

**APRIL  
REVIEW**





## R.N.I.B. Centenary

This month's cover feature illustrates some of the facets of the work of our sister organisation, The Royal National Institute for the Blind, whose Centenary is the subject of the Chairman's Notes opposite. Other photographs of R.N.I.B. activities, including the latest tape talking book machine, a service in which St. Dunstan's shares, appear on the inside and back covers.

*Left.* Thomas Rhodes Armitage, Founder of the R.N.I.B., and Louis Braille. In her biography of Thomas Rhodes Armitage (1824-1890), Mary Thomas said: "... if he had done nothing more than popularise Braille, he would be an outstanding figure in the history of blind welfare, second only to Louis Braille himself".

*Below.* The computer staff of the R.N.I.B. are at present writing a programme which will lead to the automatic transcription of Braille. Eventually, the output from the computer will be fed into automatic machines which will produce the master plates from which Braille books and magazines can be produced in quantity.

### COVER PICTURE:

Individual instruction at "Pathways", the Deaf-Blind Unit at Conover Hall, to make the most of whatever residual sight and hearing possessed.



# St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### R.N.I.B. Centenary

This year, the Royal National Institute for the Blind celebrates its Centenary and I know that St. Dunstaners everywhere will want to join me in congratulating our friends, with whom we have so much in common, on this great occasion and wish them continued success in the future.

In the case of the R.N.I.B., as with St. Dunstan's, the Founder, Dr. Thomas Rhodes Armitage, was a man in middle age of culture and independent means who had lost his sight adventitiously after a successful career and who decided to devote his remaining years to improving the lot of other blind people. He was born in 1824 and after a liberal early education he was trained in medicine. He worked as a doctor both in London and on the Continent before serving as an army surgeon on the staff of a base hospital in the Crimea. At the height of his powers as a consultant in London, failing sight compelled him to give up the practice of medicine. He then spent two years investigating the conditions of the blind and discovered that education for them was very elementary; that even those who did receive some sort of training were largely persons who were unemployed and exceedingly poor; while the better off, educated, blind were faced with a choice of five different systems of tactile reading.

In 1868, therefore, Armitage gathered a few educated blind persons together, with the object of investigating and recommending the most suitable code of reading and writing. This was really the beginning of our sister organisation which, at the time, was called "The British and Foreign Blind Association for Promoting the Education and Employment of the Blind"; later it became known as the National and, since 1953, the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., similarly, was a wealthy man who went blind in his middle years at the height of his career as a newspaper proprietor. This occurred about 1911 and he gave his powerful help to the N.I.B., of which he soon became President. He had a great aptitude for raising funds and did more than anyone else at that time to put the organisation on its feet.

In 1915, under the auspices of the N.I.B., St. Dunstan's was founded by Sir Arthur Pearson, especially to care for blinded ex-servicemen. After being closely associated in these early years, our two organisations separated soon after I became Chairman of St. Dunstan's, because by then we had grown to be a powerful society, capable of standing on our own. However, during all the past fifty years we have remained friends and, more recently, co-operation between us has been growing and strengthening in fruitfulness.

For example, although it was St. Dunstan's which really initiated the Talking Book in the United Kingdom, and later produced the first tape recording system, we have worked extremely closely together in the establishment and development of the Talking Book Library. The R.N.I.B. is the official authority which runs this Library, although in fact our two bodies have been partners in the enterprise and have each contributed very much to it.

I have had the honour of being its Chairman ever since its early days, and still am. The British Talking Book Service now operates from London and Bolton and has a readership of 25,000 blind people, the number expanding at the rate of 6,000 a year as the books recorded in the new magnetic tape-machines become available.

But to return to Dr. Armitage. It was he who, in the 1860's, decided that Braille was the best medium for tactile reading and he can therefore be said to have been the Founder of the Braille system in the United Kingdom and further afield, because the U.S.A. and the Commonwealth and other countries followed his lead by using Braille. The Moon system, useful for older people and those whose touch is impaired, was also developed by Dr. Armitage and has survived.

### *St. Dunstan's—Specialist Organisation*

St. Dunstan's is essentially a specialist organisation, dealing with one important category of blind persons, namely blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen; the R.N.I.B. is a general Society undertaking virtually all national services for the blind in our country, although some important services are provided in Scotland by associated organisations for the blind.

In conjunction with Government departments, Local Authorities and other voluntary agencies for the blind, the R.N.I.B. today provides the following national services for the blind: with the support of the Ministry of Labour, it operates two Rehabilitation Centres for the newly blind in England and Wales. The Institute also runs Nursery Schools (the Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies), the famous Worcester College and Chorley Wood College for blind boys and girls respectively of grammar school age; two schools for additionally handicapped blind children, a vocational centre for blind adolescents and a parents' counselling service. It maintains a number of residential and holiday homes of a special character and several hostels for blind people in employment.

Playing its full part in the improvement of the status of blind people in society, the R.N.I.B. has, since the Second World War, helped to place them more in wider forms of employment among sighted workers, and less in sheltered workshops e.g. as shorthand-typists, audio-typists, telephone operators and physiotherapists and, in the professional classes, as Ministers of Religion, University professors, teachers, lawyers, civil servants and administrators. With St. Dunstan's it has blazed the trail for the employment of the blind in ordinary industry.

### *Important Service*

But perhaps the most important service rendered by the R.N.I.B. is in its capacity as publisher of books and magazines in Braille and Moon and of music in Braille. The modern method of printing Braille is by electrically driven stereo-typing machines and by the use of plastic ink applied to metal stencils, commonly called Solid Dot Braille, but the R.N.I.B. is now taking a further important step in the process of printing Braille as rapidly and efficiently as possible. It will shortly have a number of operators typing from the normal text punched cards; these will be fed into a computer which has, in turn, stored a standard English dictionary and been taught the rules of Braille. This will lead to the production of a tape which will automatically activate transcribing machines to produce the master plates for the printing of Braille. Another important service rendered by the R.N.I.B. is the provision of three hundred or more aids and appliances to help the blind at work, at home and in their recreations. All these services are heavily subsidised from voluntary funds in order to bring the cost of the articles required within the reach of the majority of blind people.

