

Pensions

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 520—VOLUME XLVIII

DECEMBER, 1963

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

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

LAST MONTH, following some correspondence and some remarks made by W. T. Scott at the London Reunion, I wrote a note on the subject of accidents which might occur to blind persons walking alone. An interesting letter on this subject from Mike Delaney appears on another page of this issue.

Curiously enough, an Appeal before the Appeal Court from a blind man was heard between the time I wrote my note and the publication of this month's magazine. I find it so interesting that I have asked the Editor to print the report from *The Times* newspaper, and this also appears on another page.

I share the Judges' evident and sincere regret at the judgment they felt compelled to make but I have no doubt that they are interpreting the law. Although no alterations in the law could now help the unfortunate John Haley, I have been wondering whether we should try to get the law altered for other blind people in future. I think not, because of the sheer impracticability of placing the responsibility upon every builder and every authority who does any work on a highway or pavement to take account of all possible dangers to blind or otherwise disabled persons.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Justice Donovan actually said that he "could well see that circumstances might arise requiring some such additional precaution, for example, if the Board had been digging their trench just outside St. Dunstan's."

I had myself made a note of this point when I read Mike Delaney's letter. But this, of course, is an observation on the way Mr. Justice Donovan thought the law could be interpreted in the special case of a hazard near St. Dunstan's and, in a sense therefore, such a risk could be said to be covered by existing legislation. That, it seems to me, is quite a different thing from saying that special precautions for the blind must universally be taken by putting up special safeguards at every site.

A Message from the British Legion

Another interesting letter published this month is one from Lord Carew, Chairman of the British Legion, and an old friend of mine. This is the first time that a National Officer of the British Legion has sent a special message to St. Dunstan's, and I give it a very warm welcome. Lord Carew joined the Council of St. Dunstan's at our last meeting as the representative of the British Legion.

New Minister of Pensions Visits St. Dunstan's

The new Prime Minister, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, made a few changes in his Government and one of them was the appointment of the Rt. Hon. Richard Wood as Minister of Pensions and National Insurance. Mr. Wood lost both his legs in the Second War and has most courageously pursued an active and successful Parliamentary and Ministerial life for many years. We welcome him as our Minister.

Mr. Wood paid St. Dunstan's the compliment of making a visit, with his wife, to our Homes at Pearson House and Ovingdean on November 28th the first he has made as Minister to any ex-service organisation. Sir Neville Pearson and I met him at Brighton and he inspected our work and in a letter to me since, he says:

"I was most deeply impressed with everyone whom I met. The spirit of the men, and the devotion of those who look after them, are clearly first class, and I felt very much that I could not have chosen a better place for my first visit in my new office." I told Mr. Wood that we much appreciated what his Ministry had done for us in recent years but that "St. Dunstan's had its eye on him." He laughed and said that he would bear this in mind.

St. Dunstan's Braille Writer

Soon after the end of the Second War, we devised and produced a St. Dunstan's Braille Writer. I refer to it now in case it may be of interest to some St. Dunstaner who has not heard of it. Although the machine writes on one side of the paper only, it has some advantages and many hundreds were made and have been used by St. Dunstaners, more particularly those who work in offices and want to keep notes.

There is only a very small number left in stock, but if any St. Dunstaner wants one for genuine business or pastime use, we could supply one free of charge. If, as a result of this note, any large demand arises, I feel sure we could collect a substantial number of these machines, which have been issued to St. Dunstaners in the last twenty years but which are no longer in use, and we could put them in good order and re-issue them to others.

A brief semi-technical description of the machine is as follows:

It is about the same size as a portable typewriter with a carrying handle on the cover. It is also similar to a typewriter in that there is a spring-operated carriage with a feed roller on to which a sheet of braille paper is rolled.

A special feature is that braille can be read immediately it is written, that is to say, without removing the paper from the machine, because the machine writes from left to right with the embossing uppermost.

Line changing is by means of large plastic knobs at either end of the carriage, and there is a back space lever, a quick carriage release, and a sliding stop to permit indenting or the use of paper narrower than the standard sheet.

The key layout is quite different from the Stainsby machine and is similar to that of the braille shorthand machine. This requires a little learning, but is not difficult.

Christmas Greetings

Lady Fraser and I send our very warm wishes for Christmas and New Year to all members of St. Dunstan's families throughout the world.

FRASER.

The late President Kennedy

Lord and Lady Fraser were present at the National Memorial Service for the late President John F. Kennedy, which was held in St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday, December 1st.

Legion Appointment

Harry Wheeler, of Wimbledon, has been elected Chairman of the Wimbledon Branch of the British Legion.

Harry, incidentally, is an Honorary Life Member of the Kingstonians Football Club.

Ireland Remembers

J. Humphrey, A. W. Rutledge and G. Bulbrook last month attended the opening of the Northern Ireland War Memorial Building by the Queen Mother, who spoke to them.

The same St. Dunstaners, with A. Scott, attended the Armistice Dinner organised by the Not Forgotten Association on November 9th.

Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson

There was a very good attendance at the Chapel at Ovingdean on December 8th on the occasion of the Memorial Service, which was conducted by the Reverend W. J. Taylor. The Lesson was read, as has been his custom, by Sir Neville Pearson, and the Address given by St. Dunstaner, Mr. H. V. Kerr. We were also very pleased to welcome Lady Pearson, Mr. Nigel and Lady Frances Pearson, and Mr. and Mrs. Garnett Orme.

★ ★ ★

A representative group of St. Dunstaners went to the Hampstead Cemetery on the morning of Monday, December 9th. They were Messrs. G. P. Brown, H. Meleson and A. H. Osmond, escorted by Mr. G. O'Connell and Mr. R. Palmer.

Lord Fraser, who was accompanied by Lady Fraser, laid a wreath on Sir Arthur Pearson's grave.

An Ovingdean Reminder

Christmas Greetings and all good wishes to St. Dunstaners everywhere from the Commandant, Matrons and Staff of the Brighton Homes. Also from Ovingdean a special reminder to those who will be spending Christmas at the Home that there will be a Fancy Dress Competition during the Boxing Day Gala Dance . . . don't forget to come prepared.

