



WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL  
QUEEN MARYS HOSPITAL  
ROEHAMPTON

**FEBRUARY  
REVIEW**



## Mobility and the Long Cane

by Walter Thornton

*Recently appointed Chairman of the National Mobility Centre's Advisory Committee, Walter Thornton is one of our Second World War St. Dunstaners who, from the early days of his Church Stretton training, took an intense interest in the problems of independent mobility. During the past eight years, at St. Dunstan's request, he tried out first the Ultra Sonic Aid and then the Long Cane Technique; his subsequent report on the latter was one of the key factors leading to its adoption by St. Dunstan's as an officially approved training method. Mr. Thornton's book "Cure for Blindness" was reviewed by us in March 1968.*

Birmingham University. The support which St. Dunstan's gave to this invention resulted in the Medical Research Council undertaking an assessment of its value as an obstacle detector and aid to mobility. This work was assigned to Dr. J. A. Leonard and Dr. A. Carpenter. As a consequence of this project, the former visited the U.S.A., and on his return presented a report recommending the adoption of the long cane system in this country.



Walter Thornton demonstrates the technique.

In no aspect of blind welfare in this country during the past ten years has a change of attitude been more striking than in that towards training for self-dependent mobility, based on the use of the long cane. This is a development with which St. Dunstan's had been closely associated throughout. Paradoxically enough, it was sparked off by the invention, in 1960, of the sonic aid by Dr. Leslie Kay, then a lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering at



Managing Director, Mr. J. B. Waggott, and executive staff of J. E. Hanger, Ltd, toast Frank O'Kelly.

### Ways of Life 11

#### Smile When You Say 'Hello'—Frank O'Kelly

"It is with a certain amount of regret that I have to perform this presentation, Mr. O'Kelly, but on behalf of the Company, first and foremost, I would like to thank you for the very long and the very efficient service you have given the Company. I do not think there is anyone who does not know you and recognise your ability." This is a *Ways of Life* which starts at the end; with the words of Mr. J. B. Waggott, Managing Director of J. E. Hanger & Co., Ltd., the artificial limb makers at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, when he presented a short-wave radio receiver to St. Dunstaner Frank O'Kelly on his retirement from the Company and a gold wrist-watch for his 25 years' service.

The presentation of the latter is, perhaps, the finest compliment to the efficiency of 72 years old Frank O'Kelly after a lifetime of fifty-one years in telephony. Mr. H. B. Wells, Director and Secretary, explained that the watch, which is not a Braille one, would be exchanged for a gift more suitable, "It seems not very sensible to give a blind man a gold watch—but do you know, it had not struck me until now; I never think of him as blind."

So, a happy ending to Frank O'Kelly's career expressed in the words of those best qualified to judge his worth. Now, in his own words, he looks back to the beginning, more than half-a-century ago, when St. Dunstan's, too, had hardly begun . . . to

1917 and a low-lying stretch of country in France, a singularly unhealthy part of the Western Front, where, because the trenches became waterlogged, they had to build breastworks. By then Frank O'Kelly had served more than three years during which time he had won the Military Medal on the Somme. "I was with the 5th Special Brigade, which was a trench mortar brigade. We were up in Ploegsteert Wood, it was Empire Day, May 24th. We were giving them a sort of night's blitzkrieg using 4" gas shells, when suddenly there

*(Continued on page 25)*

#### COVER PICTURE:

Frank O'Kelly at the end of his last working day.





The progress of a sighted trainee, wearing a blindfold, supervised by Mrs. Mary Crane.

Lord Fraser asked me to spend a month in America, to receive training in the use of the long cane, and to assess its possible value for St. Dunstaners. The experience was a revelation of a freedom I had not thought possible for a blind man. The recommendations of my favourable report were implemented without delay.

At Lord Fraser's request, Mr. Richard Dufton organised a course of one month's duration, held during August, 1965, at Ovingdean, when a few St. Dunstaners were given long cane training by Mr. Stanley Suterko, of the University of Western Michigan, Kalamazoo, a course with which I assisted for half the time.

#### **St. Dunstan's and R.N.I.B.**

St. Dunstan's co-operated with the R.N.I.B., which had arranged to bring over Mr. Leigh Farmer, of the Veteran's Administration Centre at Hines, Illinois, to train six long cane instructors during a six months' course. One of these, the Sports Officer at Ovingdean, Mr. Jock Carnochan, was appointed as St. Dunstan's mobility instructor early in 1967, on completing this course, and he has been doing splendid work there ever since.

My own activities during this period were greatly influenced by the eve of departure discussion which I had in May,

1965, in Washington, D.C., with Mr. Russ Williams, of the Veterans' Administration, and the late Mr. John Dupress, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, two long cane pioneers in the U.S.A. They had told me that welfare authorities here had known about the long cane system for some time, but had decided that it was not for Britain.

#### **Fear**

The expanding benefits which I was deriving from constant use of the long cane emphasised that it would be tragic if it were not to be given a fair chance of adoption in this country. There was a great deal of evidence to support this fear.

Established St. Dunstaners, settled in an acceptable mode of life, were either unable or unwilling to spare time for training. There was a great deal of ignorant and prejudiced opposition to the system, typified in a letter to "The New Beacon", which declared, "The use of the long cane produces a posture like that of a pregnant woman." There was a general, but fallacious, belief that long cane users went about tripping up sighted pedestrians, and this confirmed the apathy of authorities and blind people alike. The problems of providing training seemed enormous, since I estimate that, out of Britain's blind population of approximately 113,000,

about 10,000 might well become long cane users if adequate training facilities were available. Dr. Leonard lacked the facilities he regarded as necessary for his blind mobility research.

For these reasons, we combined to set up in Birmingham in September, 1966, the Midlands Mobility Centre, financed for the first two years by the Viscount Nuffield Auxiliary Fund as a research project administered by the University of Nottingham to investigate mainly the feasibility of non-residential long cane training, and then, with the grant extended for a third year, to enable it to become a permanent facility for training sighted instructors. Mr. Stanley Suterko, in charge of the Midlands Mobility Centre for its first year, has been succeeded, first by one of his American trained instructors, Mr. Robert Crouse, and now by one of his first British trainees, Mrs. Mary Crane.

#### **National Mobility Centre**

It was an uphill battle at first, because neither blind people nor authorities seemed to want to know about the Midlands Mobility Centre or its work. Fortunately, strong support was forthcoming locally from the Department of Education of Birmingham University and the Birmingham local authority. Luckily too, the one blind person trained successfully during the first year provided a good story, which attracted a lot of local publicity and brought in a stream of blind applicants for training. Other landmarks of progress in the adoption of the long cane system here were the recognition of the Midlands Mobility Centre by the R.N.I.B. in 1968 and a meeting in Caxton Hall, convened by the Southern Regional Association for the Blind in July, 1968, as a result of which support from authorities expanded steadily.

Now the Midlands Mobility Centre, renamed the National Mobility Centre, carries on its training of sighted instructors and blind people, backed by a consortium of the R.N.I.B., St. Dunstan's and the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind. The progress of the work can be indicated by the number of people who have successfully completed training. During the first year these were 1 blind person and 7 sighted instructors; during the second year, 30 blind people and

14 sighted instructors; third year, 14 blind people and 21 sighted instructors. Twenty-two local authorities or societies now employ instructors trained at the Centre. This number is rising steadily, as is the total number of long cane users in Britain, now well over 500. One of the Birmingham trainees is now setting up the long cane system in South Africa.

Following Britain's adoption of the system, the American Foundation for the Overseas Blind has organised courses during the last two years in Paris for sighted instructors from a dozen countries as far afield as Denmark, Portugal, Israel and Uruguay. The world-wide adoption of the use of the long cane system demonstrates my conviction that it is the best self-dependent system yet devised. It is one capable of being adopted by the widest range of blind people. It has given thousands a new protection and freedom. It has enriched and transformed the lives of many. Until his death last year, at the age of eighty-three, the late Mr. Arthur Chambers, a First World War St. Dunstaner, was for three years the oldest long cane user in this country. His example is one which other St. Dunstaners, conscious of the fact that it does not become any easier to get about alone as one grows older, may perhaps be stimulated to follow.

#### **Coming Events**

**Sports Weekend.** Friday, 12th to Sunday, 14th June inclusive, followed by fishing until Friday, 19th June. (It is hoped that it will also be possible to arrange Fishing Weekends in April and October, the dates for which will be published when known).

**Deaf Reunion.** Thursday, 13th to Monday, 17th August inclusive.

**Handless Reunion.** Thursday, 29th October to Monday, 2nd November inclusive.

**Lee-on-Solent Camp.** Friday 14th to Saturday 22nd August inclusive. Details—*March Review*.

**Bridge Congress Weekend.** Friday, 20th to Monday, 23rd November inclusive.

**Chess Tournament Weekend.** Friday, 27th to Sunday, 29th November inclusive.



## REUNION PROGRAMME—1970

All Reunions to be held at 12.15 p.m.  
for lunch at 12.45 p.m.

Date	Reunion	Hotel
Thurs. 9th April	<b>Southampton</b> (Mrs. Lyall & Miss Meyer)	Polygon
Sat. 11th April	<b>Bristol</b> (Miss Meyer)	Grand
Thurs. 23rd April	<b>Ipswich</b> (Miss Newbold & Miss Davis)	Copdock House Hotel
Sat. 25th April	<b>Birmingham</b> (Miss Newbold & Miss Broughton)	Midland
Sat. 9th May	<b>Brighton</b> (Miss Blebta & Mrs. Lyall)	Metropole
Sat. 16th May	<b>London—</b> Kent and Surrey (Miss Blebta & Mrs. Lyall)	Hotel Russell
Thurs. 4th June	<b>Newcastle</b> (Mrs. Plaxton & Mrs. King)	Royal Station
Sat. 6th June	<b>Sheffield</b> (Miss Broughton & Mrs. Plaxton)	Grand
Thurs. 18th June	<b>Manchester</b> (Miss Everett & Miss Broughton)	Midland
Sat. 20th June	<b>Liverpool</b> (Miss Everett & Miss Broughton)	Adelphi
Sat. 27th June	<b>London—</b> Central, N., N.W., & N.E. (Miss Davis)	Hotel Russell

### The Richardson Twins

Heather, daughter of Dickie Richardson has passed three more dancing examinations. She took the Modern Dancing examination, dancing as a man, and obtained a Gold Medal and was commended. For the All Round Efficiency examination Heather obtained her 1st Gold Bar and was highly commended. In the Latin American Section she obtained her sixth Gold Bar and Statuette and was again highly commended.

