



REVIEW

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Free to St. Dunstan's Men

FOR MEN AND WOMEN BLINDED ON WAR SERVICE





The panel of speakers which discussed future work during the final session (left to right) Dr. D. E. Broadbent, Medical Research Council; Mr. J. K. Dupress, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Prof. R. W. Mann, National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A.; Mr. T. V. Cranmer, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, Kentucky; Dr. A. M. Uttley, Chairman, St. Dunstan's Scientific Committee; Dr. M. D. Graham, American Foundation for the Blind; Prof. R. G. Boiten, Technische Hogeschool, Delft, Netherlands; Mr. R. Dufton, Director of Research, St. Dunstan's; Dr. M. B. Clowes, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Canberra, Australia.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SENSORY DEVICES FOR THE BLIND



The demonstration course for the ultra-sonic torch at the National Physical Laboratory. Visiting members of the Conference were shown how the St. Dunstan's evaluation unit's work is being carried out. (Cover) A young girl, one of a panel of subjects giving a cross-section of the blind population, on the course.



Mr. K.W. Gardiner, Stanford Research Institute, California, makes a forceful point from the floor of the Conference. He also said: "St. Dunstan's encourages and finances ideas. They are a group of specialists who watch the idea through to its logical conclusion."

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Scientific Conference

A Scientific Conference on Sensory Devices to which I made substantial references last month took place during the week 13th to 17th June. Representatives of 11 countries were present and 55 scientists were there, of whom ten were blind.

On another page some points of interest which arose at the Conference are noted.

I think the Conference was a great success in all respects; first it enabled the science and art of applying modern electrical and other devices to aid the blind in mobility and reading to be fully discussed by practically all those in the world who are working on this subject. Although practical solutions of these problems are not round the corner, it is nevertheless important that they should be pursued. Secondly, the Conference indicated St. Dunstan's very real contribution to the welfare of the blind as a whole and this was referred to by many speakers.

Although practical solutions are not yet readily available we should remember that two or three blind persons in this country and a few in the United States are already able to read ordinary print by means of an electronic machine of the optophone variety. This system is too difficult and slow for ordinary blind people and much too expensive, but it points the way. In the field of mobility there are a few dozen people who are experimenting with an electronic hand "torch" with which some claim they can move about more freely than without it. Here again no universal guidance is yet available, but the experience of the few enables us to say that the experiment is worth continuing.

The praise for the Conference from delegates from all over the world was a very gratifying recognition of our initiative.

Braille

I was very interested to read about the Braille Weekend held at Ovingdean earlier this year and of the discussions which took place under the Chairmanship of Mr. Fred Ripley.

Many St. Dunstaners find Braille a valuable resource and pastime, and the proposal for the formation of a St. Dunstan's Braille Club aims "to encourage the use of Braille and to bring to the attention of other St. Dunstaners the advantages of using Braille as a means towards greater self-reliance". I feel this object is most valuable and I readily agree.

We will be happy for the Braille Club to hold a gathering at Ovingdean again in March of next year. In the meantime we are glad to agree to the suggestion that St. Dunstaners should be able to take repeat tests on both the Intermediate and Senior Grades at five-yearly intervals instead of the present ten-yearly intervals on the Senior Grade only. We are also increasing the prize money for the tests, which will now be £3 for the Preliminary, £6 for the Intermediate and £10 for the Senior.

I am very grateful to Fred Ripley and his colleagues for the thought they have given to the encouragement of Braille amongst St. Dunstaners: it is a matter which I have often referred to in the *Review* and, once again, I do urge all not to neglect it.

Fraser of Lonsdale

WAR PENSIONS

*Extract from Hansard—
22nd June, 1966*

LORD FRASER OF LONSDALE:

My Lords, I beg leave to ask the Question which stands in my name on the Order paper.

(The Question was as follows:

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, having regard to the Government's declared intention that, in assessing the pensions payable to the war disabled and their widows, regard would be had to the cost of living and to the higher standard of living now enjoyed in the country as a whole, they will bear in mind the effect on war pensioners, and on the widows of deceased war pensioners, of the substantial increase in the cost of living which has taken place since the improvements in war pensions and war widows' pensions were announced in November, 1964.)

LORD BOWLES:

My Lords, as the noble Lord will know, the war pensions improvements which came into effect in March, 1965 were the largest of their kind ever made, and further important improvements in the war pensions provisions have been introduced this year. These are an earnest of the Government's concern for war pensioners, and I can assure the noble Lord that they will continue to keep very much in mind the considerations to which he has referred.

LORD FRASER OF LONSDALE:

My Lords, while thanking Her Majesty's Government for those provisions, which were very greatly appreciated, may I ask that this matter will be among others considered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he is making his plans for the next Budget?

LORD BOWLES:

My Lords, I cannot answer for the Chancellor, but I am quite sure that the whole Government will keep in mind the point which the noble Lord has raised.

St. Dunstaners Visit Westminster

On Friday, 15th July, Lord and Lady Fraser invited a party of St. Dunstaners, who are Trainees at Ovingdean, to visit the Houses of Parliament and join them at luncheon in a private room.

Those present included Lord McCorquodale, Mr. Merlyn Rees, M.P., Mr. A. J. G. Crocker, Captain J. Windsor (a St. Dunstaner from Vancouver, Canada), Lieutenant Sen Gupta (an Indian soldier who was blinded in the recent fighting between India and Pakistan and who has been the guest of St. Dunstan's for a few weeks), Mrs. Elmer Glew (widow of Mr. Elmer Glew—a 1915 St. Dunstaner who was for many years Hon. Secretary of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association), Mr. and Mrs. Helfet from South Africa, Mr. Rice and Miss Tatham, and the following St. Dunstaners: Messrs. Cole, Pacitti, Fisher, Wortley, McNamara, Lee, Parish, Parkinson and Bunting. They were accompanied by the following members of the Ovingdean staff: Messrs. Short, Austin, Hawkins and Drake.