Welfare Staff Changes

We are very sorry indeed to announce the resignation of Miss H. L. Dodd, our Welfare Visitor for the London Area during the past six years.

Miss Dodd, whose kindly and sympathetic nature has won the affection of our London St. Dunstaners, has been obliged to resign through ill-health. She is at present taking a prolonged rest in the country. We wish her a speedy recovery.

The London Area will be taken over on January 1st, 1964, by Miss Patricia Collins, a State Registered Nurse and Voluntary Welfare Worker, to whom we offer a warm welcome.

★ ★ ★

After more than 16 years as the Recruiting Officer in the Labour Department of Imperial Metal Industries (Kynochs) Ltd. (previously the I.C.I. Metals Division), Colin Beaumont-Edmonds has been transferred to the Travel, Visitors and Reception Department, where he is now the Assistant to the Reception Officer.

London Club Notes

The *Annual General Meeting* of the London Club will be held on Thursday, January 23rd, at 6.30 p.m.

A very Happy Christmas to all St. Dunstaners and their families, with good health and prosperity in the New Year.
W. BISHOP.

Bridge

The *Annual General Meeting* of the Bridge Club was held at Ovingdean on Friday, November 15th. The Committee was elected as follows: G. P. Brown (*Captain*), H. Gover, F. Jackson, P. Nuyens, S. Webster (*Treasurer*).

5¼ Mile Walk, Ewell November 30th

Result:—1st, E. Cookson.
2nd, R. Benson.
3rd, R. Young.

Fastest loser: J. Simpson.

Forthcoming Walks

Saturday, January 25th, 5 miles.
Saturday, February 15th, 5 miles.
Saturday, March 14th (provisionally).
Saturday, April 18th, 5 miles.

Aggregate Cup Points to date

J. Simpson	...	...	...	...	24
M. Burns	...	...	...	...	22
R. Young	...	...	...	...	21
R. Benson	...	...	...	...	17
C. Stafford	...	...	...	...	17
E. Cookson	...	...	...	...	15
R. Mendham	...	...	...	...	15
W. Miller	...	...	...	...	15
J. Wright	...	...	...	...	13
J. Proffit...	...	...	...	...	11
S. Tutton	...	...	...	...	11
L. Dennis	...	...	...	...	9
W. Claydon	...	...	...	...	4

Staff Retirement

We are losing the services of another member of the braille teaching staff at Ovingdean through retirement.

Miss Marjorie Byolin first joined St. Dunstan's in July, 1938, as Dispensary V.A.D. under Matron Boyd Rochfort, and she stayed until the war-time closure of the Home in August, 1940. In 1943 she returned as a braille teacher, first at Church Stretton and then at Ovingdean where she has been ever since.

St. Dunstaners will join with us in sending her our good wishes for many years of health and happiness.

Letters to the Editor

From the Rt. Hon. Lord Carew.

DEAR EDITOR

Might I ask you, through the columns of the *St. Dunstan's Review*, to convey to all St. Dunstaners the very best wishes of the British Legion for a Happy Christmas and a Cheerful New Year. The British Legion is indeed proud to be so closely linked with all the activities of St. Dunstan's, and to see so often your badge at our Branch and other gatherings.

Yours sincerely,

CAREW.

National Chairman, British Legion.

DEAR EDITOR

Three Bridges

The 25th Anniversary of the foundation of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club has come and gone. The weekend at Ovingdean for the players was a fitting Silver Jubilee celebration. The "new boys" are preparing to take over. Our staunch sighted scorers plodded away on our behalf and the mixed drive on Monday made an enjoyable climax. Let us hope that the "perms" were not put out too much on our account.

My ward mate was a "perm" of ten years' standing. We saw very little of each other. He went his way, I went mine. What a contrast in activities. I like to think I'm working hard in the hurly-burly of modern traffic. Each morning, wet or fine, and we had it both wet and fine during that week-end, he would stroll to the end of the verandah and feed the birds. They had grown so tame that they settled on his hands. He and they had, and are still having, their little chat each morning. Then he turns in to read a book for half an hour each morning in the Talking Book Library. He keeps a tally of the books he has listened to and tells me that it is now over three hundred. Here is a fellow who has built a wonderful bridge into retirement and made an opening bid to me. Thank you, pal. I look forward to the Golden Jubilee.

Yours,

W. T. SCOTT,

Streatham.

DEAR EDITOR

I was very disappointed with our Chairman's comments on "pavement obstructions" in the November issue of the REVIEW,

especially as he appears to be of the opinion that matters should be left as they are. There is no doubt that the law, as it is now applied, treats the blind or otherwise disabled person harshly when they have the misfortune to suffer damage by falling into a hole which they are unable to detect in time to take evasive action. But subsequent application of law is, if my assumption is correct, frequently determined by precedent. Thus, the original interpretation of any section of Civil Law sets the pattern for all future cases and possibly permanently prejudices judgment. I am not familiar with the circumstances which disposed the first claim heard by a court on behalf of a blind person who sued for damages through the alleged negligence of another party, nor do I know at what stage of social evolution this took place; for example, it could have occurred at a time when the general public, including judges, felt sure that all blind people who were not in special places should at least stay home. Also the case could have been badly presented and that there was no subsequent appeal against the court's decision. If one is prepared to admit these possibilities, one must also agree the precedents in the application of law can be, at least unfair, and at most, calamitous.