Keith Richardson, her twin brother, who is a member of the Air Training Corps, has obtained his Marksman's Badge and has passed an examination as Leading Cadet.

## BRAILLE READING COMPETITION

The National Library for the Blind's forty-first E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held on Saturday, 16th May, 1970, at 35, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Unseen passages will be read, and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression. (Should the entries in any class be very limited, prizes will be awarded only if merited).

**Sturmev-Wyman Challenge and Medal Competition.** This class is in competition for the Sturmev-Wyman cup and is open only to previous winners of the Open and Medal classes. The winner will also receive a silver medal. *Readers entering for this class may not enter other classes.*

**Class A.** Advanced readers in competition for the Blanesburgh Cup.

**Class B.** Other readers in competition for the Stuart Memorial Cup.

**Class C.** Readers who have lost their sight since 1939 and who have learnt to read Braille since the age of 16 (and who do not feel competent to enter the more advanced classes), in competition for the Lady Buckmaster Cup. (Entrants for this class will not read in the afternoon, but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon).

**Open Competition.** A special competition open to all readers eligible to enter Classes A and B and to all previous winners of Classes A, B and C for reading from the novels of J. B. Priestley.

**Class D. MOON.** Open to readers of Moon type. (Entrants for this class will not read in the afternoon but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon).

**Class E. DEAF-BLIND READERS.** Open to blind readers of Braille who are also deaf. (Entrants for this class will not read in the afternoon but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon).

Intending competitors should send their names to the **Secretary, National Library for the Blind, 35, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1**, not later than Monday, 27th April, 1970, stating whether they will be bringing a friend and whether or not they will be staying to lunch (at a cost of 4/- per head).

## OVINGDEAN NOTES

### A Successful Year

Traditions and customs! Nowhere more than at Ovingdean during the Christmas Season, and very admirable most of it has always been! Sometimes, however, it seems that if we are not careful we will become bound in the same mould for too long and we wonder if we should move on a little and make a change here and there. But how to do this without spoiling what we already have, and without disappointing those St. Dunstaners to whom Christmas at Ovingdean means so much? We found the answer on this occasion when we introduced for the first time the Christmas Eve "Barbecue". Knowing that if you make a change the results must be good or else (!) it was with not a little courage and trepidation that we set the scene.

Light a large log fire in the Lounge (not an easy room to make homely) and remove the fireguard. Place the piano between the fireplace and the door to the Quiet Lounge and arrange all the seating in a large semi-circle around the fire, leaving a space in the middle for the Staff to present a cabaret, and there you had it—the Staff Show, with a difference! And what was the difference? Really, in today's jargon—audience participation, or, in other words, everybody joined in!

#### The First Noel

The evening's programme was built into a framework of well-known Carols and the sound of Christmas joy and goodwill ran like a thread throughout. We began in darkness with only the glimmer of the Christmas tree lights and the voices of the V.A.D.'s in the distance singing, unaccompanied, "The First Noel". As the intervening doors were opened, they were seen coming through the Dining Room in procession, each carrying a lighted lantern which threw a glow upon their faces and the red lining of their Red Cross cloaks, and there was a most touching quietness in the Lounge as they made their way through the audience to the piano. Then up went the lights and the cabaret began. As we became used to the more flexible atmosphere, we found a relaxed gaiety among the staff that quickly drew a warm response from our audience. After the first half came the interval, and surprise! surprise! in came Commandant, Matron and Mr. Short, all wearing chefs' hats and large white aprons, bringing with them our illuminated, gaily decorated, mobile hot-dog stand, made for the occasion with great skill and inspiration by Bob Field, Billy Graham and Percy Lintern of the Main-

tenance Department. Hot-dogs, mince-pies, beer and a wine-cup—what more could one need to make the perfect Christmas Eve? There in the Lounge, in all the warmth and friendliness, we had an unmistakable feeling of being part of a family circle, and everyone joined in the fun.

#### Talented Staff

It has, throughout the years, always been astonishing at Staff Concerts to find how much talent we have among the staff, and this time was no exception. Individual items were given by the following:—Betty Brown, Jean Colbrook, Dinah Lamb, Pat Ransom, Joan Rokosz, Stella Warburton and Dorothy Williams, Henry Kerr and Dennis Robinson. Mildred Dagnall and Henry Kerr played the piano accompaniments and Henry also contributed a little rhythm on the drums. There was, however, one big difference. For years Commandant has been a never-failing source of strength to our Staff Concerts, with his easy, humorous microphone chats to liven up the proceedings. This time we "let him off the hook" a little, but were very glad to have him to open and close the Show with a few of his witty tales. The grand finale was "Bless this House" (which might have been written for Ovingdean) and "Oh, come all ye faithful"—and how everybody sang! The rafters of Ovingdean rang with the joy of Christmas music. Hearing all the reactions afterwards we found, to our great relief, that the whole idea was enthusiastically welcomed. We have already been asked to repeat the evening next Christmas, so we can tell ourselves that we have not really broken a tradition but just bent it in a new, and perhaps better, direction. This gave a very happy start to our Christmas festivities.



On Christmas morning we had sherry with Mrs. Lillie and Mr. Phillips and our other friends from the Grocers' Association, followed by a wonderful Christmas Dinner in the Dining Room. Here our thanks are due to Mr. Ridge and all the catering staff, some of whom during the Christmas Season are still working in the Canteen long after the rest of us have gone to bed.

We also had a highly successful Fancy Dress Dance on Boxing Day when the entries were judged by Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Higinbotham. The prize for the most outstanding fancy dress was awarded to Marguerite Tickner and Tommy North. Marguerite was 1970—a new baby hanging from a hoist from the beak of a stork, and Tommy was the old year, 1969, complete with scythe and whiskers!

The other prize winners were, in alphabetical order, as follows:—

- Tony Boardman "No more Strikes".
- Miss Joyce Briant "Mother Christmas".
- Mrs. Muriel Brown "All Figure Numbers Now".
- Mrs. Edith Goodliffe "Spanish Lady".
- Les Halliday and Mrs. Dinah Lamb "Nurse Hare and Dr. O'Hara".
- Fank Hicks and Danny Corbettis "Latin Grammar".
- Mrs. Dolly Highcock "Hello Dolly!"
- Elmer Richards and Mrs. Edith Lane "Robin Hood and Friar Tuck".
- Miss Dorothy Roffey "Another Pot Plant for Dormitory Two".
- Mrs. Margaret Stanway and Miss Pat Ransom "A piece of Old Gold and a new Silver Piece".
- Miss 'Johnnie' Walker "Miss Outer Space".
- Mrs. Dorothy Williams "Off Duty".
- Sam Worthington "2s. 6d. Redundant".

Our other major item of entertainment was, of course, the New Year's Eve Party, when we welcomed 1970 with gales of laughter and glasses of hot punch.

Yes, a most successful and enjoyable Christmas once more, and looking back on the last year of the decade, a successful year generally from an entertainment point of view. Due to the wonderful weather in 1969 we had a very good Racing season and most of our Summer guests had a relaxing holiday. Our old established

highlights, such as the Derby and the Sussex Fortnight, came, went and were all much enjoyed, and we had great fun at all our Bank Holiday Dances.

Special events such as the Bridge and Chess Weekends have been fully reported already, and also the Hand-Amputee and the Deaf Reunions, the latter of which was so outstanding an event of 1969. We are very pleased to welcome the formation of a new Fishing Club, wishing every success to its members, and would also like to mention that during the past year we have managed to run successfully a Discussion Group on alternate Wednesday afternoons during term-time. Here we have had great help from Mr. J. Stokes, who has acted as Chairman in general, and we have had many interesting discussions at which everyone is welcome. Sometimes the St. Dunstaners need a little coaxing in this field, but we hope they will continue to co-operate and keep going this valuable extra interest. Through it we have already established contact with the Brighton and Hove Debating Society and the Forum Society and about 40 members of the latter Society came and spent a very pleasant evening with us at Ovingdean in November and it is felt that if St. Dunstaners show enough interest, scope in this direction can be considerably widened.

#### 1970

And so on to 1970! We look forward to a happy and successful New Year and send good wishes to all our friends, hoping to see many of you at Ovingdean some time during the coming season.

## CHESS MAN HONOURED

A familiar name in the New Year's Honours List was that of MR. REGINALD BONHAM, who has just retired after forty years as mathematics master at Worcester College. He has been awarded the M.B.E.—Member of the Order of the British Empire. Mr. Bonham is, of course, a championship Chess player and has given much time to encouraging and teaching our St. Dunstan's players. They will wish to join in these congratulations on a well-deserved honour.

## FIRE DESTROYS FIVE YEARS WORK

"Back to Square One"  
says Reg Page

"I get used to keeping restarting my life. I hope it will all iron itself out". This is not just another New Year Resolution but for Reg Page, the man who said it at the end of 1969, it expresses his determination to recover from a disastrous fire which destroyed his workshop at Cross-in-Hand, Sussex, on December 8th.

Readers may remember Reg's work was featured in an article in the "Ways of Life" series in the August *Review* last year, when his craftsmanship in making garden ornaments was described. Now as a result of the fire, which it is believed was caused by an oil stove used to prevent frost damaging concrete ornaments as they set, Reg and his wife have lost all but one of fifty-five rubber and fibre glass moulds worth £550 and built up over five years of work.

### Loss of Fan-Tails

Worse still, for Reg, was the loss of all but one of 24 white fan-tail pigeons, whose loft was in the roof above the garage and workshop. Before Heathfield Fire Brigade arrived with breathing apparatus, Reg had risked his life three times in suffocating smoke to try and save his birds and to back his car, with 10 gallons of petrol in the tank, out of the garage. He got 22 pigeons out of the loft but only one lived. Audrey Page said "I feared for his life when he was up in the loft because there was a danger that the roof might fall in and he would be overcome by smoke—in fact it collapsed shortly afterwards—but he was determined to rescue the pigeons."

Standing by the black, sludgy mess that was all that was left of his workshop Reg said, "We are back to square one. We have got to start this half of our business—the other half is market gardening—again. Everything is destroyed, but I should be able to start again in the Spring. As to my pigeons, we have a few left who were in a separate dove-cote. The sole survivor from



Reg Page with one of the fan-tails he tried to save.

the loft is still as black as a crow and has made his home with the others. He is ever so tame now as a result of being rescued. It is amazing he seems to know."