Lord Fraser announced that Captain Windsor, who is a journalist by profession, had written his second book, which was a stirring account of war events in Italy. Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, who was C.-in-C. at the time to which the book applies, had written a Preface and the book had been accepted for publication by the first-class British publishers, Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. Lord Fraser congratulated Captain Windsor and wished him the best of luck with the book.

St. Dunstan's Review

Readers are reminded that there will be no "Review" in August. Our next issue will reach you about the end of September but it will be called the October issue. The *Review* which reaches you at the end of October will be called the November issue and so on for the future. This new arrangement is in accordance with modern magazine practice.

ST. DUNSTAN'S INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SENSORY DEVICES FOR THE BLIND

by

RICHARD DUFTON, A.M.I.MECH.E.

Director of Research, St. Dunstan's

Following the Chairman's Notes in the June issue of the *Review*, when Lord Fraser referred to the five-day Conference which he had opened earlier in the month in London, some further notes are included in the following summary of the papers read.

The Conference was planned to bring researchers together, for the up dating of progress and thinking in the field of sensory aids. In addition to our own researches at the National Physical Laboratory on the problems of converting the printed word into a form that blind people might hear or feel, there were papers on associated projects supported by the Veteran's Administration in America. Four papers were devoted to this subject and one to the evaluation of the American "Optophone".

While reading rates with the latter were not very promising, "synthetic speech" devices of more advanced design seemed capable of outputs approaching "reading aloud" speeds. Their cost, however, would preclude them from use in the home and they may be destined eventually for library installation for the use of a group of blind people in one area.

There were five papers on the field trials of the ultra-sonic torch—the only production engineered aid constructed to date. The authors of this group came from the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of America. In addition, a paper was read on the results of evaluation trials in several countries where only one or two ultra-sonic torches had been tested.

The United Kingdom contribution concerned a batch of twenty-five aids and three groups of blind people in the London area. St. Dunstan's set up this particular trial in 1965 based on the National Physical Laboratory, with a small team under the supervision of a member of our Scientific Committee. It was clear from all the results reported, that field trials or evaluations are still of an exploratory nature, for, while the ultra-sonic torch proves to be reliable in use the task of learning to use it efficiently will call for a formal training course in practically all instances.

Three stages are involved with all sensory devices envisaged to date:

1. Gathering the information.
2. Analysing or translating it.
3. Acting on the result of the latter.

There is currently the technology to deal with the information-collecting stage—whether it is reading or mobility—but the manner in which it is presented to the user either to hear or to feel is vitally important.

With reference to mobility aids of the instrumented type, there is now a fairly clear consensus of opinion that devices are best employed as a means of supplying additional information about the near surroundings to a traveller already versed in the use of a cane or stick.

Five papers on prototype mobility aids completed the mobility section of the conference. These prototypes included a novel design from the United States of America in which a "laser" is incorporated in a long cane, mounted some two feet from the tip to give focussed beams—one pointing slightly downwards along the path ahead, a second pointing horizontally straight ahead and the third slightly elevated to cover head high obstacles. The lasers provide a minute concentrated beam of light from a crystal in a nacelle mounting on the cane. Detectors pick up reflections from objects in the path of the beams and signal the result

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

(continued)

to hand stimulators on the grip of the cane. Another paper from California described an "optical image converter" with a tactile output. This "touch" output has been the subject of both reading and mobility studies under the United States Aero Space Research programme, as a possible means of transmitting information to astronauts.

Professor Leslie Kay, the inventor of the ultra-sonic torch, described his new ultra-sonic spectacles design in which the echoes received from objects in the vicinity are heard in both ears, in contrast to the use of one ear only in all other designs contemplated. While this leaves both hands free, the problem of localising sounds artificially in this way is at present little understood and fundamental psychological investigation and engineering development at the laboratory level will be the next step.

These examples serve to illustrate the ingenuity and technology that are at present being expended in this field and while mobility aids may appear to be more prominent than reading aids, the primary reason is that there is much linguistic underbrush to clear before even an expensive computer installation could be programmed to handle the context, pronunciation and spelling to give tolerable speech.

In addition to an important paper on a survey into the reading and mobility habits of blind people in England and Wales, special maps for given areas were described. The Conference was also told of collapsible long canes, and social studies undertaken by the American Foundation for the Blind with a group of ex-service men.

Summary reports on sensory researches were read by authors from the Netherlands, and the American Veterans' Administration and there was a report on the activities of the recently formed sub-committee on sensory devices, under the auspices of the American National Academy of Sciences.

It is hoped that the conference will prove to be a landmark providing, as it did, the opportunity for authors, delegates

and observers jointly to consider problems in discussion after each paper. Altogether eleven nations were represented at the Conference; these were:—

Austria	Netherlands
Australia	New Zealand
Canada	Sweden
Denmark	United Kingdom
France	United States of America
Germany	

The first hand experience of blind delegates who presented papers or attended the conference made a notable contribution to its success.

REUNIONS

With seven Reunions to include in this number of the *Review*, it is impossible to do adequate justice to each or any of them. We gave the date, the name of the member of St. Dunstan's Council presiding and the hotel in our February number, so will only mention here that the number of St. Dunstaners with wives or escorts, members of the staff and friends in round numbers which were as follows:—

Newcastle, 70;
Leeds, 120;
Brighton, 310;
Ipswich, 75;
Nottingham, 70;
Birmingham, 140;
London, 340.

The sincere and eloquent votes of thanks voiced by our St. Dunstaners at the close of the speeches came from Leslie Thompson (Newcastle), Herbert Ward (Leeds), William Megson (Brighton), Horace Elsey (Ipswich), Gilbert Stanley (Nottingham), Douglas Cashmore (Birmingham) and John Douglass (London).

Every Reunion proved as happy, gay and enjoyable as the one before, and we feel that St. Dunstaners would particularly like to join us in warm congratulations to the welfare visitors responsible:

Mrs. King—Newcastle and Leeds;
Miss Blebta—Brighton;
Miss Broughton—Ipswich and Nottingham;
Miss Newbold—Birmingham;
Miss Collins—London.

