

**St Dunstans**  
**REVIEW**  
**MAY**





Ron Ettridge treating international athlete Lillian Board.

Photo—Croydon Advertiser.

## The Ideal Profession

"I am very sensitive to the fact that I'm privileged to be here in so far as I think that this conference of all the St. Dunstan's physiotherapists must comprise a greater amount of experience in physiotherapy in a single body than can exist anywhere else in the world". Ted Bunting, one of the two newest physiotherapists attending the Physiotherapy Conference last month (reported on another page), was commenting on his first conference as a qualified member. Perhaps his assessment is a little larger than the truth but there is no doubt that a considerable wealth of experience has been gathered in the fifty-five years that St. Dunstaners have been learning and practising physiotherapy.

Of course, in 1915, the blind physiotherapist, or masseur to use the terminology of the time, was not really a pioneer. In Japan the blind had been employed as masseurs for centuries and, largely due to the influence of Dr. Fletcher Little, the early nineteen-hundreds found some fifty or more blind men and women practising

### COVER PICTURE

Norman Perry, head of a busy hospital department, helping a young spastic girl take her first steps.

as certified masseurs in this country. The profession itself was hardly out of its infancy, the Society of Trained Masseuses (note the feminine gender) having been formed in 1895 in an effort to protect respectable masseuses from the rather unsavoury reputation massage received from newspaper stories on "Immoral Massage Establishments".

*Continued on page 19*

# St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

NO. 608 VOL. 56

MAY 1970

1/- MONTHLY

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### *St. Dunstan's—Northgate House*

Lady Fraser and I paid one of our routine visits to Ovingdean during April. I took the opportunity of speaking to all the St. Dunstaners who were there, who included, of course, permanent and semi-permanent residents and a number of holiday visitors. It occurs to me that what I said might be of interest to a wider audience; I am therefore summarising my speech in this note.

We first visited Northgate House. Some Second War St. Dunstaners will remember that this was a subsidiary house for training after the return from Church Stretton and then it became a holiday home for their children. When the numbers were reduced, we closed this house, but we had the foresight not to sell it and instead we let it to a school for some years, thinking it might come in useful. Indeed it has, and it now has 24 beds for the more permanent invalids. Considerable alterations have been made and Lady Fraser and I found an excellent airy house in a very nice garden and our comrades there seemed to be comfortable and happy.

Some twelve or thirteen of the more mobile men from Pearson House are now at Ovingdean and they too, seem to have settled in happily. This inevitably has reduced the number of beds available for holiday visitors, as I foreshadowed when first I wrote about this matter.

I thanked all those present for their willing acceptance of the inconvenience caused by the changes and praised the staff, especially the Commandant, Mr. Fawcett, for the excellent way all the arrangements had been carried out.

I then said a word about war pensions, reminding St. Dunstaners that all Governments, irrespective of Party, had raised the rates and added certain advantages from time to time. I do not consider the present rates fully adequate to take account of the increased cost of living and higher standards of living and I will take every opportunity of saying so in Parliament.

Finally, I said that there was a change of emphasis in our policy for benefits generally. The change is that, in every individual case that we consider, we are doing a little more for older men and for widows. There is, I think, full justification for this, because older men need more help and in the nature of things will not live as long as our younger colleagues.

## Question Time

I then invited questions and some of them may interest readers generally:

**Question:** What is going to happen to Ovingdean?

**Answer:** When Pearson House has been rebuilt in about 18 months' time, we will start improving Ovingdean, which is now over 30 years old and in some respects out of date and below modern standards. One of the most important things we will do is to bring all the services up to date—that is to say, lifts, electrical wiring, heating system, etc. At the same time we will improve bathroom and lavatory facilities. We will also improve the bedroom accommodation by making many more single rooms and putting wash basins in each room.

**Question:** Can the steep approach to Ovingdean be reduced?

**Answer:** It would be extremely difficult to alter this approach, which is due to the conformation of the Downs. In fact, I added, the approach across the grounds from the little gate on the way to the White Horse and from the tunnel is not too steep for most St. Dunstaners.

**Question:** Can the £100 allowance for the 'over 60's' be given to permanent residents? Can the holiday allowance be increased? Is it right that the Attendance Allowance is deducted by the Government after a man has been a month in St. Dunstan's or in a hospital?

**Answer:** The answer to all these questions is one of priorities and fairness to the general body of St. Dunstaners. I do not think it would be right to pay the £100 allowance to permanent residents because, by comparison with St. Dunstaners generally, they are benefitting very greatly by living in a home and enjoying all the amenities. The holiday allowance is being increased this year. Attendance Allowance—I do not think this is a priority; it is not unreasonable that the Attendance Allowance should fall when the individual is receiving all the attendance provided by the homes or a hospital. If we are going to ask the Government for improvements, I think they should be more general than this.

Fraser of Lonsdale.

## From the Chairman's postbag

From Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, Bideford, Devon.

On Wednesday I was on the bottom beat where no fish had been caught this year. I do not think I have ever fished harder. Again ice and very cold. Late in the afternoon I got into a fish and we eventually had him. The wretched boatman had quite a job, as having stuck the chain of the boat in the ice at the edge he then had to break a mass of ice to get into the water to land the fish. I rather enjoy this kind of fishing as it is so very exciting with the ice, especially when one gets a fish as they take so VERY slowly".

## Coming Events

### Derby Day Outing

Those wishing to join the Derby Outing, please turn to page 8.

## APPOINTMENTS

### VICE-PRESIDENTS OF ST. DUNSTAN'S

**The Duke of Norfolk** K.G., P.C., G.C.V.O., G.B.E. and **Colonel Sir Michael Ansell** C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L. have been appointed vice-presidents of St. Dunstan's.

## DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

Less than three weeks to go to the closing date, May 20th. The winning ticket will cost just 2s. 6d. Send stamped addressed envelope to Editor, D.S.S. Dept., St. Dunstan's Review, at Headquarters.

## PHYSIOTHERAPY CONFERENCE 1970

*Pressure on accommodation at Ovingdean meant a change in both time and place for the Physiotherapy Conference, normally held there annually in October. In 1970 it was held in London, 3rd April-5th April, eighteen months after the previous Conference and we asked Mr. J. W. Delaney, M.C.S.P., to report. 65 St. Dunstaners attended out of a possible 109 physiotherapists, active and retired.*

A change of season, Spring instead of late Autumn. A different venue, London in place of Ovingdean. These two things, plus the fact that almost all members were escorted by their ladies, styled the mood of the 1970 St. Dunstan's Physiotherapy Conference.

There were no business meetings on the Friday evening with the exception of the P.A.C., which met to tie up the loose ends for the week-end and to finalise the arrangements for those 41 members and escorts who will be travelling to Amsterdam to attend the World Conference of Physical Therapy. On this first evening small groups soon formed and old acquaintanceships were re-newed. Laughter and chatter filled the rooms.

On the Saturday morning our Chairman, Mr. Tom Hart from Folkestone, brought the members to order promptly at 9.15 a.m., ably supported by our President, Lord Fraser, on the one hand and on the other by Mr. R. Priestley, secretary, and the business of the day proceeded. After dispensing with the preliminaries, Tom reported on the activities over the past eighteen months since the last A.G.M. Points arising from this report were discussed and it was accepted unanimously, with due praise to the Chairman for the manner in which it was presented.

### Election

Then came the Election to the Committee and two new members were voted in, Mr. Harry Davies of Stratford-on-Avon and Mr. Jack Fulling of Ripon, replacing Messrs. Jimmy Delaney and Charles Campkin.

After a short discussion on Literature on tape and the possibility of some being transferred to talking book cassettes the meeting concluded. A short break for coffee and the first lecture was given by

Dr. D. A. H. Yates, M.D., on the subject of "Pros and Cons of Vertebral Manipulation", a clear and honest opinion on this debatable technique was propounded and he brought many questions from the floor which he answered with equal clarity.

### Working Lunch

A working lunch, at which Mr. Llewellyn Davies proposed a toast to the guests, and then on to the second lecture of the day which was given by Mr. E. L. Trickey, F.R.C.S., his subject being "Knee Conditions and their Treatment". This also was of great interest to all members and much was learnt.

A formal dinner and dance had been arranged for the evening and at 6.30 p.m. couples started to gather in the hall to be presented to Lord and Lady Fraser, Mr. Tom Hart and his lady and Mr. R. Priestley and his lady—an aperitif before taking our places at table and then dinner.

