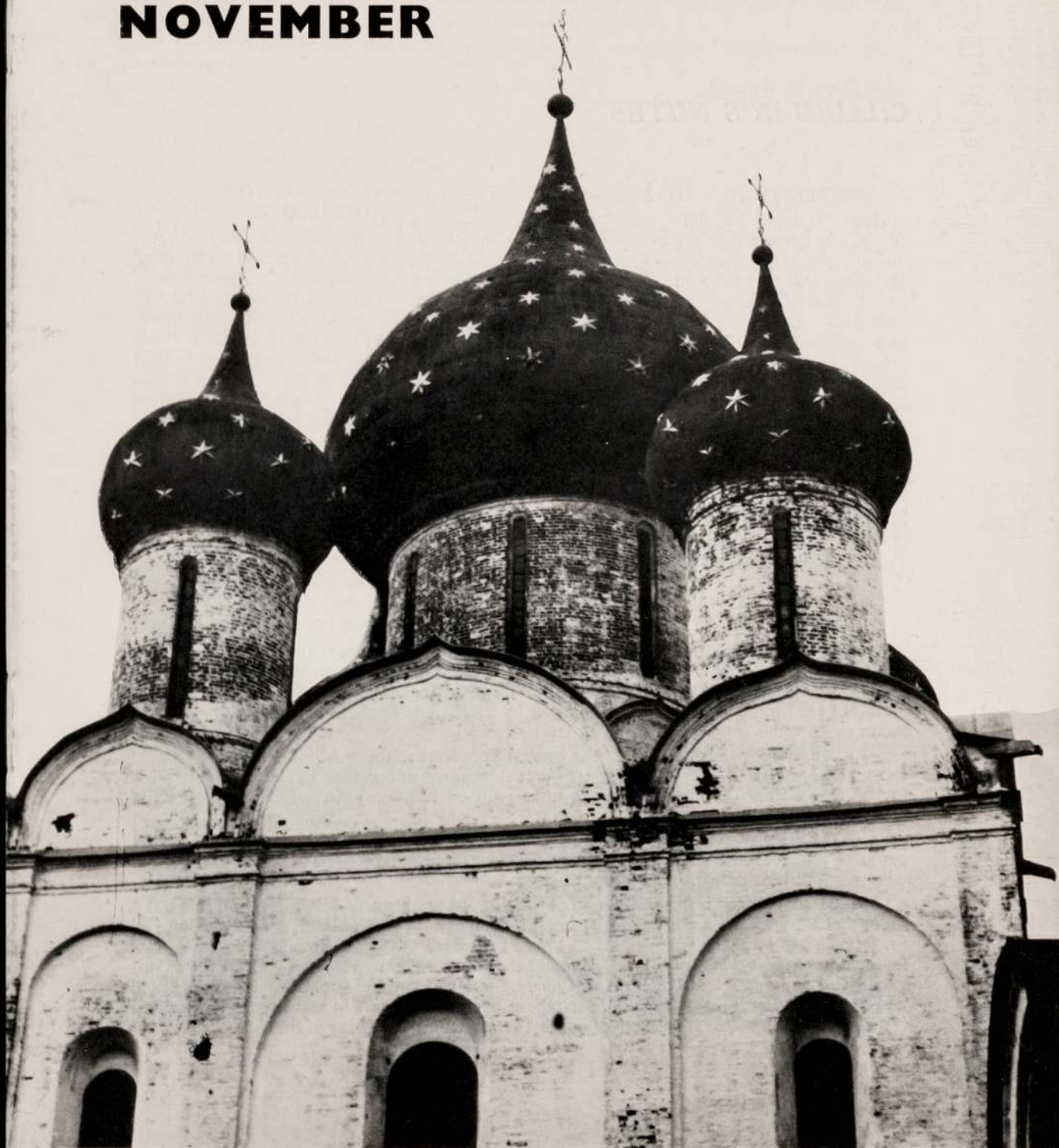


St Dunstons
REVIEW
NOVEMBER



St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

NO. 613

NOVEMBER 1970

1/- MONTHLY

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Minister's Visits

Mr. Paul Dean, M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State to the Department of Health and Social Security, who is responsible for war pensions, visited St. Dunstan's at Brighton on Thursday, 15th October, 1970. Lady Fraser and I met him there and showed him round and I reminded him of the needs of war pensioners generally and St. Dunstaners in particular.

There will be a full report with photographs next month.

Loneliness

I was in the House of Commons, on and off, for thirty-five years and had many friends in all Parties. Nevertheless, when I went to the smoke room there would be occasions when I was lonely because I only had half a chance of making contact with a fellow member since I did not see him, and unless he came to sit by me, had no opportunity of knowing he was there.

I ran another risk, namely that the biggest bore in the House would come and sit next to me and I was, to a large extent, deprived of the chance of escaping to another seat on the excuse that I wanted to say "hello" to old so-and-so because I did not know whether old so-and-so was there.

If, in this busy setting surrounded by friends, all of whom had a common interest, I could be lonely even for a few minutes, how much more must this be the case for the blind who may not normally meet so many people?

Indeed, loneliness is inevitably one of the minor handicaps of blindness, and it is not a thing that St. Dunstan's nor any other organisation can do much about. I would advise all St. Dunstaners to make friends and to try to overcome that initial tendency to withdraw from contact with one's fellows. It is easier if you are an extrovert and this faculty is not exclusively innate; it can be learnt as indeed I learnt it through politics. I have reached a stage when I hardly ever fail to talk to whomsoever I may meet in any circumstances, and it nearly always leads to something of interest or, at least, the passing of time.

"An Help Meet For Him" — Genesis ii

It is commonplace to include in lunch or dinner speeches a Toast to the Ladies. But for us St. Dunstaners there is nothing commonplace about our wives. On the contrary we owe them a deep debt of gratitude.

Henry Fielding once said: "No greater good fortune falls to a man's lot than a good wife". How true this is for us! They see for us, they read to us or walk with us, apart from all the chores which fall to the lot of every housewife.

Let me therefore pay the highest possible tribute—not to St. Dunstaners this time—but to our wives!

Fraser of Lonsdale.

"NOT FORGOTTEN" ASSOCIATION

A Service of Thanksgiving to Commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of The "Not Forgotten" Association was held in The Chapel, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Wednesday, 14th October. The Association's Patron, H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent, was present. The Service was conducted by the Chaplain, The Rev. R. A. W. Hambly, the Address was given by the Chaplain-General, Chaplain to The Queen, The Venerable Archdeacon J. R. Youens, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., and the Lesson was read by Field Marshal The Lord Harding, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. Hymns and other musical accompaniment were by The Band of The Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. A Reception was held afterwards in the State Apartments.

For St. Dunstan's Lieut.-Comdr. and Mrs. Robin Buckley represented Lord and Lady Fraser. Mr. C. D. Wills, Welfare Superintendent, was present as were St. Dunstaners Charles Hancock, Nicholas Henman, William McPherson, Frank Rhodes and Patrick Sheehan with their wives or other escorts.

It will be remembered that The "Not Forgotten" Association extends invitations to St. Dunstaners to attend their Christmas Party and Garden Party held annually at Buckingham Palace.

BRILLE DICTIONARIES WANTED

Mr. Christopher of Men's Supplies Dept., at Headquarters, reports that he had a very great response to his offer of two Oxford dictionaries and would now be grateful for any more dictionaries that may be available, for the disappointed applicants.

SIR ARTHUR REMEMBERED

This year the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service will take place in the Ovingdean Chapel on Sunday, 6th December, at 11.15 a.m. when our new padre, the Rev. W. Popham Hosford, M.B.E., M.A., R.D., will conduct the service. The Rev. Dennis Pettit will give the Address and Sir Neville Pearson Bt., will read the lesson.

On the morning of Wednesday, 9th December, a party of St. Dunstaners will leave Headquarters in Old Marylebone Road, and make their way to the Hampstead Cemetery to lay a wreath on Sir Arthur Pearson's grave.

Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the cost of the wreath should be sent to Mr. Lloyds at 191, Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QN.



Welcome to St. Dunstan's

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

George Bryson of Blyth, Northumberland, who became a member in September 1970. He served in the Northumberland Fusiliers in the 1st World War.

COVER PICTURE:

The domes of the Cathedral of the Annunciation in the Kremlin. A report of a St. Dunstan's visit to Russia begins on the centre pages.