Those who dig holes in the pavement are required by law to afford sufficient protection against ordinary people falling into them; "ordinary" in this sense implies that such persons have normal sight, hearing and the powers of ambulation. To me this represents a paradox so extraordinary that if it were not, at times, tragic, it could be very funny. A hole is dug in the pavement; ordinary persons can see this hole and because they can see it they should not fall into it. A blind person cannot see this hole and cannot help falling into it. The law states this hole must be made even more obvious to the "ordinary person" and this is usually done by placing red lamps near it. If, however, an ordinary person still falls in, the court may decide there were not enough red lamps and this ordinary person will probably be awarded damages. On the other hand, no amount of ruddy illumination will tell a blind person there is a hole just where he is about to step, he falls in and the court tells him it was his own fault for not being able to see the hole or the red lamps. If they who

In Parliament

Lord and Lady Fraser gave lunch in the Houses of Parliament on November 21st to a number of St. Dunstaners. Welcoming the guests, Lord Fraser paid a tribute to Miss Byolin and Mr. G. Killingbeck, both of whom had been braille teachers at Church Stretton and Ovingdean, and had done wonderful work.

Other guests at the lunch included Sir Godfrey Nicholson, Bt., M.P., and Mr. Douglas Houghton, M.P.

The party made a tour of the Palace of Westminster and went into the Gallery of the House of Lords at 3 o'clock, where, by a coincidence, the first Question was asked by Lord Fraser on a subject which affects certain disabled people. The Question and answers are set out below:

Disabled Persons' Car Badges

3.5 p.m.

Lord Fraser of Lonsdale: My Lords, I beg leave to ask the first Question which stands in my name on the Order Paper.

(The Question was as follows:

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any statement to make as to the issue of car badges to disabled drivers and whether they will encourage local authorities to extend this concession to disabled persons who have vehicles under the auspices of the Ministry of Health or the National Health Service, in which they are taken out by a nominated driver; and to other severely disabled persons who have difficulty in walking and who are driven by a nominated driver.)

The Joint Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health (Lord Newton): My Lords, a review of the scheme has recently been completed. It shows that the scheme has had considerable success in easing the parking difficulties of severely disabled drivers. The suggestion that it should be extended to include the cars of disabled people driven by a fit driver was one of the main points covered by the review. My right honourable friend has taken note of all the opinions expressed by those consulted in the course of the review, including his Advisory Committee on the Health and Welfare of Handicapped Persons, and has decided that, while the scheme should be reviewed from time to time, no extension of its scope could be made at present.

can see them must be protected from holes, is it too much to expect that at least the holes should be protected from those who cannot see them? What would be the Court's ruling if, after a dense fog, an ordinary person and a blind one appear in the same court each suing for having broken a leg through having fallen into the same hole during that fog?

While I agree that the more a blind person gets about alone the more proficient he must become at it, it must, at the same time, increase his chances of putting his foot on a portion of the pavement that used to be there. So watch your step, chums; there are very few of us extraordinary pedestrians left now.

Yours sincerely,

MIKE DELANEY, *Maidenhead.*

Midland Social Club Notes

Our Christmas meeting, held on Sunday, December 8th, was a great success.

This meeting, as well as being the Christmas Party, incorporated the official opening ceremony, made more than enjoyable by the very welcome presence of Mr. A. D. Lloyds, the Secretary of St. Dunstan's, who conducted the opening. In his very interesting speech, Mr. Lloyds said that Birmingham was the first centre to form its own St. Dunstan's Club way back in 1921, and a founder member of this club, Mrs. Spurway, also honoured our meeting with her presence.

An excellent tea was provided once again by our Ladies' Section, but before this, one minute's silence was observed in memory of Sir Arthur Pearson, the Founder of St. Dunstan's, the anniversary of whose death was on December 9th.

This was a good attendance of Midlands men, but at the next meeting of the Club, let us make it an excellent attendance.

D. E. CASHMORE, *Secretary.*

Holidays Abroad

Choosing your holiday? Be sure to book your holiday at a price you can afford—through

JOHN PROCTOR,

Travel Agent,

2 MARINE DRIVE,

ROTTINGDEAN.

Appointed agent for all the main tour operators. Please write or telephone:

Rottingdean 3448

Lord Fraser of Lonsdale: My Lords, will Her Majesty's Government call the attention of the Minister to the fact that the local authority of Brighton have, as a matter of fact, issued regulations which meet the point of my Question? Further, will Her Majesty's Government bear in mind that the number of persons involved is extremely small—perhaps a few hundred throughout the whole country—and that this is one of those special cases where a concession, though perhaps not supported by logic, may well be supported by sentiment and be worth while doing? It is very difficult for a blind person or a limbless person who is being driven by his wife to get out of the car and go to his appointment alone; and if the car is left alone for five or ten minutes, then the "yellow peril" comes along and sticks a £2 fine on it. Will Her Majesty's Government think about this again?

Lord Newton: My Lords, as regards the decision of the Brighton County Borough Council, they recently decided to extend their scheme to include disabled people who have our Ministry vehicles with nominated drivers, but they took this action without consulting or notifying us at the Ministry, and in fact it is not in accordance with official policy. I quite appreciate my noble friend's arguments, and I think the Advisory Committee did, too. The reasons why they recommended no change at present were these. They foresaw dangers of abuse in extension of the scheme; difficulties for the police if people driving and parking vehicles bearing a badge were seen to be fit; and a reduction in the effectiveness of the scheme, which, after all, is founded on the good will of the police, and the traffic authorities and of the public generally.

Lord Fraser of Lonsdale: My Lords, does this not show that Brighton is a little more sympathetic than are Her Majesty's Government?

Lord Stonham: My Lords, can the noble Lord enlarge on the point about the dangers of abuse? And, if he is making representation to his right honourable friend on what his noble friend has said, will he bear in mind the extreme difficulty of some disabled drivers in being allowed a vehicle which will carry only the driver?

Is it not possible to consider that these disabled drivers should be given vehicles which can carry a second person?

Lord Newton: My Lords, that last question is a very much wider question, and I should not like to answer it without notice. All I can say is that this question was considered very sympathetically by my right honourable friend's Advisory Committee, and, for the reasons which I have given, they decided to recommend against it, and we have accepted that recommendation.

Lord Hawke: Is my noble friend not aware that what Brighton does today England does tomorrow?