The principal guests at this function were Dr. John Dunwoody, M.P. Joint Under Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Security and Mr. Henry Hall of B.B.C. Guest Night fame. Another honoured guest was Dr. Roman Roseleigh (son of our late St. Dunstaner, Dr. Ludovich Roseleigh) with his wife; they had flown in from Australia that morning. After Lord Fraser had proposed a toast to the guests and said a few words, Dr. Dunwoody responded, speaking of the plans proposed for the future of Physiotherapy in the new planning of the Health Service. Mr. Tom Hart then proposed a toast to St. Dunstan's and its staff, coupled with the names of Lord and Lady Fraser. After the tables had been cleared, entertainment was provided by Mr. Jamie Phillips, followed by dancing.

A most stimulating and exciting week-end. J.W.D.

## TELEPHONISTS ENTERTAINED

### *Shell-Mex and B.P. Limited Annual Party*

Our friends in Shell-Mex and B.P. Limited held their annual party to entertain St. Dunstan's trained telephonists in their service on 2nd April. They were: Wilfred Evans, Gloucester, Harry Petty, B.E.M., Leeds, Ronald Phillips, Portslade, William Phillips, East London and George Poole, Haydock, with their wives or escorts. Miss May Murphy from Dublin was also there with her sister. Lord and Lady Fraser were present and the guests from St. Dunstan's staff were: Mrs. Brown, Telephone Supervisor, Mr. and Mrs. Owens, Commander and Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Wills and Commandant Fawcett.

The guests were received for cocktails at Shell-Mex House by several of the Company's directors and members of the staff. Mr. A. A. E. Morgan presided at the

dinner and the other members of the staff present were Mr. H. E. Barry, one of the directors, Mrs. B. Banks, Miss E. P. Crummey, Mrs. A. M. Eastman, Mrs. N. M. Mallier, Miss P. M. Matthews, Mrs. V. H. B. Matika, Mr. D. C. Bonny, Mr. J. E. Brett, Mr. J. H. Downie, Mr. P. D. Gibson and Mr. J. W. P. Llewellyn.

At the dinner Mr. Morgan made a charming speech praising the work of the telephonists to which Mr. Owens replied with a few apt and well turned phrases. The party were then taken to see "A Woman named Anne" at the Duke of York's Theatre and after the performance the leading lady Miss Moira Lister and two other members of the cast Miss Daphne Anderson and Mr. David Crosse came round to chat with the Shell Mex Party. Altogether another most enjoyable evening.

## FRANK REVIEWS

"Force Ten from Navarone" by Alistair Maclean, read by *Michael de Morgan*. In this sequel to his famous book "The Guns of Navarone" the author uses the same ruthless trio of saboteurs, Mallory, Andrea and Miller, who live up to the motto "the difficult we do immediately, while the impossible takes a little longer". Having just returned from wrecking Hitler's gun emplacement fortress in the Aegean, they turn their hands to doing something about the Nazi set-up in Yugoslavia.

Larger than life characters, maybe; nevertheless, very convincing ones.

"The Stories of James Stern" by James Stern, read by *George Hagan*. A collection of short stories from a diversity of backgrounds, all well-written, which, of course, makes for easy listening.

"Airport" by Arthur Haley, read by *Michael de Morgan*. Mel Bakerfelt, mana-

ger of Lincoln International Airport, has problems. Nothing new in this, as manager of an International Airport he can expect to have them, indeed this is what he is paid for. Now, though, he is in for a humdinger of a time. A three-day-old snow storm is raging and runways must be kept clear, his socialite wife is getting steamed up because he is never at home, his brother-in-law, an Airline Captain, is conducting a personal vendetta against him over Airport Insurance sales, while his own brother in Air Traffic Control is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Then, for good measure, there is a maniac intent on blowing up an aircraft . . . Need I go on? Don't think I am decrying the book. On the contrary I think it is an excellent piece of work containing a large number of character studies. Nevertheless it is rather like watching granny trying to knit, read a book, and follow television all at the same time.

## Bridge Notes

### Ovingdean Bridge Drive

On Saturday, 4th April, eighteen St. Dunstaners and their partners, took part in a Bridge Drive at Ovingdean. It was a very pleasant afternoon and every one enjoyed themselves, and we are greatly indebted to the folks who came in from outside Bridge Clubs to partner our members. We had a break at half time for refreshments and listened to the Grand National and a very enjoyable afternoon was had by everyone. The winners were as follows:

1st. William Scott and Mr. H. Barker.  
2nd. Bob Giffard and Mrs. Giffard.  
3rd. Wally Lethbridge and D. Waldeck.  
Parity prize—Bruce Ingrey and Mrs. Jones.

### Horsham Bridge

Sixteen members of the Bridge Club made their annual pilgrimage to Horsham on Sunday, 5th April. The party enjoyed an excellent afternoon's Bridge and was right royally entertained by members of the Horsham Club, there was just one regret, our very good friend Mrs. "Mac" was not able to be present owing to other commitments. All our other old friends were present including Mrs. Jose Christie. We arrived back at Ovingdean about 8 p.m. after a pleasant afternoon. The result of the match was Horsham Bridge Club plus umpteen!

S. WEBSTER.

### Wins Cup for 2nd Time

Warm congratulations to Mrs. Billy Cumberland (Dick Cumberland's wife) who was awarded the Edward Bruce Parker Trophy Cup for the second time at the Cumberland Hotel Eastbourne on 15th March. This is the Ladies' Individual Bridge Cup for the County of Sussex, awarded annually.

### Brighton

The third Individual Competition of the Brighton Section was held on Saturday, 21st March. The results are as follows:

B. Ingrey and F. Griffie	74
F. Mathewman and Partner	73
F. Rhodes and J. Chell	63
A. Smith and W. T. Scott	63
M. Clements and J. Huk	59
S. Webster and J. Whitcombe	46

### London

The Second Individual Competition of the London Section was held on Saturday, 11th April. The results were as follows:

R. Evans and W. Allen	80
P. Nuyens and H. King	74
R. Stanners and R. Bickley	71
E. Carpenter and H. Meleson	54
R. Fullard and Miss V. Kemmish	51
R. Freer and G. Lynch	48

## THANK YOU

### To All My Friends At St. Dunstan's

My Dear Boys,

I just don't know how to thank you for your truly magnificent present. It is simply wonderful but you are very naughty spending so much money on me.

I have been so touched by the amazing kindness of everyone. Presents have been showered on us.

I shall try and come over one September and then I can really thank you in person.

Dear boys, I love you all so much and I shall miss seeing you. It was such a great pleasure to entertain you and I hope in the small thing I did, I gave you a little pleasure too.

All my love,  
PAULINE VENKANP.  
(née Webster).

## POTENTIAL OR LIMITATIONS

by Alf. Field

In the February Bidding Exercises I inserted two Boards consecutively, in order to demonstrate different treatments in overbids. I will now take the two Boards together, giving only the North Hands first.

### Board 35

♠ A, K, J, 10, 8  
♥ K, 8  
♦ Q, 10, 7  
♣ K, Q, 8  
18 Pts.  
LTC 5.

### Board 36

♠ K, Q, J, 8, 5, 3  
♥ —  
♦ K, 8, 6  
♣ 10, 7, 5, 4  
9 Pts.  
LTC 6.

At Love All West in each case opens "One N.T.". I suggested that the bidding by North 35 was "Double". This is strictly for penalties, not asking for a suit. North 36 should bid "Two Spades" an "Interference" Bid. Thus North 35 has potential and North 36 is limited. North 35 has alerted his partner to a fruity penalty or a Game Bid or even a slam. North 36 has warned partner he has bid on distributional values rather than on Points. Because in February many of our Norths overbid "Two Spades" on both Hands, I feel I should amplify my previous remarks. Maybe I can convert the unbelievers with the arithmetic? On Board 35 the 40 points are distributed so far: West 13, North 17 = 30 leaving 10 "Floating" between East and South. Surely the odds are 17/13 on North at this stage? Plus the fact he is sitting over West and is also "on lead" our North 35 with 18 Points must "Double". For simplicity at the Table South may find it easier to remember the situation this way. West has a 13-15 N.T. North has 16-18 N.T. leaving approx. 10 Points floating between East and South—logically he should feel comfortable with 5 Points (!) when he passes one N.T. doubled.

Now on to Board 36: North has a Point's disadvantage of 13-12 (usually), in our case it is 13-9, leaving approx. 18 "Floating"

between East and South! North "butts in" with a tactical distributional Bid, a good solid suit and ready to go "light" if the "Floaters" are with East but hopeful that South has half (9).

Now we move down to South. On Board 35 South *must pass* for penalties on any Hand except one with *no points* and a six-card suit in which case he may bid that suit, this is a runaway Bid. On Board 36 in response to North's overbid of "Two Spades" South must pass unless he holds a near opening Bid—say 12 Points and is considering a game in partner's suit or No Trumps. Naturally he would need to jump the bidding if he introduced a new suit as a constructive bid—there is no "One over One" in this situation.