MOBILITY TRAINING IN THE
LONG CANE TECHNIQUE*St. Dunstan's Instructor*

An American instructor will shortly be visiting England to train a number of instructors in the Long Cane Technique for both St. Dunstan's and the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Our instructor will be Mr. J. Carnochan, our new sports officer, who will then be permanently available at Ovingdean to give instruction to St. Dunstaners wishing to improve their mobility by this method.

Our St. Dunstaner, Walter Thornton, who went to America for St. Dunstan's in April/May, 1965, and wrote about his experience with the Long Cane in our March issue, informs us of a course of instruction which he has initiated, in the Long Cane Technique in Birmingham and District on a non-residential basis.

Mr. Thornton suggests that St. Dunstaners living in or around Birmingham who wish to take advantage of the non-residential course of instruction there, might contact him at 350 Heath Road South, Northfield, Birmingham 31. Telephone—Priory 2844.

Tea with the Queen

On Friday, 10th June, Mr. and Mrs. M. Lawton of Hemel Hempstead, Herts, went to the Gardens of Buckingham Palace to see new colours presented to the Irish Guards. In the afternoon they went to Ranelagh Gardens in Chelsea to the garden party. Her Majesty the Queen mingled freely with the crowd and everyone had a wonderful view of her.

When the lawn in front of the Royal Tea Tent was cleared, Major Grehan, Regimental Adjutant, asked Mr. and Mrs. Lawton to wait in the centre of the lawn for Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey-Kelly who presented them both on their own, to Her Majesty and then they followed on to have tea with Her.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawton were very grateful to the Irish Guards for the wonderful tribute they paid to them on this memorable occasion.

BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL

Our St. Dunstaner George Jakins has been awarded the British Empire Medal. In his mid-fifties and married with a family, he works as a telephonist at the Ministry of Agriculture, Guildford divisional office, and also mans the inquiry desk.

Mr. T. Johnson, the chief executive officer at the divisional office said that George Jakins received the B.E.M. because of his outstanding work.

"He has an unusually gifted memory for names, numbers and identifying people by their voices and he uses all these qualities in a dedicated way in the interest of public service," Mr. Johnson said.

"All our visitors are first received by him at the desk and countless tributes have been paid to George because of his helpfulness and courtesy."

Mr. H. A. MASON

Mr. H. A. Mason (Arthur) retires from St. Dunstan's in August of this year after almost 40 years continuous service. He began his long service in November, 1927, as a Nursing Orderly. When Ovingdean opened and the temporary Operating Theatre was installed he acted as Theatre Attendant. He also served in this capacity from 1940/43 at Church Stretton. From 1943/45 he was with the St. Dunstan's contingent at Stoke Mandeville. Since 1945 Mr. Mason has been House Steward at Pearson House.

He is well known to St. Dunstaners of both wars for his helpful and interested attention to their needs.

As one of the "old school" staff, Arthur Mason has made a considerable contribution to the "family" of St. Dunstan's.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

R. Finch, of Quinton, Birmingham, has been awarded the Certificate of Merit in the National War Disabled Home Craft Competition organised by the Ministry of Pensions. This is his sixth Certificate of Merit. He has won four first prizes and two second prizes for his fibre mats.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

It was reported in the May Review that Raymond, son of our St. Dunstaner J. Inness had won a Duke of Edinburgh Award. We have since heard that this is a Gold Award.

To obtain this Award requires quite a lot of hard work. Amongst the many tasks to be accomplished Raymond had to take a four-day journey covering at least 50 miles on foot and camp three nights on different camping sites. He also took up a pursuit, which in his case was horse riding, and an Adult Course in First Aid, besides various standards in fitness which have to be passed to obtain the Gold Award.

The presentation took place at Buckingham Palace, and John Inness has sent us this account:—

We entered the Palace grounds through the Royal Mews, where we saw some beautiful horses looking at us over the half-open stable doors. We were quickly in the gardens proper, and what a lovely smell of flowers! After what seemed quite a long walk up the drive, we arrived at the Palace itself. Let me see if I can describe it to you. Stand with your back to the Palace at the top of a flight of stone steps, curved round behind you is the terrace with a stone wall on either side and chairs for the guests. Down the steps and on either side, a lawn about ten feet wide and a double line of chairs, again for guests. I am told there were about two thousand. Then the drive, about twenty feet wide and beyond that a beautiful lawn, various measurements were given to me and it seemed to be about the size of a football pitch. Numbered "blocks" had been marked out on this lawn forming a "three-sided square" with the open side towards the palace. In the centre was a small platform on which was a military band and away over to the left a large marquee. Precisely at three o'clock the band played the National Anthem and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh came to the top of the steps.

As there were over nine hundred boys and girls receiving their "Gold Awards" a ballot had been arranged for a boy or girl to represent each block and to be introduced to Prince Philip on behalf of the rest, but in fact he spoke to many of them. He laughed and joked all the time with them, and the "kids" told us that they thought he was, "Great". It took almost an hour to meet all the different groups and then Prince Philip spoke over the loudspeaker. He told us that he had presented these awards to boys and girls all over the Commonwealth and he hoped that, although the winners had now reached the end of the "Awards" scheme, their spirit of adventure would be passed on to other youngsters now following them.

After the ceremony we had our photographs taken, just to remind us of our "Afternoon at the Palace", as if we'll ever forget!

A. T. Turrell, of Clacton-on-Sea, recently received a medal for coming second in a dancing competition organised by the Clacton For The Blind Dancing Club.

British Legion Boreham Wood Branch

For the second year running, Boreham Wood British Legion have held a party for disabled ex-servicemen from the Star and Garter Hospital at Roehampton. The party was organised by a Committee under the Chairmanship of our St. Dunstaner John Cowan, of Boreham Wood, who lost his sight in Germany in 1945. About 29 of the seriously wounded men from the hospital were present. Mr. Reginald Maudling, M.P., was among the guests and although he was not able to stay very long he found time to chat with each of the men in turn.

Before the ex-servicemen returned home they were each given a pewter tankard and cigarettes as a gesture of the branch's friendship towards them.

The event was financed by funds raised by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Cowan who organise a weekly competition at branch meetings.