A number of special events are being organised by the R.N.I.B. to celebrate its Centenary Year. One of these is an exhibition to be known as "Foresight", which will aim to show the forward looking policy of the R.N.I.B. under the headings of Communication, Education, Rehabilitation, Accommodation and Experimentation. A considerable number of blind people will be taking part in this Exhibition in order to demonstrate how they have been helped to overcome the problems of normal living in a sighted society. The Exhibition will be opened by Her Majesty The Queen and held from May 20th to 31st in the Old Hall, Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, London, S.W.1.

### *Debt to R.N.I.B.*

All of us owe a debt to the R.N.I.B. for the services it has rendered directly and indirectly to us; and to some St. Dunstaners more than others because, for example, its Physiotherapy School has, for more than fifty years, been responsible, in co-operation with St. Dunstan's, for the training of our physiotherapists. It was as long ago as 1917 that Sir Arthur Pearson invited me, then a very young St. Dunstaner, to join the Council of the R.N.I.B. and I specialised on inventions and research—subjects very near to my heart.

Increasing activities have diminished my participation in the work of the R.N.I.B. and St. Dunstan's is represented on its Council by Lady Fraser and Mr. D. G. Hopewell.

I repeat—that the R.N.I.B.'s Centenary is a very important celebration in the life of the blind world. St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners throughout the world wish them luck.

**Fraser of Lonsdale**

### **"Hz"—ONE CYCLE PER SECOND**

by

**RICHARD DUFTON**

Braille readers of scientific or technical material will have noticed in the past year or so that "cycles per second" has been substituted by the letters "Hz" before the numerical sign. "KHz" and "MHz" have likewise been used to denote "kilocycles per second" and "megacycles per second". While the two latter terms will be very familiar to Hams and audio enthusiasts, an explanation concerning the new sign may not be out of place.

An International Committee agreed in the past two years that the term "Hz" should come into general use in print and in the presentation of scientific papers, etc., probably in recognition of the great contribution made by the German physicist, Hertz, to science and especially to his work on radio waves in the latter half of the last century. This work led in the early part of the present century, of course, to wireless communications as we now know it.

Reference books have, for a long time past, defined the word "Hertz" as "one cycle per second" and, for example, in marine engineering transmission drive vibration has always been defined in "Hz" terms. As a further indication of the wide application that the term will now have, our Sonic Mobility Aid transmission would be described as KHz90 with the sound heard in the earpiece having a

maximum frequency of KHz3, while a long cane of the light alloy variety, on receiving a sharp blow, would probably vibrate with a natural frequency of Hz600.

### **H.M.S. Daedalus**

#### **Holiday Camp Week**

St. Dunstaners are invited to Lee-on-Solent, Hants for the week Friday, 16th August to Saturday, 24th August. Closing date for entries 4th May. Please send entries to:—

Mrs. Spurway,  
Mount House,  
Halse, Taunton,  
Somerset.

### **OUR DOG**

by

**Alison Crombie**

(10 year old daughter of our St. Dunstaner W. R. Crombie of London, S.W.18)

My favourite time of day is when  
Daddy brings Shauna home again,  
She's our family Labrador  
And we all love her, that's for sure.  
With coat so black and eyes of brown,  
To me she's the smartest dog in town.  
I think she's clever as can be  
Because as Daddy cannot see,  
She brings him safely home to me.  
And then as she is home to stay  
We have a romp and lots of play.



Photo—Brighton & Hove Herald

## ROYAL ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, KEMP TOWN

Royal St. George's Church, Kemp Town, which stands just to the east of Pearson House, is well known to many St. Dunstaners and particularly to the men of the First World War who used to worship there in their early days at Brighton. The Church was built as a Chapel of Ease under a special Act of Parliament in 1824 and the work of construction was completed in the space of a single year. Queen Adelaide, wife of William IV used to worship in the Church together with her court during her frequent stays in the Royal Pavilion. The Royal pew is in the spacious gallery facing the altar. The Queen presented two coats of arms, one displayed outside and the other inside the church, as well as the magnificent Church plate which is still used.

Bombs dropped by an enemy aircraft, close to the Church during the 1939/45 War, loosened the metal window frames in their settings; damp then got in and caused the frames to buckle badly. Maintenance was sadly neglected after the War and the authorities did not even put in a claim for war damage to cover repairs to the windows, of which there are as many as 36. The then Bishop of Chichester declared his intention to close the Church with the result that attendances dwindled and when the priest-

in-charge retired in 1963 he was not replaced. The Church could not be pulled down because it is on the Ministry of Town & Country Planning's list of buildings to be preserved, but the Diocese had plans to rent it at a nominal figure to the Borough Council for use as a book depository. There were two good reasons why this did not happen; the first was the loyalty and devotion of the Churchwarden and the small band of congregation members who had remained faithful and

the second was that having been established by an Act of Parliament another Act of Parliament would have been required to close the Church.

There was no priest-in-charge for 2½ years up to 1965 when the Rev. D. M. Harper, M.A., who is also Chaplain to St. Dunstan's, was appointed as vicar of Royal St. George's. Since that day with the backing of an ever-increasing congregation the whole position has been transformed. The Church is kept beautifully clean and a great deal of restoration work has been undertaken, including the replacement of 18 of the stained glass windows. However, much work remains to be done. Despite a vigorous appeal to raise money for the restoration fund the vicar and Church Council must still depend for a long time yet on voluntary financial support if the task they have set themselves is to be properly completed. May we remind our readers that the 23rd of April is St. George's Day.