## Club News

### Cardiff Club Notes

There was no meeting in April owing to the illness of our Chairman, Bert Evans and we all join in wishing him a speedy recovery to good health.

D. STOTT,  
*Secretary.*

### London Club Notes

The last Football Pontoon of the season ended on 4th April and was jointly shared by Mrs. H. King, G. Lynch, W. Muir and W. Miller, their teams being Hull, Derby County, Leicester and Newcastle respectively. The 'booby' was shared between Mrs. Fullard and Mrs. Muir with Blackburn and Sheffield United.

We are indeed sorry to note that Mrs. G. Stanley has been admitted to the Prince of Wales Hospital at Tottenham for an operation. All the St. Dunstaners and their wives at the London Club wish her well and hope that it will not be too long before we shall see her and George back at our Thursday evening sessions.

On Thursday, 9th April we were pleased to see that Mr. and Mrs. Bill Harding were accompanied by their grand-daughter Janet, (Mrs. Bruce Baker). Janet is a great favourite with our Domino players and we were pleased to see that she was making a good recovery from her recent operation.

We were happy to welcome Mrs. Carol Higginson again whom we had not seen since before Christmas. Come again soon Carol.

Winners of the recent Domino Games were as follows:

19th March 1. R. Fullard  
2. W. Miller  
2nd April 1. W. Harding  
2. W. Miller  
G. Stanley  
9th April 1. W. Miller  
2. C. Hancock

W. MILLER.

## STAFF OBITUARY

### Mrs. Louisa Mary Ouseley, A.R.R.C.

The death occurred on 31st March of Mrs. Ouseley at Tunbridge Wells, Kent. She was Matron at West House (now Pearson House), from 1946 to 1949 and St. Dunstaners who knew her at that time will be particularly sad to hear this news.

Her nephew, Wing Commander Smith, writing to the *Review* about Mrs. Ouseley's time as Matron at West House, says:

*"I know they were some of the happiest and most rewarding years of her long, varied and eventful life. She made many lasting friendships both with the St. Dunstaners and with the Staff at all levels and to her dying day, felt a tremendous sense of loyalty to St. Dunstans."*

### Greetings from the Royal Guide Dogs for the Blind Association of Australia

*In reply to greetings and best wishes from the Royal Guide Dogs for the Blind Association of Australia Lord Fraser wrote to the Director, Mr. J. K. Holdsworth, as follows:*

**"Please would you thank the Royal Guide Dogs for the Blind Association of Australia very much indeed for sending me a cable on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of their National Council.**

**I would be pleased if at the next meeting of your Council you would say how much I appreciated the message."**



## 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.*

**Arthur Fletcher** of Rotherham, W.R. Yorks., became a St. Dunstaner in April, 1970. He served with the Royal Field Artillery during the First World War. He is a widower and lives with his son and daughter-in-law.

**Henry Charles Roberts** of Swindon was admitted to benefits on 6th April, 1970. He served with the Royal Garrison Artillery in the First World War. He is married and is a retired farmer.

### Colonel E. A. Baker

Judge Frank G. J. McDonagh of the York County Court, Ontario, is a past president of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and has been a member of its National Council for the last 23 years. He recounted his memories of the late Colonel E. A. Baker, C.C., O.B.E., M.C., in the Canadian issue of the *Reader's Digest* in February, under the heading "Canada's Unforgettable Eddie Baker". In effect, he said no man gave greater service to the Canadian blind than our St. Dunstan's friend, Eddie.

### DERBY DAY REMINDER

May it be noted that those who would like to join the London Club's Derby Day Outing, which will leave Old Marylebone Road at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 3rd June should send in their names now.

It will be appreciated that much hard work is carried out with regard to the organising of this event. Without having knowledge of the number of people prepared to go it is impossible to estimate cost, order the coach, etc.

Please help by sending your names in as soon as possible to Mr. Norman Smith at Headquarters.

W. MILLER.

## Bonnets Galore

We seem to have started something! It is interesting to try out a new idea and to find out what our guests' reactions will be. It would be too much to hope to hit the jackpot every time, but when we do it can be marvellous. We had this very satisfying experience on Easter Monday when for the first time we staged an "Easter Bonnet Parade". Knowing that it would be extremely difficult to produce Bonnets at short notice, all our prospective guests were warned in advance, and how well they responded! News travelling via the bush wireless told us of several who were coming prepared, but never could we have foreseen the wonderful show which so astonished us at the Easter Monday Dance.

The Parade was announced at 8.45 p.m. and in a moment there was an explosion of colour and such a wealth of flowers, Easter Eggs, birds' nests and fluffy yellow chicks, that a veritable transformation seemed to have taken place. And what beautiful Bonnets they were, with such a richness of ideas and imagination contrived by so many clever fingers! Some were very topical, as for instance "March Hare" worn by Tommy North and "Mexico '70" worn by Teddy Mills. Bob Evans showed us that "Spring has Sprung" and Cyril Eighteen wore a fetching little model made of Hot Cross Buns. Vi Delaney daintiest "Three Tier Wedding Cake" that ever was seen and what can we say about Sid Tarry's pink creation, entirely constructed of ladies' paper panties? Without any doubt, it spoke for itself! Then there were our lady guests with an array of glamorous confections that could have graced the Royal Enclosure at Ascot, and the V.A.D.s entering the room all together, looked like a bouquet from a Summer garden.

There must have been about sixty Bonnets altogether. How could one hope to judge a display like this, when every single one deserved a prize? Fortunately, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kennedy had come



Tommy North—"March Hare".

along to do the judging for us and our thanks are due to them for performing this difficult task with excellent impartiality. The prize-winners in alphabetical order, were as follows:

Jack and Mrs. Boorman  
 Jock Broadley  
 Miss Joyce Briant, V.A.D.  
 Joe Carruthers  
 Mike and Vi Delaney  
 Dorothy Edwards  
 Cyril Eighteen  
 Bob and Mrs. Evans  
 Horace Kerr  
 John and Mrs. Lee  
 Tom Mara  
 Teddy Mills  
 Tommy North  
 Eddie Quinn  
 Miss Pat Ransom, V.A.D.  
 Sid Tarry

Many St. Dunstaners travelled long distances bringing their Easter Bonnets with them. Among these Vi and Mike Delaney travelled from Liverpool carrying two prizewinning Bonnets, Bill Wrigley came from Manchester representing "Manchester United in Mourning" and

Ernie Russell from Leeds supported "Leeds United". Never the twain did meet! Teddy Mills, totally blind and deaf, nursed his Bonnet all the way from Walsall, Cyril Eighteen came from Reading, Joe Clare and his Mad Hatter's top hat made of Braille playing cards travelled from Petersfield and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Evans from Newbury brought no less than 11 Bonnets in their car, all very kindly made by Mrs. Evans and proudly worn by St. Dunstaners in the Parade. These were but a few and we wish all present could be mentioned here, but this, of course, is just not possible.

### Thank You

To all St. Dunstaners, their wives, relatives and friends who co-operated so wonderfully well in making this such a delightful and memorable occasion, we send our congratulations and thanks. We intend, all being well, to have another Easter Bonnet Parade next year, which we hope will be even more successful, so you

## Staff News

### RETIREMENTS

#### Mr. J. R. Palmer

Mr. J. R. Palmer (Reg) retired on 30th April after 37 years' service with St. Dunstan's broken only by the Second World War, during which he joined the National Fire Service. Originally a regular soldier with the 2nd Connaught Rangers, Mr. Palmer, joined St. Dunstan's in 1933 and worked in the Home Industries Department. After the war he returned to us as a chauffeur in which capacity he was well known to a great many St. Dunstaners. All who have known Mr. Palmer will have appreciated his kindness and help during his many years of service and will wish him and his wife every happiness in his retirement.

#### Mr. T. L. Barkess

We have with regret also to announce the retirement of Mr. T. L. Barkess (Tom) owing to ill-health. A war time soldier he joined St. Dunstan's as a chauffeur in July 1950. After driving one of our staff cars for about 17 years Mr. Barkess took

all now have twelve months in which to plan your next Easter Bonnets!