The Cheshire Show

by

MAUREEN LEES.

From my earliest days the words "The Cheshire Show" have meant just that.

I would be about three when I first went to it with my mother, meeting the many county and farming folk she knew and especially being shown the cheese, the honey and the butter and to hear many times, how she had at the age of 11½ gone to live with relatives who farmed the Norman built Showick Old Hall, where they had 88 cows, at the very least, and prided themselves on three 36 cheeses a week. Also to hear many times how my mother was the cheese maker, as on a farm every one has to take an equal share of the work.

So to me to visit Cheshire Show means once more being a part of something which has been part of my life.

Again this year we had a wonderful site and quite twice as much area. We must have been one of the most popular exhibits there and we did extremely well. I think this is because I am known as being Cheshire and my team know they must always keep a good display of goods. This year we sold out of string bags and willow baskets in less than an hour and we showed the furniture items to credit. I think one has to have a wide approach to one's display and not have little side openings around which the public is expected to wind its way.

Photographs were taken once more of our display and tired, weary and aching we all got home knowing we now have to get ready for the Liverpool show where once again we have a main display.

I am not holding my usual big exhibitions this year owing to illness but am hoping to get invitations to exhibit one day only, locally. I will be showing a complete range of the work of St. Dunstaners during August at the following places:—

- Denbigh—one day.
- Bromborough Pool—probably one day.
- Ruthin—one day
- Bebington at the New Ferry Park—one day Show.

Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen Annual Party

On Sunday, 3rd July, I was again privileged to represent St. Dunstan's at the Annual Party given by the members of A.J.E.X. for disabled ex-servicemen of Northumberland and Durham. This was also to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, when the 50th Division suffered terrible casualties and were almost wiped out. In the morning there was a Parade of Veterans of the 50th Division led by the Band of the 6th Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. We were then taken to Heaton Sports Ground and had a very nice lunch provided by the Members of A.J.E.X. After lunch we sat outside in the grounds and were given a display by the Newcastle City Mounted Police. Then two N.C.O.s from the First Battalion R.N.F. gave a judo display. Then came the big moment when we were given a big thrill by the Pipes and Drums of the 50th Divisional Engineers. The ceremony of "Beating the Retreat" and "Blue Bonnets over the Border" and "Scotland the Brave" and "The Bonnets of Dundee" were some of the favourites rendered by the Band. After tea we had a Variety Concert, which we enjoyed immensely. Special guests were the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. J. Burton, also Mr. Jeffrey Rhodes, M.P. for Newcastle West, and Mr. Bob Brown, M.P. for Newcastle West, also Mr. Toft, ex-Mayor of Whitley Bay. I would like to pay a tribute to the Members of A.J.E.X. for the splendid work they do for ex-servicemen, and also for the City hospitals. Thank you very much.

GEORGE A. PRINCE.

GARDENING HINTS

We are always pleased to publish helpful gardening hints. We have had one from A. G. Emerson of Leigh, Nr. Reigate, Surrey who writes:—

"We use strips cut from the tops of old nylon stockings to tie up our tomato plants. These ties are not only strong but stretch and allow the plant to grow without the tie cutting into the stem as string or raffia ties would do."

CLUB NEWS

London Club Notes

The Sir Arthur Pearson Aggregate Domino Competition (the six best scores from eight games) came to a final conclusion on the 23rd of June. The enthusiasm with which these games were contested can easily be judged by the very close scoring rate. G. P. Brown eventually took first place, his best six scores reaching a total of forty. Charlie Hancocks followed in second place with a total of thirty-eight. Jim Murray ("Grandad" to us, one and all!), Charlie Luker and Bob Fullard were unfortunately out of the running with thirty-seven each.

"Jock" Brown was again in best form in the Fives and Threes, having defeated Billy Miller. Bill Harding won from Charlie Luker and Bob Fullard ousted P. Nuyens from the game.

In the Cribbage Knockout Competition it was Paul Nuyens place to remember Milton's "Paradise Lost" ("What though the field be lost—all is not lost.") when he defeated G. P. Brown, and W. Miller lost to Bob Bickley. Now Paul and Bob join Bob Woods and W. Bishop in the semi-finals.

W. BISHOP.

Midland Club Notes

All our club outings for the past three years have been marred by unsettled weather and, once again, this year it was no exception, we were still out of favour with the Clerk of the Weather. Our outing for this year, on Sunday, 12th June, was the occasion of our return visit to our old haunts at Church Stretton.

We left Thorpe Street, Birmingham, at 1 p.m., and the coach made its way along the New Wolverhampton Road, picking up at the Hen and Chickens and then on into Wolverhampton to pick up some more of our party. We then made quite a large detour, passing through Bewdley, Cleobury Mortimer and over

the Clee Hills. This was a journey through beautiful countryside, but the grandeur of the views was marred by heavy showers and low clouds. We arrived at Church Stretton at 4.15 p.m., fortunately during a sunny interval, so some of our party were able to stroll around the village for a short while before we made our way, by coach, up to Cardingmill Valley for tea. Everyone was ready for a "cuppa" by this time, and we all thoroughly enjoyed a most excellent salad tea which included fresh salmon. After tea some of us took a stroll up the valley and enjoyed seeing and hearing the small streams trickling down the hills and listening to the lambs frolicking about. Although some attempts were made to coax a couple of lambs on to the coach to journey back to Birmingham with us, the attempts failed, I do not think the lambs were very keen on what might have happened when they arrived at our journey's end.

Those of us who trained at Church Stretton found quite a lot of alterations. A new telephone exchange and fire station now stand on the site of most of the old training centre and the remainder of the buildings are used as the village school, although a new school is nearing completion opposite Deanhurst, which is now a hotel. Most of the old pubs are still there, although mostly under new management. We could not explore the fern country as the grass was too wet.

We left Cardingmill Valley at 7 p.m., and made our way back to Wellington, where we had decided to stop for refreshments. This we did, and a very enjoyable hour was spent tasting the local brew, which was good old "M and B's".