Manchester Reunion

"Rain drops keep falling on my head" might have been an appropriate theme song for guests on their way to the Manchester Reunion for it was like that on Thursday, 10th September. Inside the Midland Hotel, however, all was sunny and bright for a company of 128 people which included 26 St. Dunstaners from the First and 31 from the Second World War or post-war admittances. Miss Everett was in charge of the arrangements as welfare visitor responsible, ably assisted by Miss Broughton and helped by Mrs. Eaton and Mrs. Harris both well known to St. Dunstaners. Miss Midgley headed the welfare staff in the absence of Mr. Wills and the other departments of St. Dunstan's represented were Estate, Industrial, Country Life, Home Industries and Public Relations.

Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, Vice-Chairman of St. Dunstan's, who was accompanied by Mrs. Garnett-Orme, received the guests. In his speech at the luncheon he said that it was nice to be there and that it was his first visit to a reunion held in Manchester. He brought the best wishes of Lord and Lady Fraser and Sir Neville and Lady Pearson. Mr. Garnett-Orme pointed out that this, the eleventh and last of the

1970 regional reunions, had been postponed owing to the General Election held on 18th June, and he welcomed all those who were present, with a special welcome to St. Dunstaners attending their first reunion, Fred Bullough, Albert Grimshaw, Frederick Horton, Albert Wallage.

Reunions, said Mr. Garnett-Orme, were an important part of the life of St. Dunstan's, bringing together friends and wives to meet each other. He congratulated St. Dunstaners and their wives who contributed to maintain the high regard in which the name of St. Dunstan's was held across the world. He conveyed the apologies of Mr. C. D. Wills, Welfare Superintendent, who was absent, saying that it was the first reunion he had missed in 17 years. Mr. Wills was in Russia at the time with a delegation of three members of the staff on a visit to the All Russia Society for the Blind. Unhappily, said Mr. Garnett-Orme, Miss Doel was also absent owing to illness, but she had sent a special message to St. Dunstaners and the company assembled would in turn send her best wishes for her speedy recovery.

Introducing Miss Coop and Mr. Owen from the British Red Cross Society in Manchester, Mr. Garnett-Orme praised the Red Cross for the help it had given to St. Dunstan's at its foundation in 1915 and ever since and he said he was sure these guests would be warmly welcomed. He also introduced Mr. J. Armstrong who has taken over Mr. Brady's work in the district for the Estate Department. He congratulated William McCarthy of Manchester and George Nuttall of Bury and their wives on celebrating their Golden Weddings and Cliff Hoyle on his award after 25 years excellent service with Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd. Winding up his speech Mr. Garnett-Orme thanked Miss Everett and Miss Broughton as well as Miss Midgley for the successful arrangements made for the reunion and he also expressed his thanks to the hotel management and staff.

The vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners was then proposed by Harry Dakin of Blackpool, in a few brief but well chosen words. Music was played during the lunch, and afterwards for dancing, by the hotel's resident band, Orlando and his trio. So ended the 1970 series of regional reunions.



Cliff Hoyle, receiving a gold watch from Mr. Humphrey Wood, Works Director, Hawker Siddeley, Chadderton. (photo: Hawker Siddeley)

"For Those in Peril . . ."

by

Stewart Spence

After a short drift of about three-quarters of an hour to pick up mackerel for bait we set course for the favourite fishing ground, the submarine wreck. Under the steady hand of Frank Rudd the *Golden Lily* of Newhaven cut through the green mirror of sea at a steady eight knots. Nine miles south-east by south lay our destination, about one hour's cruise in the pleasant, warm, dreamy, pure air would take us there.

Following the order to 'reel-in' after the mackerel, the ceremony of changing the tackle took place; off came the feathers and on went, in our case, two very big conger hooks. Visibility was not bad but there was sufficient haze to keep the sun at bay and just make the air pleasantly warm. Of course, it was somewhat dull, but ideal for fishing. Soon the throb of the engines and the hiss of the sea made us feel sleepy enough to dream of the big conger that was waiting for us. It was the big brother of the one that was taken by David Bell some six weeks ago. The rattle of the anchor chain told us that Frank had found the spot he wanted and any minute now the battle of wits would be on. We got the signal and our lines ran out overboard. We found the bottom and slipped the ratchet on. This gave us time to organise the star drag on the reel and take the ratchet off. We waited.

At this point let me tell you something of the company. There were only five of us on board. This was because the fishing party who had booked the boat for this day had not turned up and rather than disappoint us, Mr. Rudd had set sail with no material profit in view. There was Frank Rudd, the skipper, Johnny Whitcombe and his son Anthony, in the stern, Bob Young, forward of the wheel house on the port side and I was over the starboard stern quarter. Johnny and his son, who were fishing with lighter tackle, were having quite an active time with fairly small stuff.

A Fish!

Robert and I, grim faced, with jaws jutting, waited for the big chap to strike. We waited. Suddenly Bob called that he had got something big on his hook. Frank dashed to help him. All went very quiet and no replies came to my repeated inquiries. Then I heard Frank's voice. "Good Lord, you've got a conger. It is as thick as your thigh, it must be 30 lb. at least." Great excitement! I listened intently for sounds of progress. Nothing came. Then I heard Frank's voice again, "Easy now, Bob." Now a silence in which I composed the telegram which I would send to David Bell. Then shortly down the slight wind that was blowing, came the familiar Doric accent, invoking the diety to confound all Japanese

manufacturers of fishing reels. The reel we have all talked about had stuck again. Frank yelled, "He's too deep for the gaff." Young Anthony was just in time to see him make a vicious dive, followed shortly by Bob's agonised cry, "He's off". Mentally I tore the telegram up. You can sleep easily, David Bell, for although we both tried and expended much patience we never saw him again, or in fact any of his relatives.

Force 3

As if to make Bob's gloom a bit deeper a chill wind had sprung up ruffling the top of the sea. The wind blew the mist away and the sea rose higher with the waves cresting and breaking and the probability of a rising Force 3. Frank decided to make back to Newhaven to do a bit of feathering before we went in. It was 5.30 p.m. and the sea outside the harbour was getting more and more boisterous under a rising Force 3. Frank stuck his head out of the wheel house. "There's not much point doing any more, I think we will go in now, so reel-in." In seconds he was back at the wheel house port again. "There is a distress call on the radio. We are the nearest thing afloat, so I must do something about it. I hope you don't mind lads." The hitherto comforting sight of Newhaven harbour rose and fell violently as it receded over the stern.

We were on our original course again, south-east by south. I had moved up beside Bob Young now, on the port side, and we both comforted each other by relaying little snippets of wireless conversation we could hear coming from the wheelhouse. As Bob was a little deaf and the wind was getting quite high I had to use quite a lot of imagination, and it ran a bit riot. Various I heard that we were going to the aid of another fishing party and that seemed to stick in my mind as it seemed the most likely thing. On the other hand there seemed to be a small boat which had run out of petrol and a yacht that had lost its rigging.

Sabbath Hymn

It is strange what you remember on occasions like this. When we had come down to early breakfast back at Ovingdean, one of the girls working in the dining hall was singing. With that marvellous sense of humour we have all learned to love, Bob requested that she should sing hymns, it being the good Sabbath. She obliged with something that concerned those in peril on the sea—I don't say that we were in peril or anywhere near it but we certainly were on the sea—and some of it was beginning to splash over the gunwale. However, Bob and I were dressed for the occasion in waterproof nylon and PVC with sou'westers bent up in the typical John West fashion. We sailed on. A rising wind, Force 4 by this time, whipped up the sea still further so that as well as going forward we were going violently up and down. I remember remarking at this moment to Bob that I was surprised the sea was quite warm and closed my eyes for an instant—this had Battersea Park beaten to a frazzle.

Within half an hour there was a real Force 5 wind and Frank kept popping his head out to see if we were all right. Everytime the sea came on board Bob and I exchanged greetings to make sure that we were still there. I huddled by the safety rail by this time not caring what happened to my tackle, great lumps of sea went steaming past, hissing venomously at me. My moustache was drenched. Altogether I was rather concerned about the Force 5 and it was still rising. Occasionally in lulls in the wind we heard little snippets

from the radio. Apparently the distressed craft was very small. For although it could see us we couldn't see it. But a calm voice kept giving us compass bearings to follow.