The rest of the week-end was a time for the meeting of many old friends and each day had its special items of entertainment. During the evening of Good Friday a play reading was presented, the play being a serious one entitled "A Question of Fact" by Wynyard Browne and read by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lilley, Mr. Roland Boorman, Mr. Dennis Andreae, Miss N. Feaver, Mrs. D. Williams and Miss M. Dagnall. Parties went to Plumpton Races on Easter Saturday and Monday, though the weather was not too kind to us on either day. A Whist Drive and a Domino Tournament were much enjoyed by many of our guests on the Saturday evening, and on Easter Sunday, Miss Jay Thomas of Worthing brought a party of her very talented pupils to entertain us in the Lounge. Several of our local St. Dunstaners came to join us for the evening events and altogether we spent a very pleasant Easter week-end.

over the Home Industries Department's van in July 1967.

We send Mr. and Mrs. Barkess good wishes for the future.

## Letters to the Editor

From David Clark of Sevenoaks, Kent.

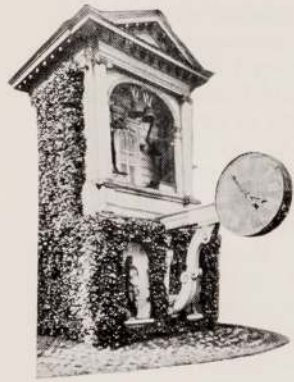
### The Long Cane

I was very interested to read Walter Thornton's article in the January issue of the *Review* concerning the Long Cane.

I completed the Long Cane training at Ovingdean in 1967, under the expert tuition of Jock Carnochan.

Since then I have used it constantly, including a year spent away from home in Birmingham, town use and country walks. I have found that the increased measure of safety given by the Long Cane method has given me much more freedom and enjoyment with a decrease in strain.

I also find that one receives less "interference" from the sighted public which I believe is due to the traveller appearing to be in control of the situation.



ST. DUNSTAN'S CLOCK



The Duke of Westminster (left) chats with Colin Milburn, Basil D'Oliviera and Lord Cobham. In the centre is Bill Griffiths, Disabled Sportsman of the Year.

### **Stars Glitter for Sunshine Fund**

Each year a Sportsman's Night Committee, whose Chairman is Miss Dorothy Taylor of Whalley, Lancs. is lent the Players' Theatre in London for one evening, to hold an effort in aid of the Sunshine Fund for Blind Babies. The entire proceeds of the night's entertainment is freely and generously given by the resident cast. Their special celebrity guests on 19th March were Roy Castle and Ronnie Barker and a glittering array of titled and sporting personalities combined to make "a show within a show". It is invidious to mention names out of the 25 leading personalities but invidious we must be due to lack of space.

The Duchess of Westminster acted as President for the evening and the Guest of Honour was the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, who represented underwater skin-diving.

Among the other well-known sporting names were: Lilian Board (athletics), Geoff Hurst (soccer), Lord Wakefield (rugby), Lord Cobham and Colin Milburn (cricket), Michael Bonallack (golf), Jackie Stewart (motor racing), Sheila Scott (flying) and our own **Billy Griffiths**, Disabled Sportsman 1969, accompanied by his wife, Alice.

## ***It Strikes Me***

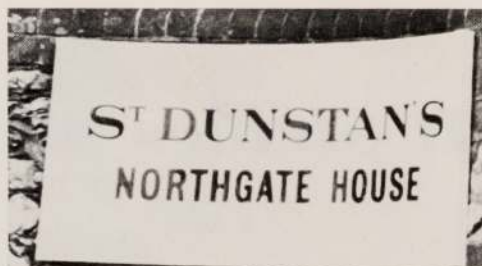
### ***Tea for Two***

16th March was a big night for **Bill Kennedy**. At the Esso Motor Hotel, Maidenhead, 65 members of the staff of McGraw-Hill, the publishing firm, attended a dinner honouring Bill's 40 years' service with the Company. He started with McGraw-Hill in 1930, when he was 15 and returned to his work as a book packer after service in the Second World War. He was wounded in Italy in 1944, while serving with the Royal Sussex Regiment.

Bill, pictured below (second from right) with (left to right) Alan Davis, Order Service Manager, Gerry Castle, Personnel Director and Ernest Harris, Manager of Distribution and Communications Services, was presented with a tea trolley and tea service in stainless steel. Gifts which, I am sure, met with Mrs. Kennedy's approval. The flowers on the trolley were a present to her.



The presentation to Bill Kennedy at the Esso Motor Hotel.



A new St. Dunstan's nameplate—in modern blue and white perspex—has appeared in the Brighton area. It reads, "St. Dunstan's, Northgate House" and heralds a new lease of life for this property in Rottingdean which was formerly a holiday home for St. Dunstaners' children and more recently was leased to a private school. The need to find a home for infirm St. Dunstaners while redevelopment work is in progress at Pearson House made it necessary for St. Dunstan's to return to Northgate House.

The House has been completely adapted for its new purpose. There is accommodation for 24 patients in the wards which, fitted out with curtained bays for each bed have the efficient air of a small hospital. Light, cheerful colours have been used throughout and from the entrance hall where the portrait of Sir Arthur Pearson from Pearson House presides to the small but sunny lounge, this temporary home reflects great credit on St. Dunstan's and the staff responsible.

What was the reaction of the nineteen St. Dunstaners now in residence, some of whom have lived in Pearson House for more than twenty years, to this change in their lives? Dr. O'Hara, our Medical Officer said:

"We were worried as to how our men would be affected by this great change, but although three of them have been disturbed and find some difficulty in adjusting themselves to their new surroundings, the rest appear to have settled down straightaway and for some it seems to have given a new lease of life. One chap who, before the move, spent much time in bed and hardly ever left his room, is now up first thing each morning looking for a partner with whom to play dominoes and he told me yesterday that he was looking forward to going out for a short drive in our coach".



Dr. J. O'Hara with one of his patients, Horace Adams.



## British Talking Book Service for the Blind

### Fiction

#### Cat. No.

- 838 BARCLAY, FLORENCE  
*THE ROSARY* (1909)  
(2) Read by John Richmond. The sensitive story of a woman whose plainness was beauty in her lover's eyes, and how, after he was accidentally blinded, they gradually learned the truth of love.  
*P.T.* 12½ hours.
- 839 BLAKEMORE, MICHAEL  
*NEXT SEASON* (1968)  
(2) Read by Peter Barker. A young actor finds the total involvement in his theatre and love life during a season with a repertory company both exhilarating and utterly exhausting.  
*P.T.* 14½ hours.
- 859 BRADDON, RUSSELL  
*WILL YOU WALK A LITTLE FASTER?* (1969)  
Read by Robert Gladwell. The unexpected events when two young men decide they have a mission to unite two German widows, sisters, divided by the iron curtain.  
*P.T.* 8 hours.
- 857 BROSTER, D. K.  
*THE FLIGHT OF THE HERON* (1925)  
(2) Read by Stanley Pritchard. A romantic novel of Scotland in 1745 and the Prince's wonderful adventures in the Highlands occupied by Cromwell's hated men.  
*P.T.* 13¾ hours.
- 862 DE LA ROCHE, MAZO  
*JALNA* (1927)  
Read by Eric Gillett. The first of the Whiteoaks Chronicles in which we meet the family, ruled by the indomitable grandmother Adeline.  
*P.T.* 11¾ hours.
- 863 DE LA ROCHE, MAZO  
*WHITEOAKS* (1929)  
(2) Sequel to above. Read by Eric Gillett. Finch runs away from home, and we hear of the death of Adeline, whose strange Will brings all the family emotions to a stormy climax.  
*P.T.* 15 hours.
- 864 DE LA ROCHE, MAZO  
*FINCH'S FORTUNE* (1931)  
(2) Sequel to above. Read by Eric Gillett. The further adventures of Finch, now grown to manhood, and of all his family.  
*P.T.* 17 hours.
- 865 DE LA ROCHE, MAZO  
*THE MASTER OF JALNA* (1933)  
(2) Sequel to above. Read by Eric Gillett. The story continues with Renny as the head of the family.  
*P.T.* 12½ hours.
- 866 DE LA ROCHE, MAZO  
*VARIABLE WINDS AT JALNA* (1955)  
(2) Sequel to above. Read by Eric Gillett. In which we read of Adeline's grandchildren, now middle-aged, and the new generation of her great grandchildren.  
*P.T.* 13 hours.
- 867 DE LA ROCHE, MAZO  
*CENTENARY AT JALNA* (1958)  
Sequel to above. Read by Eric Gillett. The centenary of Jalna, and Renny's plans for the marriage of his daughter Adeline.  
*P.T.* 12 hours.
- 854 DREW, MARGARET BOYCE  
*AND THEREBY HANGS A TALE* (1963)  
Read by Judith Whale. The amusing adventures of champion poodles and their proud owners.  
*P.T.* 8½ hours.
- 837 'ELIZABETH'  
*THE ENCHANTED APRIL* (1922)  
Read by Gretel Davis. Two bored wives take an Italian villa for a holiday; to meet expenses they share with two more women and have many amusing experiences  
*P.T.* 10 hours.
- 827 FERRARS, ELIZABETH  
*NINTH LIFE* (1965)  
Read by David Broomfield. Caroline, convalescing at her moody brother-in-law's country house, is involved in mystery and suspense which explodes in arson and murder.  
*P.T.* 6 hours.
- 853 FLEMING, H. K.  
*THE DAY THEY KIDNAPPED QUEEN VICTORIA* (1969)  
Read by Garard Green. The Queen's train was crawling over Killiecrankie bridge when it was kidnapped, and the Queen met many strange and unusual people during her adventure.  
*P.T.* 7½ hours.
- 842 GRIERSON, EDWARD  
*THE MASSINGHAM AFFAIR* (1962)  
Read by Clive Champney. A robbery with violence at a Northumbrian Rectory leads a solicitor on a quest through trials and evidence for the true facts.  
*P.T.* 10½ hours.
- 833 HILTON, JAMES  
*GOODBYE Mr. CHIPS* (1934)  
*TO YOU Mr. CHIPS* (1938)  
Read by George Hagan. Memories of a schoolmaster, and stories of his former pupils.  
*P.T.* 6 hours.
- 845 HILTON, JAMES  
*LOST HORIZON* (1933)  
Read by Michael de Morgan. English and American travellers, whose plane had been forced down in Tibet, become guests in the mysterious city of Shangri-La.  
*P.T.* 8½ hours.
- 846 HOCKING, MARY  
*VISITORS TO THE CRESCENT* (1962)  
Read by Arthur Bush. A Scotland Yard story which shows the springs of action of traitors, and how the innocent can get smeared by evil contacts.  
*P.T.* 8½ hours.