★ ★ ★

Although Lord Fraser has been pressing this point upon the Minister of Health for many months without success as yet, it was a St. Dunstaner, namely Mr. T. McKay, who first called the Chairman's attention to the fact that the Brighton Local Authority were already operating the concession. Mr. and Mrs. McKay were both at the lunch.

Legion Honours St. Dunstaners

From the *British Legion Journal*, September, 1963:—

Castletown, Isle of Man

"The last meeting of the General Committee was a memorable occasion when the Rev. R. H. Reid, County President, who came direct from the Annual Conference at Torquay, presented gold badges to two members of the Branch. They were Mr. H. T. N. Christal, Branch and County Chairman, and Mr. A. H. Simcocks, County Secretary. They could not see their awards, for they were both blinded during the Second World War."

Among other achievements, the Branch recently won the County Cup for the greatest increase in membership.

Norton Christal, who is a teacher at King William's College, Isle of Man, has been Chairman of the Branch since 1949, but he modestly says, "I can claim no credit for its success which has been due entirely to the wonderful work of the Committee and the enthusiasm of the Women's Section."

Howard Simcocks, a Member of the Manx Bar, is a Member of the House of Keys and holds many offices in ex-service and other fields.

Brevities

The scene—a poultry farm. I am busy watering the chickens, accompanied by my little daughter aged 4. I have a full can of water in my right hand. I arrive in the vicinity of a chicken drinker and remark, "There's a drinker somewhere here." My little girl seizes my free hand, places it on the drinker, and says, "It's here, Dad. You are worse than a blind man."

BEN HAMILTON, *Thetford*.

Son's house under repair, hole in outside wall. Sister-in-law to workman, "When are you going to put that hole back?"

JOCK A. M. REAGEN, *Hastings*.

A patient named Frost, in hospital for surgery, called for the screens. A young Irish probationary, after supplying the essentials, was retiring when she heard him exclaim, "Nurse, this bed-pan is cold." "And what do you expect, with a Frost on it?" she snapped.

T. ROGERS, *Huddersfield*.

We were having a rather serious discussion on moral values and a correct code of conduct. A man who had become blind rather late in life said thoughtfully, "Yes. I think that now I cannot see, I can see things that I could not see when I could see."

Rather apt, I thought.

H. H. DOWNS, *Blackburn*.

Wally Thomas, our deaf St. Dunstaner, once found himself in a small queue. Immediately in front of him was an extremely thin man bending down attending to his shoe lace. As Wally moved forward he accidentally bumped into him. Wally's comment to me later—"Oh, boy! he sure was some skinny guy. It felt as if I'd run into the revolver butts of a cowpuncher."

G. BROOKS, *Bedford*.

Suffering from an acute attack of lumbago and receiving assistance in dressing from my physiotherapist husband, he remarked as he helped me into my girdle, "If you need me any more you must make an appointment. I'm a very busy man."

(Mrs.) C. H. SMITH, *Birmingham*.

(Each of the above "Brevities" earns a guinea. Others can be sent in up to Thursday, January 30th. Each one must be authentic and preferably relate to members of the family or friends.—EDITOR.)

Chess

It was a pleasant surprise to find that there were sixteen men competing at this year's Chess Weekend instead of about twelve. It was also very encouraging to have some of the younger players coming along.

Everything went smoothly and it was agreed that this was the most successful Tournament that we have had.

The players were divided into two sections of eight. There was a keen contest in the Major Section, G. Fallowfield, F. Taylor and J. G. Campbell each winning three games, the Cup being awarded jointly to Fallowfield and Taylor, under the Sonnon Fierger eliminating system.

The Cup for the Lower Section went to Dave Thomas, who won all of his four games, a great effort for a player who has only been playing a few weeks. The second and third places in this section went to A. Cook and Reg Newton.

No player was without a win, and all games were played in a sporting spirit. Congratulations to all.

Mr. R. W. Bonham came down from Worcester College for the Blind and was very helpful and instructive, as he always is.

Percy Stevens came along every day and, although not well enough to play, it was very good to see him. His courage and cheerfulness are an example to us all.

Earlier this year, two weekends were given over to instructing newcomers in the playing of Bridge. I am hoping that the same can be arranged in respect of our younger Chess players. This grand game can be very helpful in training the mind and character, as it requires courage and caution and a great deal of patience. A cool, calm head is essential if one is to be successful at this pastime.

Miss Carlton has presided over this event for the last ten years or so, and we were very sorry to lose her. However, Mrs. Macdonald stepped into the breach and acquitted herself very well. The players gave her a hearty welcome.

Before Matron presented the prizes, Mr. Bonham had some praise for the improved standard of play. He thought that some of the players might improve enough to take part in tournaments abroad at a later stage.

A very encouraging and happy weekend. Thank you, lads!

CHARLIE KELK, *Captain*.

LAW REPORT

From *The Times*, November 30th, 1963:—
Court of Appeal

DUTY TO THE BLIND

HALEY v. LONDON ELECTRICITY BOARD
Before the MASTER OF THE ROLLS, LORD
JUSTICE DONOVAN and LORD JUSTICE
DANCKWERTS

Their LORDSHIPS in judgments reserved from November 11, 1963, dismissed this appeal by Mr. John Haley, aged 64 years, a registered blind person, of Delafield Road, Charlton, S.E., from the decision of Mr. Justice Marshall on May 9, 1963 (*The Times*, May 10), who had dismissed his claim for damages for negligence and nuisance against the London Electricity Board, in respect of injuries sustained by him on October 29, 1956, at 8.40 a.m., when he was on his customary way to work as a telephonist employed by the London County Council, and he fell on the pavement of Charlton Church Road because a punner-hammer was placed sloping across the pavement before a trench in such a manner that his white stick passed over the handle and he had no warning of the danger. As a result of his injuries he was now virtually deaf. The Board by their defence denied liability, claiming that they were doing work in pursuance of a statutory duty and that Mr. Haley, being blind, chose to walk in the highway alone, so taking on himself the risk of colliding with any obstacle lawfully on it.