Eventually Frank gave a cry, "I can see it, but it is very, very small." It turned out to be a 20-foot open weather deck pleasure boat. The owner and a companion had set sail from Dieppe that morning but the strength of the tide and the gale, it was now a full Force 5 and rising—had beaten him. He had run short of petrol. Three times Frank threw a line. Three times the wind caught it and carried it away. Then he yelled through the loud hailer, "If you've a line why don't you try me. I'm bigger than you." Success came with the first shot, and the line was made fast. We turned northward for home, relieved that we had reached the summit and were now going downhill. Frank had taken the precaution of making a general distress call to the coastguard at Newhaven. Every vessel listens-in on this wavelength and, of course, our plight became general knowledge. On the way back we were attended first by the *Normandy*, the cross-channel ferry, then by a couple of tankers and a small coaster, but we required no assistance.

Steady Keel

Despite the bad weather a general air of gaiety seemed to settle on the boat. Darkness was beginning to fall with the setting of the blood-red sun as we passed the Newhaven breakwater. Almost at once we were back on a steady keel and we busied ourselves getting our tackle together, while lots of mysterious little launches with silent uniformed figures on board put-putted alongside. It must have been quite a nice sight for those on the quay to observe this curious little flotilla moving gently through the calm waters of the harbour in the setting sun. As soon as we tied up several strong silent men came aboard. They were tall and beefy enough to be policemen in plain clothes, but gently they helped us up the thirty metal steps to the landing stage. Bob and I both wondered if we had uncovered a smuggling racket or perhaps brought in a party of little brown men with silk turbans, but our curiosity remained unsatisfied.

Before we parted we all agreed we'd had a splendid day's fishing. Come to think of

it, you know, it's the second conger I have known take a good look at Bob Young and slip off the hook in sheer terror. Then again, on the other hand, it probably grated its nine rows of needle-sharp teeth and said, "Ah, it's David Bell I'm after!"

FRANK REVIEWS

"The 'Poseidon' Adventure by Paul Gallico, read by *Marvin Kane*. When a huge ocean liner on a holiday cruise suddenly turns turtle as the result of a seabed earthquake, a group of passengers in the dining room pick themselves off the ceiling and start to evaluate their chances of escape.

Some decide to stay where they are and to await directions from an officer, whilst the Reverend Frank Scott, tall, powerful and an athlete of repute, persuades others to ascend through the stern of the ship. Paul Gallico drafts his characters with care and graphically describes their reactions amidst terror, panic and confusion. Heroism is revealed by the meekest, madness by the strong, whilst the tough New York cop remains the tough New York cop, and a young girl who is raped shows humanity and sympathy for her attacker.

Gallico is a diverse writer who can turn his pen from fairy tales to horror stories. Yet he never fails to grip the imagination of his readers and he holds their attention from first to last.

"Wyndham and Children First" by Lord Egremond, read by *Alvar Liddell*. An amusing and interesting piece of autobiography. The author tells of his life as personal secretary to Mr. Harold Macmillan from the time of that gentleman's appointment as Minister representing the British Government in North Africa and the Mediterranean.

John Wyndham, as he was before succeeding to his uncle's title, offered himself for military service in World War II, but was turned down with defective vision. Nevertheless, he was more than once under fire together with his unflappable master. Once, when besieged in the British Embassy in Athens during the Communist uprising, Wyndham decided

on some exercise and took himself into the garden to perform his "daily dozen." Sniped at by a rebel outside the walls, he was forced to take more exercise than he had bargained for, until Lady Dorothy Macmillan called up the army to deal with the situation.

"The Long Drop" by Alan White, read by *David Strong*. An Army Commando group prepares for and goes into an attack. This attack has an unusual feature in that the Germans must not know it has taken place. Certainly a good yarn which keeps the reader in suspense, it is, however, somewhat baffling to follow, in that the principal story-teller's, or narrator's part, is taken up by one character after another, all speaking in the first person singular, whilst other chapters of the book are in the third person. What is pretty evident is that the author spent some time with the Royal West Kents at Maidstone, and one of his central characters fits to the inch the man who was my Platoon Commander there in 1945, before I was transferred to the Sappers.

"An Autobiography" by Anthony Trollope, read by *Eric Gillett*. An account of the life of the nineteenth century writer, published after his death. Trollope, the younger son of an impoverished barrister, endures the existence of a near pauper at Harrow. Held to ridicule by his form master because fees aren't met he is subjected to the cruelty of his school-fellows, whilst at home he is constantly under the shadow of the bailiffs. The large family are saved from utter starvation by Trollope's mother, who takes to her pen. When, however, the crash comes, the family flee abroad, and whilst in Belgium Anthony receives the offer of a job as a clerk with the G.P.O. There he falls foul of his departmental head and goes to Ireland as an Assistant Surveyor of Posts. Here he makes good and his work on the organisation of the postal system, which he developed not only in Ireland but in England also, is still the basis of postal delivery today.

It was in Ireland, however, that Trollope started to write in earnest and he eventually resigned his work with the G.P.O. to devote himself to his pen. He could afford to, as his books were bringing in many thousands of pounds per year. Trollope wrote to please himself and

abhorred the practice of his contemporaries, Dickens and Thackeray, who allowed parts of their stories to be published in serial form before the entire works were concluded.

To My St. Dunstaner Friends

It was indeed kind of you to contribute towards a Presentation Fund on my retirement after more than 50 years in the service of St. Dunstan's. I can assure you I am deeply grateful and send my very sincere thanks for your most thoughtful gesture.

I have been able to obtain two very nice pieces of cut glass tableware and these will be much admired when I shortly go into my new bungalow at Hailsham.

After working closely for so many years with my war-blinded friends I naturally have many happy memories of the association of which the most outstanding is the amazing courage which had enabled you to meet and so successfully deal with all the difficulties which have come your way. What a wonderful phrase is "Victory over Blindness."

I do not forget the courage and helpfulness shown by your wives and families who have always given so much to you. It has been a great pleasure to know and admire so many fine St. Dunstaners and their wives. Bless you all.

G. E. C. ZIPFEL

GARDENING NEWS

GORDON WATTS of Norwich, has had a successful year in his garden and has won eight prizes at two local shows—three 1st prizes, two 2nd prizes and three 3rd prizes. A pumpkin he grew weighing 43 lbs got 2nd prize and he has had a good year with his potatoes.

HARRY NELSON of Bakewell, Derby, has won First Prize in a local show for his tomatoes.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES TAPLIN of Trowbridge, Wilts, entered thirteen items in a local produce show and walked off with five prizes. Mr. Taplin obtained a first for his "Busy Lizzy" plant and Mrs. Taplin obtained three prizes for her home-made cakes. They are both very enthusiastic gardeners.

Walking

Copthall stadium is not the easiest of places to find, situated as it is, just off the dual carriageway of the Great North Way, but it is certainly worth finding, for the amenities it offers are far better than most other tracks that St. Dunstan's walkers have raced on. This is the opinion of those of us who made the effort on 26th September, for the first race of a new season. It was a very nice afternoon, for a very good race, and an ideal welcome to newcomer Eddie Allchin, whose performance was complimented by many seasoned walkers.

One and a half miles at Ewell

10th October was a very unpopular date for our 1½ mile race at Ewell, for it clashed with many other functions, and several of our regular walkers were unable to join us. Even escorts were in short supply, and Charlie Redford had the pleasure of a young lady escort. Eddie Allchin walked well, and as the results show is making his presence felt already, as for Fred Barratt, Tut, Tut!

St. Dunstan's 1½ miles Ewell

Order of finish	Handicap time	Allowance	Actual time
F. Barratt	disqualified	.50	—
R. Mendham	13.53	.40	14.33
E. Allchin	14.19	2.45	17.04
W. Miller	14.24	scr	14.24
C. Stafford	14.57	2.20	17.17
S. Tutton	15.13	1.50	17.03 FL
C. Redford	16.10	4.00	20.10

Highgate 1 mile 1970

C. Stafford	9.03	2.10	11.13
M. Tetley	9.08	1.15	10.23
R. Mendham	9.26	.30	9.56
J. Simpson	9.28	.10	9.38
W. Miller	9.32	scr	9.32
F. Barratt	10.05	.15	10.20
E. Allchin	10.29	1.00	11.29

CHRISTMAS REVIEW

Only ten writing days to the Christmas Review! Articles, poems or letters for the Christmas Review from St. Dunstaners should be sent to the Editor as soon as possible, closing date for copy November 10th.