### 100 Years Old

All St. Dunstaners and specially those First World War men of the early Regent Park days will want to join us in congratulating Miss E. M. Bruford whose 100th birthday falls on 2nd February.

Daughter of the late George Bruford, one of the founders of Carrington and Co. Ltd., Crown Jeweller of Regent Street, Miss 'Nellie' Bruford was blind from birth. She was a good pianist who enjoyed explaining what she was playing, sometimes attaching a story to it.

During the First World War she was a brilliant but very strict teacher of Braille at St. Dunstan's. Some of her war blinded students still keep in touch with her and express their gratitude for all she did for them and only a few days ago a letter from



South Africa was received by her niece which included the following:

"I can never forget how she dragged my brother out of a slough of despond when he was trying to learn Braille in 1917".

Miss Bruford typed her own letters until recently and managed her own affairs until a few years ago.

A woman of great faith, she has been a Christian Scientist for some 70 years.

## FRANK REVIEWS

"Colonel Sun" by Robert Markham, read by John Graham. The immortal James Bond, having recuperated from the wounds and rigors of his last mission, is rather bored, and looking for action when trouble finds him. Audacious foreign agents plot to kidnap Bond and his chief; they succeed in the case of "M", but find Bond a slippery customer. Typically, Bond is rather annoyed so what could a good British agent do but find "M", liberate him, and punish the offenders. If at the same time Bond aligns himself with a beautiful Russian spy, who can blame him for mixing business with pleasure.

Robert Markham dedicates this book to the memory of Bond's creator, Ian Fleming, and it is hard to find any difference in the style of writing, or in the "cliff hanging" plots, save that this Bond tends to rely more on physique, wits and daring, than on gimmicky weapons as of old.

"To Auntie with Love", by Jack De Manio, read by John Curl. Jack de Manio, well-known personality of Radio 4's "To-day" programme, gives us an amusing insight into the professional lives of B.B.C. Announcers and Commentators. As with their Fleet Street colleagues, beer seems to play a prominent part in their working schedule, which is fair enough, for they have the thirsty task of reading the news aloud, unlike those chaps who merely pound it out for the next printed edition.

In general, a collection of amusing little anecdotes told in the true de Manio style. And here I must break my rule of never commenting on the prowess of the reader. John Curl throws himself into the narrative so completely that it is hard to believe it is not the familiar voice of the author speaking to us.

"The Great Fortune" by Olivia Manning, read by Robin Holmes. Concerning the lives of the British Community in Rumania during the "phoney war" period from September 1939 to May 1940, seen through the eyes of intellectuals, journalists, Embassy staff, and hangers-on, from the fall of Poland to the fall of Paris, as British prestige dwindles and that of Germany increases.

The author has cleverly given much light relief to this work in his portrayal of Prince Yackinoff (a "White Russian" with a British passport) who scrounges for a living until at last he is compromised into using his undoubted talents for the benefit of British *esprit de corps*.

"Jerusalem The Golden" by Margaret Drabble, read by Phyllis Boothroyd. Clara's upbringing has not been exactly hard, but, starved of love and affection, she becomes hard herself, and armed with a good brain and an attractive body, she attacks life for what it has to offer her.

I can only hazard the guess that the author seeks to prove that what is denied in childhood cannot be regained, which to my mind is a doubtful supposition.

An uninspiring piece of writing which does not make for easy reading.

## Not Quite Cricket!

by

George Fallowfield

It was a very hot day and most of the men at Ovingdean had gone to the Races while another batch were on a drive, so I settled down in the cool of the lounge with a book and was soon lost on Romney Marshes with smugglers and in due time a V.A.D. slid a cup of tea on the back of my hand. "Hello Darling", I said cheerfully, "Where you bin 'iding your carcass, giving yerself a good time?" "You be quiet and drink your tea" she replied. "Who the Hell are you talking to?" I demanded, sitting up indignantly. "What did she say?" asked a man stretching his arm from another settee. "Had the bloody cheek to tell me to drink my tea and be quiet as if I was a kid" I replied. "They want to listen to the wireless" he said. "Who?" I asked. "The Sisters!". After consuming

two cups of tea I went to the Desk and said to Miss Warrell on duty there, "The Chairman said this lounge had not to be plunged into silence because one or two wanted to listen to the wireless as, if it is an important programme, they should go to their room". "Nobody wants to listen to the wireless" said Miss Warrell, "It isn't on". I went back to my book but before I could open it Miss Blanks sat down next to me and asked, "What is it?" "Franklin told me to be quiet and drink my tea, a chap there said the Sisters want to listen to the wireless, Pat Warrell says it isn't on". "Well it is then!" said Miss

Blanks, "Franklin is mad on Tennis and has done nothing all the afternoon but listen to Wimbledon!"

The following day in the lounge an elderly lady came and sat next to me. "Hello and how are you?" I said cheerfully. "Fed-up!" she replied. "Now why should you be fed-up with this weather? darn it, Madam, you can see the landscape and sea and hear the birds, is there something you would like to do you can't?". "Yes", she replied. "I would like to be able to switch off that damned Radio, it has been nothing but CRICKET all day."

## UNINHIBITED

by

Thomas Rogers

It was the first day after the Summer holidays and things were pretty dull at West House when the late Alec Lawler, who had arrived that morning for a fortnight's holiday suggested we asked Matron for an orderly to take us to the Brighton races which happened to be on that afternoon. Having made the request and assured Matron that I had only one lesson after dinner, she replied,

"Very well, finish your work, then you can take Orderly Mason."

Everything being in order, we nipped up the Race-hill, arriving on the course in time for the three o'clock. We were moaning about not knowing about the runners because we had no race-card when a friendly female voice interjected,

"Here, dearie, use mine."

Having made our selections, Alec and Mason went to place our humble stakes while the lady entertained me with the following dialogue:

"D'yer live down here? Where d'yer come from? Are yer married?" This last question she answered herself with, "Of course not, nobody in Brighton's married! My husband left me with two boys, but we've got through all right. I've a stand in the Callie, (the Caladonian market, since demolished). There's them that wants to get me out but they don't get one over me," a remark which assured me her status quo at the Callie would be maintained. She continued.

"I wouldn't have been able to come down this afternoon only I backed that 100 to 6 which Gordon Richards brought home on Saturday, and I like the beer in Brighton. It's better than London beer."

Now the others arrived back and swinging her head towards Mason she inquired, "Is he yer keeper?"

Enjoying the definition, I replied in the affirmative. A few more uninhibited remarks and then she said good-bye, with a really sincere "God bless yer, love."

It has been said that "No two persons meet without each taking something from the other", uninhibited sincerity was what I took from the lady with "A stand in the Callie."

## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENT IN AMERICA

Congratulations to ALAN MILNE, who has been invited to be "Visiting professor of philosophy at San Diego State College, California, for the spring semester and also for the summer school during July". He is Reader in Social Philosophy at Queen's University, Belfast, and he has been given leave to take up this special appointment from February to August this year. His wife, Anita, and their son and daughter will accompany him and they are all much looking forward to their time in America.



## Bridge Notes

### London Bridge Club

Twenty-seven St. Dunstaners along with their sighted friends gathered together on Saturday, 13th December, at Headquarters, 191 Old Marylebone Road, to take part in our annual Christmas Bridge. Unfortunately there had been odd cancellations, otherwise the number of people attending would have been still greater. However, we were pleased indeed to see 54 players and also the wives and friends who accompanied them. It was a long time since over 70 people had graced the London Club for a Christmas Bridge Drive.

Miss Strang, our Canteen Manageress at Headquarters, kindly gave permission for us to hold the Drive in the Canteen Dining Room. This made things much easier from the Bridge point of view and also for the catering arrangements. The room was beautifully decorated with streamers, balloons, etc., and gave the whole occasion an air of Christmas festivity. Thank you, Miss Strang.

After tea, Roy Armstrong, our Bridge Captain, in a short address thanked everyone concerned in making our day such a tremendous success. He remarked that he was pleased to see that Bill Miller, our Club Chairman, was in the company and went on to give a brief resume of the activities other than Bridge, in which the London Club participated. Roy then introduced Mr. A. D. Lloyds, the Secretary of St. Dunstan's.

Mr. Lloyds, in his speech, said the number of St. Dunstaners present on this occasion augured well for the Bridge Club in the future. He complimented the many members who had made a long journey to be with us, notably from Liverpool, Oldham, Bristol, Ruthin, Chester, Ipswich, Gravesend, Eastbourne and Brighton. A really wonderful effort. Mr. Lloyds also thanked our visitors for the valuable assistance they gave the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club throughout the year, without whose help we would be unable to hold many of the regular functions.

Mrs. Lloyds graciously presented the prizes. This was no mean task, for apart from the four major prizes for the winning pairs, there were as many as 30 novelty prizes. During the tea break in the afternoon each St. Dunstaner had selected a small envelope; inside this had been placed a caption, which was paired up with a suitable novelty. The ensuing game created great amusement and the room rocked with laughter as each recipient received their prize.

On behalf of the Bridge Club Mrs. V. Delaney presented Mrs. Lloyds with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and Mrs. Smith with a potted plant.

Mr. R. Fullard replied for the St. Dunstaners, thanking Mr. and Mrs. Lloyds for being present and giving up so much of their time for the Club. He also thanked Mrs. Smith and her band of willing helpers for providing such an excellent tea.

At the close all St. Dunstaners unanimously agreed that it had been a wonderful day and hoped that next year would be even better.

The winners of the Christmas Bridge Drive were as follows:

1. J. Whitcombe and Mr. G. C. Connell.
2. J. Huk and Mrs. Bunyer.
3. L. Douglass and Mr. S. Horstead.
4. W. Allen and Mr. K. Craigie.

ROY ARMSTRONG,  
*Captain.*

### Harrogate Bridge Week

May I remind our Bridge Players that our visit to Harrogate will take place this year from 19th to 26th September. Those who wish to go should forward their names as soon as possible to ensure the necessary hotel accommodation is available as required. Please forward your names to me at 191, Old Marylebone Road, N.W.1.

PAUL NUYENS

## BE PATIENT

by Alf E. Field

Dealer—South. Game All.

- ♠ A, 9, 6, 2.
- ♥ K, 7.
- ♦ J, 7, 5, 3, 2.
- ♣ 6, 3.



- ♠ J, 4.
- ♥ A, Q, 6, 3.
- ♦ K, Q, 8, 4.
- ♣ A, J, 7.