## Family News

ERNEST SAYERS of Birchington, Kent, says there are five generations of his family living. Great-grandmother aged 92, Grandmother 75, daughter 45, granddaughter 25, and great-granddaughter one year old. He would like to know if any other St. Dunstaner can beat this record.

### Birth

Congratulations to ALAN WORTLEY of Spridlington, Nr. Lincoln, whose wife Joan gave birth to a daughter, Rachel, on 28th March, 1970.

### Marriage

PARKINSON-LLOYD. Tony Parkinson of Peterborough, Northants, to Miss J. Lloyd on Easter Saturday, 28th March, 1970.

### Silver Wedding

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. DAVID BELL of Edinburgh who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 28th April, 1970.

## British Talking Book Services for the Blind

### Non-Fiction

#### Cat. No.

- 869 THE HOLY BIBLE  
*THE BOOK OF PSALMS*  
Read by Andrew Timothy  
P.T. 4½ hours.
- 832 DANIELSSON, BENGTH  
*WHAT HAPPENED ON THE BOUNTY*  
(1962)  
Trans. by Alan Tapsell. Read by Alvar Lidell. The truth about the famous mutiny, based on the original reports and log books and the evidence of the survivors.  
P.T. 10 hours.
- 847 LORENZ, KONRAD  
*MAN MEETS DOG* (1954)  
Translated by Majorie Kerr Wilson. Read by Michael de Morgan. Amusing reflections on the behaviour of dogs and cats, describing their origins, the varying personalities of different breeds and their relationship with man.  
P.T. 8 hours.
- 843 MAXWELL, GAVIN  
*THE RING OF BRIGHT WATER* (1960)  
Read by Robin Holmes. The author writes of the lovely unspoiled Highland coast where he lives with the animals he loves, in particular Mij and Edal, his pet otters.  
P.T. 8½ hours.

- 830 'SMITH, ADAM'  
*THE MONEY GAME* (1967)  
Read by Marvin Kane. 'Adam Smith' writes not only about the Market, but comments trenchantly on what the Game means, who wins at it, who plays it, and what winning means.  
P.T. 10 hours.
- 848 STRACHEY, LYTTON  
*EMINENT VICTORIANS* (1918)  
Read by Robin Holmes. Studies of Cardinal Manning, Florence Nightingale, Dr. Arnold of Rugby, and General Gordon of Khartoum.  
P.T. 12 hours.
- 856 WHITE, GILBERT  
*THE NATURAL HISTORY OF SELBORNE* (1788)  
Read by Richard Baker. The great naturalist, first to name and describe many now familiar birds, writes of the wild life of his 18th century Hampshire village.  
P.T. 9½ hours.
- 840 PINTO, VIVIAN DE SOLA  
*THE CITY THAT SHONE* (1969)  
Read by Robert Gladwell. Professor Pinto looks back on the first 25 years of his life—childhood, schooldays, service during the 1st war, and a return to Oxford, the city of the title.  
P.T. 12½ hours.

### Golden Weddings

Hearty congratulations to MR. AND MRS. GEORGE AMOR of Chilcompton, Somerset, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 5th April, 1970. They met in the village as children and were married nearby at Midsomer Norton. Their three children live in the district and they have a happy, united family.

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. HENRY APPELYARD of Newhaven, Sussex, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 3rd April, 1970.

Warm congratulations to MR. AND MRS. BERTIE BARNES of Cheltenham, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 8th April, 1970. They were married on 8th April, 1920 at St. Mary's Church, Greenhithe, Kent.

Warmest congratulations to MR. AND MRS. ERNEST HALL of Chilton, Nr. Didecot, Berks, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 12th April, 1970.

Sincere congratulations to MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM MCCARTHY, Manchester, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 27th March, 1970.

### Grandfathers

#### Congratulations to:

GEORGE HADFIELD of Ottery St. Mary, Devon, announces the arrival of his tenth grandchild, born on 22nd February, 1970.

ALBERT WATER of Colchester is pleased to announce the arrival of his first grandchild, Colin Brian, born on 7th December, 1969.

Christopher, elder son of LOUIS ANDROLIA of Great Barr, Birmingham, married Miss Pamela Vick James on 4th April, 1970 at St. John's Church, Perry Bar, Birmingham.

Michael, son of SQUIRE BROOKS of Welwyn Garden City, Herts., married Rosemary Wood on 21st March, 1970.

Susan, daughter of ROBERT COUPLAND of Hessle, Yorks, married Mr. Barry Robert Thorburn of Cambridge on 18th April, 1970.

Christopher, son of TOM HART of Folkestone, Kent, married Evelyn (Lyn) Bastock, at Preston Old Church, Brighton, on 30th March, 1970.

Jeanne, daughter of ROLAND PILON of Upper Warlingham, Surrey married Mr. David Hennell on 7th March, 1970.

Patricia, daughter of Richard Shed of Burgess Hill, Sussex, was married to Mr. Robert Rutherford on 18th April, 1970. Patricia chose this date for her wedding day because her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Shed, were married on this day thirty-three years ago.

### Deaths

#### We offer our very sincere sympathy to:

EDWARD ASTBURY of Saltdean, Sussex, on the death of his wife, Kathleen Astbury on the 14th March, 1970. Although Mrs. Astbury had only been in hospital for a short while, she had been in very poor health for the last two or three years. It will be remembered that Mr. Astbury was the basket instructor at Ovingdean until his retirement in 1959. Our sympathy is extended to Mr. Astbury and his married daughter, Mrs. K. Bates.

## Family News

### Deaths

We offer our very sincere sympathy to:

SAMUEL CATLOW of Nelson, Lancashire, on the death of his wife, on 22nd March, 1970, after a brief illness.

HAROLD MALLINSON of Exeter, Devon, whose wife died after a short illness on 25th January, 1970.

FRANK THAME of Luton, Beds., who mourns the death of his wife on 8th April, 1970.

### In Memory

It is with very 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.

**James Affleck.** *Royal Army Ordnance Corps.*

James Affleck of Burnage, Manchester, died on 20th March 1970 in a Nursing Home at the age of 78.

He served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1916 to 1919. His eye sight did not deteriorate until later in life and he only became a St. Dunstaner in December 1969. He has been in poor health for some time and his death was not therefore, unexpected. He leaves a widow and grown-up family.

**William Albert Bonner.** *7th Durham L.C.*

William Albert Bonner died at Napsbury Hospital, Napsbury, near Hertford, Herts., on 16th March, 1970, at the age of 76.

He enlisted in the 7th Durham L.C. in 1915 and served with them until his discharge in October 1916. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1920 and trained in basket making and was able to open a small shop where in addition to selling baskets, he sold decorating materials. Owing to ill-health, Mr. Bonner had to retire from business after a few years and since 1941 has been a hospital patient.

Our sympathy is extended to his sons and daughters, who are living abroad and to Mrs. Ambrose who has visited constantly and kept in touch with hospital authorities.