### DERBY SWEEPSTAKE, 1968

The Closing date of the Derby Sweep stake is Wednesday, 15th May.

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each, and are limited solely to St. Dunstaners or St. Dunstan's trainees.

**Each application must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.**

The name and full address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, should be sent, with the stamped addressed envelope, to the Editor, D.S.S. Dept., *St. Dunstan's Review*, P.O. Box 58, 191 Old Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

The Draw will take place at the London Club on the evening of Thursday, 23rd May.

All those drawing a horse will be notified.

### Long Service Certificate

H. DUXBURY of Manchester, was presented on 7th March, 1968, with a Long Service Certificate by his Methodist Church for more than forty years service as a Lay Preacher.

### P.S. de Resistance

*Michael Oliver of West Wickham, Kent, writes about a broadcast he made on the B.B.C. programme "Night Ride":—*

I had to ask for Sean Kelly, pronounced Shorn Kelly.

Gentleman in occupation of desk murmurs, in good Goon show voice . . . "Yern . . . I got a notice 'ere, ring Seen Kelly (audible—almost tangible pause . . .), "I'll try 'im on the telephone."

I had written a short poem, which Sean read over the air. The programme is produced by Helen Fry. Poem as followeth (roughly):—

### GOOD HAIR STYLES ARE IN ORDER

Good hair styles are in order,  
Upon the B.B.C.  
And Helen Fry was asked one day  
To smile upon T.V.

She fixed her hair appointment,  
And then—though she felt blue  
She could not go to keep it  
For she contracted 'flu'.

The barber, avaricious,  
Did not Miss Fry elate.  
"If you will not be barbered . . .  
Someone must fill the date."

And so she learned of a new star  
While she lay home in bed.  
She saw the barber had, in fact,  
Sean Kelly in her stead.

Sean read this over the air, and was duly hated by Helen, but it was all great fun.

### Prize Winner

A. DREW of Manchester, has recently won a cup and a prize of £1 for two Hyacinths which he entered in a competition organised by the Middleton Social Committee for the blind.

## Bridge Notes



The late Charlie Gover and the successful team which won promotion from the Fourth to the Second Division in successive seasons, competing for the De La Rue Cup, at the Port of London Authority Club. Other players shown are the late Reg Coles, the late Fred Winter and Paul Nuyens who is still with us.

In accordance with the expressed wish of her late husband, our Founder, Harry Gover, Mrs. Gover has presented the Bridge Club with two cups to be known as "The Gover Memorial Cups", (London and Brighton). The Committee consider this a most fitting way of remembering the spade work put in by Harry and in accepting the gift have decided to allocate one cup to the London Section and the other

to the Brighton Section. As, often, the Section winner does not win the final of the Individual Competition, the cups will be awarded to the player with the five best scores in each Section out of the nine Individual Competitions held during the year. The Lord Fraser Cup will still be competed for in the Final Individual Competition at the Ovingdean Congress.

The third "individual" competition of the Brighton Section took place on Saturday, 17th February. The results are as follows:—

R. Goding and F. Rhodes	69
B. Ingrey and S. McNamara	67
F. Griffie and A. Smith	66
J. Chell and W. Scott	63
S. Webster and J. Whitcombe	60
W. Burnett and Partner	53

Note.—The following was omitted from the results of the second Individual Competition at Brighton last month:

W. T. Scott and S. McNamara	63
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The third Individual Competition for the London Section took place on March 2nd. The results were as follows:

R. Armstrong and Partner	83
R. Fullard and M. Tybinski	73
R. Stanners and V. Kemmish	64
H. Meleson and H. Kerr	61
H. King and F. Matthewman	60
R. Evans and P. Nuyens	60
G. P. Brown and F. Jackson	53
R. Bickley and J. Huk	50

The first Bridge Drive of the year was held on Saturday the 24th of February at the London Club, Headquarters, Old

Marylebone Road. Despite a depletion in the number attending, owing to a variety of reasons, thirteen happy St. Dunstaners with their guests took part, and thoroughly enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon.

The results were as follows:—

- 1 S. Webster and Miss M. Byrne
- 2 L. Douglass and R. Evans
- 3 R. Armstrong and A. Fields

### THE LATE A. HENRY

Our older members of the Bridge Club will no doubt learn with regret the sudden death of Alec Henry, brother of our late member, W. H. "Jock" Henry. It occurred suddenly last December in Dundee.

Alec not only frequently brought his brother, "Jock" to H.Q. but also partnered many of our players in Bridge Drives. He was also responsible for arranging our yearly "friendly match" against the G.P.O. Savings Bank.

P. Nuyens

### Chess Week-end

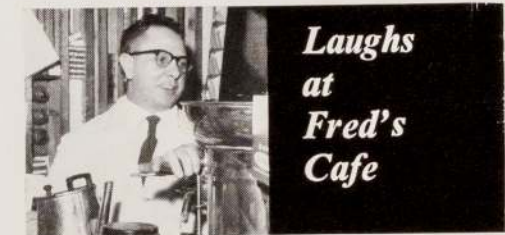
The date of the Chess Week-end to be held at Ovingdean in the Autumn has been changed and will now take place from Friday 1st November to Sunday 3rd November and not from the 8th to 10th November as previously arranged.



## Welcome to St. Dunstan's

On behalf of all at St. Dunstan's we welcome a new St. Dunstaner, recently admitted to membership. The Review hopes he will settle down happily as a member of our family.

Mr. Alfred E. Flashman of Southend joined us in January. He served in the Civil Defence in the Second World War. Mr. Flashman is married.