If, because of the reference to the weather here and there, you think that this was a dull outing, you are wrong; it takes more than showery weather to dampen the spirits of the Midland Club, and everyone said how they had enjoyed themselves, and they all enjoyed the sing-song on the way back home.

D. CASHMORE,
Hon. Secretary.

CLUB NEWS

Sutton Club Notes

Depression usually has no place among the members of the Club, but at this month's meeting it was most certainly present, first because we were informed of the critical illness of Bill Lucraft, of Salfords, who was taken into hospital last Sunday suffering from bronchitis and a weakening heart. Bill, who is eighty-two, was an active member, we wish him a speedy recovery, and send our heartfelt sympathy to Daisy, his wife.

There was also sadness in the Chair, for although Ted Dudley was at the meeting, Eileen, his wife, was not, and we of the Sutton Club send Ted and Eileen our condolences on the death of her Mother.

On Saturday, 11th June, we were the guests of Rev. and Mrs. Spurway at a Garden Party at the Vicarage, Holmwood, the weather was very good to us and we enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon and evening starting with a picnic lunch on the lawn, tea was also set out in these pleasant conditions and the numbers increased when the walkers joined us, and many friends such as Matron Ramshaw, and Mrs. MacLeod, Secretary at the Lee Camp. Thank you both for such an enjoyable time. The afternoon session before tea was taken up by an open Committee meeting where details of our

summer outings and other matters were discussed.

After tea we had a knock-out domino tournament, John Taylor being the undisputed winner with eleven games to his credit.

New faces mean new ideas, so if you live in or around Sutton, why not come along and enjoy yourself.

REG NEWTON.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Since receiving the above Notes from Reg Newton of the Sutton Club, we regret to have to record the death of Bill Lucraft (whose obituary will be found in the "In Memory" section of the Review).

Bill passed peacefully away in hospital on 30th June, 1966, and will be missed by all Club members, who send special messages of sympathy to his widow on her sad loss.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Newton represented the Sutton Club at the cremation, and representatives of the local Club for the Blind were there too. Amongst the bouquets of flowers received were some from the Sutton Club, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Newton, the local Club for the Blind, St. Dunstan's and Bill and Alice Dudley sent wreaths. After the service was over all bouquets were sent to the local hospital.

BRIDGE NOTES

The Summer Bridge Drive was held on Saturday, 25th June, at Headquarters. Sixteen St. Dunstaners, with their partners, took part, and thoroughly enjoyed a pleasant afternoon.

The results were as follows:—

- 1st, F. Mathewman and Mr. Woods;
- 2nd, R. Armstrong and Miss Suggett;
- 3rd, E. Carpenter and Mrs. Barlow.

A special prize, presented by E. Carpenter, for the lady calling the first small slam eventually went to Mrs. Barlow. Miss Suggett and Mrs. Barlow called the first

small slam simultaneously, and the winner was decided by the cutting of the cards.

Consolation prizes were won by R. Stanners and Mrs. W. A. Rogers.

PAUL NUYENS.

"Individual" Competition: July Results

BRIGHTON

- F. Rhodes and M. Clements, 48;
J. Chell and R. Goding, 39;
C. Kelk and S. Webster, 38;
W. Burnett and Partner, 35;
B. Ingrey and A. Smith, 31;
H. Boorman and J. Whitcombe, 25.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Blodwyn Simon, Vera Kemmish, Thelma Meredith, and Elsie Aldred, of Ovingdean, Brighton.

We would like to offer our whole-hearted support to Stewart Spences' letter for a Swimming Pool at Ovingdean. We have been fortunate to have the use of the King Alfred Baths on Friday nights only, one on our premises would be far more advantageous in many ways. Far from being too late, many St. Dunstaners are comparatively young, and we feel that many of the older ones, would take it up again, so come on all you fellow swimmers. Show your support and keep the ball rolling this time.

From Joseph Humphrey, of Belfast.

A swimming bath is no longer a luxury. What a wonderful incentive to bound out of bed in the morning both winter and summer, if there was a heated pool at Ovingdean.

The lack of swimming facilities at Ovingdean has hitherto been the only single factor needed to make the holiday attraction 100 per cent (for me, at any rate), and since "we", as Stewart says, are able to enjoy this sport so freely it is certainly a wonder that the idea has not materialised long ago.

You have my support, Stew—I'll see you in the deep end—the sea at the other end of the tunnel is far too dangerous.

From Bill Claydon, of Hendon, N.W.4.

I wholeheartedly agree with the proposal for a swimming pool at Ovingdean.

I noticed at both of the last two Sports' Weekends at Brighton that this idea was coming in for quite a lot of discussion amongst the competitors of all ages. There appeared to be general agreement amongst them, that a swimming pool of our own would be a very popular innovation.

Practically all forms of sporting activity are severely curtailed by age or infirmity, but swimming is an exception, in that it can be enjoyed at any age and despite many infirmities.

The freedom of movement and the relaxation experienced by all blind swimmers is well known, and I feel quite sure

that if there was a swimming pool at Ovingdean it would be in constant use by St. Dunstaners visiting there.

From G. Nuttall, of Walmersley, Bury, Lancs.

In the June edition of the *Review*, I note a brother St. Dunstaner airing the subject of a swimming pool at Ovingdean. I would like to mention that this may not be the desire of very many St. Dunstaners and would be a costly job.

I am concerned, with other St. Dunstaners I have spoken to at the Manchester Reunion, in respect of the condition of many St. Dunstan's widows whose late husbands were too old to be members of the Contributory Insurance Scheme and not granted a War Widow's pension. These widows after very many years of wonderful service have very little to live on, unless they are well provided for.

Sticking my neck out, I think rather than costly luxury items, some slight consideration be given to these wonderful widows of our late brother St. Dunstaners, who have very little for a great service rendered.