September—Fine and Warm

With the exception of a few stormy days the September weather has continued fine and warm. The house has been full and both outdoor and indoor entertainments were well patronised, a fact that must have been gratifying to "The Starliners" concert party when they came to visit us for the first time. A great deal of work had gone into the production of this show. There were Pearly Kings and Queens, Black and White Minstrels, and dazzling showgirls in leotards and feathers. The compère kept us in the picture with a brief description of each change of scene adding the information that the girls made all their dresses and hats. In the words of St. Dunstaner Edgar Woods, who thanked "The Starliners" on our behalf, "a grand evenings entertainment".

Autumn Term

With the return of the trainees for the Autumn term, we have resumed our Wednesday afternoon activities. Although the Special Interest Group usually meets during term time we would like to point out that it is open to all, and with a varied programme of talks and discussions will have something for everyone. Why not come along and help us put the world to rights? For the first discussion, entitled "That Gambling Is Demoralising The Country", Mr. Guthrie took the chair, John Gilbert was the proposer, and Michael Pirrie opposed. In his opening speech John stated that as gambling led to a shortage of money and consequent hardship and unhappiness, it was demoralising to the people and therefore to the country. In this view he had very little support. Once again the general opinion was that moderation is the answer. There was no such middle of the road view about the next discussion. The subject "That Patriotism Is An Unhealthy Emotion", proposed by Michael Pirrie, brought forth a storm of protest. Mr. Stokes, our chairman on this occasion, had to take firm control in order to allow Allan Noakes to oppose. Allan began by playing a few bars of Land of Hope and Glory on his tape recorder. This raised a laugh

and gave the more irate members a chance to cool down. However the talk soon became serious again and the motion was defeated by a majority of seventeen to three.

Concerts

On Sunday the 27th, the Winter Season of Symphony Concerts began at the Dome. A number of well known orchestras and soloists will be appearing from now until April in a series of excellent programmes. No doubt many of our residents and visitors will be attending and enjoying these concerts.

One morning not so long ago one of our senior residents, who was dozing peacefully on a settee in the lounge was surprised by a request to move over to another seat. Naturally enough he did not want to move. However, he allowed himself to be persuaded and settled down to continue his nap. Meanwhile the settee on which he had been sitting was upended by St. Dunstaner Dave Purches and its smouldering interior dowsed with water by a member of the staff, Miss K. Smith. So remember boys if they disturb your mid-morning siesta there is usually a pretty good reason for it.

Retirements

We are sorry to lose the services of three well known members of the staff this month.

Mrs. K. Harris, a senior member of the lounge staff, who leaves for family reasons, after twelve years service.

Frank Bickerton who is joining the staff of the Sussex Eye Hospital, after twenty years service with St. Dunstan's, as one of our nursing orderlies.

Billy Graham retires from his position as senior maintenance engineer, with sixteen years service.

Other retirements this year have included **Les Edwards**, hall porter, after twenty years service and **Jan Sujac**, who was an orderly here for seventeen years.

Another two of our long service staff retired this Summer. We wish them both a very happy retirement.

Charles Hawketts joined St. Dunstan's Staff in 1921 as a very young man. He had a break in service from 1930 to 1936 and since then has been well known to most St. Dunstaners coming to Ovingdean as our Sick Bay Nursing Orderly.

Roger Moore — (Chiefy) joined St. Dunstan's in 1948. He will be remembered by Lee-on-Solent Campers as Commandant's C.P.O. in the Camp's early days and since then a regular helper at the Camp. On leaving the Navy it seemed natural that he should follow Commandant to St. Dunstan's! He has worked as Dining Room Steward at Ovingdean and latterly, until his retirement, as Assistant House Steward at Pearson House.

AUSTRALIA CALLING

Mr. Ernest Newton, Liaison Officer with the Braille Society for the Blind in Western Australia sends us news of St. Dunstaners with whom he has been in contact recently.

Ed Bullen lives in Denmark on the south coast approximately 265 miles from Perth. He is totally blind and does excellent woodwork. He does a great deal of scroll and curve work and when Mr. Newton wrote to us Ed was busy making a 6 ft. standard lamp for him which can only be described as something like a totem pole—narrow at the base and widening in curves until it nears the top. This is painstaking work which necessitates clamping metal and cutting patiently to the metal. His curved leg tables are really good.

Dick Clark lives in Bunbury on the coast about 115 miles from Perth. Dick also does excellent woodwork. He does everything on the square and his joints are perfect. In addition he does his own french polishing. He once had trouble selecting the right colours in stains and varnishes and we made a set of Brailled stick on tapes with Dymo machine and now he is quite happy.

Just recently I went 265 miles—Perth to Ed Bullen's home and took him over to Dick Clark—216 miles, and left them together to talk on their hobbies for about three hours. Then I took Ed back home to Denmark 216 miles and I then went home to Perth. Nearly 1,000 miles in two days but they both enjoyed their meeting.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE FRED CHANNING

Proof of the esteem in which the late Fred Channing was held in Sidmouth where he lived for nearly thirty years up to his death on 21st August, was seen in the tributes paid to him in the local press and privately to his widow.

The newspapers referred to his work as a physiotherapist; his life-membership of Sidmouth Rugby Club for his services as honorary physiotherapist; his vice-presidency of Sidmouth British Legion and his leading part in the formation of the Sidmouth Council of Service.

The Chairman of this Council wrote:—
"If there was in Sidmouth a braver man—or a more popular resident—I do not know him and I was honoured that he favoured me with his friendship which started some ten years ago at the Sidmouth Men's Forum of which he was a very valued member. It was there that he instigated what is now the Council of Service which will always be a memorial to Fred..."

Club News

Brighton Club Notes

Lord Fraser at Annual Dinner

"This is a Club without rules or a regular subscription and all the members are blinded ex-servicemen," Lord Fraser, Chairman of St. Dunstan's, was speaking at the Annual Dinner of the St. Dunstan's Brighton Club. They play bridge, whist, dominoes, darts and bowls, not only amongst themselves but with outside teams. "These activities illustrate one of the most valuable lessons St. Dunstan's has taught its thousands of men over the last fifty years, namely, that it is important to play as well as to work."

Lord Fraser paid a tribute to Mrs. E. F. Dacre, J.P., President of the Club and Mr. F. A. Rhodes, Chairman, and thanked Messrs. Ling, Bacon, Davenport and Jarrold and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel, who helped the Club in various ways.



Champion two year's running, Ralph Preece receives his singles trophy from the Mayor at the Hastings Blind Bowls Tournament. (photo: George E. Gregory)

In a moving ceremony, Mrs. Dacre spoke of the wonderful services the late Mrs. Rhodes had rendered the Club over so many years and proposed a Silent Toast to her memory.

The Annual General Meeting of the club will be held on **Thursday, 10th December, 1970**. St. Dunstaners and escorts living in the Brighton district are cordially invited.

FRANK A. RHODES,
Chairman/Secretary.

London Club Notes

The first Football Pontoon Sweepstake of the season is jointly shared by Bernard Inman and Mrs. E. Carpenter, with the teams Arsenal and Wolves respectively. The "booby" was also shared this time by Paul Nuyens and Roy Armstrong, with the teams Watford and Orient.

The Sir Arthur Pearson Domino Aggregate Competition has now got well under way and is creating a great interest in the Club.

We were very happy to welcome Mrs. Agnes Murray back to the London Club once more, on one of her now too rare visits to us here.

We note that the Bridge Section of our Club continues with great gusto, having won eight of their eighteen Saturday matches played this year, also drawn one and lost nine. Satisfactory results indeed for this season. We hope they may win many others over the rest of the year.

W. MILLER

Congratulations to TOM TAYLOR of Farington Moss, Preston, Lancs., who has been elected to the Council of the new Blackburn VHF Station which is to start transmitting early in 1971.

RUSSIAN VISIT —



The Kremlin skyline in Moscow.

Mr. Wills and Mr. Dufton with the Director and members of the staff when they visited the Moscow factory of the A.R.S.B.

(photos: Commandant Fawcett)



A Look at Blind Welfare

Friendly contacts, established over a period of some years between St. Dunstan's and the All Russia Society for the Blind, led to an invitation for three members of our staff to visit Russia in September in order to study the manner in which our Russian friends resolve the problems of rehabilitation, training, after-care and employment of the blind in addition to research.