I jotted this Hand down, it was dealt at the Club recently, and bid swiftly—"One N.T."—"Two N.T." (no "Stayman")—"Three N.T." West led the Spade 5. How would you plan and what card do you play from Dummy at trick one?

Declarer played Spade 2 from Dummy. East won with the Queen and correctly switched to Clubs leading the 10. Declarer lost one Spade, one Diamond and three Clubs = "One Light". The mistake at trick one stems from (a) lack of planning and (b) being clever—meaning that we learn to recognise so many combinations of cards and instinctively play them for the maximum number of tricks. Technically Declarer was correct to play Spade 2 in order to make two tricks but failed to plan for Nine. His thought process should have been:

I have one Spade, three Hearts and one Club "on top" leaving four tricks to be developed—the Diamonds look good—five card suit in Dummy and the combined tops are good (K, Q, J) and I have an entry in Dummy (Heart K). I do not like my Club suit especially if East gets in—he will do if I duck the Spade! (horrid thought). I must play Ace and attack Diamonds. The more expert player would have noted that if the Spade Ace is played E.W. can only make three Spade tricks providing East holds either the K, Q or 10. (Try it with the cards.) The pause at trick one is a must. If, as a Defender you get a little impatient, I recommend that you mentally re-cap the bidding and try to imagine Declarer's Hand—it pays.

Here is another "actual". My Partner dealt and bid "One N.T." (13-15). I held:

- ♠ A, Q, 6.
- ♥ A, 8, 7.
- ♦ A, 10, 7, 3.
- ♣ A, 8, 5.

What do you bid?

Our bidding went: "One N.T." "Four N.T." "Five Clubs". "Five N.T." "Six N.T." My "Four N.T." was a quantitative bid (no suit agreed), non-forcing, suggesting a slam. My Partner should bid "Six N.T." if he holds max 15 points plus A FIVE CARD SUIT. If I had held the five card suit + 18 points, I would have bid Three of the Suit of Six N.T. Try a few 15 Pointed balanced Hands opposite mine and then introduce one with a five card suit. The recommended bid after an opening bid of One N.T. from Partner, if you want Ace showing is "Four Clubs". The reply being "Four Diamonds" (No Ace), "Four Hearts" (One Ace), etc. This is the "Gerber" convention.



## Welcome to St. Dunstan's

On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome St. Dunstaners recently admitted to membership. The Review hopes they will settle down happily as members of our family.

**James Affleck** of Manchester, was admitted to St. Dunstan's in December 1969. He served in the 1st World War in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. He is married with a grown-up family.

**Augustus Henry Burton** of East Ham, London, E.6, who came to St. Dunstan's on 12th December, 1969. He served in the 17th London Regiment in the 1st World War and was wounded in France. Mr. Burton is a widower and lives with his married son.

**Eric Taylor** of Peterlee, Co. Durham, joined St. Dunstan's in December 1969. He is married and he served in the Black Watch Regiment during the 2nd World War.





ST. DUNSTAN'S CLOCK

## It Strikes Me

### Happy New Year

This column usually talks about named individuals and this is the first time I have had a story to tell about an anonymous St. Dunstaner, three of them in fact. I read it in the correspondence columns of the magazine *Tit-bits*:

*It was raining, I was fed up. And my fellow bus passengers looked to be feeling the same way. Then came the most hearty and infectious laughter I've heard in years. From three middle-aged men who had just got on. From that moment everybody perked up.*

*When the three men alighted they left a happy crowd behind . . . and also some shamefaced people, including myself.*

*The men's destination was a St. Dunstan's home—and all three were blind. Mrs. V. Hall, Hove, Sussex.*

A nice story to read in the opening weeks of the 70's.

### Over Twenty-One

Here's another story culled from the pages of a magazine. This time it is *Physiotherapy*, the journal of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, paying tribute to Ron Priestley, who was among four retiring members of the Council of the Society:

Mr. Priestley has been a member of the Council for over 21 years: he was first elected in 1948 and has served continuously since then. The Establishment and General Purposes Committee, Finance Committee, Journal and Public Relations Committee, and Salaries Committee have all had the benefit of his membership, and he was for a period Vice-Chairman of the Establishment and General Purposes and of Journal and Public Relations Committees. As Superintendent Physiotherapist at the London headquarters of St. Dunstan's since 1949, his special interest has naturally been the welfare of blind physiotherapists, and he has done much to further their interests.



RON PRIESTLEY

### 1/4th Norfolk Regiment

Mrs. Hilary Edwards of Blackheath, S.E.3, recently wished St. Dunstan's a happy Christmas and New Year for the fifty-fourth time in succession. She and her husband, who died in 1968, subscribed regularly to St. Dunstan's from the earliest days. The late Mr. B. J. Edwards served in the Norfolks during the 1st World War and his wife now wonders whether there are any old Norfolks amongst St. Dunstaners; if so she would like them to remember an old colleague. We feel sure they will and also join us in wishing Mrs. Edwards many more happy New Years to come.

**MAGOG**



A greeting for Joe Carruthers from the Duchess of Kent.

Photo: Central Press photos.

## "NOT FORGOTTEN" ASSOCIATION PARTY

I was fortunate enough to be one of three St. Dunstaners privileged to attend the "Not Forgotten" Association Annual Christmas Party at the Royal Riding School, Buckingham Palace, on Tuesday, 16th December.

This was an unforgettable experience and I, for one, shall always treasure the memory. The outstanding incident for me was when Her Grace the Duchess of Kent came up to me, shook me by the hand and said she would gladly allow me to take her photograph on the condition that I would send one on to her later. I had to ask her to take hold of one end of my white stick to get her into focus (as I am totally blind), which she laughingly did. I had heard reports of the young Duchess's charm and

sweet disposition and I can verify this most enthusiastically.

I also met and conversed with Anne Shelton and she too allowed me to photograph her. I cannot speak too highly of the organisation of the party, of the excellent meal, the warmth and kindness of all the helpers and waitresses, and also to the entertainment and the music of the colourful Guards Band.

None of the foregoing would have been possible without the arrangements having been made beforehand by St. Dunstan's, and all these arrangements dovetailed perfectly, everything going off without a hitch.

To everyone—a big thank you.

JOE CARRUTHERS



## Letters to the Editor

From Peter Spencer, Weston-Super-Mare.

May I thank Lord Fraser for successfully pressing the views of St. Dunstaners on the question of Comprehensive Radio Sports Programmes? It is indeed good to know that the Saturday afternoon coverage will continue on one of the National wavebands and I would like to offer grateful thanks to Lord Hill for his favourable reconsideration.

Whilst on the subject of Sport . . . Congratulations to Bill Griffiths on his recent remarkable Sports achievement.

Until I heard of Bill's success I thought "Stumps Drawn" meant the end of play but he has altered all this . . . it's only just the beginning!

From Alfred Bradley of Northwood Hills, Middlesex.

A thought or two stirred as I read Mr. Lloyd's most interesting report, "St. Dunstan's and India".

Do you recall a letter in the *Review* for July, 1967, from Mr. B. Sharma in India? It was written in a very charming yet quaint English and Mr. Sharma expressed a desire to receive English Braille literature.

Well, I replied and as I am a member of a "family" called The Torch Trust for the Blind, which publishes and has a library of Christian books, I sent Mr. Sharma a couple of old copies of the Torch magazine with my letter.

I was delighted when months later I heard that he had contacted the Torch editor and had been put on the mailing list.

Until quite recently I have been corresponding regularly with a blind African in Mozambique, but of late he has removed, and for the moment, we seem to have lost each other. Many of his letters have arrived in a most deplorable condition. Sometimes just wired to a piece of card-board and often very difficult to read. By some of the "reading between the lines", I can well understand the concern of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind.

## Club News

### Midland Club Notes

December is quite an active month for our club members. We held our Christmas meeting on 7th December. We finished our knock-out competition for the Sir Arthur Pearson domino prizes. The winner was Billy Hines and the runner-up was Bruno Tomporowski with Guy Bilcliff and Frank Cross taking prizes for being the unlucky semi-finalists.

All our wives had arranged a very lovely Christmas tea for us and we all tucked in with relish. We gave them all a very hearty thanks and special thanks went to Mrs. Humphries, mother of Eric Humphries, who gave us a Christmas cake which she had made specially for us.

After tea all the children received a present from Father Christmas, our St. Dunstaners, Lou Androlea, doing the honours in full regalia. After the children had unwrapped their presents the grown-ups had a Christmas drink together.

On 13th December a small group of club members with their wives attended a very excellent celebration given by Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Faulkner on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary. A beautiful bouquet of flowers and two small gifts were presented to the couple on behalf of all club members. Sincere congratulations to both, Doug and Connie.

December 20th was the date of our annual Christmas dinner, once again held at the Austin British Legion, Northfield, Birmingham. Thirty people sat down to a very excellent Christmas meal and thoroughly enjoyed it. After dinner, the speeches were very short but a very nice speech of welcome was given by Mr. Queen, the Branch Chairman, in which he said how pleased the Austin British Legion were to have us with them, once again. We thanked all those who had helped to make this such an enjoyable evening especially the stewardess for an excellent meal. When all was cleared

away we were entertained by the Lucas Choral Society with songs from different shows and Christmas Carols. At eight o'clock a dance band arrived; other jollifications that came along included a very excellent raffle by the British Legion—first prize a bottle of Scotch.

On behalf of all club members may I take this opportunity of wishing all St. Dunstaners and staff, wherever they may be, a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Should any St. Dunstaner wish to come along to our club meeting and join in our activities, they will be made very welcome. You can contact me at Bromsgrove 3856 any evening.

D. E. CASHMORE,  
*Secretary.*

### Brighton Club Notes

#### Annual General Meeting

Mrs. Dacre, our President, took charge of the proceedings, and we all stood in silent tribute to C. Kelk, F. Rowe, T. Walton, S. Gargett and Mrs. Gargett, when the President recited the words: "They shall grow not old. . . . We will remember them."

The roll call was made by Mr. Jarrold and 16 St. Dunstaners were present. The net proceeds of the raffle were £1 0s. 0d.

The minutes of the 1968 Annual General Meeting were read by Mr. Jarrold and, nothing arising therefrom, these were unanimously adopted.

The statement of accounts, kindly prepared by Miss Ford, were read by Mr. Jarrold. These were likewise unanimously adopted.

The Chairman/Secretary expressed, on behalf of all club members, his sincere appreciation for all the help rendered to the club by our many friends, especially to Mrs. Kirk, and Mrs. Pike, for running the raffle. The Chairman outlined how the

money for the Sir Arthur Pearson prizes was allocated and the other club funds were disposed of.