Mr. Edward Terrell, Q.C., and Mr. John Hayman appeared for Mr. Haley; Mr. E. W. Everleigh, Q.C., and Mr. Raymond Kidwell for the Board.

During his opening speech Mr. Terrell had said that English law on this subject all derived from *Donoghue v. Stevenson* ([1932] A.C. 562), and the question of law was: "Who is my neighbour?" Was a blind person, using the pavement in a legitimate and careful way, "my neighbour"? Mosaic law, over 3,000 years ago, had laid down that "Thou shalt not put a stumbling block before the blind" (Lev. xix. 14).

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the Board were searching for a cable and had put the punner-hammer across the pavement so as to stop pedestrians walking along it and to make them walk in the road. At the other end of the trench they put a pick and shovel, arched, for the same purpose. Any person with ordinary sight

would see these obstructions and, in order to get past, would walk out into the roadway where two signboards "Roadworks ahead" about three feet out from the kerb meant that traffic would keep away so as to let pedestrians walk down the roadway next the kerb.

Prima facie the obstructions were a nuisance, but the Board produced statutory authority for the purpose of digging the hole—the Gasworks Clauses Act, 1847, the Electricity Acts, 1882-1936, and section 8 of the Public Utilities Street Works Act, 1950. The effect of those statutory provisions was to authorise the defendants to do acts which would otherwise be a nuisance, but the condition of the exemption was that the defendants had to take all reasonable precautions to safeguard the public. They had to see that the trench was adequately fenced and guarded; if it were not, and in consequence a person lawfully walking along the pavement was injured, they were liable for negligence.

The defendants had to have regard to all the many sorts and conditions of people who used the pavement, and realise that it was used by men and women hurrying to work, by boys and girls running to school, and by old people pottering on their morning walk. All these were commonplace users of the way, and proper provision had to be made for their safety. The defendants did not have to cater for the man who walked with his head in the air and did not look where he was going; he was such an exceptional person that they needed not provide for him. If he ran into a fence or guard it could not be helped. It was not their fault.

Likewise, his Lordship was afraid that he had to say, the defendants did not have to provide for the blind, at any rate in places where the defendants had no particular reason to expect blind persons to be. It would be too great a tax on the ordinary business of life if special precautions had to be taken to protect the blind. Lord Salveson put it in striking fashion in the Scottish case *M'Kibbin v. Glasgow Corporation* ([1920] S.C. 590): "They do not need to pad the lamp-posts, for instance, because blind people use the streets."

This meant that a blind person, walking along a pavement—without a guide—had to put up with all the ordinary hazards of life—lamp-posts or parking meters, traffic

signs or warning notices. He had to realise that, from time to time, excavations had to be made, and that guards might be put up to prevent people from falling into them; he could not complain when he fell over a guard if that was a reasonable guard to put up to protect the public; that was clear from *Pritchard v. Post Office* ([1950] 114 J.P. 320, C.A.).

Applying this test, the question was whether this guard (in the shape of the punner-hammer) was a reasonable guard put up to protect the public. His Lordship had had some hesitation on this point, but had come to the conclusion that it was. It was quite sufficient to prevent anyone falling into the trench, and Mr. Haley himself did not fall into it. It was not itself a danger to any ordinary person who was walking along the pavement. It was a hazard for a blind man, but no more of a hazard than a more conventional type of guard, and Mr. Haley might have stumbled over any guard that was there. It was just as if he had fallen over a low railing beside a path, or something of that kind. It was a great misfortune, but no one's fault. His Lordship would, therefore, dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE DONOVAN said that the question was whether the Board ought, in the circumstances of the case, to have taken some added appropriate precautions. His Lordship said "in the circumstances of this case" because he could well see that circumstances might arise requiring some such additional precaution, for example, if the Board had been digging their trench just outside St. Dunstan's. This trench was in a quiet suburban road, and there was nothing to fix the Board with direct notice that a blind man would be coming along the pavement during the course of their work.

One's natural sympathy gave impetus to the view that some special precautions had to be taken for the blind. But a rule to this effect would place a duty upon the citizen which it would often be impossible to discharge. It was impracticable to place the duty so high and, harsh though the rule might sometimes look in its results, the extent of the duty had to be measured by the standard of the normal person. In this case that meant the person with sight. His Lordship shared the regret of Mr. Justice Marshall that this claim could not be upheld

but, despite the exhaustive and sturdy argument of Mr. Terrell, his Lordship could come to no other conclusion.

LORD JUSTICE DANCKWERTS (whose judgment was read by Lord Justice Donovan) said that the tragic injury which came upon Mr. Haley was most distressing but his Lordship was afraid that the law had to be applied, harsh as that result might appear to be.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused. The Board did not apply for costs.

Fireworks Explosion in St. Dunstan's Shop

From the *'Eastern Evening News'*, November 4th

A blind Norwich shop proprietor, his wife and mother-in-law escaped through an upstairs window and on to a roof today when a cabinet of fireworks exploded in his shop below.

"I was no worse off than anybody else," said Mr. Donald Lorenz, aged 46, who lives above his newsagent and tobacconist shop at 20 Sherwood Road, Norwich. "The smoke was so thick that nobody could see anything, anyway."

In the explosion—at nine o'clock this morning, about £20 worth of fireworks went up in a thick, choking black cloud of smoke.

Mr. Lorenz was having breakfast after sending out the morning delivery of newspapers. He attempted to leave the flat by the stairway, but was driven back by the smoke. So he, his wife, Betty, and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Margaret Oldfield, climbed through a bedroom window on to a flat roof three feet below.

"But the smoke was so thick outside that our neighbours could not see us. We had to call out to them. Mr. Battell, who own the hardware shop next door, brought a ladder and we were helped down."

Two fire appliances from the City Fire Fire Brigade, under Station Officer F. Jackson, soon dealt with the fire. The counter containing the cabinet was badly damaged and the walls were blackened by smoke.

"Thank goodness it didn't happen when the cabinet was full," added Mr. Lorenz.