Mr. L. Fawcett, Commandant of our Brighton Homes, Mr. C. D. Wills, Welfare Superintendent, and Mr. R. Dufton, Director of Research, left London Airport on 7th September for a fortnight's visit as guests of the A.R.S.B. They were met on arrival at Moscow Airport by the Society's President, Mr. Boris Zimin, an Army Officer blinded during the 2nd World War, its Vice-President, the President of the Moscow Branch of the Society, members of their staffs and Mrs. Lucy Tsesarskaja, who accompanied them everywhere as interpreter and proved most efficient as well as possessing considerable charm. Mr. Eugene Agéev, Chief Editor of "Our Life", the Society's monthly magazine, a warm-hearted and capable man, also accompanied the delegation from St. Dunstan's on most of the visits.

The Russian hosts had prepared an intensive programme which included discussions on matters of mutual interest, visits to factories where blind people were employed, research and educational centres, cultural visits and entertainment. The first five days were spent in and around Moscow, after which the visitors moved 450 miles north west by train to Pskov, then 180 miles further north by train to Leningrad, then 650 miles due south by air to Kiev spending two or three days at each place, before returning by train to Moscow for the final twenty-four hours and, after that, the return flight to London.

Care of the Blind

In the Soviet Union care of the blind is in the hands of one large organisation, the All Russia Society for the Blind, which does not differentiate between civilian and ex-service blind. Founded in 1925, the Society is a voluntary and independent body. There is a branch in each of the fifteen constituent Republics. The aims are rehabilitation, improvement of social welfare and advancement in social outlook, education and vocational training. Any blind person may become a member at the age of 14 or over. There are 164,000 members including those blinded in war, but we do not know how many are ex-service men and women except that about

1,000 are said to live in and around Moscow. A noteworthy point is that the President of every Branch visited, whether male or female, was blind and, no doubt, as many posts as possible on the staff of the Society are filled by blind people.

Besides discussions with Mr. Zimin and members of the Society's Board of Management in Moscow, our delegation exchanged information and views with the members of the Boards which usually included war veterans, at each centre. Everywhere they went they were received with the utmost cordiality and conversation was quite frank and free. In his speech in Moscow and elsewhere Mr. Fawcett delivered the following message:—

"May I first discharge a duty for the Chairman of St. Dunstan's, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale. He sent this message:—

"Please convey to President Boris Zimin, and, through him, to all those who work for the welfare of the blind in the Soviet Union, the warm greetings of the Council of St. Dunstan's. The blinded ex-service men and women of the British Commonwealth join me in sending their greetings to all their ex-service comrades as well as to all the blind in your community . . ."

At the final reception before our delegation left Moscow, President Zimin gave the following message:—



(left to right) Mr. Eugene Agéev, Mrs. Lucy Tsesarskaja, Mr. Wills and Mr. Dufton.

"The blinded veterans of the All Russia Society for the Blind thank Lord Fraser for his kind message and ask him to carry their best wishes to their comrades in arms who stood with them against the common enemy. We all hope that the cause of our injuries and loss of sight will not be allowed to arise ever again".

Vocational Training

The A.R.S.B. provides flats for its members near their places of work, community centres for their relaxation and entertainment, and helps to pay for their Summer holidays. Its income is derived from the sale of the products of its factory workers and after covering its own expenses, including capital equipment, improvements in social amenities, etc., it still manages to contribute voluntarily 25% of its profits to the State budget. The Society has 174 Faculty members at Colleges or Universities, 283 lecturers at secondary schools, 400 school teachers, over 1,000 professional musicians, singers, choristers, lawyers and writers, 500 industrial executives, factory superintendents, foremen and computer programmers, 17 Doctors of Science and 93 Masters of

Science. There are also about 11,000 blind people in agriculture.

The Society's factories make a number of different engineering products. The several factories visited by the delegation from St. Dunstan's were devoted to the making of electrical switch gear of various types, both large and small. The designs are to a national standard. The equipment in the factories usually includes heavy and light presses, plastic compression and injection moulding machines, surface protective treatment etc. So far as press work is concerned, die sets and the other small tools are supplied to the factories, while the maintenance departments look after the tools and design and fit a range of safety guards on machines. An estimated 50,000 blind people work in the Society's factories on a 50/50 basis with sighted employees. A typical factory in Moscow has 1,200 employees, of whom just over 600 are blind. Technologists, maintenance men and supervisory staff are sighted. It will be appreciated that blind operatives, in conjunction with their sighted comrades, undertake a great number of other functions in the Society's factories. The delegation spoke to many war veterans

through their interpreter as they toured factory departments and there was a great air of cheerfulness and good will amongst all to whom they spoke.

Places Visited

Amongst the technical engagements and discussions connected with the work of the Society, the St. Dunstan's delegation visited the Institute of Prosthetics and the Institute of Defectology in Moscow, a boarding school for blind and partially sighted children aged between 8 and 18 years, and the Moscow headquarters of the War Veterans. They also spoke to a number of war veterans in the other centres visited. Entertainment and visits of historical or cultural interest arranged by the Russian hosts included the Bolshoi theatre, a tour of the Kremlin, including attendance at a ballet performed in the Hall of Congress, a sight-seeing tour of Moscow's Squares, the river and University complex, a visit to a country house outside Moscow, a visit to the Cathedral at Vladimir, about 130 miles from Moscow, and a monastery at near-by Souzdal. They visited the Pushkin State Reserve some 80 miles from Pskov, another monastery in this district and an historic fort. When in Leningrad, the delegates visited the Peterhof Palace on the shores of the Baltic to see the magnificent water gardens, the Hermitage with its works of art, the cemetery where nearly half a million soldiers and civilians, killed in the German siege of the city between 1942 and 1944, lie in mass graves and the cruiser "Aurora" moored in the Kniever river, whose firing of a 6in. gun signalled the start of the Revolution in 1917. In Kiev too, cathedrals and other places of historical interest were visited and there were, of course, many receptions, luncheons and dinners.

Warmth of Reception

The members of St. Dunstan's delegation were at all times very conscious of the warmth of their reception both on social occasions and on their many technical visits. There was an obvious and genuine desire to exchange views and information on all aspects of blind welfare and it appears that, in the special conditions obtaining in the U.S.S.R., care of the blind is comprehensive indeed.

Letters to the Editor

From Tommy Rogers of Dalton, Huddersfield.

The other day whilst wandering down memory lane, I came across the following incident which I thought rich enough to share with your other readers. I wonder if you agree?

Scene: Ward 4, St. Mark's Hospital, 1918.

The seven of us had been washed and had settled down to the usual routine of exchanging anecdote and reminiscences when S.... told a most awful crammer, it was such an obvious "terminological inexactitude" the rest of us took refuge in dead silence, until our late St. Dunstaner, Paddy Morgan, broke in with "Well, S... I don't want to call yer annie-thing, but ye are it annie-how!"

From Robert Evans of Newbury, Berks.

During the recent visit to Harrogate of the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club, it is not surprising that the daily impact of sixteen ebullient St. Dunstaners, upon the hotel dining room, should arouse some stir and comment among the other guests.

The greatest interest was shown by two ladies seated at an adjacent table. One afternoon, we were obliged to take an early lunch leaving behind one of the sighted members of our party.

The two ladies on the adjacent table had obviously been engaged in further speculation upon our group. After a pause, one of the ladies turned to her companion and was heard to exclaim:—"You know, they must have come from somewhere!"

Bridge Notes

THE HARROGATE BRIDGE WEEK

For the past 31 years, the Harrogate bridge week, originally thought of by Mr. Alf Field, has always proved popular with St. Dunstaners. This year, our visit was particularly memorable and a happy one. The highlight of the week was the usual luncheon where we were delighted to see Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, who thanked our Harrogate friends for continuing to make our visit the success that it obviously was.

16 St. Dunstaners with sighted escorts (not forgetting Barley, Mrs. V. Delaney's guide dog) arrived at the Dirlton Hotel

Letters (continued)

From Ernest Carpenter of Kings Langley, Herts.

After reading the St. Dunstan's Review, I was pleased to learn that a St. Dunstan's Bridge team had won the St. Dunstan's Challenge Trophy which is competed for during the Harrogate Bridge week.

An error is made in stating that it is 19 years since a St. Dunstan's team last won this Trophy.