The Chairman, Frank A. Rhodes, proposed Mrs. Dacre as President, this being seconded by T. Kirk and warmly applauded by all.

Miss Ramshaw was elected Vice-President, being proposed by T. Kirk and seconded by J. Walker. This was warmly applauded.

Frank A. Rhodes was unanimously elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

There were six nominations for the committee: A. Dodgson, F. Griffie, P. Holmes, T. Kirk, A. Martin and J. Walker. The four successful candidates were T. Kirk, Vice-Chairman, P. Holmes, A. Martin and J. Walker.

### Games

Dominoes Fives and Threes—best out of three, once round the board.

Crib. Six cards, twice round the board.

Whist and Dominoes aggregate to be played on the second Thursday of January, February and March. Darts, crib and dominoes Fives and Threes to be played in April, May and June.

Miss Ramshaw kindly presented the prizes to the following:

Darts. "A" Section. **1st. S. Webster.**  
2nd. W. Chitty.

Darts. "B" Section. **1st. E. Mann.**  
2nd. A. Martin.

Crib. **1st. T. Kirk.**  
2nd. S. Webster.

Dominoes. Fives and Threes.  
**1st. A. Martin.**  
2nd. R. Fearnley.

Dominoes—aggregate. **1st. A. Martin.**  
2nd. T. Kirk.  
3rd. W. Chitty.

Dominoes. Ladies. **1st. Mrs. James.**  
2nd. Mrs. Fearnley  
Mrs. Kirk.

Whist. **1st. W. Megson.**  
**F. Rhodes.**  
2nd. F. Griffie.



## Club News

Whist. Ladies. 1st. Mrs. Webster.  
2nd. Mrs. Crabtree.  
3rd. Mrs. Walker.

The Chairman presented tokens of appreciation to Miss Ramshaw, Mr. Jarrold, Mr. Ling, Mr. Bacon and Mr. Davonport and also to members of the catering staff.

Mrs. Fearnley most graciously presented a beautiful spray of flowers to Mrs. Dacre.

In conclusion we, the members of the club, desire to place on record our appreciation that Mrs. Dacre will continue as President, and Miss Ramshaw as Vice-President, and to Mr. Jarrold for his never failing help, and to Messrs. Ling, Bacon and Davonport for all their help, especially in connection with our bowling activities.

FRANK A. RHODES,  
*Chairman/Secretary.*

### London Club Notes

On Thursday evening, 18th December, our Domino Section held an impromptu sherry party in our gaily decorated Club Rooms prior to our closure for Christmas. We were very sorry that Miss Rogers, who was ill with 'flu, was unable to attend. Mr. A. D. Lloyds also was unfortunately unable to be with us due to a prior commitment at Brighton.

Winners of the Dominoes on this special evening were:

1. C. Hancock.
2. W. Harding.
3. { W. Miller  
G. Stanley.

Halfway through the evening our members and their wives enjoyed a sumptuous repast which included hot mince pies and sausage rolls as well as chicken bridge rolls and sandwiches with other goodies. At the end of the evening after Christmas cake and sherry the prizes for the Sir Arthur Pearson Competitions were presented.

Winners of the Aggregate Competition were as follows:

1. The late G. P. Brown.
2. C. Hancock.
3. R. Fullard.

The Fives and Threes Domino Competition was eventually won by R. Bickley after many close and exciting games. C. Hancock was in second place.

Bill Miller, Chairman of the London Club, presented a present of port, cigars and chocolates to Percy Scouse for his unfailing kindness to members and his cheerful manner throughout the past year.

During the sing-song that followed, Bill Harding had ample opportunity to show his skill on the harmonica. It was a happy though a little tired band of members who dispersed for home later in the evening.

The first football pontoon in 1970 has been won by Mrs. Lyn Evans, wife of our St. Dunstaner, Bob Evans, with the team Chelsea. Paul Nuyens won the "booby"—his team being Ipswich.

W. MILLER,  
*Captain.*

### THE BLUNDER BUS

by Frank Hicks

The transport section of St. D's  
One day became aware,  
That it lacked easy facility  
To carry Mobile Chair.  
The ambulance required a ramp,  
To roll a chair up on,  
While lifting one upon a coach  
Caused stress and woe-begone.

That something really must be done  
To all seemed crystal clear,  
And them what knows about these things,  
Discussed it over beer.  
We need a sort of run-about  
To seat a dozen men,  
A ramp for lifting wheel-chairs,  
And a space for stowing them.

The bloke who drew the plans up,  
Was a plumber's mate by trade,  
Assisted by an armourer, out of the Tank Brigade.  
The thing was made quite swiftly,  
Well, just a few odd days,  
And the bloke what went to fetch it,  
Did upon it fondly gaze.

For never such a vehicle,  
Upon this earth he'd seen,  
It looked like half a Field Gun,  
And a harvesting machine.  
Its seats are built for midgets,  
And as hard as granite rock,  
And when it starts amoving,  
You discover with a shock,  
Its suspension is fantastic,  
Independent on each wheel,  
One oak, one teak, one plywood,  
And the fourth one's made of deal.

The wheels they all are different,  
Unique in every way,  
One off a Tank Transporter,  
One off a brewer's dray.  
One came from a tram car,  
A lovely shade of green,  
But the most impressive wheel of all  
Came from a Fruit Machine.

Oh, what a lovely Blunder Bus,  
St. Dunstan's has achieved,  
It sounds like a Machine Gun,  
And churns us up like cheese.  
The 'Coppers' keep well clear of it,  
Pedestrians run amok,  
And children ask the driver  
For ice cream and Brighton Rock.

Oh, what a lovely Blunder Bus,  
It's known for miles around,  
And people who've not seen it,  
Can detect it from its sound.  
The B.B.C. are interested,  
And Television too,  
To fight those nasty Daleks,  
Who appear in "Dr. Who".

Mr. Wilson's made an offer,  
For this lovely masterpiece,  
He hopes to use our Blunder Bus,  
On that there Mr. Heath.  
Mr. Powell has spoken of it,  
In his latest Racial speech,  
And says it's keeping whites away,  
From burning black on beach.

It seems no use our telling them,  
'Twas built to carry blind,  
They say, "Oh, yes, go kick yourself,"  
And other things unkind.  
Oh, Commandant, we beg you,  
Please scrap our Blunder Bus,  
Before it causes Civil War,  
Or paralyses us.

## British Talking Book Services for the Blind

### Non-Fiction

Cat. No.

- 553 MALLET, VICTOR (ed.)  
*LIFE WITH QUEEN VICTORIA* (1968)  
Read by Phyllis Boothroyd. The letters of Marie Mallet, Maid of Honour to Queen Victoria, from Court 1887-1901.  
P.T. 9½ hours.
- 579 MITFORD, NANCY  
*MADAME DE POMPADOUR* (1968)  
Read by Alvar Lidell. The life of Madame de Pompadour, her rise to power as the mistress of Louis XV, and her great talents as a patron of the arts.  
P.T. 11½ hours.
- 607 MORTON, FREDERIC  
*THE ROTHSCHILDS* (1962)  
Read by David Broomfield. The story of the Rothschild family through five generations to the present day.
- 563 MURRAY, G. W.  
*DARE ME TO THE DESERT* (1967)  
Read by George Hagan. Glimpses of the author and his travels between 1921 and 1939.  
P.T. 7½ hours.
- 565 PAUSTOVSKY, KONSTANTIN  
*YEARS OF HOPE* (1968)  
Sequel to *In that Dawn*. Read by Anthony Parker. Continuing Story of a Life, takes up the tale from the time of the author's arrival in Odessa.  
P.T. 9 hours.
- 609 PREBBLE, JOHN  
*GLENCOE* (1966)  
Read by Stanley Pritchard. The story of the Massacre, with graphic details of the plotting that preceded it, and the characters concerned.  
P.T. 12¼ hours.
- 590 SCHONFIELD, HUGH  
*THOSE INCREDIBLE CHRISTIANS* (1968)  
Read by Garard Green. An attempt to discover what Christianity is all about by the reconstruction of the events surrounding the formation of the early Church.  
P.T. 11¼ hours.
- 560 STREETER, EDWARD  
*ALONG THE RIDGE* (1965)  
Read by Roy Williamson. Amusing account of a car journey through Spain, France, Italy, and Yugoslavia.  
P.T. 5¼ hours.
- 592 SWANN, DONALD  
*THE SPACE BETWEEN THE BARS* (1968)  
Read by Arthur Bush. In which the well-known entertainer shares his experiences, his ideas, jokes, and the friends he has made in an exceptionally busy life.  
P.T. 5¼ hours.



# Family News

## British Talking Book (continued)

### Fiction

- 642 EASTWOOD, JAMES  
*THE CHINESE VISITOR* (1965)  
Read by Clive Champney. The assassination of a Chinese Emissary in London is the prelude to a series of incidents involving a beautiful young woman, newly recruited as a British agent.  
P.T. 8 hours.
- 650 JACOB, NAOMI  
(2) *THE FOUNDER OF THE HOUSE* (1935)  
Read by Stephen Jack. The adventures of Emmanuel Gollantz in Vienna and London, and his founding of the London business house.  
P.T. 13½ hours.
- 639 JAPRISCOT, SEBASTIAN  
*THE LADY IN THE CAR WITH GLASSES AND A GUN* (1968)  
Read by Anthony Parker. A beautiful blond secretary in the South of France suddenly finds herself involved in a terrifying story of suspense.  
P.T. 9 hours.

## Marriages

**BROOKE—MILTON.** Frank S. Brooke of Wirral, Cheshire, married Miss Margaret Milton on 13th December, 1969.

**WALTERS—WHITE.** On 27th November, 1969, John C. Walters of Leek, Staffs., married Mrs. J. White.

## Silver Weddings

Congratulations to **MR. AND MRS. GERRY BRERETON** of East Molesey, Surrey, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 16th December, 1969.

Many congratulations to **MR. AND MRS. THOMAS HART** of Folkestone, Kent, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 22nd December, 1969.

## Golden Weddings

Many congratulations to **MR. AND MRS. ERNEST SUNDERLAND** of Rochdale, Lancashire, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 20th December, 1969.

## Grandfathers

### Congratulations to:

**MRS. EMILY McCLARNAN** of Blackpool, on the arrival of a grandson on 3rd January, 1970, Marjorie, her daughter, having given birth to a son on that date.

