



St Dunstans
REVIEW
APRIL



Optacon Training Programme

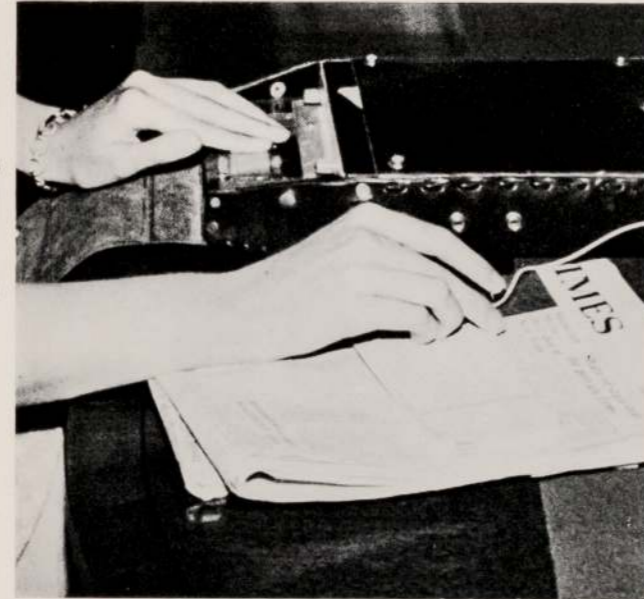
In the August, 1971, *Review*, Lord Fraser wrote about a demonstration given before St. Dunstan's Scientific Committee of an instrument known as the Optacon. Miss Candy Linvill, a young lady who is totally blind, gave an impressive demonstration of reading print and typescript with this American invention. She was accompanied by her father, Professor J. G. Linvill of Stanford University, California, whose research work, together with that of the inventor, Dr. J. C. Bliss of Stanford Research Institute, is responsible for the production of this remarkable device.

St. Dunstan's, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, and the Research Centre for the Education of the Visually Handicapped in Birmingham, are co-operating in a training programme to find out the practical value of the Optacon to blind people of varying ages in Britain. In London this programme, intended initially to last for a period of one year, will be conducted at St. Dunstan's headquarters at 191 Old Marylebone Road. It will begin on Tuesday, 4th April and we thought our readers would want to know about it at the outset.

Dr. and Mrs. Bliss—she is a qualified Optacon teacher—are visiting the U.K. for a fortnight and will be briefing the instructors on all aspects of training in London and at Birmingham University. They will supervise the launching of this important sensory device whose benefits could be far-reaching. The teacher in London is to be Miss Alison McVeigh, a graduate of Queen's University, Belfast. A

Flash back to June 1971—Professor Linvill watches as Candy reads from The Times.

COVER PICTURE: Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L. signing the form of declaration after receiving the freedom of Bideford from the Mayor, Councillor A. P. Hughes, on 10th March. Photo: Tony Freeman



A close-up of Candy's hands using the Optacon

timetable of daily lessons will cover a wide range of trainees both civilian and war-blinded over the year. Teaching is on an individual basis, the sighted teacher monitoring progress by means of a visual display.

Production

Telesensory Systems, Inc. (TSI) has recently been formed in the United States to manufacture and market the Optacon and associated accessories and equipment. The latest version of the Optacon is about the size of a textbook and it weighs less than four pounds. It works by converting the image of a printed letter into a tactile image that a blind person can feel with one finger. After a period of training and practice it has been found that blind people in America can use the Optacon to read ordinary books, magazines, newspapers, etc. Miss Linville has reached a speed of 80 words per minute, but this must be regarded as exceptional.

Basic Parts and Functions

The Optacon (OPTical-to-TACTile CONverter) has three main sections: (1) a miniature optoelectronic camera, (2) an electronics section, and (3) a tactile stimulator array. The miniature camera

(about the size of a pocket knife) is mounted in a housing that has rollers for easy movement along a line of print. The camera is connected to the electronics section by a light-weight cable. When it is not in use, the camera can be stored in a compartment in the main chassis of the Optacon.

Both the electronics section and the tactile stimulator array are contained in the main chassis. The tactile stimulator array consists of 144 tiny metal rods, 6 columns horizontally and 24 vertically, in an area about a half inch by an inch. The tips of these rods protrude through holes in a plastic cover that is grooved to let one finger touch the entire array. Each of the rods can vibrate independently.