**Henry George Bull.** *Royal Army Medical Corps.*

Henry George Bull of Ilford died on 26th March, 1970, at the age of 75.

He enlisted in 1915 with the Royal Army Medical Corps and served with them until his discharge in 1919. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1951 and trained in handicrafts and became a basket maker. He leaves a son and daughter-in-law, with whom he lived on the death of his wife last year.

**Ernest Edward Carter.** *13th Battalion, Rifle Brigade.*

Ernest Edward Carter of Earls Colne, near Colchester, Essex, died on 21st March, 1970. He was 76 years of age.

He served in the 13th Battalion, Rifle Brigade from 1915 to 1919 but his eyesight did not deteriorate until later in life and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1960. He learnt to type, make string bags and rugs and was able to carry out these occupations until ill-health, compelled him to give them up. He had been ill since the beginning of the year and his death was not, therefore, unexpected. He leaves a widow and grown-up family.

**Joseph William Dixon.** *West Yorkshire Regiment*

Joseph William Dixon of Pudsey, Yorkshire, died on 13th March, 1970, at the age of 76 years.

He served in the West Yorkshire Regiment from 1915 to 1919 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1969 when he was a sick man and his health gradually deteriorated. He died in hospital. He leaves a widow.

**James Irvine.** *Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders.*

James Irvine of Renfrew, Scotland, died suddenly on 2nd April, 1970. He was 76 years of age.

He served in the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders from 1915 to 1918 and was wounded at Ypres. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1918 and first of all he had a shop. When he gave this up he did rug making for some considerable time. He enjoyed annual visits to Brighton, where he will be much missed. He leaves a son and daughter who cared for him devotedly after his wife pre-deceased him in 1958.

**William Thomas Jones.** *Royal Army Service Corps.*

William Thomas Jones of Abercave, Breconshire, South Wales., died on 14th March, 1970. He was 59 years of age. He served in the Second World War in the Royal Army Service Corps and came to St. Dunstan's in August 1969. Mr. Jones did not enjoy good health but his death was sudden and unexpected. He leaves a widow.

## In Memory

**Henry Gilbert Nobbs, O.B.E.** *1st London Rifle Brigade.*

Gilbert Nobbs of New South Wales, Australia died on the 29th March 1970, at the age of 90 years.

He was blinded in 1916, spent four months in Germany as a prisoner of war, and came to St. Dunstan's in 1917 to learn Braille and typing. He was a businessman and returned to his work as a Director of Holbrook's Sauce Ltd. After the First War, he travelled widely for his firm and took over its business in Australia, where he settled with his wife and family. In addition to his outstandingly successful business career, he played a leading part with the Repatriation Committee in work for the Australian blinded of the Second World War and was awarded the O.B.E. for his distinguished services.

He was a widower and leaves a son and daughter in Australia.

### The Ideal Profession

Continued from page 2

1915

It was very early on in the life of St. Dunstan's that Sir Arthur Pearson, always alert for new directions in which to send the war-blinded back into the sighted world, began to suggest massage as a profession to his new St. Dunstaners. One of these was Sid Tarry, who arrived at Regent's Park in 1915 and recalls that the subject was mooted at his first interview with Sir Arthur. At this interview Sid met Mr. Brighurst, who with his wife, also a masseur, was St. Dunstan's first instructor in the subject.

The St. Dunstaners pursued their preliminary studies under Mr. and Mrs. Brighurst. They learned the basics of anatomy and physiology in lessons which were immediately christened "bone-mauling". By touch, the pupils would study the skeleton and individual bones while their instructor would describe their function and the action of muscles associated with the particular bone or joint. There is a legend, apochryphal no doubt, that one lady visitor, peeping into the classroom, earnestly whispered, "are they having their dinner?"

After a period of time, which in those early days seems to have varied, the trainee masseurs would pass into the National Institute for the Blind's school of massage, a pattern that is still followed today. Sir Arthur Pearson was responsible for establishing this co-operation, realising that it would be wasteful for the two organisations to establish parallel facilities. It was thus that St. Dunstaners came under the influence of a blind tutor of great skill and understanding, Percy Way, whose contribution to the position of the blind in the profession is commemorated in the Percy Way Memorial Library.

In addition, once they had acquired enough knowledge, the student masseurs would go to the Middlesex Hospital for practical work. In the days of the First World War occupational training courses proceeded side by side with more general rehabilitation courses in Braille, type-writing and so on. Sid Tarry recalls the timetable of a working day. "It began with exercises for half-an-hour, 9.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. training, 2.0 p.m. to 5.0 p.m. training. Massage took preference, if we were wanted for a lecture, well Braille or other things had to wait. Then some of us used to get gentlemen who had time to spare to read to us books on anatomy or other subjects in the evening". No help from that modern boon, the tape recorder, in those First World War days.

### 1920-Membership

Once qualified these early masseurs found employment in the military hospitals helping the recovery of other wounded servicemen. There they found one of their first difficulties was their acceptance by the women masseuses. Sir Arthur Pearson and Percy Way had already fought a long, hard struggle to win admission to examination and, later, membership of the, by this time, Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses for blind applicants. Membership was not achieved until the Society was granted its Charter in 1920. The Society's hesitation was due to its uncertainty about their efficiency and, even more, whether there would be sufficient demand for their services on account of their disability. From the military hospitals Sir Arthur had good evidence against these doubts in letters like this one from the principal of the massage department of the largest

command depot in the country in 1917: "Of my staff of thirty-two masseurs your four blind boys are incomparably the best there, and we want four more". The more fundamental feminine reaction against this male invasion of a profession mostly regarded as a female one was far more difficult to overcome at the personal level in hospitals or at institutional level, where, in the years between the wars, Sid Tarry and W. T. 'Ginger' Scott did good work on the committees of the Society. In the very early days a female instructor was not permitted to teach a man—an ethical rule drawn up, like the rule forbidding treatment of members of the opposite sex, to rid the profession of the taint of those immoral "massage" establishments of the late eighteen-hundreds.

#### Post War Period

The next real test for St. Dunstan's and its masseurs came in the immediate post war period with the closure of the military hospitals. With many masseurs thrown on the market, it was then that St. Dunstan's began establishing them in private practice. One such was Albert Brown, a member of the group of St. Dunstaners who qualified in 1919, who is still practising in Reading today at the age of 85. He settled first in Bath but the competition in this spa city from established masseurs trained in Sweden, then the fashionable word in massage, proved too much. In common with many other St. Dunstaners at this time he met with a cool reception. "Like Mr. Micawber, one waited day after day for something to turn up". It did very slowly, "After a time I managed to get some patients from the War Pensions Committee and they used to come to me at the rate of 1s 6d a treatment for other ranks and 3s 6d for officers".

Although he began to get patients referred from doctors, Albert Brown decided to leave Bath to seek a better living in Reading. This was in 1926 and still the same struggle to become established. In an effort to become known he offered his services free to the Royal Berkshire Hospital. "Getting into the hospital certainly opened up the way. Patients were coming and going and they all lived in Reading and, if you did any good to anybody, one recommended you to

another". Albert Brown was not the only St. Dunstaner to find himself working for nothing to get established, but others coped with the problem in different ways. Sid Tarry, for example, found his natural bent for public affairs which led to his leadership of several local committees, a great asset.

The war-blinded masseurs were not without help from St. Dunstan's in those difficult times. In 1921, St. Dunstan's with the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs was seeking work from Insurance companies and St. Dunstaners were urged to adhere to standard fees which were an essential feature of the scheme. Their interests were looked after by Mr. A. Mace, a physiotherapist who had been trained before the war in Sweden. He lost the sight of one eye completely during his war service. The loss of his eye showed that his remaining eye had been lazy and he was effectively blind. He could have become a St. Dunstaner but under the care of oculists he worked on exercises and received treatment which partially restored his sight. In hospital he had met St. Dunstaners and this led to him joining the organization, not as a beneficiary but as a member of staff.

#### War Pensions

With competition for work intense even the patients referred by the War Pensions Committees at 1s 6d a treatment were sought after and this brought about the formation of St. Dunstan's Massage Advisory Committee in 1923. Groups were forming among the sighted masseuses to seek this work and the M.A.C. was formed to protect St. Dunstaners' interests. The first committee was nominated and its first meeting was held on November 29th, 1923. Attending the meeting were Edmund Toft, in the Chair, W. Millard, W. Warren, Mr. A. Mace, Superintendent, Massage Department, Miss E. Goole, acting as secretary of the Committee—a post she held until her retirement from St. Dunstan's in 1955—and Captain Ian Fraser, Chairman of St. Dunstan's, showing the close personal interest he has maintained in the affairs of physiotherapists through the years.