The customer who has had a lot to drink is about the worst type to deal with, but with a little patience, together with a humorous outlook, an unpleasant situation is completely changed. As the following clearly shows.

After a little noisy talk, the drunk called to me: "Hey, Fred, come here a minute. I want to tell you something."

"What do you want?" I said to him in a somewhat firm tone.

"Fred," he whispered in a fuddled voice, "your wife has two very nice legs."

"How do you know?" I said, trying to contain myself.

"I just counted them," said the drunk.



It is indeed a pleasure to hear young Vivienne say her prayers. Each word is said with feeling and meaning. But, as for young Olwen, one cannot quite say the same, for she waits until Viv finishes her prays and says, "Me, too, amen!"

### CORRECTION:

Mr. Alf Field writes to tell us that in the Par Bridge Problem and Answer, published in the February and March issues of the Review, the eight of Spades should have been in South's hand and the five of Spades in West's.



Wally, greeted by the Matron on arrival at Berleburg Hostel.

## Deaf-Blind Conference in West Germany

Wally Thomas Reports

*Our St. Dunstaner, Wally Thomas, was invited to attend a conference of deaf/blind ex-servicemen and women organised by Bund der Kriegsblinden Deutschlands at Berleburg between 29th January and 6th February, 1968 and he has written this report of the visit for the Review.*

"The West German Association for War Blinded has a membership of 6,000 and, of that number, 200 are women. There are 250 handless, 6 totally deaf and 150 men are dependent upon strong deaf-aids. None of the women are handless or deaf. The Association has fourteen holiday hostels in different parts of the country and each caters for about 100 people. The hostels offer accommodation to the men, their wives and children. A man and his family may enjoy four weeks holiday free of charge each year; after that period they pay approximately £1 a head per day.

"My elder son escorted me to the Conference held at the Berleburg Hostel. We flew to Cologne then travelled the remaining 150 miles east by train. Berleburg is in the mountain range of central Germany and favoured by being in the massive pine tree belt. It is situated between two mountains, the heart of the township is in the valley; then it spreads picturesquely up the sides of both moun-

tains. It has a population of 6,000 and all those people are proud of the fact that their Berleburg is famed for its health clinics, spas and sauna baths.

"The eight year old Berleburg Hostel stands on a mountainside. We were greeted on arrival by Matron Christia who has a good knowledge of English and was able to converse with me through the medium of drawing capital letters on the palm of

my hand. I was shown to my room on the ground floor and was told it had been designed for a handless man and his wife. The Hostel has many other such rooms. Ours was large containing two single beds and a day-bed, a table and two chairs, two bedside cabinets and a double wardrobe. There were two washbasins, one quite ordinary and the other fitted with lever-taps. There was a curtained shower in one corner. The lever-tap was low down and easy for a handless man to operate with a foot. The rose of the shower was chest high and could be pushed from side to side. There was a push-button on the wall just a few feet from the shower; this operated a current of warm air which would flow up and over a handless man and was capable of drying him within a few minutes.

"Then we went to the Dining Room for our meal and found it had tables for four. Most of the food is in large dishes on the table and the escort serves the blind man with the food he has chosen. The food was very good, varied and plentiful. After the meal, we were taken to the Conference Room. The twenty-two men attending the Conference were escorted by their wives—except one. The exception was Roman Cyran and he quietly made himself known to me. He is totally blind, has lost his right hand and is minus the first joint of his left index finger; he is deaf to the extent of needing a strong deaf-aid. Since being

Electrical transmissions from a master Braille writer are read on tape simultaneously by three deaf/blind men.



Dressed for the part, Wally receives instruction in the Gym.

wounded he has taught himself to read and write grade two English Braille. He was with his 21 year old son, Dieter, a lively lad with a good knowledge of the English language. Dieter is a keen photographer who took indoor shots of the Hostel, several of which are re-printed in the *Review*. We four happily teamed up. My official interpreter was Jack, an 18 year old student; a friendly lad, capable of speaking in serious tones one minute and enjoying fun the next. His father was the architect responsible for the design of the Hostel.

"The Conference Room had been ingeniously set out to assist everyone. Speakers remained seated and used a microphone. Those men with deaf-aids were electrically connected and able to hear every word. A blind man with perfect hearing acted as transcriber for the five totally deaf. He had a small Braille machine in front of him which was electrically connected to five units. He wrote in Braille as he listened to the speakers and his words were reproduced on tapes in the five units, thus enabling the totally deaf to keep up with the proceedings. Of the 22 blinded men attending the Conference 5 were totally deaf; the remainder used deaf-aids and they had the additional disability of being either handless or minus one hand.



Lily Marlene is seen working on a Swedish rug.

"Lack of space prevents me from dwelling upon the matters discussed at the Conference, so I say something about the Hostel's amenities. The genial Sports Officer is in charge of the Gymnasium on the ground floor, where we had P.T. before breakfast every morning. He is also in charge of the Sauna Bath in the basement. A man can have a Sauna Bath about once a week; I had one and thoroughly enjoyed it. The Hostel will have its own small swimming pool this year. There is a Club Room on the first floor which is generally used as a Lounge. It is a large room furnished with comfortable chairs, tables, piano, radiogram and a model of Berleburg. The Club Room is often used for dancing and other functions. There is a small Quiet Room and Library leading off the Club Room. If a man and wife intend staying out late at night they are given a front door key and return at what time they choose.

"I was introduced to a blind woman by the name of Lily Marlene. She was exhibiting lovely Swedish rugs and proudly told me how she learned to make them. She had written to Sweden for instructions and

materials and it was her sister-in-law who had assisted with the teaching. Before Lily Marlene makes a patterned rug her eldest son reads the instructions on to a tape recorder; then she plays it back to suit her working speed. Deaf/blind Herbert Exner exhibited a fantastic selection of his work in centre-cane; it included a wheelbarrow about four inches long and sea shells of various shapes and sizes.