Editor's Note

St. Dunstan's does help widows in two ways:—

(a) *By helping the husbands whenever possible, through contributory assurance schemes, to make provision, during their lifetime, for their widows.*

(b) *By helping widows directly when they are in need. In this connection application for assistance should be made to Area Superintendents at Headquarters.*

From A. C. Pointon, of Bexhill-on-Sea

I was interested to read Michael Oliver's letter about the painfully expensive Sea Streak fishing reel. My own preference for beach casting is for a fixed spool reel using monofil, as opposed to braided line, as I find the former less liable to "bird's nest" when casting. However, if one prefers a multiplier reel, there are many less expensive ones available which can be used satisfactorily with the following technique.

With the rod slightly off vertical,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—continued

adjust the star drag so that the weight being used is just able to pull the line out, and keeping the clutch on instead of taking it off. This will prevent the tendency to over-run which occurs with the clutch off.

A variation on Lord Fraser's piece of spark plug lead insulation is to tie a simple loop or bow in the line, put a match stick through it and tighten the loop. This can be used to prevent one from winding in too far, and when the day's fishing is over, break the match-stick and pull the line out straight.

From Thomas Lukes, of Old Colwyn, N. Wales

If I may I would like to add to the correspondence you have already had on the subject of chess. I agree with the previous writers that it is a pity more is not heard of this game in the *Review*. I don't think that bridge and chess should compete with each other, they are both fine games, but I am sure that many St. Dunstaners are not aware of the full possibilities of chess as a hobby. The game can be played either by correspondence or over the board and in either form the possibilities of play against either sighted or blind people are limitless. I would advise anyone who is looking for a fascinating hobby to take their courage in both hands and plunge in. St. Dunstan's offers beginners' courses from time to time and, in addition, there is a beginners' section at the annual tournament which is held at Ovingdean in the Autumn.

From George Fallowfield, of Welling, Kent.

I read Dave Thomas's letter with great interest because I was a complete stranger in these parts until the end of January, yet from the beginning of March I have had at least one visitor a week to play me chess at home and also I have been to a local Chess Club where I've played several games.

There is a chess periodical published by the R.N.I.B. and as for the "Review" or any periodical for that matter, one is not obliged to read in what one is not interested.

One doesn't have to eat everything on the menu in a restaurant. I know mixing food with chess and literature] doesn't seem quite right but it depends how one sees it, you know!

I went to a Club for the Deaf some years ago and there was a chap there whose sight was failing and others told me his hair didn't look as if it had been cut by a professional, so I asked him who'd cut his hair and he replied, "I like roast beef with Yorkshire pudding and two veg. I like roast pork with plenty of crackling and baked potatoes and I like steak-and-kidney pie and rice puddings—" "What's that to do with your hair?" I asked. "Everything," he answered, "If I pay barbers 3/6d. and 4/- to cut my hair I cannot afford these luxuries." "Who *did* cut your hair?" I asked. "I borrowed my landlady's scissors and cut it myself," he said. "But you can't see what it looks like," I told him and he said in a way that suggested I lacked intelligence, "If I cannot see it, why should I worry about it?" "What work do you do?" I now asked. "I cannot ride my bicycle," he replied. "What's that to do with it?" I asked. "If I cannot have the pleasure of riding my bicycle I will not endure the hardships of work."

Well now, work that out!

From Roy Hyett, of Camelford, Cornwall.

During the Wimbledon fortnight I explained to my wife about the Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles. "Don't they have Mixed Singles?" was the innocent enquiry.

Ted Barton's "All at Sea" (May *Review*) was the drollest effort to break the "Editor Barrier" for a long time. May there be many more in like vein.

DEAF BLIND RALLY

The Secretary of St. Dunstan's, Mr. A. D. Lloyds, was a principal guest at the Annual Rally in Peterborough arranged by the National Deaf Blind Helpers' League early in July. About 350 deaf blind persons and their escorts from the Home Counties and Midlands attended the Rally.

NELSON'S COLUMN

Reading for Summer Holidays

No, the title is not an advertisement. It simply means that I have three books to tell about and then, until September, my good right arm can rest a while before afflicting you with another screed.

"A Moment in Time" by H. E. Bates, reader *Gretel Davis*, takes one back to the Battle of Britain in 1940. Girl of 19, Manor House in Kent, girl and family ejected to live in cottage on the estate, R.A.F. Officers' Mess moves in. All that in March, 1940, there after romance and perpetual dread for a fighter pilot's wife in the stirring six months or so that followed. The girl's story proves to be a not uncommon one but the author captures the atmosphere of the time in a rare manner. Parties, gaiety, heartbreak, all in a flaming June.

"Drake" by Ernie Bradford, reader *Arthur Bush*, purports to explain what made the great Elizabethan tick. No pirate this Drake, just a one man crusade

Laughs at Fred's Cafe

On Wednesday morning I had a visit from an official from the Ministry, who had called to interview me with regard to my application for a disabled ex-serviceman's car.

His information on my physical state went something like this: Apart from blindness, I had a severely fractured skull, a chest that had been weakened through being crushed, the lower part of the spine was also weakened for the same reason. Then I lost the use of the major part of the left hand. There was also the need for a hearing aid.

He read his notes for a while, and then asked, "Did I notice you walking with a limp, Mr. Barratt?" I explained that it was nothing as I had fallen over the day before and bruised my leg.

He said, "Mr. Barratt, I have called to consider you for a car. Might I respectfully suggest a hearse!"

against Holy Rome and Philip of Spain. In any case, whatever he was, this is an account of a truly remarkable leader on land and on sea. Oddly enough he learned his seamanship in the North Sea Trade and only became glamorous when he joined an expedition of his cousin, John Hawkins. If any of the facts in this interesting book should happen to be true then Sir Francis Drake, far from being a mere pirate, was one of the rarest spirits this island has produced and deserves to rank with the greatest.

"The Great Sahara" by James Wellard, reader *Peter Snow*, is a fascinating book, the main part of which covers 1790 to 1880 and all the attempts of Europeans to cross the desert from the Mediterranean coast to Timbuctoo on the river Niger. A preliminary passage about prehistoric and Roman times and a closing passage concerning the French semi-control of the whole area, round off a most interesting account.

WALKING

Will all St. Dunstaners who wish to enter the One Mile Walk at Highgate on 24th September, 1966, please let me have their names early in order that they may be entered in the programme.