It is thought possible the accident happened when a customer struck a match to light a cigarette as an assistant was getting some fireworks from the cabinet.

Killy

In recent years we of St. Dunstan's, both men and staff, have been greatly saddened many times by the retirement of members of the various departments of our organisation after long years of service, and as such losses are inevitable with the passage of time, all we can do is to regretfully accept them and express our gratitude and best wishes to all concerned for their health and happiness in many years to come. With the announcement in the November REVIEW of the coming retirement of George Killingbeck from his post as Head of the Braille Teaching Staff at Ovingdean, there will be expressions of goodwill and nostalgia from the countless St. Dunstaners of both Wars and from the staff who have all known him in one or other of his many spheres of work for us during his splendid career of 33 long and unstinting years of service. But as it is primarily as a Braille Teacher that we of the Second War know him best, and as the details in last month's REVIEW could only be brief as regards his period of teaching at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, I would like to recall some of my memories of his truly amazing work during those unforgettable days, not only for the benefit of those who were not there, but also perhaps to remind my contemporaries who were there of some of our experiences in those devastatingly noisy but always uplifting and cheerful Wards.

From D-day in June, 1944, onwards, of course, casualties began to flood in from the various battle areas to Stoke Mandeville which was one of the main Reception Hospitals for the most severe cases which required immediate transit to and urgent treatment in this country, and separate wards at Stoke Mandeville were specially allocated and reserved for cases with any degree of blindness. By the time I arrived there in September, 1944, three large wards were in full operation with specially-trained nursing and St. Dunstan's staff, and these wards always contained a total of at least 100 men. All normal hospital rules of quietness and restraint and discipline were seemingly non-existent, and I can vividly recall that during my first two or three days of experiencing that tremendous hubbub and bedlam in Ward 4X, I often wondered what sort of a hell-on-earth I had been put into! However, that feeling of mine was soon dispelled, for I

quickly realised that I was just one more blind man amongst 100 others in the same state, some 30 of whom were in the same ward as myself, and if they could be cheerful and kick up a din, well, so could I too! It soon became obvious to me that just being in that ward was the finest thing that had happened at that stage of my blindness, and the plain truth is that I began to live again from that moment on, and I am quite sure that all who were in Stoke Mandeville during their early days of blindness and other wounds will say exactly the same, for it was the combined cheerfulness and stupendous fortitude and courage which was all around that made life again indeed well worth living, in spite of everything. Of course, as regards our medical and physical recovery, our saviours were that wonderful band of Doctors, Sisters and Nurses, and other members of St. Dunstan's staff who were there in various capacities, too numerous to name individually in this short space and who—it is rather nice to think—might be reading this very belated expression of our deep gratitude for everything they did for all of us, but I would like to mention two male Medical Orderlies who spent many gruelling months in the St. Dunstan's Wards at Stoke Mandeville, and who always had to work at unbelievable pressure to get through their hectic and back-breaking business of having to attend everyday to a great number of the most-severely wounded cases. These two gentlemen are still with us, so to Charlie Hawketts at Ovingdean, and to Arthur Mason at Pearson House, go our sincere thanks and undying admiration for your grand and literally life-saving efforts.

Such was the way for us at Stoke Mandeville during the first foreboding months of blindness and disablement, with our physical recovery undoubtedly helped and hastened by the tremendous boost given to our morale by the splendid spirit of everyone, and in all of this, George Killingbeck was a prime factor of inspiration and example to each one of us. Himself a St. Dunstaner of the First War and who had also lost one hand, he came to the Hospital from the staff at Headquarters having volunteered to tackle the very difficult job of getting newly-blinded men as early as possible on to the business of learning Braille, and as these men had been wounded in battle or

the like, only a short time before, it could hardly have been much earlier! This was the colossal task Killy set himself—first to engender interest, next rouse enthusiasm, then to actually teach these men to read and write Braille. Men, who only a few days or weeks before had been in the prime of their active and exciting and dangerous lives, who were now grappling desperately with the first shattering shock and problems of sudden and total darkness, and who in many cases had other wounds to contend with, some minor and some serious, perhaps the loss of a leg or arm or even both, and every single man a vitally different personality and enigma for the person who was to try to teach him Braille. Looking back on those far-off days of nearly 20 years ago, the sheer audacity and apparent foolhardiness of this idea and Killy's hopes and determination to make a success of his seemingly impossible task appears quite incredible now, but the evidence is here that he did just what he set himself to do in the fact that so many of his pupils of that time are reading and writing Braille today, and thus able to count this priceless asset amongst our blessings. Quite apart from his teaching, however, Killy helped us enormously, for here we had a man to whom we could talk bluntly. He, too, was blind, just like us, and he also knew all about double-disablement, for he had only one hand himself, and of course he had gone through the same black days and troublesome thoughts we were now experiencing, so he knew exactly what we were up against, and although he had had his "lot" more than 25 years before us, that gave him all the more knowledge. One could therefore freely discuss all problems and fears concerning blindness with him, at that very time when we most needed his help, and he would listen very carefully and then quietly advise or reassure as might be necessary, and after hearing his valued comments based on the long years of his own experiences of blindness, one's own burden of blackness seemed to lighten considerably.