**THOMAS TONGE** of Manchester on the arrival of his third grandchild, David Alan Robert Tonge, who was born in Australia on 7th June, 1969.

**FRANCIS WHYTE** of Misterton, Nr. Gainsborough, whose daughter, Dora, gave birth to a son, Kenneth Francis, on 3rd December, 1969.

**WALTER WOODS** of Edmonton, N.18, who has become a grandfather for the first time, when his son's wife, Doreen, gave birth to a girl on 9th August, 1969. She is to be called Joanne.

## Great Grandfathers

### Many congratulations to:

**EDWARD HALL** of Didcot, Berks., on the arrival of his 4th great grandchild, Shaun Mitchard, who was born on 27th November, 1969.

**EDWARD GRANT** of Hadfield, Derbyshire, on the arrival of a great grandson, born on 5th December, 1969.

**WALLACE L. THOMAS** of Brighton, who has become a great grandfather, when his grand-daughter Judy, who lives in Canada, gave birth to a daughter.

Brett, son of our St. Dunstaner, **JAMES E. COOPER**, of Southsea, was married to Patricia Owens at Rochester on 11th December, 1969.

Josephine, eldest daughter of our St. Dunstaner, Fred Broomfield of New Haw, Weybridge, is again in the news with her tennis successes. She has won the Weybridge Lawn Tennis Club Ladies singles for 1969. The Henshall Challenge Trophy for the third year and keeps it now. The Weybridge Lawn Tennis Club Ladies singles challenge cup for the third year and keeps it.

The Woking and District League ladies singles challenge cup for the second year. The Weybridge Lawn Tennis Club ladies doubles 1969 summer tournament. The Weybridge Lawn Tennis Club Winter mixed doubles 1969. The Weybridge Lawn Tennis Club Winter ladies doubles 1969.

## Deaths

### We offer our very sincere sympathy to:

**WILLIAM DUNCAN** of Hebburn, Co. Durham, on the death of his wife, Mrs. Georgina Duncan on 7th December, 1969.

**EVAN HUGHES** of Cwmgwrach, Nr. Neath, Glamorganshire, who mourns the death of his wife on 24th December, 1969.

**DAVID JUNER** of Narborough, Leicester, who mourns the death of his father in Scotland on 13th December, 1969.

**JOHN NEWTON** of Southport who mourns the death of his eldest brother just before Christmas 1969.

**ALFRED PALFREY** of Cardiff, who mourns the death of a brother in December, 1969.

**CHARLES RENTOWL** of Southampton, who mourns the death of his wife in hospital on 11th December, 1969.

## In Memory

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

**Andrew Robert Cook.** 2/7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Andrew Robert Cook of Gloucester, died on 13th December, 1969, whilst staying temporarily at Pearson House, Brighton. He was 86 years of age.

He was a bachelor and served with the 2/7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment from 1916 to 1918 and was the victim of a mustard gas attack. His sight did not deteriorate until 1944 when he came to St. Dunstan's.

He trained to do netting and was able to carry on this occupation for a little while until ill-health compelled him to give it up. He leaves a niece and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Fadden, with whom he lived.

**Joseph William Culshaw.** Royal Field Artillery.

Joseph William Culshaw of Peacehaven died on 31st December, 1969 at the age of 84 years.

He enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery from March 1915 and served with them until his discharge a year later in March 1916. He came to St. Dunstan's in that year but went off the register about a year later. In 1928 he was re-admitted and received training in boot-making, mats and basketware. Right up to his recent illness, Mr. Culshaw was known to be one of our best stool makers. During the 2nd World War, Mr. Culshaw worked in Industry. Mr. Culshaw had been married twice and our sympathy goes to his widow, Mrs. Rose Culshaw and his son Peter.



## In Memory

### Joseph Allen. *Royal Navy.*

Joseph Allen of Brightlingsea, Essex, died suddenly on 14th December, 1969. He was 56 years of age.

He served in the Royal Navy from 1936 to 1942 but his sight did not deteriorate until 1962 when he came to St. Dunstan's.

He trained for industry and was still in his job when he died. He was a keen attender of the Ipswich Reunions and he enjoyed his garden as a hobby. He leaves a widow, a son and daughter.

### Albert James Eden. *Royal Engineers.*

Albert James Eden of Sidmouth, Devon, died in hospital on 5th January, 1970. He was 79 years of age.

He enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1914 and served with them until his discharge in 1917, coming to St. Dunstan's in the same year.

He trained in netting, mat making and for a time also had a small poultry settlement. Mr. Eden was an excellent mat maker and gradually devoted most of his time to this work which he continued for many years. His wife died in 1963 and he has been looked after by his grand-daughter who recently married but still continued to live with our St. Dunstaner. In his retirement, Mr. Eden worked hard in his garden and enjoyed his work until his recent illness. He was admitted to hospital on 4th January and died the following day. He leaves his grand-daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Sharon Morgan and other friends and relatives.

### Peter John Harris. *Royal Engineers.*

Peter John Harris of Slinfold, Sussex, died on 13th February, 1970, at the age of 45 years.

He served in the Royal Engineers from 1941 to 1945 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1949. Owing to Mr. Harris' severe ill-health it was not possible for him to undergo the usual training but he was helped with numerous hobbies and particularly enjoyed listening to music. Mr. Harris was also a keen reader and used his knowledge of Braille to advantage. For a time, Mr. Harris was nursed at home by his parents but in 1952 he stayed at Ovingdean and apart from visits home and to friends, he remained at Ovingdean until his marriage in 1963. Mr. and Mrs. Harris settled at Slinfold, Sussex, where our St. Dunstaner was nursed devotedly by his wife until his death on 13th January, 1970.

He leaves a widow and his mother.

### James Cox. *East Lancashire Regiment.*

James Cox, late of Offaly, Eire, and who for the past five years has been living at Pearson House, Brighton, died on 4th January, 1970. He was 85 years of age.

He served in the East Lancashire Regiment from 1907 to 1918 but his eyesight did not deteriorate until much later in life. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1962. Of a quiet and retiring nature Mr. Cox lived happily at Pearson House for the last years of his life. He leaves a brother and other relations.

### Maynard Leigh. *2nd Battalion, Cameronians.*

Maynard Leigh of Warrington, Lancashire, died on 17th December, 1969. He was 60 years of age.

He served in the 2nd Battalion of the Cameronians from 1943 to 1944 and came to St. Dunstan's in that year. He was injured by a mine explosion in Italy during the Anzio beachhead landings.

He trained in joinery and kept up a steady supply of goods for our Stores. He was a regular attender at the North Country Reunions where he will be much missed. He was taken ill in November with Influenza and Bronchitis and although he seemed to be getting better his condition suddenly worsened and he died very suddenly. He leaves a widow and a son.

### James Murray. *2nd Cheshire Regiment.*

James Murray, late of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, died at Pearson House, Brighton, on 12th December, 1969, where he had been living permanently since 1955. He was 87 years of age.

He enlisted in the 2nd Cheshire Regiment in 1914 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1928. He trained in netting and other handicrafts. His wife died in 1941 and he went to live at Pearson House in 1955. He leaves a brother, and other members of the family.

### William John Parnell. *Labour Corps.*

William John Parnell, late of Blackpool, Lancs., and who has been living at Pearson House, Brighton, died in hospital on Christmas Eve, 1969. He was 79 years of age.

He served in Labour Corps. from 1915 to 1919 and was gassed on the Somme.

He trained in mat making and carried on this occupation for some years. Prior to becoming a permanent resident he always attended North Country Reunions and spent many holidays at Ovingdean. He was a widower.

### Arthur Thomas Townsend. *Royal Garrison Artillery.*

Arthur Thomas Townsend of Birmingham died on 1st January, 1970 at the age of 72 years.

He served in the Royal Garrison Artillery from 1914 to 1916 and was injured by a shell explosion. His eyesight did not deteriorate until much later in life and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1962, when on account of his age and ill-health he did not undertake any training. His wife died in June 1969 and he never really recovered from the shock of her death. He leaves a son.

## In Memory

### William Frederick Warner-Horne. *Royal Field Artillery.*

W. F. ("Bill") Warner-Horne of Oxted, Surrey, died on the 23rd December, 1969, at the age of 74 years.

He was severely injured and suffered from mustard gas in the First War and his sight ultimately failed. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1963, when he had already retired from his business life, and had a brief period of training at Ovingdean. He had a great deal of illness and pain through the years but continued with cheerful determination to lead as normal a life as possible. He had been in hospital in London for a fortnight, but was allowed to return home by car for Christmas; he had just reached his home when he collapsed and died a few minutes later.

He leaves a widow, married daughter and three grandchildren.

### AUSTRALIAN ST. DUNSTANERS

#### Otto A. Anderson. *4th Field Ambulance.*

Otto A. Anderson of Silver Lake, Mylor, South Australia, died on 17th August, 1969, at the age of 80.

He enlisted in October, 1914, and served with the 4th Field Ambulance. He lost his sight through mustard gas poisoning and was discharged from the Army in January, 1919. He was trained as a mat-maker by the Royal Institution for the Blind in Adelaide. He was a widower.

#### Ernest W. Bruce. *25th Battalion, 1st A.I.F.*

Ernest W. Bruce of Stafford, Queensland, Australia, died on 21st May, 1969, at the age of 71.

Mr. Bruce enlisted in January, 1915, and served with the 25th Battalion, 1st A.I.F. He was wounded in August, 1917, suffering shell shock and damaged sight. He was discharged from the Army in August, 1918, and he subsequently trained in basket making. He was married and had six children.

#### Cecil T. A. Everett. *33rd and 35th Battalions, A.I.F.*

Cecil T. A. Everett of Kirrawee, New South Wales, Australia, died on 28th September, 1969, at the age of 84.

He enlisted in January, 1915, and served with the 33rd and 35th Battalions, A.I.F. He lost his sight through mustard gas poisoning in April, 1919, and was discharged from the Army in June that year.

He was married and had seven children. He leaves a widow, Mrs. E. M. Everett who still lives in Kirrawee.

#### Norman K. Harvey. *2nd Division Signals.*

Norman K. Harvey of Auchenflower, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, died on 2nd August, 1969, at the age of 84.

He enlisted in November, 1915, and served with the 2nd Division Signals. His sight was damaged by mustard gas poisoning in May, 1918, and he was discharged from the Army in March, 1920.

Mr. Harvey was married and had one child. His widow, Mrs. Margaret Harvey still lives in Auchenflower.