B. Miller,
59 Devon Close,
Perivale,
Middlesex.

Telephone Number: Perivale 0452.

Presentation Gift

Members of the Walking Club presented a Parker Pen to Mrs. Spurway in recognition of the help she has given St. Dunstan's Walkers over the years. Billy Miller made the presentation, and Mrs. Spurway has personally written to everyone who joined in the presentation thanking them for their gift to her.

Miss Frances C. B. Lloyd, R.R.C.

St. Dunstaners will be sorry to learn of the death of Miss Frances C. B. Lloyd, R.R.C. on 2nd July, 1966. A Service was held at All Saints' Church, Putney on 5th July prior to the funeral which was in Llanllwni, Carmarthenshire, on the following day.

The service in Putney was attended by Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, Miss P. J. Rogers and Mr. C. D. Wills and the following St. Dunstaners, all of whom were patients of Miss Lloyd in the Second London General Hospital, Chelsea:—

F. Jackson of New Malden.
F. O'Kelly of Putney.
P. Sainty of Woodford Bridge.
W. T. Scott of Streatham.

The coffin, which rested in the Church during the Service, bore a number of floral wreaths, including one in red, white and blue flowers in the form of a cross with the words "St. Dunstan's" in silver letters, from Miss Lloyd's St. Dunstan friends.

We hope to print an appreciation of Miss Lloyd's work for St. Dunstaners in our next issue.

Nuffield Talking Book Library for the Blind

Additional Tape Titles—FICTION

Cat. No.		Playing Time Hours approx.
1022	BRAHMS, CARYL AND SIMON, S. J.—YOU WERE THERE (1950) Read by John Curle. A newsreel of the years 1900-1936, telling an amusing story of three young men and a girl, and recalling a variety of memories.	11
1011	CUSACK, DYMOPHNA—HEATWAVE IN BERLIN (1961) Read by Robert Gladwell. When a German-born Australian returns with his wife and child to Berlin, where his wealthy family lives, tension mounts as neo-Nazi activities are discovered.	9
1018	DUGGAN, ALFRED—THE KING OF ATHELNEY (1961) Read by Anthony Parker. After a sheltered boyhood, Alfred, the Christian King of Wessex, dedicates his lonely life to driving out the heathen invaders and laying the foundations of law.	12
1027	DUMAS, ALEXANDRE—MARGUERITE DE VALOIS (1847) Read by Anthony Parker. A romantic story of adventure and intrigue in the French Court of Catherine de Medici.	21½

FAMILY NEWS

Birth

On 16th June, 1966, to Beatrice, wife of Dennis Tickner, of Whyteleaf, Surrey, a son.

Marriage

ELROD—PEARSON.—On 11th July, 1966, Dixon Elrod, of Sheffield, to Mrs. Marion Pearson.

Silver Weddings

Sincere congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Rosewarne, of Denton, Manchester, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 16th July.

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Fone, of Enfield, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 19th July, 1966.

Ruby Wedding

We offer sincere congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Dembenki, of Cheltenham, Glos., who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 7th July, 1966.

Golden Wedding

Very many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Whitthorn, of Exeter, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 17th June, 1966.

Grandfathers

Congratulations to:—

E. Varley, of Birmingham, whose daughter, Maureen, presented him with a grandson on 30th June, 1966.

In Memory—continued

Charles William Francis, 14th Northumberland Fusiliers.

We have to record with deep regret the death on 10th July, 1966 of Charles William Francis of Wymondham, Norfolk. He was aged 71 years.

He served with the 14th Northumberland Fusiliers from 1914 to 1916 when he was wounded. His sight did not deteriorate until recently and he became a St. Dunstaner in 1962. He enjoyed Reunions and attended the one at Ipswich only quite recently. He was ill only a few days and died very peacefully.

To his wife and family we send an expression of very sincere sympathy.

John Arthur Garbutt, Machine Gun Corps

We have to record with deep regret the death in hospital on 30th June, 1966, of John Arthur Garbutt, of Stockton-on-Tees, Co. Durham. He was 80 years of age.

He served in the Machine Gun Corps from 1917 to 1918, being wounded at Cambrai. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1919.

He was a dedicated and devoted Methodist Lay-Preacher and travelled considerably in his part of the world preaching and teaching. He and his wife were proud to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary in July, 1964, and he was happy during our Jubilee year to be able to attend the reception at St. James's Palace. He always enjoyed excellent health until his sudden illness recently; he had an operation which he did not survive.

To his widow and to the family we send an expression of most sincere sympathy.

William Thomas Lucraft, 17th Royal Fusiliers and Royal Army Service Corps

With deep regret we have to record the death of William Thomas Lucraft on 20th June, 1966. He was 80 years of age.

He enlisted in 1914 in the 17th Royal Fusiliers and then transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps and served with them until his discharge in 1919 when he was transferred to the Army Reserve. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1964. Mr. Lucraft had retired some years earlier and he and his wife lived quietly together. He was unable to follow any active hobbies owing to indifferent health caused by his war service. He was a member of the Sutton Club and enjoyed meeting fellow St. Dunstaners there.

Our sympathy goes to his widow and grown-up son and daughter.

Alfred Osborne, Hertfordshire Regiment

We have to record with deep regret the death at his home on 10th July, 1966, of Alfred Osborne, of Cambridge. He was aged sixty-eight years. He served with the Hertfordshire Regiment from 1915 to 1919 and was the victim of a mustard gas attack.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1945. He was an expert carpenter and made excellent articles for our stores. He was also a very good gardener and derived great pleasure from this hobby. He had a brief spell in hospital and was discharged three days before his death which came very suddenly.

To his widow we send an expression of very deep sympathy.

Henry John Taylor, Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps

We have to record with deep regret the death of Henry John Taylor, of Worthing, on 14th June, 1966. He was 67.

He enlisted in the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps in December, 1939, and was discharged in March, 1940, and came to St. Dunstan's in 1951.