The subjects discussed at that first meeting are of interest. Miss Goole was charged to report to the various departments of St. Dunstan's the recommenda-

tions of the Advisory Committee; she was to be responsible for the allocation of work obtained through St. Dunstan's; various means of publicising massage were discussed including press advertising already appearing in *The Times*, *Observer*, *Express* and *Morning Post*. Thereafter meetings were held each month at Regent's Park attended by members residing in London. Provincial members were kept in touch by very thorough documentation—minutes and agendas being mailed to them in time for their views to be made known to the committee by correspondence at the next meeting. The provincial members attended personally three or four meetings a year.

At the first General Meeting of St. Dunstan's masseurs held on July 25th, 1924, a resolution was passed "that the experimental period of eight months through which the Massage Advisory Committee has passed and the work that has been carried out . . . be regarded as successful". The first elections were held for membership of the Committee and Edmund Toft, a St. Dunstaner of great influence who later became an osteopath, was re-elected to the Chair.

#### Ethical Questions

Many were the problems faced by the M.A.C.; ethical questions to settle with the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics; co-operation with the Association of Certified Blind Masseurs and problems of licensing by the London County Council and other local authorities—covered nowadays by State Registration. There was animosity from some doctors, co-operation from others. There was continual competition from "quacks" encouraged by the advertisers and manufacturers of apparatus. Alterations of the curriculum to include new forms of treatment raised anxieties about the status of blind physiotherapists. Electrical treatments were an example of this.

Fairly rudimentary forms of electrical treatment had been included in St. Dunstaners' training from the beginning—Faradism, using a surging current and Galvanism, passing a direct current through the body. The equipment was often unreliable but St. Dunstaners were taught to use these electrical treatments by Dr. Murray Levick. Bill Scott, Chairman of the M.A.C. for a long period in the 1930's,



Albert Brown.



Sid Tarry.

recalls the problems of recognition blind masseurs faced despite their thorough training not only in the treatments but in the knowledge of circuits and basic design of electrical equipment. "The Chartered Society introduced a standard curriculum for medical electricity in such a way that it was impossible for a blind man to do it all. Dr. Murray Levick gave us a certificate to practise but the Society did not recognise us until much later. Negotiations went on for years through the R.N.I.B. and St. Dunstan's meeting the Society and creating things from a slightly different angle."

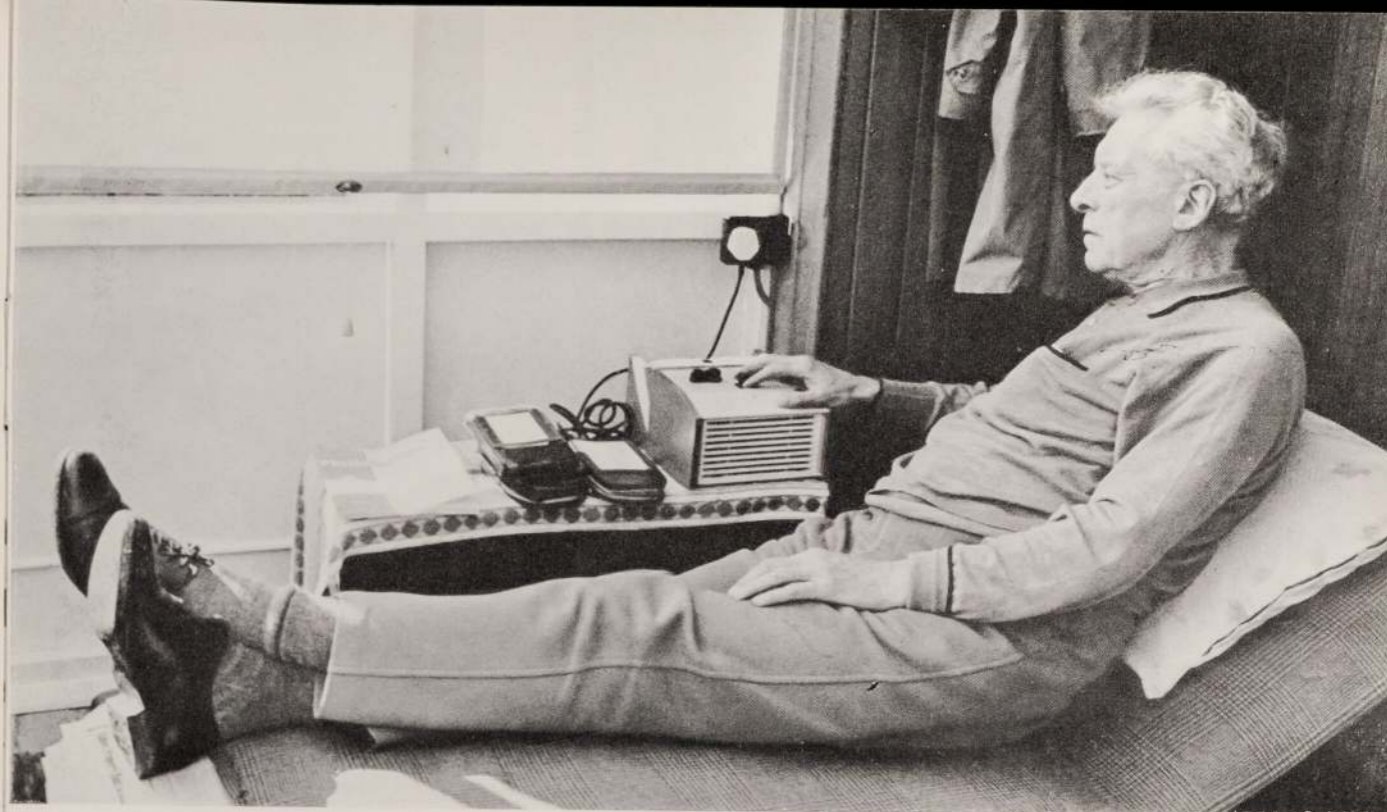
#### Lord Fraser's Invention

This final recognition from the medical profession might not have come about without a gadget invented by Lord Fraser. It was essential that the blind masseur using electrical equipment should be able to read a millimeter, or galvanometer, to measure the amount of electricity passing through his patient. In his workshop the then, Captain Fraser, devised a clamping device which enabled the delicate needle of the instrument to be felt by the finger like the hands of a Braille watch. This was the first in a long line of devices and adaptations which have enabled the

blind physiotherapist to employ more and more sophisticated therapeutic equipment as it has been introduced.

The second world war brought about another revolution. Massage became physiotherapy—in 1942 when the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy took this name. A new generation of war-blinded men became physiotherapists following the same pattern of training. Their preliminary work began at Church Stretton under Edmund Toft and, after his death, Jock Steel, another First War St. Dunstaner. The physiotherapy course had become stiffer and longer, three years, and educational qualifications were more exacting. Douglas Calder was the first to qualify after a year at Church Stretton and two years at R.N.I.B. School. In 1946 Barbara Bell became St. Dunstan's first and only woman physiotherapist.

Today there are 83 St. Dunstan's physiotherapists in practice, 11 of them who lost their sight in the First World War. The introduction of the National Health Service in 1948 opened the way to increased opportunity in hospitals and 41 St. Dunstaners work full-time in hospital, some of them as Superintendent Physiotherapists in charge of departments. The Health Service has by no means eliminated private practice and there are 28 full-time



W. T. "Ginger" Scott, in retirement, finds a new use for his plinth as he relaxes with a good talking book.

private practitioners while another 14 combine part-time hospital or industrial physiotherapy with private practice. There is one St. Dunstaner, Edward Allchin, in his final year of training at the R.N.I.B. school and two, Alan Wortley and Ted Bunting who have taken up hospital appointments in 1970.