When these three sections are in operation, they convert the image of a printed letter into a pattern of vibrating rods. For example, the Optacon converts a printed "O" into a tactile form that resembles a crater with a vibrating rim. If the printed "O" is tall and narrow, the rim of vibrating rods is correspondingly tall and narrow. If the printed "O" is short and wide, the rim is also short and wide.

Similarly, the Optacon converts other letters and language symbols into patterns that reproduce the original shapes. Because it can convert any ordinary printed image into a corresponding tactile image, the Optacon is not restricted to any special typestyle or language. The camera has a zoom lens that compensates for differences in the size of type.

The Optacon is powered by a rechargeable five volt battery.

Visual Display

For instructional purposes the manufacturers provide a visual display. This consists of an electronic unit containing 144 lights that correspond to the 144 rods in the tactile stimulator array of the Optacon. These lights produce a visual display of the tactile pattern that a student is sensing, enabling a teacher to view the pattern and to guide the student in discriminating its essential features.

Tracking Aid

The tracking aid is a mechanical system for holding the Optacon camera and helping to keep it properly aligned in relation to a printed page. Because a

beginner must learn how to manipulate the camera at the same time as he is learning to perceive letters and associate them with words and meanings, the tracking aid simplifies learning. When the student gains fluency in the use of the camera, he no longer needs the aid.

Cost

At present each Optacon, using the most advanced micro-electronics technology, costs about £2,000. It is unlikely that this figure could be reduced until the results of trials in different countries are available after which the number of blind who might benefit from it can be assessed.

BRIDGE NOTES

The third Individual Competition of the London Section was held on Saturday, 4th March. The results are as follows:

R. Fullard and W. Allen	70
W. Phillips and R. Evans	69
H. King and P. Nuyens	65
W. Lethbridge and J. Lynch	63
R. Armstrong and F. Dickerson	57
H. Meleson and W. Miller	54

The third Individual Competition of the Brighton Section was held on Saturday, 26th February. The results are as follows:

A. Dodgson and Partner	72
F. Mathewman and Partner	70
R. Bickley and J. Chell	69
R. Goding and Partner	67
A. Smith and W. T. Scott	63
J. Whitcombe and F. Griffiee	62
F. Rhodes and H. Kerr	52
S. Webster and W. Burnett	49

R. ARMSTRONG
Captain

Due to pressure of space Alf Field's Bridge article has been held over to next month.

Daedalus Camp

The Holiday Camp for St. Dunstaners at H.M.S. *Daedalus* at Lee-on-Solent, Hants. will be held from 18th to 26th August. The Camp fee is £3 and fares will be repaid over the first £2. Please send your entries as soon as possible. Closing date 1st May.

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



Bill Harris photographed in his Commonwealth Games official blazer at St. Dunstan's sports weekend

Tribute to Bill Harris

Bill Harris has been helping St. Dunstan's sportsmen for 50 years now, and it is intended to make a presentation to him at the Sports in June.

All sportsmen, past and present, are invited to contribute to this presentation by sending donations to:

Mr. Ben Mills,
7 Thirlmere Gardens,
Wembley, Middlesex,

or to myself c/o The London Club at Headquarters. W. MILLER



IT STRIKES ME

Prize Writer

I hear that Isabelle Swales, who is only 17 and lives in Newfoundland, has won a \$1,000 literary prize for a short story. My informant? Joe Swales of Saltburn-by-the-Sea, who is Isabelle's grandfather. The competition is open to high school students all over Canada and is sponsored by the Canada Permanent Trust. It was judged by George Jonas, who is Producer-TV Drama for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He described Isabelle's story as fine by any standards, "It follows no formula other than its own logic and is written with clarity, intelligence and compassion".

Like Father, Like Son

We have already reported the successes of St. Dunstaner Ted Jinks of Oldham, in Judo. Now his son John, aged fourteen has been awarded the yellow belt and is qualified to fight in open age events. Recently John won the Manchester Wing Air Training Corps Cross Country Championship, coming first in a field of 84.

Any Questions?

When Leeds Education Department planned a new information centre the Chief Education Officer asked the Department's telephonist to take charge of it. Good thinking because a telephonist gains sound knowledge of the working of his organisation. In this case the telephonist is Bert Ward, a St. Dunstaner who has worked there for 26 years. Bert and his sighted colleague, Mrs. Ruby Merry, are designated Public Information Officers. In future they are to be responsible for handling all

queries from parents, students and other members of the public which formerly were dealt with at different inquiry counters. It looks as if Bert is in for a busy time.