"I had been in Berleburg almost a week, and during that time, I had come to learn that the Germans offer strangers the warmest of friendship and the best of hospitality, and they have a great capacity for fun-making. A Dinner/Dance was held on Saturday night and the superb meal started at 5 p.m. It started with a toast after which the wine really did flow. I lost count of the many delightful dishes. After dinner we went up to the Club Room and all the time the tables were laden with plates of hors d'oeuvres. This banqueting went on into the small hours of Sunday morning.

"Before the men started going home on Monday, I was presented with a beautiful Swedish rug in the shape of a cushion

cover, an egg warmer made in centre-cane (it was shaped like a small round work-basket, with six foam rubber compartments, and the lid lined with foam rubber) and a piece of gym equipment called Bali for exercising the muscles of chest, arms and legs. About half the men and their wives left on Monday and, before the rest of us left next morning, we all expressed the wish and hope of meeting again. Herr Rudolph Iel, who was one of the blind men acting as transcriber for the deaf/blind, was with his attractive wife Hilda. They kindly invited my son and me to travel back to Cologne with them in their car. We drove through the magnificent pine wood belt with a Christmas card picture in every direction. Hilda proved

herself a most skilful driver as she nosed the car along snow-bound roads, some of which twisted through woodland and others wound round mountainsides. In Cologne my son and I had a brief tour of the shops and a visit to the Cathedral, and then to the Airport for the flight home to England.

"If you are thinking of going to Germany, you should learn to say *Danke schön*. It means Thank You. The warmth of the German hospitality will leave you much to be thankful for. I am sorry that I cannot list the names of all those who contributed to making my stay in Germany such a memorable occasion, but to them all, I say *Danke schön* for their every kindness."

## Club News

### Midland Club Notes

Saturday evening, 16th December, was the occasion of our Annual Christmas Dinner and once again we held it at the Austin British Legion, Northfield, Birmingham. Seventeen St. Dunstaners, with their wives or escorts, sat down to a most excellent Christmas dinner, prepared for us by the stewardess and her helpers. We were joined for the meal by Mr. K. Cooper, Chairman of the Austin British Legion, and his wife. The usual Saturday evening social, which is a big feature of the Legion, followed. Dancing started at 8 p.m. and several of our members joined in and had a wonderful evening. During the interval a beautiful bouquet of flowers was presented to Mr. and Mrs. D. Faulkner who were celebrating their 23rd wedding anniversary on that day.

Our January meeting had to be cancelled because of bad weather, but our February meeting was held on Sunday, 11th, although a number of members were absent owing to one type of sickness or another. This meeting was marred by the announcement that our old friend Jack Dennick had passed away. We were all extremely sorry, as Jack was a very old Birmingham Club member and was very popular with everyone. Our deepest sympathy goes to Mrs. Dennick in her sad loss.

On a happier note, congratulations were in order for Mr. and Mrs. Guy Bilcliffe on the 21st birthday of their triplet sons and daughter on 25th January. Tea for this meeting was prepared by Mrs. B. Kibbler and we all thanked her for a lovely spread.

Our meeting for March was held on Sunday, 10th, and, owing to the cold weather, it was rather a quiet meeting. Only one game of dominoes in the Sir Arthur Pearson knock-out could be played off. Dates were announced for future outings. Saturday, 20th April, at the Northfield British Legion. Sunday, 23rd June, for the annual outing, this year to Dovedale and Alton Towers. Names for this event are required as soon as possible. The final date at present is for our Christmas dinner which is to be held on Saturday, 14th December.

Our April and May meetings will be held on the first Sundays of the month owing to Easter and the Reunion falling on the second weekends. Our meeting in May will be another "Bring and Buy" sale, so come along, ladies.

Our tea for this month was prepared for us by Mrs. J. Cashmore and we all thanked her. During tea a very fine rendering of "Happy Birthday to You" was sung for the benefit of Mrs. B. Kibbler, whose birthday it was.

## Club News

We now have Bingo cards prepared and intend to spend one Sunday giving it a trial, so come along and try your hand.

D. E. CASHMORE,  
*Secretary.*

### London Club Notes

The Sir Arthur Pearson domino aggregate competition has got under way rather earlier this year than is usual. The winners to date are as follows:—

8th February	1 W. Miller	
	2 G. P. Brown	
15th February	1 G. Stanley	
	2 J. Murray	}
	C. Hancock	
22nd February	1 G. P. Brown	
	2 G. Stanley	}
	J. Murray	
29th February	1 J. Murray	
	2 W. Harding	}
	G. P. Brown	

The February Football pontoon was won by F. Mathewman. Cheer up, you 'booby' prize winners Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Harding and 'Jock' Brown, remember that "many a mickle makes a muckle" or "many a little makes a mickle". Better luck next time.

W. MILLER

### Cardiff Club Notes

We held our club meeting on Saturday, 2nd March and a very good crowd was present.

The topic of conversation at the opening of the meeting was our belated Christmas Dinner which we held on 17th February at The Wheatsheaf Inn, Magor, and what a glorious evening we all had. Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, mine host and hostess, certainly did us very proud and we were all delighted that the Chairman's wife, Mrs. Olive Evans, was feeling well enough to be present. Everyone was very disappointed that Miss Meyer could not be

present but hope she will join us on our next social occasion.

Several of our very staunch members were unable to be present at the March meeting, owing to illness and we wish Mrs. Parsons and Mrs. Lewis a speedy recovery to good health.

Dominoes were played and the winners were Bert Evans and Rufus Jones. Crib was won by Donald Stott.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, 6th April. These meetings are held at The Cardiff Welfare for the Blind, Newport Road, Cardiff, and we give a very warm welcome to anyone who cares to come along and join us in a very pleasant afternoon's activities.