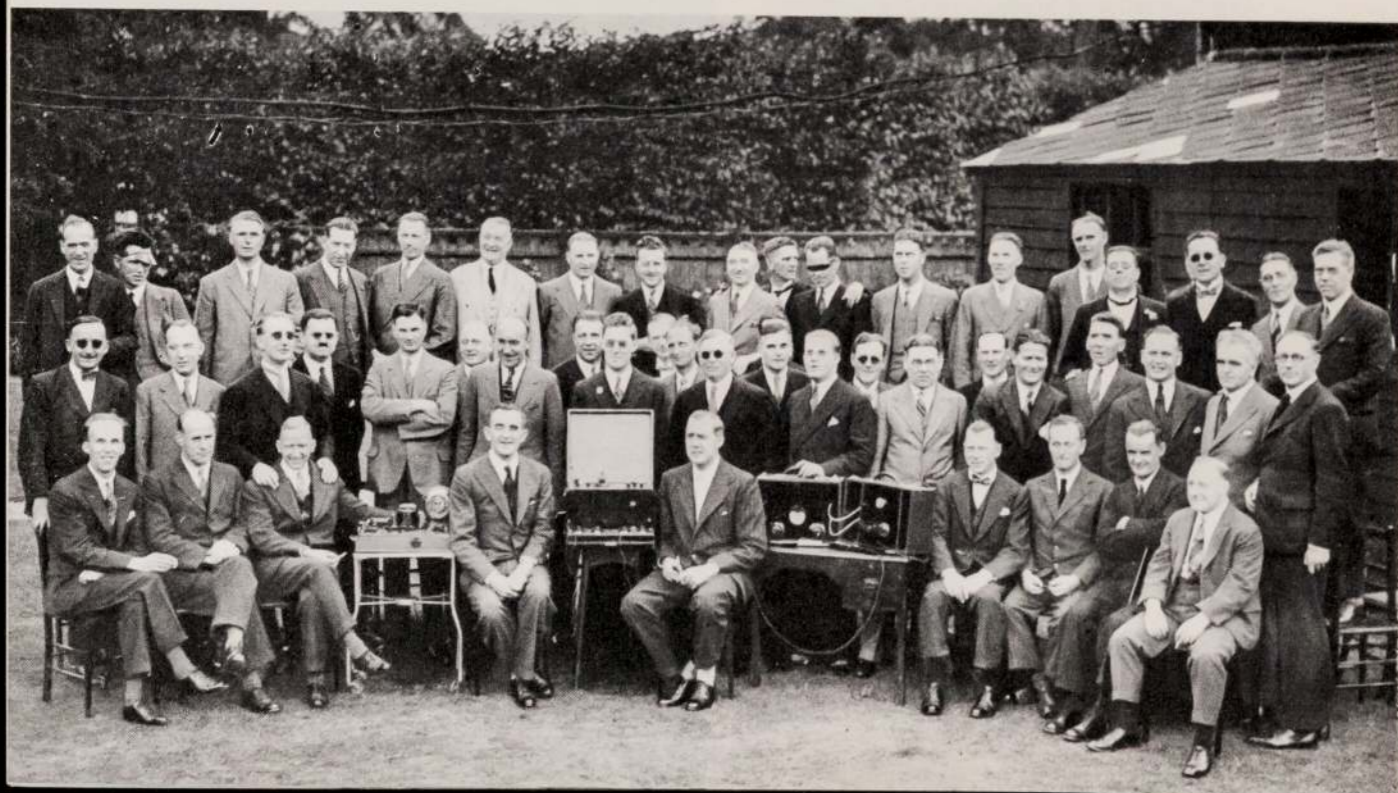
Their experience makes interesting comparison with the early days of physiotherapy in St. Dunstan's. Educational requirements are now five subjects in G.C.E. at O level to include Maths, English and Science. Both had to take one subject at Ovingdean through correspondence course and tutors to achieve that qualification, and then three months' preparatory work on physiology and anatomy with Jock Steel. Alan Wortley commented on a change of emphasis he noticed over the three year course, "When we started the emphasis was on group activity, group treatments but by the end of the course we seemed to be swinging back to manipulative therapy and manipulations. I am sure this is extremely good for the war-blinded physiotherapist".

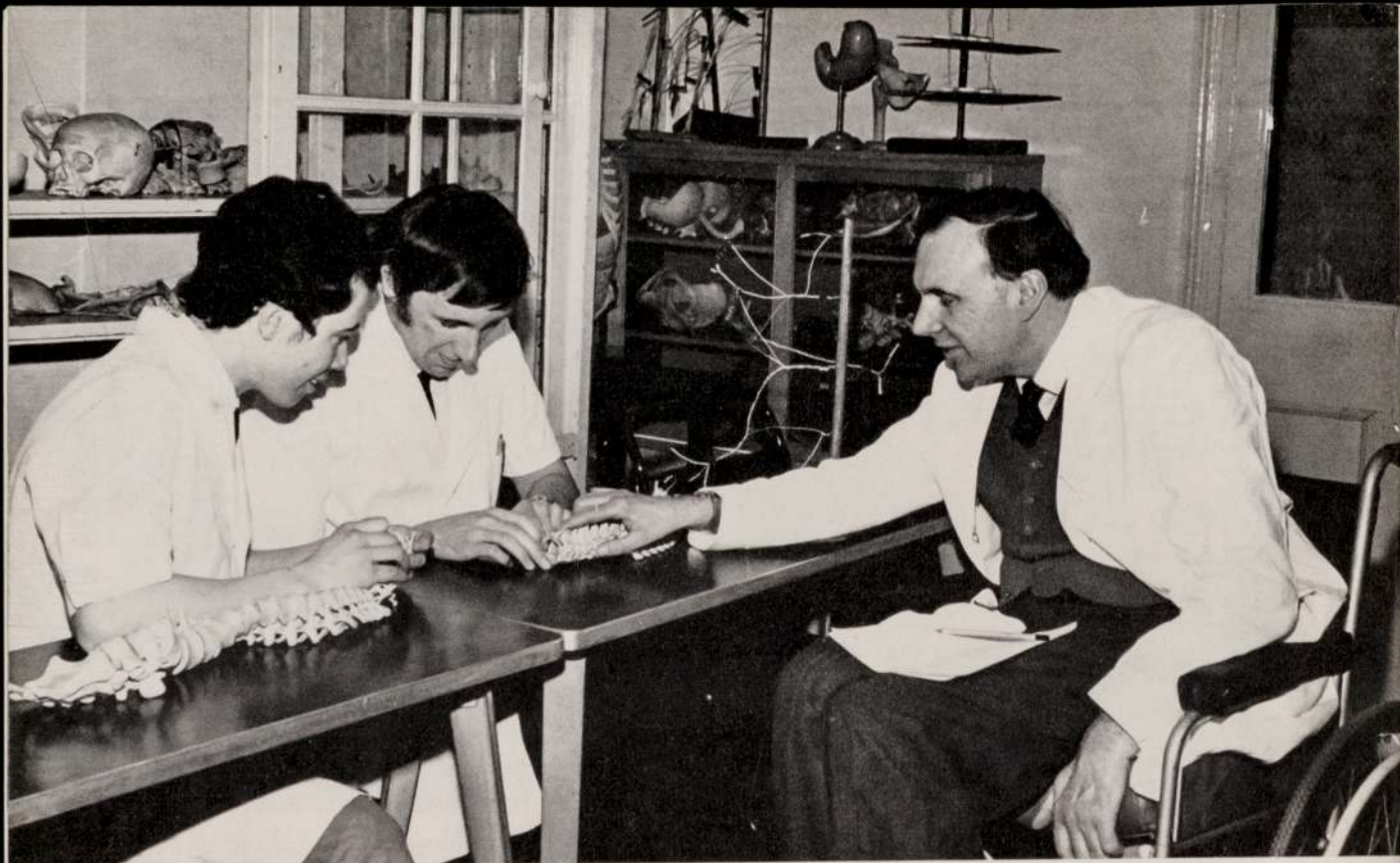
Lectures and theoretical work are still combined with practical work in hospitals and "bone-mauling" still plays its part.

Of course, modern techniques; short wave diathermy, ultra sonic therapy and infra-red irradiation complicate the 1970 student's life. Perhaps the biggest contrast is in finding work after qualification. Pockets of prejudice and obstruction still exist but both Alan and Ted were found employment by Ron Priestley, St. Dunstan's Physiotherapy Superintendent, at their second choice hospitals. Says Alan Wortley, "I think this is to the credit of the First War physiotherapist. That we are accepted now is probably because of all the good work they have done and people can see that we can do the job just as well as sighted members of the staff".

For the future St. Dunstan's physiotherapists, through their Advisory Committee currently under the Chairmanship of Tom Hart, with Ron Priestley carrying out the work of Departmental Superintendent and Secretary of the Committee formerly shared by Mr. Mace and Miss Goole, will continue to keep abreast with advances in the medical world and maintain a success story foreseen by Sir Arthur Pearson in 1919 when he wrote, "The sensitiveness and delicacy of touch which come to characterise blind people make massage an ideal occupation for them".

Masseurs' Annual Conference, July 1930.





Edward Allchin in anatomy class at the R.N.I.B. school of physiotherapy, on his left John De Domenico, a fellow student, right, lecturer Ian Marshal.

## PHYSIOTHERAPY TRAINING THEN AND NOW

Mrs. Brighurst takes an early massage class.