Listen and See

On Tuesday, 14th March, Ron Smith of Seaford introduced himself to the blind and partially blind of Sussex. It was his first broadcast as presenter of "Listen and See", Radio Brighton's new programme for the blind to be broadcast every Tuesday from 7.20-7.30 p.m. which we mentioned in the March *Review*. Ron ventured a short description of himself and told how a sighted lady had said of him:—"Tall, dark and it looks like rain". Ron made a good start in his new role and I wish him great success—just so long as they don't put him on the weather forecast!

Ski Week

By the time this column is in print four St. Dunstan's sportsmen will be back from Courchevel Savoie in the French Alps, all intact, I hope, after participating in the first-ever international week of winter sports for the handicapped. They were taking part in basic skiing and curling events but first they had some training laid on by the organisers.

The St. Dunstan's team consists of: Bill Claydon of Morecambe, Joe Humphrey of Belfast, Bill Phillips of Plaistow, London, and Mike Tetley of St. Albans.

Ski training for the blind has been growing in Europe in recent years. One method is to make a wide trough in the snow slope like a larger version of the familiar toboggan runs to keep the blind skiers from straying off the course. In next month's *Review* we hope to publish a report of the winter sports.

"We are putting out a feeler towards a new opening in sport for the blind", Jock Carnochan, our sports officer, told me before the team left. "If they make a good report we may find more want to take up skiing which would be a very good thing".

MAGOG

Less Power to Your Elbow

by Phillip Wood

Nothing brings out the best in the British character quite so much as calamity. Given a "really good" crisis—like switching off the power for long periods—and we smile with a kind of melancholy glee and remember Dunkirk.

Indeed, the coal strike brought a realistic touch of wartime Britain into our lives. We groped our way through darkened streets and as we stood patiently in the candle-queues or balloted for the last three cycle-lamp batteries, we swapped stories, not of bombs, but of *The Light That Failed*.

We improvised with grimly-pleasurable determination. The do-it-yourself addicts came into their own. They told us how to fry an egg on two candles, how to make a hay-box with ceiling tiles. We learned—incredibly—that margarine burns with a clear white light.

Expert Advice

Experts told us you could save the lives of tropical fish by wrapping them in blankets—and Old Age Pensioners by wrapping them in newspapers. Yes, even the O.A.P.s were not forgotten, even though it wasn't Christmas or election time.

We were able to indulge in one of our favourite pastimes, oneupmanship. On every hand one could hear the spuriously-casual remarks like, "It really didn't bother us at all, of course—we've got gas!" or, "I did feel so sorry for you, dear. We were quite warm, of course, with these wonderful storage radiators!" And the one I like best, "We bought simply stacks of candles. Our place looked like the Crystal Palace! It was really rather fun!" There were those who boasted with quiet pride of well-kept candles so old they had acquired the status of family heirlooms. Alas, they were burned, like Joan of Arc, in a good cause.

What stiffened the British upper lip most of all were the long dark evenings without cowboys, Coronation Street and cat-meat commercials. Deprived of the sublime culmination of two thousand years of

Western civilisation, we were thrown back on to our own resources. Dusty Lexicon cards were unearthed from secret places, whole families began to communicate, red-faced and haltingly at first, but with growing confidence as the blackout dragged wearily on. People discovered there was more to radio than time-checks and the poignant beauty of disc-jockeys' prose.

This re-discovery of wireless on a large scale could have curious results. We may yet see millions of viewers take to the streets with their banners, demanding the same high standards for the telly—and they've got a hope!

You could pretty well beat the blackout if you had a car, determination and friends in a different group. But very few did this. It was considered rather effete, it smacked of cheating and spoiled the fun anyway.

But, like all good things, the "emergency" came to an end. We all said how delighted and relieved we were. But I dare bet there wasn't a single red-blooded Briton who didn't harbour a tiny secret pang . . . As we put away the last of the French candles and consigned to the dustbin the baked bean tins, still reeking of paraffin, we couldn't help wondering where our next crisis was coming from.

We can find some consolation in the fact that in these troubled times, crisis is just around the corner. Perhaps the railways will grind to a shuddering halt . . .

That ought to put us on our mettle. In any case it's high time somebody put the country back on its own two feet.

Conservative President

Congratulations to Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, of Sutton Coldfield, who has been elected President of the Sutton Coldfield Conservative Association. He writes: "Having started in 1947 as a Young Conservative, I feel that I have moved right through the Association from the very bottom and this last honour came as a great surprise".