Mr. Taylor was a carpenter when he came to us, but was unable to continue with this work and was trained as a capstan lathe operator and started work with a firm in Croydon. In 1958 he was amongst a number of men who had to be made redundant. He decided to retire from factory life and towards the end of 1959 he moved to Worthing where he enjoyed his retirement with his wife and son and his family. For the last few years Mr. Taylor's health has given cause for concern and he spent frequent holidays at our Homes where he was nursed back to health. He went to Pearson House a short time ago but became very ill and died.

We offer our very sincere sympathy to his widow, and his son and family on their sad loss.

Reginald George Wright, Royal Army Service Corps

It is with deep regret we have to record the death of Reginald George Wright, of Teignmouth, on 20th June, 1966. He was 67 years of age.

He enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps in 1939 and was injured at Dunkirk but did not become a member of St. Dunstan's until the latter part of 1958. He had many hobbies and interests.

His first wife died in 1961 and he became a resident at Ovingdean. A few years later he remarried and he and his wife settled in retirement in Devonshire.

His death was very sudden, and to his widow and grown-up family by his first marriage we offer our very sincere sympathy.

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CHURCH STRETTON RE-VISITED

Midland Club's Sentimental Journey

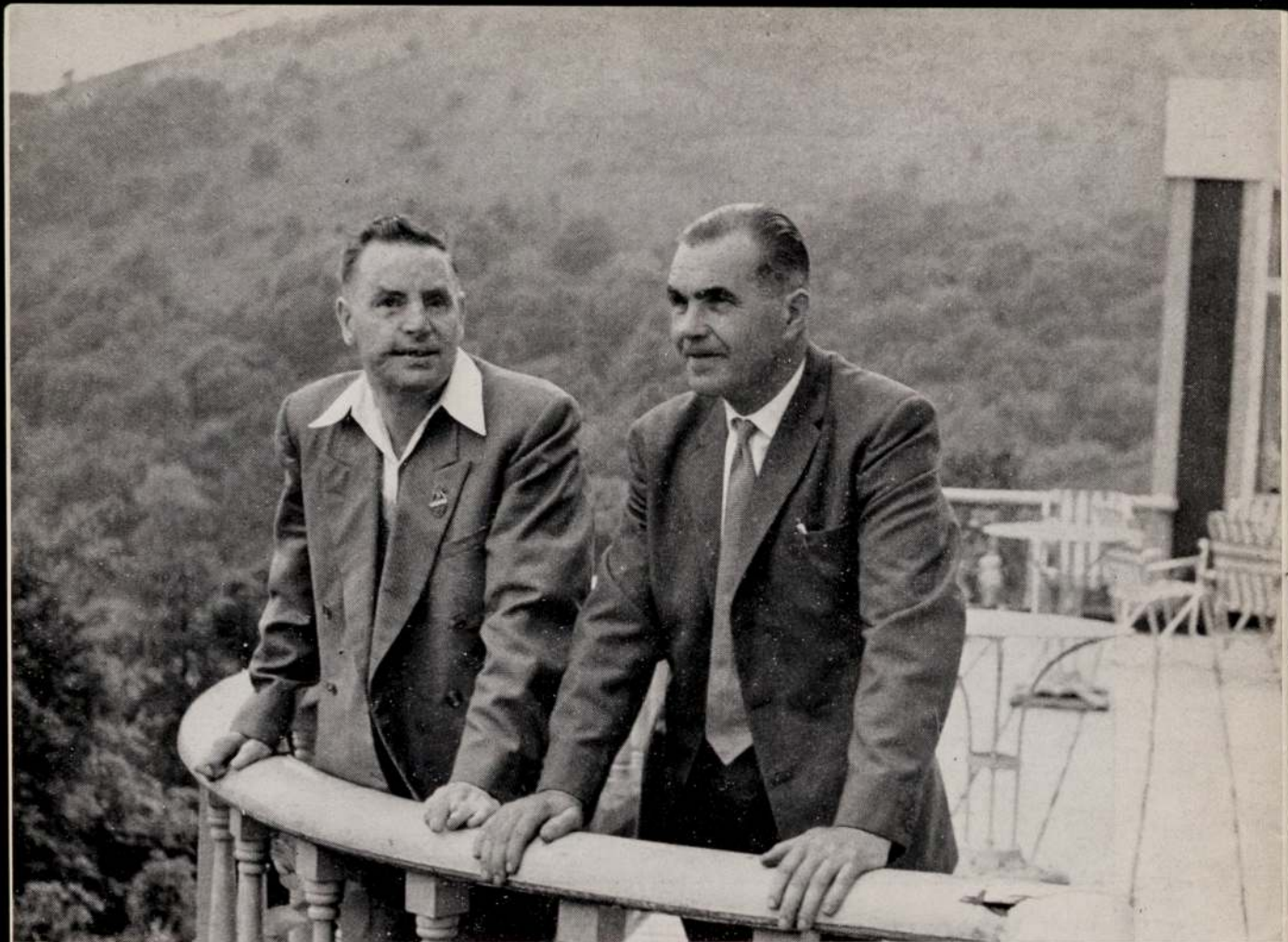
Fourteen St. Dunstaners and their families, including nine men who trained there, revisited Church Stretton in June. They found very little trace of St. Dunstan's days in the town, except the pubs—The Raven and the King's Arms; the Orange Tree Cafe where St. Dunstaners used to gather and the old huts which are now fronted by a modern fire station and telephone exchange.

Still, there were many memories: how in the Men's Club they used to point the darts players the wrong way and open the door so that their darts went into the street, and pour beer into Ron Tingay's trumpet because he did not have time to stop playing.

Our pictures try to capture some of the moments of their sentimental journey.



Stan Southall, (left) and Mr. and Mrs. Guy Bilcliff walking in Cardingmill Valley, a local beauty spot and, we understand, the scene of the start of a number of St. Dunstan's romances in the 1940's!



Stan Southall and Guy Bilcliff on the terrace of the Longmynd Hotel, with the steep slope of the Longmynd behind them.

Mrs. Bilcliff shows the hut where the dances were held. Mr. and Mrs. Bilcliff lived near Church Stretton in 1947.