#### Arthur J. McKenzie. *6th Field Artillery Brigade.*

Arthur J. McKenzie of Merrylands, New South Wales, Australia, died on 29th July, 1969, at the age of 77.

Mr. McKenzie enlisted in June, 1915, and served with the 6th Field Artillery Brigade. He was wounded in August, 1916, and discharged from the Army in September, 1917.

He was married and had four children.

#### Alan G. Marshall. *16th Battalion, A.I.F.*

Alan G. Marshall of Adelaide, South Australia, died in April, 1969, at the age of 72.

Mr. Marshall enlisted in July, 1915, and served with the 16th Battalion, A.I.F. He was wounded at Pozières in August, 1916, and came to St. Dunstan's in November of that year. After training in shorthand, typing and netting. Mr. Marshall returned to Australia in August, 1918, and was discharged from the Army in July, 1919.

He leaves a widow.

#### Thomas A. Stafford. *22nd Battalion, 1st A.I.F.*

Thomas A. Stafford of Bendigo, Victoria, Australia, died on 11th March, 1969, aged 86.

Mr. Stafford enlisted in February, 1915, and served with the 22nd Battalion, 1st A.I.F. He lost his sight as a result of mustard gas poisoning and was discharged from the Army in April, 1919.

He leaves a widow.

#### Maurice Tremain. *27th Battalion, A.I.F.*

Maurice Tremain of Prospect, South Australia, died on 30th October, 1969, aged 74.

He enlisted in May, 1916, and served with the 27th Battalion, A.I.F. He was wounded in July, 1917, and discharged from the Army in February, 1918.

He was a widower.

### CANADIAN ST. DUNSTANERS

#### Robert William Culling. *Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve.*

Robert William Culling of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, died on 12th March, 1969, at the age of 74.

He served with the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve from August, 1914, to June, 1917. He was a widower.

#### Norman A. Fraser. *16th Lord Strathcona's Horse.*

Norman A. Fraser of Charleswood, Manitoba, Canada, died on 9th September, 1969, at the age of 73.

He served with the 16th Lord Strathcona's Horse from November, 1916, to July, 1919. He was a married man.



## In Memory

### **Frederick Koenig.** *Royal Canadian Engineers.*

Frederick Koenig of Westlock, Alberta, Canada, died on 18th February, 1969, at the age of 47.

He served with the Royal Canadian Engineers from June, 1941, to January, 1945. He came to St. Dunstan's for training in 1944. He was married.

### **Cecil Malcolm Leslie.** *4th Canadian Mounted Rifles.*

Cecil Malcolm Leslie of London, Ontario, Canada, died on 9th April, 1969, at the age of 71.

He served with the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles from July, 1915, to August, 1919. He was married.

### **Lawrence R. Storms.** *Canadian Expeditionary Force.*

Lawrence R. Storms of Saskatchewan, Canada, died on 11th May, 1969, aged 74.

He served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force from October, 1914, to May, 1918. He was married.

### **Archie Baron Taylor.** *54th Kootenay Battalion, Canadian Infantry.*

Archie Baron Taylor of West Vancouver, British Columbia, died on 13th February, 1969, aged 77 years.

He served with the 54th Kootenay Battalion, Canadian Infantry from August, 1915, until September, 1919. He was wounded at Amiens-Roye in August, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1919, to train in physiotherapy. He returned to Canada in April, 1921, to take up employment in the Shaughnessey Military Hospital, from which he retired in 1954. He leaves a widow.

### **Russell A. Whyte.** *2nd Division, Canadian Army Service Corps.*

Russell A. Whyte of Toronto, Canada, died on 20th August, 1969, aged 78.

He served with the 2nd Division of the Canadian Army Service Corps, from February, 1915, to July, 1918. He was married.

### NEW ZEALAND ST. DUNSTANERS

### **Morton L. Bourke.** *Canterbury Infantry Regiment.*

Morton L. Bourke of Mount Albert, Auckland, 3, died on 22nd January, 1969, aged 76.

He served in the 1st World War in the Canterbury Infantry Regiment and was wounded in 1916. He leaves a widow.

### **Jonathon H. Burton.** *1st New Zealand Expeditionary Force.*

Jonathon H. Burton of Cambridge, Waikato, New Zealand, died on 4th October, 1969, aged 79.

He served in the 1st World War with the 1st New Zealand Expeditionary Force and was wounded on the Somme in 1916.

He leaves a widow.

### **Martin Deegan.** *Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st World War, Royal New Zealand Air Force, 2nd World War.*

Martin Deegan of Manais, Taranaki, New Zealand, died on 18th July, 1969, aged 81.

He served in the 1st World War with the Royal Irish Fusiliers, and emigrated to New Zealand in 1925. In the 2nd World War he served with the Royal New Zealand Air Force from 1942 to 1945. He was a married man.

### **Samuel Evans.** *New Zealand Rifle Brigade.*

Samuel Evans of Gisborne, New Zealand, died on 1st October, 1969, aged 81.

He served with the New Zealand Rifle Brigade from 1915 to 1917. He leaves a widow.

### **Stanley Frederick Evans.** *2nd New Zealand Rifle Brigade.*

Stanley Frederick Evans of Masterton, Wellington, died on 3rd April, 1969, at the age of 79 years.

He served with the 2nd New Zealand Rifle Brigade during the First World War.

He was a widower.

### **James Hoey McNish.** *4th Otago Regiment.*

James Hoey McNish of South Dunedin, New Zealand, died in January, 1969, at the age of 89 years.

He enlisted with the 4th Otago Regiment and served with them from 1914 to 1917.

He leaves a widow.

### **Jacob Piri.** *28th Maori Battalion.*

Jacob Piri of Sandringham, Auckland, New Zealand, died on 28th October, 1969, at the age of 57.

He served with the 28th Maori Battalion in the 2nd World War spending three and a half years in Greece, Crete and the Middle East.

He leaves a widow and grown up family.

### **Leslie John Ratcliffe.** *16th Waikato Regiment.*

Leslie John Ratcliffe of Morrinsville, Auckland, New Zealand, died on 28th November, 1969, at the age of 80.

He served with the 16th Waikato Regiment during the 1st World War. He was a farmer but had retired from this at the time of his death. He leaves a widow.

### **George T. Tierney.** *4th Field Ambulance.*

George T. Tierney of St. Heliers, Auckland, New Zealand, died on 20th February, 1969, at the age of 71.

He served with the 4th Field Ambulance from April, 1916, to June, 1919. He leaves a widow.

### **Thomas W. Wilson.** *New Zealand Expeditionary Force.*

Thomas W. Wilson of Wanganui East, New Zealand, died on 17th May, 1969, at the age of 52.

He served in the 2nd World War from October, 1940, to January, 1946, and was wounded at Sidi Rezheke. He came to St. Dunstan's for training in Braille, typing and homecrafts.

He leaves a widow and three children.



At his switchboard.

### *Ways of Life 11*

was a rat-tat-tat of a machine gun. It was just skimming the top of the parapet and all of a sudden there was a crack and the shell I was holding just went up in my face. It was hit by a machine gun bullet."

A thousand to one chance of a machine gun bullet finding the fuse of a gas shell cost Frank his sight. What was the reaction of a twenty-year-old regular soldier who had planned a career in the army? "I had the idea I was going home and that I was going to sit in a chair and that my mother and my sister would have taken me out for walks and that would be my life." But this attitude changed. "It wasn't until chaps came in and began to talk about St. Dunstan's, chaps who had been there and were back in the ward again. We were visited in hospital by, he was then Captain Fraser, but now he is Lord Fraser, and then, of course, after a time you were taken along and you spent an afternoon there. I was very glad to get out of hospital and go to St. Dunstan's. At that age everything is another adventure.

"When I first went to see Sir Arthur about doing a job he suggested massage. Well, I did go in to learn massage but then I went back into hospital for an operation on my head and when I came back I was a bit depressed and did not know what to do. I thought, well, I'll have a commercial life so I went to see Sir Arthur again and

we fixed up a time for me to go and have lessons on the board. We had a special switch-board, Mrs. Moore, the instructor, sat in the middle and we had two boards one on either side. I think Bill Harding was there about that time—he's retired now. We plugged into Mrs. Moore's board and she acted as the exchange. She would initiate and terminate all calls and ask for extensions.

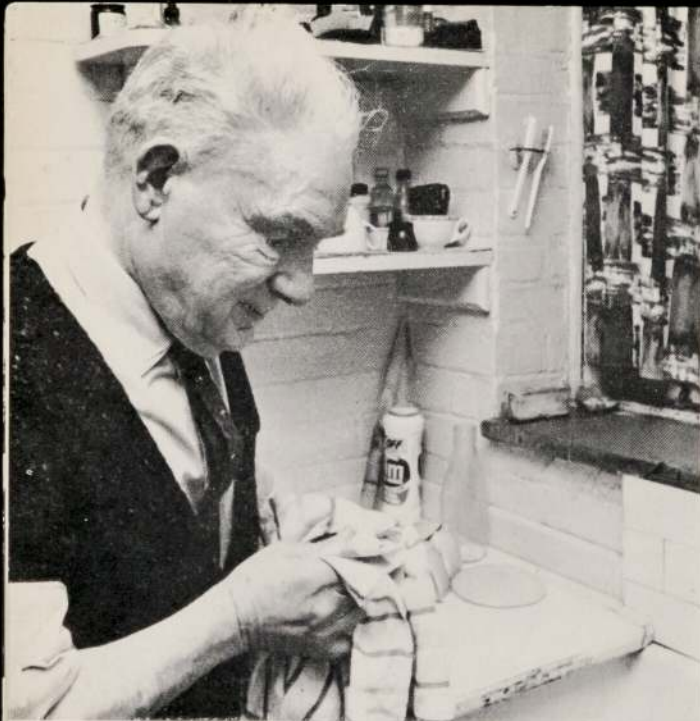
"It was good fun at Regent's Park in those days, my goodness, old Sammy Webster, the things he got up to were nobody's business! I do remember one night they wheeled one of the boys, I think it was Sammy, in the wheelbarrow, and they brought him straight through the door and straight up the corridor in the wheelbarrow. Sir Arthur was always a very understanding man about our fun and games. He always said, 'Look here, boys, as long as you don't put too many below your belt, all right. Have your drink, have your fun, but don't get into trouble.'"