D. STOTT,  
*Secretary.*

## NELSON'S COLUMN

### Tracks under the Showers

Five books of diverse character are my bag for the Spring in this leap year. One of the 5 is in 3 volumes, 17 tracks in all.

"The Egg and I" by Betty Macdonald, reader *P. Boothroyd*, is a riot of joy and misery. A young couple put all their savings into a ramshackle old farm in the hill country near Seattle with the intention of raising eggs and poultry, as well and as profitably as they know how. A normal day is 4.30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and I, the wife, find the hard work and the isolation difficult and sometimes frightening to bear. One neighbour, too efficient to be true, depresses the wife who is a novice at everything and the other near neighbour is a master scrounger who induces despair with a most hearty chuckle. Quite a few Indians live round about and a seller of moonshine befriends them. All is told in a racy vein and there are moments of great contentment belying the rebellious attitude of

the writer but the ominous signs of a split between husband and wife are patched up by moving to another area.

"Book of Coarse Acting" by Michael Green, reader *Garard Green*, is a most interesting and fairly comprehensive study of amateur dramatics. A most appealing book because, besides being funny, it manages to be good-humoured and unkind to none.

"Those Who Love" by Irving Stone, reader *David Broomfield*, God rest his larynx, is a fascinating story of New England starting in 1762 ending in 1800. Volume I takes John Adams and his family up to the Boston Tea Party. The period of the War of Independence is all in Volume II and then 5 further tracks take the Adams family to 1800. Looking at the world to-day it is incredible to note how completely the tables have been turned and it is not difficult to understand we can expect no quarter in trading relations with the U.S.A.

"The Car Makers" by G. Turner, reader *Alvar Lidell*, specifically states that this is a survey of the European scene of car manufacturers as at 1961 or 1962. Despite some major changes since that time, the picture drawn by the writer holds good if the reader cares to do a little mental arithmetic to adjust the changes since those dates. The summary of the character and make up of each company is very interesting in that no one company is quite like the next.

"A World Elsewhere" by J. Bowen, reader *John Richmond*, is a modern story run side by side with a Greek legend. Roger Turner M.P. is on a mission to Lemnos to where a British P.M. has withdrawn. The object is to get the old man back into politics since, to the man in the street, he is the only honest politician among the ruling party. Meanwhile back in his office on Lemnos the old man is formulating anew the legend of the friend of Heracles, he of the unspellable name who inherited Heracles' magic bow. I am not sure whether the mission succeeds or fails but I loved the working out of the legend.

## Family News

### Silver Wedding

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. V. T. POWELL of Solihull, Birmingham, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 20th March, 1968.

### Grandfathers

#### Congratulations to:—

H. BRAMLEY of Manchester on the arrival of a grand-daughter, Christine, on 31st January, 1968.

P. BLACKMORE of Cardiff, on the birth of his second grandchild—a grand-daughter, born on 27th January, 1968, to his daughter, Nerys Ashna.

J. CHELL of Eastbourne now has another grand-daughter. This is a 7th grand-child.

W. F. ELGOOD of Chingford, Essex, who became a grandfather for the first time on the 19th February, 1968, when his daughter Janet gave birth to a son.

W. G. HODGMAN of Wallington on the arrival of his 11th grandchild, born on 28th November, 1967, a grand-daughter, who is to be called, Sarah Joanna Jacqueline.

A. A. HOWELL of Colindale, London, N.W.9. who became a grandfather for the third time when his daughter, Elaine gave birth to a daughter, Tanya, on 30th November, 1967.

J. K. ROBSON of Hartlepool, County Durham, who became a grandfather for the first time on the birth of a grandson, James Luke, on the 4th March.

P. SAINTY of Woodford Bridge, on the birth of his 18th grandchild—a boy, born on 4th March, 1968, to Jack and Pamela Sainty.

P. SPRING of Chessington, Surrey, on the arrival of his first grandchild, Luigi Patrick Grosso, born to their daughter, Imelda, on 7th December, 1967.

### Great Grandfathers

#### Many congratulations to:—

C. E. THOMAS of Cranbrook, Kent, on the birth of his third great grandchild, a great grandson.



Henry, son of J. FENNY, of Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, was married on 9th March, 1968, to Sandra Campbell.

Valerie, daughter of L. COPELAND, of Bournemouth, Hampshire was married to Raymond Leslie Lewis in the Royal Chapel, Windsor Great Park, Berks, on 2nd March, 1968.

Peggy, daughter of H. G. LEE of Tooting, London, S.W.17, was married to George S. Harwood, on 16th March, 1968 at St. Mary's Church, Summerstown, London, S.W.17.

Raymond, son of our St. Dunstaner, M. LINACRE of Birmingham was married to Linda Townsend on Saturday, 9th March, 1968.

Pamela, daughter of our St. Dunstaner, P. SAYWELL of Leamington, Warwicks, was married on 2nd March, 1968, to Ronald Faith, of Portrush, Northern Ireland.

### Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:—

MISS B. BELL of Ilkley, who mourns the death of her mother on 2nd February, 1968.

A. SCOTT of Belfast who mourns the death of his father in his 91st year. He passed away soon after Christmas.

## In Memory

**It is with deep regret we have to record the death of the following St. Dunstaners, and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, families and friends.**

**Harold Leslie Barnett.**

*3rd Battalion, Dorset Regiment.*

Harold Leslie Barnett of Torrisholme, Morecambe, Lancs, died on 10th March, 1968, aged 70 years.

He served in the 3rd Battalion Dorset Regiment from 1917 to 1919 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1951. He was a frequent visitor to Ovingdean and always enjoyed his holidays on the South coast. He leaves a widow and grown up family.