Julie, the talented daughter of our St. Dunstan, Raymond Vowles of Portsmouth, has written telling us of her activities in the dancing world and at school. She has just passed her mock "A" levels and will be taking "A" levels proper in June. She then hopes to take a course in German and secretarial work at a Technical College.

Julie has been dancing since she was two years old and now at the age of 17 she is the proud owner of over 300 medals and approximately 55 trophies.

During the last year whilst studying at school she has not had time to attend dancing classes but a fortnight before the Gosport Music Festival in 1971 she decided to enter the Stage Branch Competition. She arranged a tap solo to the record of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto and won the cup with 95 marks, the highest ever achieved in the last 20 years. She won the Modern Musical Section and came second in the Song and Dance Class. She also won three cups—the Tap Cup (any age) the Stage Branch Aggregate Cup and Senior Tap Cup. Her mother made her dresses for this Competition and Julie helped sew on the sequins.

Julie ends her letter by saying that although she does not intend to make dancing her career, it has given her great confidence and she would like to thank her parents for all they have done for her.

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.

Stanley Alfred Slater of Canvey Island, Essex, came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1972. He is married and has a daughter and a son. He served in the Second World War in the Suffolk Regiment and was taken a prisoner of war in Singapore in 1942. He is now an office manager.

Hugh Macrae of Ashted, Surrey, was admitted to St. Dunstan's in February 1972. He served in the Royal Air Force in the Second World War. He is married and has been doing clerical work.

Lionel Frank Tanner of Stroud, Glos., joined us in February, 1972. He served in the Dorset Regiment in the Second World War. He is married and unfortunately at the time of going to press, his wife is in hospital.

Edward John Ryder of Skegness, Lincs., came to St. Dunstan's in March 1972. He served in the R.A.F. during the Second World War and was a P.O.W. in Java in 1942. He is married but no family.

Derby Sweepstake

The Closing Date of the Derby Sweepstake is Wednesday, 24th May.

Tickets are 15p each, and are limited solely to St. Dunstaners or St. Dunstan's trainees.

Each application must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

The name and full address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, should be sent, with the stamped addressed envelope, to the Editor, D.S.S. Dept., *St. Dunstan's Review*, P.O. Box 58, 191 Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QN

The Draw will take place at the London Club on the evening of Thursday, 1st June. All those drawing a horse will be notified.



I Love My Garden

by Trevor Tatchell

Mr. Tatchell served in the Royal Army Service Corps during the Second World War and he suffered a serious injury to his eyes in North Africa in 1943. Although a St. Dunstaner, he has worked for the R.N.I.B. for 24½ years and now holds the post of Secretary of South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch. The following article under a different title was first published in Occupational Therapy in August, 1971

My gardening methods are unorthodox to say the least. I have heard it said that some people can find the wrong way to do things and I am unfortunately one of them.

I am 48 and have been blind for 27 years as the result of an accident in Tripoli in 1943. I am not, however, totally blind as I am able to distinguish light and dark. I have a wife and two teenage daughters who are sometimes forced into helping when I am in difficulties, particularly as to where I have left a gardening tool, line, stick, string or plant.

We moved into a new house twelve years ago when the roads, paths, pavements, drives, garden walls and fences had not been built. It was October. The whole plot was a quagmire as the district is very heavy clay. The building site is on a slope and my house is at the lower end of the site, with the front garden sloping towards the house and the back garden sloping away from it.

My first priority was to attempt to put a stone or concrete path down in the back garden to enable my wife to peg clothes on the line.

The back plot is 100 ft. long and 50 ft. wide. Some 30 ft. from the house the contractors had dug a 20 ft. trench to take the main drain but as the trench was not properly filled in there were deep pools of muddy water everywhere. They had to be drained. My idea was to take a 3 ft. trench criss-cross over the whole patch and here my troubles began. I started by digging from the top of the garden and made very good progress one weekend, accomplishing a trench some 30 ft. long and 18 ins. wide and 3 ft. deep. I planned to complete the trenches before putting down hard core and believed that on my next visit to the back garden I would be able to resume work. But I had overlooked the fact that the trench would be full of water and "Mr. Clumsy" fell in.

It was, therefore, very clear that I would have to start at the bottom of the plot, which I promptly did. I will never forget the so-called break-through when eventually my garden trench drained the water away, as I intended. But I did not expect it to drain muddy water directly on to the road some 40 ft. from the bottom of my

garden. My neighbours never tracked down the cause of their muddy flood. The trench system has worked successfully as I have not had much trouble since.