### Pearson Day Out

Although he had by then left Regent's Park the death of Sir Arthur was a great shock to Frank O'Kelly as it was to his contemporaries. "I still don't understand why he's not in the Abbey because he did so much for the blind and others even prior to the war. As a child, I remember that I went for a day's outing in Epping Forest. They called it the Pearson Day Out. We were given lunch and tea and then there was a little place where there were donkey rides and whatnot. I can only look back and think that he must have been a great organiser at St. Dunstan's to handle all these men and, remember that prior to his organisation, there were not, I believe, any blind telephone operators. I think St. Dunstan's were the pioneers.

"I took my first job in December 1918, I should think altogether the whole training took about nine months to a year. We learned Braille shorthand—we were started off in Braille in hospital by ladies who came in. In those days there were no dials, no dialling system at all. It was all manual and the operator used to come through saying, 'Number please.' You couldn't call her 'Dear', there would have been an icy silence. For extensions there were little doll's eyes that dropped down—very much





At his domestic chores.

the same as the boards now, like my seven by thirty board at Hanger's." That is, seven busy outside lines and thirty extensions which Frank looked after with professional aplomb as well as running the internal broadcasting system. But back in 1918, beginning at Ocean Accident Insurance as their first blind telephonist, he faced the problems of acceptance in a sighted world not yet used to the idea of young war-blinded men playing their part in life and business. "At first they weren't a bit sure of you. They thought you were just something different—particularly in big firms. After a time they forgot you were that sort of person, but for a while it used to be, 'Oh, go and tell Mr. So and so this or that' instead of picking up their receivers and telling me."

So, like other St. Dunstaners, Frank had to set about educating his "public", "First and foremost, the thing I did was to organise my memory to really remember everything so that if someone came up and said, 'There's a firm I want in . . .' I could say 'Is it so and so, sir? The number is . . .' Then after a time they began to say, 'By Jove, you've got a good memory, how did you remember that?' I don't think I can really say I planned this, it is just the way things have happened. This was the situation and I set about doing something

about it. I did not say to myself, now look here old man, you've got to buck your ideas up."

The next test at work was the introduction of automatic dialling. Frank recalls that there was no re-training to cope with this: "Mrs. Moore rang me up to say, 'If you want a dial to practise with we can loan you one,' and I did have a dummy one to practise with. The real dial was put in some time beforehand and I can remember the engineer who came along on the first day to connect it. He dialled through, it took only a few seconds, and he said it was much quicker than the ordinary manual exchange. That was all right but I think it has deteriorated a long way since then!" By this time his employers had no anxieties about the way their telephonist would cope with the new system, "They knew the change-over didn't make any difference."

#### S.T.D.

Advances in telecommunications did not pose any further real problems until the final stages of Frank's career with the coming of STD, or subscriber trunk dialling. "This has been gradual. It should not give great difficulty for the young people who are taking telephony now, because, after all, their minds are alert. I had to start learning it when I was over 65 and I did not find all that amount of difficulty. You would need a Braille book about a mile high if you wanted all the codes in it. I just memorised the codes we were concerned with, mostly our branches, thirty of them, from Edinburgh to Exeter."

Frank says of the switch board, "It is a way of life—the people you meet, the people you talk to, it is amazing. Although they are just voices you fit to them the type of person they are and what you think they look like, probably nothing like they really are. I think you can always tell a flanneler, the smooth type and you can always recognise a person who has had a good education and admire their tone and the way their words flow so evenly. It has been a pleasure, it has been an education, too, for me." His work has had its lighter side: "Not long ago, I suppose a typist made an error, a local college put out a letter with our telephone number on it. I had a dear lady who asked, 'Are you doing cookery evening classes?' 'No,



Explaining the wiring of his record player.

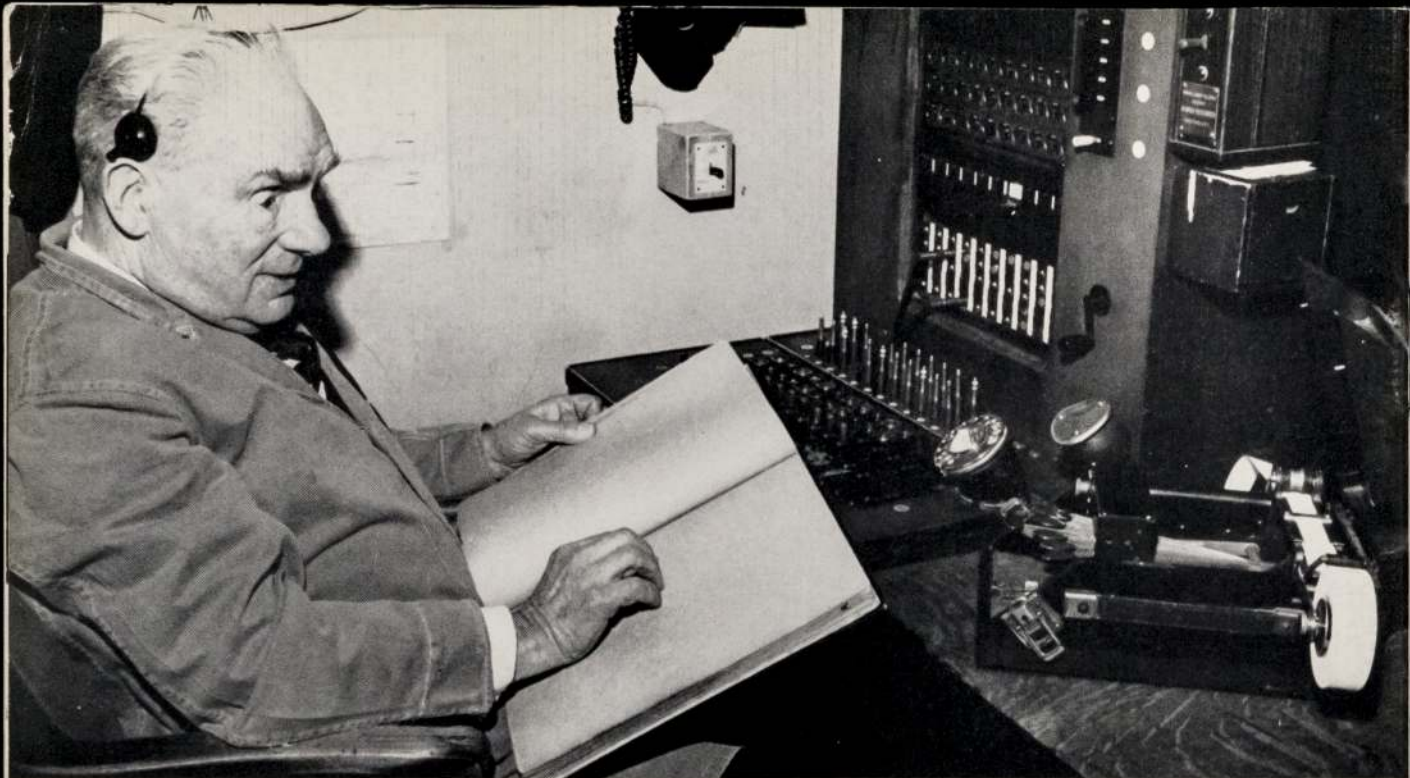
madam, I am not,' I replied, 'We make artificial arms and legs here.' She was quite irate and said, 'That's not in the syllabus.' We soon sorted it out and I gave her the right number to ring."

No more voices on the switchboard now for Frank but he will still be a busy man. He lives alone in Henty Walk, Roehampton, for he lost his wife, Eva, in 1961. "She was my eyes, especially among our roses. She kindled my enthusiasm for gardening. When I lost her it was like my horizons closing in. She was one of those exceptional persons—although she only half talked to herself you got a very clear picture of what she was looking at." His only son, Leo, was killed at Dunkirk when he was 21, but Frank says, "I don't think one is ever given more than one can bear." How does he cope with domestic tasks? "Well let's get this into its true perspective. My married daughter, Moya, who is also a telephonist, she lives close by and does my cooking, washing and window cleaning. Now, I do the hoovering and dusting and

prepare my own breakfast and tea." For recreation Frank will have his garden, his gramophone, his tape recorder and his new short-wave radio. He exchanges tapes with two nephews who live in Cambridge and in Brighton and with a St. Dunstaner in Australia, Oswald Sinclair, another First War man who was gassed on the Somme and now lives in Sydney.

Frank, who has been interested in music since his days with The St. Dunstan's Singers in the 1920's, assembled his own record player in a gramophone cabinet made in 1927: "I took out the metal trumpet and the old wind-up gramophone and I put in an electric motor and pick-up for which I paid a small amount to the Talking Book. Then that changed over after a time to cassettes so then I made it play long playing records by using an auto-change deck, I think you call them—I call them engines." Frank learned about amplifiers and wiring in the early days of wireless. "It all started by making my own crystal set back in 1921 and then I made





Checking a number in his Braille directory.

### *Ways of Life 11*

my first valve set in a cigar box. Then, of course, it gradually went from one, two, three to four valves."

Now Frank has a superb short-wave radio receiver as his parting gift from J. E. Hanger, "I will be a short-wave listener with that. The aerial is going to be fixed up in the loft and we will work it from there. With a bit of luck I'll be able to listen to a few of our St. Dunstaners on the amateur wave-band, people like Charles Bargery." Frank says he has never wanted to transmit: "Not myself, personally, I would like to know somebody who does and go and have a talk about it but I feel I am just that little bit too old and in the days when I might have done a lot of things I was not financially in that position. Now it doesn't matter, I no longer want any extra things to do."

Frank has plenty to keep him busy in his garden and with his lilies which he grows indoors, "When the Spring comes I shall be working in the garden cutting grass and getting in between the roses getting all weeds out. I grow lilies in pots—they can be difficult but I do have instructions spoken on tape by a friend—and I grow peonies, phlox, all the usual things."

Despite all this he will miss the switch-board, "It's not humbug, and its not flannel, I would rather be an operator any day than anything else. I have found great interest in communicating and the use of the voice, transmitting the voice and voice production. I did take some lessons in elocution at St. Dunstan's in the early days and I was very keen on learning poetry."

Frank's favourite poem was Robert Service's *Carry On* and he can still recite it from memory:

*To help folks along with a hand and a song:  
Why, there's the real sunshine of living.*

*Carry on! Carry on!*

*Fight the good fight and true;*

*Believe in your mission, greet life with a cheer;*

*There's big work to do and that's why you are here. . . .*

"To help folk along with a hand and a song, I think that is as good as anything. I have tried all through my life as a telephonist to get a smile, even when things have been going wrong; to say something so that they will have a laugh over it. I think that is the best way: to get a smile a day out of somebody."