**Fred Cunliffe. Pioneer Corps.**

Fred Cunliffe of Leyland, Preston, died in hospital on 9th March, 1968, He was 56.

He served in the Pioneer Corps from 1940 to 1941 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1949. He trained in poultry keeping which he carried on for a number of years, and he was also keenly interested in dog breeding. His health had been poor recently and he was admitted to hospital in January of this year. He leaves a widow and family.

**Herbert Cobley. Devonshire Regiment.**

Herbert Cobley of South Molton died on 12th March, 1968, aged 79.

He served with the Devonshire Regiment from 1914 to 1919 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1951. Mr. Cobley had already retired when he was admitted to St. Dunstan's, but he went to Ovingdean for hobby training. He was able to make stools, string bags and did other handicraft work as a hobby. He has lived in Devon all his life and had many friends. He enjoyed his holidays at Ovingdean and always looked forward to attending the annual Reunions. He leaves a widow and grown up family.

## In Memory

**Sable Robert Downs.**

*Army Service Corps and Royal Engineers.*

Sable Robert Downs of Brighton, died on 27th February, 1968, at the age of 79.

He served in the First World War with the Army Service Corps and later with the Royal Engineers. Mr. Downs first came to St. Dunstan's in 1938 when he did undertake some training. He was re-admitted in 1946 but then his time was fully occupied looking after his wife who had been badly injured in the bombing and when, early in 1950, Mrs. Downs had to go into hospital, Mr. Downs went as a resident at Ovingdean. His first wife died in 1959 and he continued as an Ovingdean resident until his re-marriage in 1961 to a member of the staff. Mr. and Mrs. Downs settled in Woodingdean and enjoyed a quiet retirement until his recent breakdown in health when he was admitted to a Brighton Hospital and within a few hours of his admission he died.

**Roland George Orchard.**

*13th Battalion, London Regiment.*

Roland George Orchard of Bexleyheath, died on 24th February, 1968, aged 74.

He served with the 13th Battalion, London Regiment from 1914 until his discharge in 1915. As Mr. Orchard was not admitted to St. Dunstan's until 1952 he was passed direct to After Care having retired from his employment the previous year due to deterioration of sight. Mr. Orchard did, however, go to Ovingdean to learn typing and other hobbies. During the past year or so Mr. Orchard's health and that of his wife had seriously deteriorated and they had both been cared for most devotedly by Mrs. Orchard's daughter, Miss Beryl Walton.

**Frederick George Tyrrell. Post Office Rifles.**

Frederick George Tyrrell of Banbury, Oxon., died in hospital on 20th February, 1968. He was 73 years of age.

He served as a Rifleman in the Post Office Rifles from 1915 to 1919, and was the victim of a mustard gas attack. His sight did not deteriorate until 1948 when he became a St. Dunstaner. On account of ill health which he suffered for a number of years he did not undertake any training. He was cared for devotedly by his wife, daughter and sister-in-law.

**John Joseph Waters. Royal Armoured Corps.**

John Joseph Waters of Stretford, Manchester, died at the early age of 42 on 7th March, 1968. He died in hospital, having been admitted a week previously.

He served as a Trooper in the R.A.C. from 1944 to 1945 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1963. He trained for industry and despite poor health was able to carry on until quite recently. He leaves a widow and young family.

**Dr. C. R. H. ("Dick") Weekes. 4th Royal Sussex.**

Dr. C. R. H. Weekes of Crowborough, Sussex, died on the 29th February, at the age of 75.

He served in the First World War and was wounded but left with some guiding sight. He had previously been a medical student and, after some years spent in fruit farming, he decided to complete his training, finally qualifying as a doctor in 1934. For many years he worked as a Tuberculosis Officer with the Kent County Council.

He had been ill for a short time before his death. He leaves a widow and married daughter.

**Clare A. White. 10th G.R.T.**

Clare A. White of Gibsons, British Columbia, Canada, died on 22nd January last, aged 81.

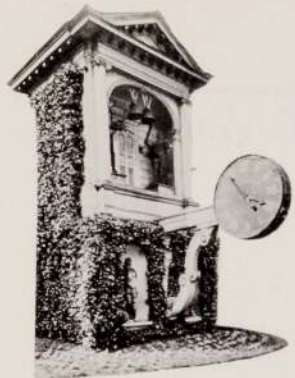
Mr. White enlisted in January, 1916 and served as a Sapper with the 10th G.R.T. He suffered mustard gas poisoning, retaining some guiding sight, and was discharged from the Services in July, 1918. He was trained in Canada in typing, basket work and piano tuning. He visited England on two occasions, the last time being in 1966, and wrote poetry as a hobby—one of his works, "A Warning", was published in the *Review* of December, 1966. He was a widower and had two daughters and a son.

**Lawrence Winchester Wood.**

*2/6 Duke of Wellington West Riding Regiment.*

Lawrence Winchester Wood of Leeds, died on 11th February, 1968, in hospital where he had been admitted the previous day. He was 81 years old.

He served in the 2/6 Duke of Wellington West Riding Regiment from 1915 to 1919 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1957, when on account of his age he did not undertake any training. He did, however, enjoy frequent Ovingdean holidays and often attended North country Reunions. He was a Mason and was proud to be Past Grand Standard Bearer, and also a Masonic Provisional Warden. He was cared for devotedly by his housekeeper Miss Ward.