One neighbour, who has since moved, came out one winter night and heard me working in the back garden and politely said: "Do you realise that it is dark?" I have a feeling she considered me a bit odd.

Another time when I was alone digging at night I suddenly heard a swishing sound in the air immediately above my head. This was frightening and in defence I swept my spade above my head, only to hear a tremendous scream from a huge swan. I was later told that the bird had an 8 ft. wing span and that it promptly circled the garden and returned to its lake 100 yards away, croaking the whole time. It must have passed the word around as I have not come across a low-flying swan in my back garden again. Another night I stepped on something slightly soft which was on the path at the bottom of the garden. I picked it up and quickly dropped it, as it was a hedgehog.

A nurseryman, a friend who has now unfortunately left Cardiff, designed both the front and back garden. The front garden is 50 ft. wide and 20 ft. long with the drive to the left of the plot. I wanted a lawn in the front but as the ground was so heavy it was necessary to acquire 10 tons of sand. I found the levelling rather difficult but under my friend's supervision we did a fairly good job. My wife, who has green fingers, looks after all the flowers and shrubs although I cut the front and back lawns.

Mowing Blind

Lawn-cutting for the blind is an irksome task as one is never sure where one has cut and where one hasn't. I prefer to use a hand mower rather than an electric or petrol one. I place my left foot forward and push the mower in front of me and when I have completed one strip I move the width of the mower to the side and repeat the operation, with my left foot forward and pushing the mower.

I must not be disturbed when cutting the lawn; if I am called to the 'phone I cannot remember where I have cut or which way I was cutting and how much remains. Although I can say the lawns are fairly well cut either my wife or my daughters

have to take a little run around after me with the mower just to tidy up the parts I have missed.

I hate cutting the edges of the lawn. It has to be done on my hands and knees by putting the left hand on the edge of the lawn and lifting the grass that is long over the edge and under the left blade of the shears which is held in my right hand. Then, closing the shears quickly, I hope that I am cutting the grass. I feel back over the edge with the left hand to judge if the edge is straight.

The same principle applies to the back lawn. At the bottom of it I have trellis work with climbing roses and when they are fully grown, with long branches trailing over the lawn and concrete path, I find I learn quickly where they are and instinctively duck to avoid getting tangled up with the thorns. Emptying the box of the mower of grass-cuttings presents another problem as you can so easily lose direction and miss the mower completely or, on the other hand, fall over it.

With the heavy ground in my garden I find root crops do rather well—parsnips, turnips, swedes and potatoes. So do dwarf and runner beans.

Planting

After preparing the ground for seed I need help in ensuring that the line is put in straight. I use thick cord for this purpose. I go along the line on my hands and knees, scooping out with a hand-trowel approximately 1 in. or so of soil according to the depth advised on the seed packet, keeping one hand on the line. I go back along the line (one hand on it) and sprinkle seed; once again I go back along the line still on hands and knees using both hands to fill in the earth over the seed. Before I move the line on for the next row, the soil where I have moved back and fro three or four times has to be dug over again, of course keeping near the line.

Again, you cannot afford to be disturbed when conducting this delicate operation otherwise you would not know how far you had scooped out the earth along the line, or how much seed put in or how much seed covered over. After planting some ten or twelve rows of seed, parsnips, swedes, turnips, radish, beetroot, and so on, I put short sticks along the outer lines in the hope that I will not forget where the

sticks are situated and avoid marching over the seed bed.

We also do very well with onions and shallots and as it doesn't matter whether the ground is trampled over I usually plant the sets and not seeds.

Weeding is a real teaser as I am not always sure which is the weed and which is the plant. I remember one Saturday afternoon when my wife had gone shopping I thought I would weed the bottom of my vegetable patch. By the end of the afternoon I felt I had done well, only to be told when my wife returned that I had done a very good job in digging up the swedes and turnips. This is what I mean when I say one cannot afford to forget where one has planted the root vegetables. I find weeding the onion and shallot patch difficult and pull up as many onions as weeds.

"My wife does the pruning"

I am not very happy among our fruit bushes. I have let grass grow between the blackcurrant and gooseberry bushes and cutting this while trying to avoid the bushes is a problem. I find the small branches that have been accidentally broken off are the ones bearing the most fruit and the healthier bushes are the ones that are damaged when cutting the grass. My wife does the pruning and I am more than willing for her to do so.