It was last won in 1959—eleven years ago and the team consisted of P. Nuyens, E. Carpenter, H. Gover and H. Cook.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you, Ernie, for the correction. Our mistake, for which we apologise, arose because the information was passed to us by telephone from Harrogate when the Review was already with the printers so we had virtually no time to check up.

on Saturday, 19th September where the manageress, Mrs. Sofia Slater, soon made us all feel at home. Many of us will remember with pleasure our little farewell party on the Friday evening where, after the usual bridge drive, several St. Dunstaners displayed their hitherto unknown talent for singing or recitation.

Yes, we did play bridge; there were two new fixtures and we only won two out of the seven matches, but who cares? A wonderful week was had by all and so said all of us. Any one of the three "new boys" who were on their first Harrogate week would tell you what an enjoyable experience it was. Our thanks are due to Mr. Norman Smith and Mr. Joe Kennedy as also to the many good folk of Harrogate who all contributed to arrange the programme which ran so smoothly that we usually managed to get to the next fixture just on time.

R. A. FULLARD

KIPLIN HALL

A party of twelve out of sixteen St. Dunstaners who were attending the Harrogate Bridge week, visited Miss B. Talbot at her home, Kiplin Hall. Miss Talbot is known to most St. Dunstaners as the cousin of Mrs. Spurway and especially to the "boys" who attended Little Gaddesden Camp.

Kiplin Hall stands near the Great North Road and is not far from Catterick Bridge. The four towers with their many Jacobean gables, and the soft red brick of



The winning St. Dunstan's Bridge team with their trophies; (left to right) Fred Dickerson, Jim Chell, Wally Lethbridge and Bob Evans.

the walls blend harmoniously into the background of this lowland valley of the River Swale.

Most of us who had been to Kiplin Hall before had previously admired the family portraits let into the panelled wall, including Lely's "Charles II" and the many other treasures in the Dining Room. This year we were most intrigued when conducted to the Guest Room below the Chapel. Here is housed a magnificent Italian Medici gold bed on which had slept many famous people. The Duchess of Teck, Edward VII, not forgetting Earl Kitchener, who was there on the eve of World War I, 3rd August, 1914. In this room was a beautiful Sheraton writing desk with yet another Lely portrait standing on it.

In World War II as well as World War I many war-weary men from all parts of the globe found shelter within Kiplin Hall's quiet walls. When a scattered regiment from Dunkirk was ordered to foregather at Kiplin Hall, men came trickling in all day and night. Soon the floors were covered with hundreds of prostrate khaki figures.

As we lingered in this fine old hall, like many other visitors, no doubt, war time memories came crowding back.

Thank you Miss Talbot, we are grateful once again, for your generous hospitality. Especially grateful this year as Miss Talbot had just come out of Cambridge Hospital in order to be with the "boys" from St. Dunstan's. We were pleased to see our old friend, Mr. Kirkbright, too.

We returned from our visit to Kiplin Hall, with another happy event to store away with our memories of Harrogate Week 1970.

BIDS AVAILABLE

There are some Hands which during the auction provide alternative "Bids" each time round. The Deal which follows was bid, played and "inquested" recently in the Brighton area and later forwarded to me with the kindest words "Nobody will take any notice of you, but how should the bidding go?" The interest lies mainly in East's hand, which can become your problem for a moment.

♠ A Q J 6 2
♥ A J 10 9 6 2
♦ 5 3
♣ —

South dealt love all and opened "One Diamond" and your partner West overbid with "Two Clubs"—North passes—what do you bid?

Bridge Notes

A simple bid of "Two" Spades or Hearts is unthinkable, in this situation it is not forcing. There are three bids available, Three Hearts or Spades (forcing for one round) or Two Diamonds (Forcing to Game). I reject Three Hearts, ponder over "Three Spades" but consider "Two Diamonds" as justifiable in view of my controls. Over "Two Diamonds" partner bids "Two N.T." and you now bid "Three Spades" intending to bid "Four Hearts" next time round. Your partner however raises you from "Three" to "Four Spades". Do you now initiate a Slam? Partner's "Two N.T." should show 1st or 2nd round control of Diamonds plus points in the major suits, his "Four Spade" bid shows KXX or XXXX plus a ruffing value.

In general I am averse to bidding "chancy" slams if opponents have opened the bidding—having seen so many fail. In our case I would be inclined to temporize and bid "Five Hearts", suggesting a slam to partner if he has the right cards, i.e. at least one first round control and one second round in the minors, and an Honour card in Hearts. He has already indicated his spades. Here is the complete deal

♠ 10 4 3			
♥ Q 4 3			
♦ 7 6			
♣ J 7 5 3 2			
♠ K 7 5	N	♠ A Q J 6 2	
♥ K 7 5	W	♥ A J 10 9 6 2	
♦ K Q	E	♦ 5 3	
♣ A 9 8 6 4	S	♣ —	
♠ 9 8			
♥ 8			
♦ A J 10 9 8 4 2			
♣ K Q 10			

It will be seen that South has four opening bids available—"No Bid", "One, Three or Four Diamonds". I reject "No Bid" and "Three Diamonds", ponder

over "Four" and probably settle for "One Diamond" as at Brighton (I make friends as I go along). West has two bids available "Double" or "Two Clubs", the Hand is not strong enough for One N.T. I settle for the "Double" because I am a believer in Partners who have "shape" being given a chance to participate even with no Points.

Over "Five Hearts" West with 15 Points should bid the Slam in Spades and East will probably go one down by placing South with the Heart Queen.

I must conclude this month with congratulations to Master Lethbridge and his Team on their win in Harrogate.

ALF. E. FIELD

Individual Competition

The ninth and final Individual Competition of the Brighton Section was held on Saturday, 3rd October. The results were as follows:—

A. Smith and F. Griffie	79
S. Webster and Partner	73
F. Rhodes and M. Clements	63
J. Whitcombe and F. Mathewman	62
J. Huk and W. Scott	60
H. Kerr and Partner	58
B. Ingrey and R. Bickley	56
J. Chell and R. Goding	53

The best five results out of nine are:—

S. Webster	351
A. Smith	347
F. Griffie	347
B. Ingrey	345
W. Scott	340
M. Clements	340
J. Chell	339
F. Mathewman	337
J. Huk	326
J. Whitcombe	323
H. Kerr	318
F. Rhodes	307
R. Bickley	303
R. Goding	244

STAFF OBITUARIES

Mr. P. R. Lale

Many St. Dunstaners will be sad to learn of the death on the 9th October of Mr. Percy R. Lale.

Mr. Lale, who came to us in 1920 was in the Estate Department for the whole of his service with St. Dunstan's and was Head of the Department for many years until his retirement in 1952.

A keen follower of cricket, Mr. Lale was also interested in social service and belonged to many organisations. For several years he was Chairman of the War Charities Committee in Southgate and for some years after his retirement he was a voluntary worker at his local Citizen's Advice Bureau, and as a member of the British Legion he helped many ex-service-men.

During his early years on the staff Mr. Lale took a great interest in his fellow workers and as a founder member of the Staff Association he took an active part in many of the plays and other events which the Association organised.

We extend our deep sympathy to his widow and family. The funeral was held at the Enfield Crematorium on Thursday, the 15th October, and was attended by Mr. P. Matthews, Mr. G. P. Owens, Mr. M. Kingsnorth, Mr. G. Stevenson and Mr. D. Wright.

Mr. F. Forsdick

We regret to report the death on 12th July of a former member of St. Dunstan's staff, Mr. Frank Forsdick after a short illness. He was well-known by many St. Dunstaners over a number of years.

Mr. Forsdick joined St. Dunstan's in November, 1926, and became one of the small team of representatives responsible for selling throughout the country goods made by our men. This background experience stood him in good stead when, in 1946, he became a technical visitor responsible for the St. Dunstaners of the Second World War who were settled in business under the Controlled Shop Scheme. Those who met him will remember his keen and enthusiastic desire to help whatever the problem.

He retired in September, 1958, taking up residence in Hove, Sussex.

The *Review* offers sincere condolences to relatives and friends.

