. King, of Engadine, New South Wales, Australia. He died last September at the age of 63.

He enlisted with the 2/20th Btn., A.I.F., in August, 1941, was taken prisoner of war in February of the following year, and served until January, 1947.

Our deep sympathy is sent to his widow and family.

Gunner Herbert Leslie MacDonald, Australian Imperial Forces

It is with deep regret that we have learned of the death last November of H. L. MacDonald, of Randwick, N.S.W., Australia. He was 69.

Enlisting as a gunner with the 7th Battery in August, 1914, he was discharged in October, 1917, having received injuries which resulted in the loss of his sight and paralysis.

Our deep sympathy is sent to his widow.

Harry Lemon, Australian Forces

We have also heard with deep regret of the death last August of H. Lemon, of Fairlight, N.S.W., Australia. Unfortunately we have no other information.

Rifleman Harry Sime, 2nd Bn. New Zealand Rifle Brigade

We have heard with deep regret of the death on October 30th last of Harry Sime, of Auckland, New Zealand. He was 77.

He enlisted on March 4th, 1916, and served with the New Zealand Rifle Brigade until his discharge in January, 1918. He had been wounded at Ypres the previous September and he came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1918. He trained in boot repairing and netting and settled with his wife in London to follow the latter craft until his return to New Zealand in January, 1920. After his return he seems to have concentrated more on poultry-keeping.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Sime and her two children.

Published by ST. DUNSTAN'S for Men and Women Blinded on War Service, 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1. and Printed by BRIGHTON HERALD LTD., Pavilion Buildings, Brighton, 1