When it came to his main job of teaching Braille, Killy was an absolute master and genius. His whole day, and every day, was spent in going around the three St. Dunstan's wards, and at any one time he must have had at least 50 pupils, every one of

whom was at some different stage of learning the theory, or getting to read by actual touch, or using the Braille Writing Machine. Every pupil was allotted a specific time and period, and when Killy came in every day with "spot-on" punctuality, his uncanny memory—he never seemed to have or take any notes!—enabled him to pick up with any pupil from where they had left off the previous day and carry on as if there had been no break. He always knew everyone's exact point of progress, and it was quite normal and customary for him to be dealing with three men at once, one on theory, another on touch, and a third on the Writing Machine, and on many occasions also be quietly endeavouring to rouse some interest and enthusiasm about Braille in the mind of a newcomer. It was an extremely busy time for Killy, and coping with his many pupils spread over three wards must have been most exhausting and a great strain upon him, but he always made light of his work and took it all in his stride, never missing any opportunity of causing or finding laughter and humour wherever possible. For instance, during the period of my own sojourn in Ward 4X, there was a long time when there were no fewer than five (or was it six?) other men called "George," so when some mischievous spark shouted out "Where's George?" at frequent intervals, the immediate and confused response from Killy (himself a "George") and the other five or six men of that name all at once, and chaotically, can well be imagined! Then there was the mystery of the lost pupil, whose name shall be "Bill" for this purpose. Bill had got to the reading stage with his Braille, but he needed a lot of chasing and prodding by Killy to keep practising, and if he could be doing some thing else when the time came for his daily lesson, that suited Bill fine! So feeling lazy one day, he warned the other to say nothing when Killy came in and shouted for him, as Bill would be under his bed hiding from his Teacher! And so it happened, with repeated plaintive calls of "Bill! Where are you?" from Killy, and no answer. Again, and still no response from anybody. Some two or three minutes later, a delighted Bill was still flat on the floor under his bed congratulating himself on missing his lesson, when he felt a touch on his leg and heard a slight cough. "Shush-sh-sh! Be quiet!" whispered Bill,

"I'm hiding from Killy." "Oh! Is that so?" said Killy in Bill's ear, "well, I'm right beside you, so we'll do your lesson here and now! The floor is just fine and hard for reading, so carry on—I'm with you from the top of that page, there!"

That little episode, of which there were many, was typical of the way Killy dealt with us all, always with quite determined intent to get as much Braille as he could into each and every one, but also always as light-heartedly as possible. How well he succeeded in those days, both in his teaching and his splendid example of perseverance, is shown by the considerable number of us who were able to work on his basic Braille teachings when we later went on to Church Stretton and Ovingdean where, with the expert tuition and help of two other St. Dunstaners of the First War, namely the late Joe Walsh and Leslie White—incidentally Leslie is still teaching Braille at Ovingdean—and Miss Byolin—also leaving shortly, so our best wishes for her retirement go to her as well—and other Teachers, most of us who received our initial training from Killy at Stoke Mandeville were able to perfect our Braille and eventually become much more fluent in reading and writing. My own Braille story is such that I would like to tell it in detail, but space here does not permit. Suffice it must be to explain that I have no left hand and the movement of my right arm is greatly restricted at both elbow and wrist, whilst my right hand has only two usable fingers and a thumb, and as in fact I was originally bluntly told by the surgeons that my right arm and hand would "probably never be of much use," it would seem that in my first days and weeks at Stoke Mandeville and when I thought I had nothing left, I was hardly a good prospect for reading and writing Braille! Killy, however, had other views, and persuaded me at a very early stage and at a time when I had a seeming eternity of idleness of mind and body in prospect, to first learn as much Braille theory as I could and then, after the plaster cast eventually came off my arm and hand some two months later, to have a go at reading. During this last stage of trying to find my touch, and also when he later got me used to the Writing Machine, it was only Killy's encouragement and insistence that made me go on, so that when I left Stoke Mandeville in March, 1945, I

was able to read and write Braille a little and ready for further training at Church Stretton, where I became the pupil of Miss Preedy, and to whom I shall be eternally grateful, but most of all, of course, I owe a deep and lasting debt of gratitude to Killy for the inspiration and help he gave to me at Stoke Mandeville, and which has resulted in this wonderful boon of being able to read and write Braille, even though my speed is necessarily rather slow.

Apart from those of us who first knew Killy at Stoke Mandeville, there are a host of St. Dunstaners and members of the Staff who will have met him during the years since 1946 and when he has been in charge of the Braille Teaching Department at Ovingdean, and they too will have derived equal benefits from his teaching and wise counsel, and likewise felt the full impact of his cheerful outlook on life in general and, in particular, of his advice and determined example to us all about the use of Braille. No more fitting tribute to his magnificent work for St. Dunstan's over so many years could have been paid to George Killingbeck when, in the Birthday Honours List of June, 1945, he was awarded the British Empire Medal, and as we of St. Dunstan's have no actual award of our own to bestow upon him, I would like to suggest that he remembers that the letters B.E.M. can also stand for "Braille Emeritus Medal." May Killy thoroughly enjoy his retirement, have good health and happiness for many years to come, and call in to see us at Ovingdean and Pearson House as often as he can.

RON SLADE.

Cardiff Club Notes

At our last meeting of the year the finals of the Dominoes and Crib were played off with great enthusiasm. The winner of the Dominoes was A. C. Evans, and the runner-up, Arthur Wheeler. The winner at Cribbage was Reg Parsons. At tea our Chairman took the opportunity to announce that our New Year Party would be held on January 18th at the Park Hotel.

The Chairman, Treasurer and Committee, and not forgetting the Secretary, take this opportunity to wish all St. Dunstaners who are members of Clubs in our organisation all the best for Christmas and the New Year. May 1964 see our St. Dunstan's Social Clubs stronger than ever.

A. C. EVANS, *Hon. Secretary.*

From Old Friends

Miss Ramshaw writes:

Christmas is a time of remembering friends and so I wish all St. Dunstaners and their families a very happy one, and may the New Year bring many blessings to all of you. I shall be thinking very specially of everyone during the festive time, and looking back with so many happy memories of the years spent with you.

May God bless you all,

F. M. RAMSHAW.

From Colin:

To all St. Dunstaners who so generously contributed to a leaving present for me, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation, and to tell you how deeply moved I was by your thoughtfulness.

Wishing you all health and happiness for the future.

J. COLIN ROGERS.

From Miss Carlton:

Dear St. Dunstaners,

I was thrilled and touched when I heard from Mr. Lloyds that there was a Presentation Fund from you awaiting my disposal. I need no reminder of the happy years it has been my privilege to spend with your but the armchair and the radio which I am buying will bring you near to me when I am at home and the very handsome suitcase when I am away. This still leaves a sum with which I shall have great pleasure in prowling round the shops in search of smaller luxuries which I shall love owning and which normally I would decide were not for me!