Individual Competition

The seventh and final Individual Competition of the London Section for 1970 was held on Saturday, 3rd October. The results were as follows:—

R. Stanners and R. Evans	80
P. Nuyens and R. Fullard	75
H. King and E. Carpenter	69
R. Freer and W. Allen	60
R. Armstrong and F. Pusey	59
J. Lynch and Miss V. Kemmish	46
H. Meleson and P. Pescott-Jones	46

The best five results out of seven are:—

H. King	351
R. Evans	350
P. Nuyens	348
R. Stanners	345
R. Freer	337
W. Allen	334
R. Armstrong	333
E. Carpenter	331
Miss V. Kemmish	317
R. Fullard	315
F. Pusey	309
J. Lynch	280
H. Meleson	271
After two matches.	
P. Pescott-Jones	109

Correction to the Bridge Notes in the October *Review*.

Cumulative position with one session to play. The best five results out of six up to date are:—

R. Evans should have read 326 not 266.

JOHN SIMPSON has joined the Croydon and District Deep Sea Angling Club and entered a competition recently. He won with a weight of 11 lbs. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.

At the end of September he entered the Mander Cup Competition representing his Club and got a placing with a weight of 17 lbs 5 oz.

Yellow Fingers

by

Phillip Wood

House-plants fall quite naturally into two distinct categories. On the one hand, you have the beautifully-green, buoyantly-healthy, flourishing-as-the-bay-tree kind . . .

. . . On the other hand, you have mine—stunted and wizened, with no ambition, not even the will to live.

It is always the same. Hope triumphs over experience and I go out and buy yet another indoor plant. It is simply bursting with vigour and youthful vitality and an obvious desire to get on with the business of growing mightily.

Alas, almost before you can say "Percy Thrower" it is stricken with some mysterious murrain or pestilence. Desperate attempts at resuscitation are quite unavailing. Already, it has clearly adopted a policy of non-co-operation.

In an incredibly short space of time it begins to look rather like an illustration from a book on all-out nuclear warfare.

I simply cannot understand this "kiss of death" effect I have on house-plants. Perhaps there is more in this "green fingers" business than I had thought. Perhaps I've got "yellow fingers"—if such a thing exists (yellow is the predominant colour of the foliage).

To make matters worse, all my friends are experts. *Their* house-plants positively take over. They fill the entire house, like the Quatermas Experiment.

These experts come round regularly, to hold Courts of Enquiry. One of them will gaze intently, with pursed lips, at my latest acquisition (already showing alarming signs of wear and tear) give the pot a deft tap, and announce with gloomy satisfaction, "Ah, yes, there's your trouble, of course!" (I hate people who say "of course", like that) "Far too much water! Death by drowning, no less!"

Then another will take over, go through the same ritual, and deliver his verdict, "You know what the trouble is, of course! Not nearly enough water! Poor thing's dying of thirst!"

But however widely (or wildly) their diagnoses may differ, the prognosis remains the same . . .

The Plant will die.

And it always does.

I have tried hard, but unsuccessfully, to master the all-important technique of pot-tapping. But, whether the soil be the consistency of porridge, or as dry as a British Rail bun, the result, to my untutored ear, is exactly the same. The wretched pot gives out an identical dull, unintelligible sound. As well as my "yellow fingers", it would appear I am also tone-deaf—horticulturally speaking.

My family are not much of a help. Such remarks as "I could swear this plant is getting steadily smaller!" or, "Should there be large brown spots all over the leaves?" are not calculated to do very much in the way of morale-boosting.

Oddly enough, it is only inside the house that plants refuse to co-operate. Outside, in the garden, they positively riot—well, some of them do. My coltsfoot, dock and plantain are the talk of the entire neighbourhood.

"But these are only weeds!" my experts point out, gently. Only weeds, indeed! A weed, after all, is simply a plant whose virtues have yet to be discovered, a plant in the wrong place, so to speak.

And fashions can change in house-plants, just as in everything else. Who knows, one day the African Violet and the Begonia will yield pride of place to the Dandelion and the Creeping Buttercup.

When that day comes, watch out, you experts! It will be my finest hour.

I will come into my own!

Family News

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Grocers' Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, 2nd December, 1970, at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. All those on the mailing list of Mrs. Lillie (Secretary of the Sussex Grocers Association), will be receiving their invitation by post in due course, but if there are any others who would like to attend with their escort, would they please write to her at 11 Lancaster Road, Brighton, BN1 5GD

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. FREDERICK DICKERSON of Bristol, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 28th July, 1970.

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. LEVI KIBBLER of Oldbury, Wores., who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 28th July, 1970.

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH WALTON of Sunderland, Co. Durham, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 6th October, 1970.

Golden Wedding

Many warm congratulations to MR. AND MRS. JOE BUCKLE of Fakenham, Norfolk, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 18th October, 1970.

Very many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. MARK BURRAN of Saltdean, Sussex, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 9th October, 1970. They have only recently moved to Saltdean from London, W.I. Both their daughters came over from America to join in the family celebrations.

Very many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. JAMES COUPLAND of Preston, Lancs., who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in June 1970.

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. JAMES DAVIDSON, of Hopeman, Morayshire, Scotland, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 6th October, 1970.

Grandfathers

Congratulations to:—

THOMAS EVANS of Flint, who has become a grandfather for the seventh time when Colin Neil was born on 7th September, 1970, to his son and daughter-in-law, Mervyn and Jacqueline Evans.

THOMAS JONES of Telford, Shropshire, on the safe arrival of a second grandchild, Simon David, born on 18th September, 1970, a brother for Sarah Jane.

JOSEPH HARRIS of Bere Ferrers, Nr. Tavistock, Devon, on the birth of his second grandson, Duncan Andrew, on 6th July, 1970.

JOSEPH PURCELL of Urmston, Manchester, on the arrival of his first granddaughter, the third grandchild.

SAMUEL STARK, of Bristol, who became a proud grandparent when his daughter gave birth to a boy, Craig John Hunter Millhouse, on 24th September, 1970.

Family News

Great Grandfathers

Many congratulations to:—

JAMES COUPLAND, of Preston, Lancs., who has become a greatgrandfather for the first time when his grand-daughter Wendy gave birth to a boy on 3rd August, 1970, who is to be called Stuart James.

Julia, youngest daughter of HERBERT GREASLEY of Coventry, married John Priestley on 15th August, 1970.

STANLEY SOUTHALL of Smethwick, Staffs., announces the marriage of his son Colin on 26th September, 1970, to Hilary Wilkes of Smethwick.

Julie Helen, daughter of EDWARD JINKS of Oldham, Lancs, married Jeffrey William Horrocks at St. Thomas' Church, Werneth, Oldham, on 29th August, 1970.

David, son of our St. Dunstaner, DAVID BELL of Edinburgh, obtained a First Class M.A. Degree, as announced in our October *Review*. He is now studying at Southampton for an M.Sc., and hopes eventually to be a University lecturer.

Nicholas, son of HARRY DAVIS of Stratford-upon-Avon, got a Second Class Honours in Maths at Cambridge University and started a Research Course at Lancaster University in October.

Ann, grand-daughter of our St. Dunstaner, the late FREDERICK DONCASTER, of London, N.W.1, has passed with flying colours her C.S.E. Social Studies Examination.

JOSEPH HUMPHREY of Belfast, is proud of his daughter, Angela, a State Registered Nurse, who has recently passed her State Certified Midwife's Examination.

GORDON HOLLAND of Newton Abbot, Devon, is very proud of his son, Jeremy, who, at the age of 9 years, has won the South Devon County Swimming Championship which is remarkable at so young an age. He would have swum for the County but he is too young. Jeremy is taking extensive coaching in swimming and his father is on the local Swimming Committee. They both go swimming in the Torquay baths in the winter.

Further judo news from the Jinks family who live at Oldham, Lancs. John and Janet, son and daughter of our St. Dunstaner, EDWARD JINKS, have been working hard at Judo. John has now obtained a green belt—the next to highest belt in the Junior Section. Janet has now obtained her orange belt. Father is not advancing quite so quickly!

HAROLD POLLITT of Farnworth, Lancs., reports that his son, Harry, has just started a one year contract with the British Council teaching English to Arabic children in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. Harry and his wife, have a flat next door to their daughter, Marjorie and her husband, Brian. Brian is also teaching English under a three year contract with the Saudi Arabian Government and Marjorie hopes to teach at the American School, also in Dammam.

Congratulations to Miss Brenda Ann Smith, grand-daughter of our St. Dunstaner, WILLIAM ROBINSON of Oasby, Nr. Grantham, Lincs, on her appointment as Senior Assistant Architect to the Liverpool Housing Department after she had obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honours in the Department of Architecture at the Liverpool University.