ST. DUNSTAN'S CLOCK

## *It Strikes Me*

### *All the Best in Braille*

This month *Argosy*, probably the most famous literary short story magazine in the English language, comes out in Braille. It is published by our old friends the Scottish Braille Press as announced in our January issue. The first Braille *Argosy* features another first—the publication in English of a new short story by one of the most distinguished writers in Russia, **Konstantin Paustovsky**. Entitled "Elena", it is the love story of a soldier and a girl in World War II. Paustovsky, who is 75, is not involved politically in the U.S.S.R. A former journalist he was encouraged by Maxim Gorky to turn to novels and short stories. The inclusion of his story is in line with two current aims of the *Argosy* editorial staff: to introduce into Britain Russian writers previously unpublished here and to publish the best of contemporary literature from all parts of the world.

### *What a Referee!*

Recently **Micky Burns** attended the Race Walking Association's Diamond Jubilee Dinner held at the House of Commons. Guest of Honour was **Dennis Howell**, Minister of Sport. Micky was the only St. Dunstaner there but he tells me he met many past and present escorts who chatted to him about St. Dunstan's walkers over the years. One of the after-dinner speeches was by a well-known soccer referee who told a story about a very important match at which he was officiating. He had to give a foul against a well-known player who, as he passed the ref., said, "You must be blind". The referee immediately stopped the game and asked the player, "What did you say?" to receive the reply, "What, deaf as well!"

### *'Hitch' Hiker*

**Ron Gray** is a St. Dunstaner with some guiding vision, which he finds an asset in his work as a lecturer in musical instrument technology at the London College of Furniture. Since his wife learned to drive she has been picking him up after work in the car, which saves an awkward journey. One January evening at dusk he was outside the college waiting for the peep on the horn signalling his wife's approach—waiting a little anxiously as she was late—when he heard the familiar peep and the black car drew up. He opened the door and slid into the seat saying, "How are you, Darling?" A very masculine voice answered "I'm fine sweetheart but what are you doing in my car?" Exit Ron in confusion!

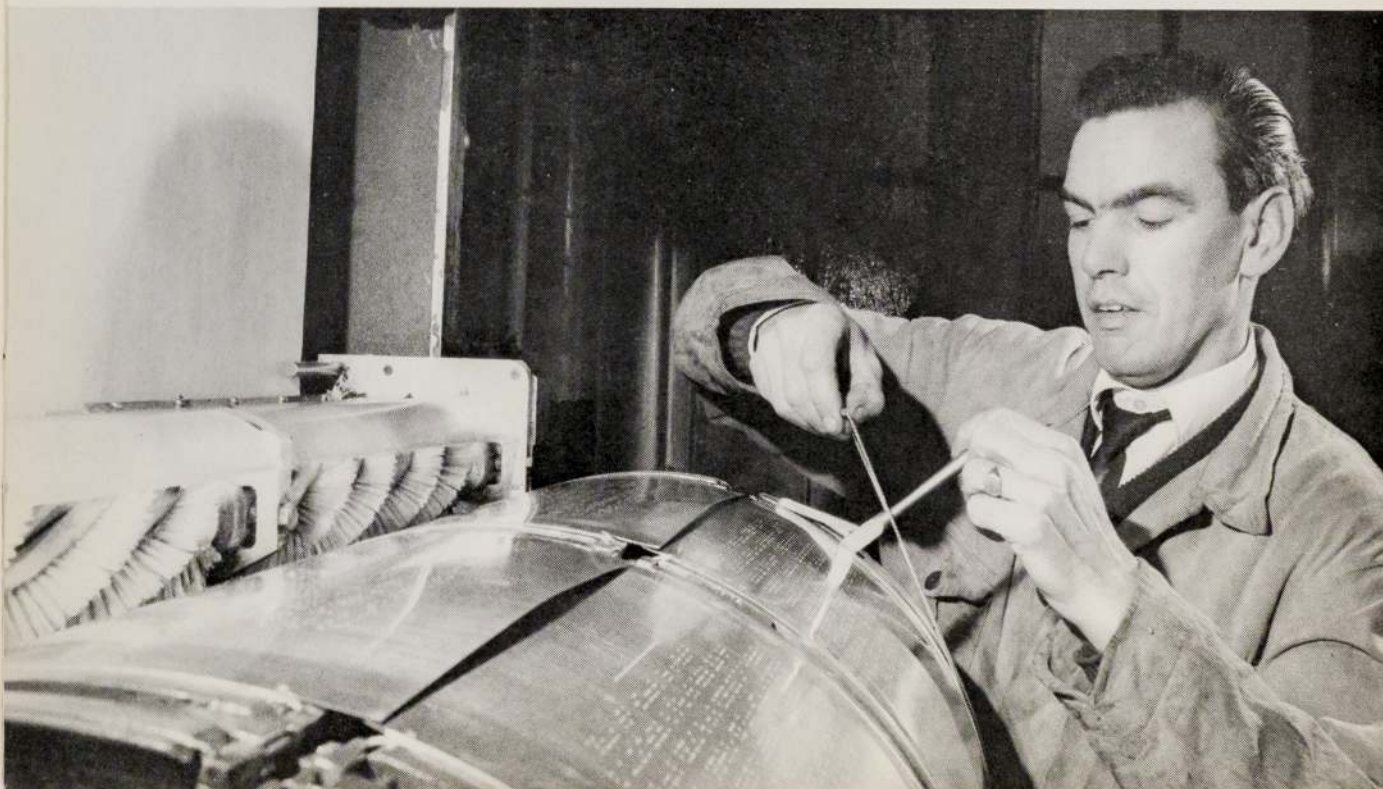
**MAGOG**

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By using an adapted chemical balance, this student at Chorleywood College for girls with little or no sight can weigh chemicals accurately by touch and by sound.

A member of the printing staff mounts master plates on a continuous web rotary machine specially developed by the R.N.I.B. to produce solid plastic dot Braille.





One small step towards greater independence is taken when this blind child at a Sunshine Home Nursery School learns to pour out his own milk.

A subscriber to the British Talking Book Service for the Blind is about to insert the new 6½ oz. cassette into his machine.