Thank you all for these lovely gifts and, above all, for the friendship we have shared through the years.

Bless you all.

Sincerely, LILIAN CARLTON.

Long Service Honoured

Harry Boorman, of Peterborough, was honoured at a dinner on Tuesday, December 3rd, for his forty years' service as a telephonist with Messrs. Baker Perkins Ltd. At the dinner Harry was presented with a gold braille watch. He will retire on December 31st, the actual date of his 65th birthday.

★ ★ ★

T. L. Gibbons, of Kineton, Warwickshire, won two Highly Commended awards for his honeycombs at shows in London and Birmingham.

Mr. Norman Macauley, M.B.E.

We have heard, with deep regret, of the death, on November 23rd, of Mr. Norman Macauley, M.B.E. He had been in failing health for some time.

Mr. Macauley retired in 1954 after thirty years of devoted service to St. Dunstan's, and in particular, to St. Dunstan's men in Ireland, who will remember him with affection as their Visitor for so many years. His award of the M.B.E. in 1955 was a recognition of his services to blinded ex-servicemen.

The funeral service at the Belfast City Crematorium on November 26th was attended by St. Dunstaners J. Boyce, A. Scott, A. W. Rutledge and F. Steventon. Mrs. Ruth Thompson represented St. Dunstan's. Mr. Macauley's ashes were taken by his family to his wife's grave, where the wreaths from the Chairman and Council of St. Dunstan's, and from St. Dunstaners in Ireland, were laid with those from his family.

Christmas Competition

Some months back, in the REVIEW and in *Nuggets*, we held two competitions which proved to be most popular. In them readers were asked to find a number of words containing certain letters. We are setting similar competitions for your entertainment or otherwise over the Christmas holiday. This time there are only ten words to be found.

Each of the following clues suggests a word which contains the four letters, BONE, though not necessarily in that order. When you think you have found them, send your list (one only in one envelope) to the Editor, St. Dunstan's Review, 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1, marking your envelope "REVIEW COMP." The closing date is Thursday, January 30th. There will be five prizes of five guineas each for the first correct solutions opened after that date.

1. PREMONITION
2. DOING AS YOU'RE TOLD
3. LET GO!
4. NO EQUAL
5. TO GET AT (but not in the best circles)
6. TAKING NOTICE
7. MANAGEABLE
8. USUALLY BROWN
9. NOT TO MENTION IT
10. NOT NICE AT ALL

"In Memory"

Lieutenant R. P. Campbell, *7th Royal Northumberland Fusiliers*

We have to record with deep regret the death at Pearson House on November 25th of R. P. Campbell at the age of 71.

He served with the 7th Royal Northumberland Fusiliers in the First World War and was wounded and lost one eye in 1916. After many years his sight deteriorated and he became a St. Dunstaner in 1951. His wife died in 1956, and he later became a permanent resident in Brighton. Now Bob Campbell's quiet presence and friendly ways will be much missed by everyone at Pearson House.

We send our deep sympathy to his son and daughters and their families.

Private John Hatty, *Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders*

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death on November 26th, at the age of 72 years, of John Hatty, of Manchester. He died whilst staying at Pearson House.

He served with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders from 1915 to 1918 and was the victim of a mustard gas attack in 1917. He came to St. Dunstan's only in the early part of this year and, being in poor health, was admitted to Pearson House for a prolonged stay.

To his widow and family we send our very sincere sympathy.

Driver Jack Albert Malins, *Royal Engineers*

We have to record with deep regret the death on November 25th of J. A. Malins, of Harrow, Middlesex. He was 56.

He served in the Royal Engineers from 1941 until 1946, and came to St. Dunstan's in 1959. Because of his very poor health, he was not able to do any training, but he took great pleasure from his frequent visits to Pearson House.

His death was sudden and unexpected, and to the members of his family, especially Mrs. Theobald, with whom he lived, we send an expression of very sincere sympathy.

Chief Electrical Artificer Edward Walter Read, *Royal Navy*

With deepest regret we record the death in Haslar Naval Hospital on November 26th of E. W. Read, of Portchester, Hampshire. He was 71.

Enlisting in 1914, he served in the Royal Navy in both World Wars, being officially discharged in May, 1948. He came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1946. After his initial training at Ovingdean, he showed particular interest in basket work and he continued with this occupation right up to the time of his death. Mrs. Read died in 1949 and he had since been looked after by housekeepers.

He leaves three married sons, a married daughter and a brother, and our deep sympathy is sent to them.

Great-Grandfathers

T. S. Cooper, of Bridlington—a great-grand daughter; J. Murray, of Wood Green, a great-grandson.

Grandfathers

L. Scales, of Wallington; L. Faulkner, of Northwich; A. V. Platt, of Huddersfield (for the sixth time, and all girls).

Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. W. McLurg, of Ayr, November 14th; Mr. and Mrs. T. Ashe, of Lancing, December 1st; and Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Woollen, of Saltdean, December 10th. Many congratulations to all.

Family News

We have heard, with regret, of the death of Mrs. G. F. Smith, widow of our late St. Dunstaner of Guildford. Mrs. Smith had just moved to her son's home.

Rather belatedly, Pat Stanway, Morecambe, has heard that in a Hovis making competition at her College of Further Education, her exhibit was judged the best in all four years. She receives a Diploma and a cookery thermometer.

Marriages of Sons and Daughters

On November 16th, Robin Chell, Eastbourne, to Miss Pauline Parkes.

Brenda Hollamby, Oldham, on December 14th, to Mr. David Garnett.

Marriage

MUNRO—BENZIES.—On December 4th. D. S. Munro, of Aberdeen, to Mrs. Eleanor Benzies.

Death

Our deep sympathy is sent to the following:—

TEAGLE.—T. F. Teagle, of Aldbourne, in the loss of his wife on December 1st. Mrs. Teagle had been in poor health for some time.