Deaths

We offer our very sincere sympathy to:—

Mrs. P. John, wife of our St. Dunstaner, PERCY JOHN of Torquay, whose last surviving brother died on 9th September, 1970. He lived in Chesterfield.

HENRY PREEDY of Enfield, Middlesex on the death of his father on 24th September, 1970, at the age of 83 years.

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.

William Lucas, Pioneer Corps

William Lucas of Edmonton, London, N.9, died on 7th October, 1970, at the age of 77 years.

He enlisted in the Pioneer Corps in 1939 and served with them until 1941. He did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1952 when he was 59 years old and trained in homecrafts. For a time he made string bags. Unfortunately his wife became ill and passed away in 1955. Mr. Lucas then lived with his daughter in the West Country. After a while he married again and moved to London where he lived for the rest of his life. Mr. Lucas enjoyed his hobbies to making string bags and wool rugs and was a frequent visitor to Ovingdean. During his retirement he enjoyed good health but about a year ago he was taken seriously ill and underwent an operation. Mr. Lucas had several periods of hospital treatment but was able to return home again where he died on 7th October. He leaves a widow and grown-up family by his first wife.

Alfred Arthur Meader, 2nd Devon Regiment.

Alfred Arthur Meader of Whaplode, Nr. Spalding, Lincs., died in hospital on 29th September 1970 where he had been admitted a week previously. He was 84 years of age.

He served in the 2nd Devon Regiment from 1914 to 1915 and he was wounded at Lavante. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1917. He trained first in mat making carrying on this occupation for some time. He then had a sweet shop and following this he became a farmer. Later he interested himself in his

garden and greenhouse. He was a keen attender of North Country Reunions. He leaves a widow and grown-up family.

Merrill C. Robinson, M.B.E., LL.D.

8th Canadian Expeditionary Force.

M. C. ("Robbie") Robinson, of Vancouver, British Columbia, died on the 17th September, 1970, at the age of 76 years.

He was severely injured and lost his sight at Vimy Ridge in 1917 and came to St. Dunstons for training. He subsequently returned to Canada, became Superintendent of the Western Division of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in 1929, and devoted his life to blind welfare work. In 1944 he was granted the Honorary Rank of Captain and awarded the M.B.E. for both his official and voluntary public services in wartime; ten years later he was elected President of the American Association of Workers for the Blind; and in 1965 he had conferred upon him the Degree of Doctor of Laws at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. He was an enthusiastic and skilled fisherman and did much to encourage other blind men and women to take up the sport.

He retired in 1964 and he and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding last year, just a fortnight before her death following a brief illness. He leaves three married daughters and grandchildren.

Robbie and Babs Robinson had always kept in touch and visited this country on a number of occasions. He was a very fine St. Dunstaner and we join our Canadian friends in mourning his death and remembering with pride his life and work.

Peter Yuile, M.M. 5th Scottish Rifles.

Peter Yuile, Military Medal, of Johnstone, Renfrewshire, died on 30th September, 1970, whilst staying at Brighton, at the age of 82 years.

He served in the 5th Scottish Rifles from 1914 to 1919. He was wounded in France and received the Military Medal. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1919.

He trained in mat making and boot repairing and carried on both these occupations for some time. He was a keen gardener and derived much pleasure from this occupation. He and his wife were able to visit Canada in 1962 to see their daughter there and Mr. and Mrs. Yuile celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1965.

Mr. Yuile was taken gravely ill whilst holidaying at Ovingdean, Brighton. His wife predeceased him in January, 1970. He leaves a grown-up family to whom we send our sincere sympathy in their double bereavement.

British Talking Book Services for the Blind

Fiction

Cat. No.

- 882 GALLICO, PAUL
(2) *THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE* (1969)
Read by Marvin Kane. The Poseidon turns turtle during a Christmas cruise, and a small group of her passengers endure a physical and spiritual nightmare in their obsessive climb to what they hope to be safety.
P.T. 12½ hours.
- 886 GORDON, RICHARD
THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE (1954)
Read by Andrew Timothy. Fun and games on a cruise to Sydney, when a passenger liner acquires a middle-aged but unmarried captain.
P.T. 5½ hours.
- 125 HARDING, GEORGE (ed.)
WINTER'S CRIMES (1969)
Read by John Curle. A collection of short crime stories by famous authors.
P.T. 7½ hours.
- 906 HEYER, GEORGETTE
FALSE COLOURS (1963)
Read by George Hagan. How a Regency Buck impersonates his twin brother Evelyn at a dinner party given for the girl Evelyn hopes to marry in order to clear up his mother's debts.
P.T. 12 hours.
- 930 HILL, SUSAN
GENTLEMEN AND LADIES (1968)
Read by Colin Keith-Johnson. Life among the turbulent ladies of a small village, and the rattle of skeletons in the cupboards when a middle-aged bachelor joins the community.
P.T. 7¾ hours.
- 910 INNES, MICHAEL
A FAMILY AFFAIR (1969)
Read by Andrew Timothy. In which Inspector Appleby, now retired from the Yard, enlists the help of his son Bobby, and of Lady Appleby, to solve an intriguing series of art hoaxes and frauds.
P.T. 5¾ hours.
- 936 KAYE-SMITH, SHEILA
JOANNA GODDEN (1921)
Read by Stephen Jack. The story of a woman's brave efforts to run her father's Kentish farm, wherein she is more successful than in her choice of a lover.
P.T. 11¼ hours.
- 894 LE CARRÉ, JOHN
(2) *A SMALL TOWN IN GERMANY* (1968)
Read by Michael de Morgan. A Foreign Office trouble-shooter is sent to Germany to trace a Secretary who has defected with secret files after 20 years of apparently loyal service.
P.T. 13¼ hours.
- 918 WEST, MORRIS
THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (1959)
Read by Michael Aspel. An English priest chosen to investigate a canonisation is caught in a web of intrigue and concealment.
P.T. 11¼ hours.

Non-Fiction

Cat. No.

- 1117 AUSTIN, BUNNY AND KONSTAM, PHYLLIS
A MIXED DOUBLE (1969)
Read by David Broomfield and Phyllis Boothroyd. A combined biography by the famous tennis star and his actress wife, telling of their careers, marriage, and near-parting when he became absorbed in the Moral Re-Armament movement.
P.T. 9½ hours.
- 1086 BLANCH, LESLEY
(2) *JOURNEY INTO THE MIND'S EYE* (1968)
Read by Carol Marsh. A journey across Russia was, for this author, the fulfilment of a life's dream.
P.T. 19¼ hours.
- 1100 BUBER-NEUMANN, MARGARETE
MISTRESS TO KAFKA (1966)
Read by Gretel Davis. The author, who met Milena when imprisoned in Ravensbruck Concentration Camp, here recounts her tragic and inspiring story.
P.T. 9 hours.
- 1099 COOKSON, CATHERINE
OUR KATE (1969)
Read by Colin Keith-Johnston. Now a famous author, with many well-known novels to her name, she gives us here a vivid picture of her youth with poverty and all its hardships, and of her impossible but loveable mother known to all as Our Kate.
P.T. 10¾ hours.
- 946 ASQUITH, LADY CYNTHIA
(3) *DIARIES, 1915-1918* (1968)
Read by Gretel Davis. Entertaining diaries kept by Lady Cynthia during the war years when she moved with easy familiarity among the great politicians, artists, and society circles of the day.
P.T. 25½ hours.
- 1111 DURRELL, GERALD
BIRDS, BEASTS AND RELATIVES (1969)
Read by Andrew Timothy. More of the delightful and happy stories of the author's youth in Corfu about which we heard in *My Family and other Animals*.
P.T. 7¾ hours.
- 1106 GREEN, TIMOTHY
THE SMUGGLERS (1969)
Read by David Broomfield. A unique insight into the vast world of the modern smuggler.
P.T. 12 hours.
- 1132 HANCOCK, FREDDIE AND NATHAN, DAVID
HANCOCK (1969)
Read by Philip Treleaven. The story of the career and tragic personal story of a man who could amuse thousands of people but could not come to terms with his own life. PARTS OF THIS RECORDING MAY BE CONSIDERED UNSUITABLE FOR FAMILY READING.
P.T. 8 hours.