I have fallen in the manure and compost heap more times than I care to count. But despite all the problems I love my garden as, firstly, it keeps me out of mischief; secondly, it is a form of exercise—I am fortunate enough to have much physical strength—and, thirdly, I have some pride in being able to grow what is useful for the table.

Best NCO

SAMUEL JACOBS of Wallasey tells us that his son Peter has had to resign from the A.T.C. with the rank of Warrant Officer on reaching the maximum age of 22 years. He has presented the Corps with a rose bowl to be awarded annually for rifle shooting and Peter was presented with a shield from the Corps. Peter has also been awarded a golden sovereign for the best N.C.O. in Cheshire.

Frank Reviews

Cat. No. 1184

The Royal Bedside Book
by Helen Cathcart

Read by Alvar Lidell

A collection of anecdotes from the history of the Royal Family, dating from the young Victoria through to the present day.

Particularly amusing is the story of the young scallywag "In you go" Jones, the tailors son, who out of pure fascination kept sneaking into the Palace and doing a grand tour at night. On one occasion he even sat on the royal throne. The annoyance of the security services was heightened by public amusement and young Jones who in fact had done little or no harm, got a raw deal by British legal standards.

Most interesting also, the story of Princess Alice of Greece, mother of Prince Philip, who was born a deaf mute and was taught by her mother to speak so fluently in both English and French that people who met her thought her only slightly hard of hearing.

Alvar Lidell seems very much in his element in the reading although he sounds a little spell-bound when dealing with the Royal antiquities.

Cat. No. 892

Katherine's Marriage
by D. E. Stevenson

Read by Stanley Pritchard

Katherine a young widow struggling to keep and educate her young step-son and her own twins has met and married Alex an Edinburgh lawyer. Now on honeymoon in the Highlands she and Alex meet a Scottish Laird and his young daughter. Simon her schoolboy stepson is the heir to a large English estate but has annoyed his grandfather, a dictatorial man who Simon knows wishes to run his life for him. Of course all comes right in the end, but when on the death of his grandfather young Simon comes up against a shark lawyer he is glad to have his new step-father behind him.

A nicely written descriptive story which I think will mainly interest women readers.

Cat. No. 693

The House About a Man
by Basil Boothroyd

Read by Basil Boothroyd
together with

Let's Stay Married

Read by Phyllis Boothroyd

Two humorous works on one cassette. These light-hearted books, one about the wedded state and the second on a similar theme mainly concerned with the paraphernalia of married estate, houses, gardens and holidays. What makes the humour tick, is that it is based on the truth, but largely exaggerated. One can easily imagine picking up a hose pipe, finding out that in its turn the hose has coiled itself around the rake, which of course falls off its nail and hits you on the head.

Both books are very short and excellently read, one by the author and the other by his wife.

GOLDEN GIFT

by E. L. Parry

I pondered over a golden gift
Before this jubilee.
And though I prayed with arms uplift,
No answer came to me.

I thought of many men of fame,
They gave me not a clue.
"Oh Ian, what in heaven's name
Are we to find for you?"

The Lord Mayor wears a golden chain,
But that won't meet the case.
And then a thought flashed through my brain.
Why not a golden mace?

But there—
He's had one now full fifty years,
She's been there at his side,
And all that time she's calmed our fears,
Her counsel's been our guide.

I left the job to wiser heads
To choose with thoughtful care.
What matter be it gold or lead
So long as love is there!

Joe Hamilton of Nottingham, has worked for 26 years with Slumberland, the famous manufacturers of beds. On 18th February he received a gold watch to honour his long service. The presentation was made by Mr. Capper, the General Manager.

Race Walking

The Metropolitan Police Race Walking Club held its annual dinner with about 120 people present at the Swan Tavern, Stockwell, on 1st March. The principal guest representing Lord Fraser was Lieut-Commander Robin Buckley, G.M., who sat at table between the Chairman, Commander L. Garrett and Mr. Bill Harris, well known to all St. Dunstaners attending our sports and race walking meetings. Commander Buckley thanked the club and others present for the invaluable help which they gave to our race walkers by way of training, escorting and general friendship. St. Dunstan's race walkers present were Bill Miller and Roy Mendham.

The dinner was held only six days after the tragic accident in which Mr. Derek Hill lost his life whilst escorting our St. Dunstaner, John Simpson on an evening's practice walk in Brighton. All St. Dunstan's walkers and our other sportsmen will mourn Derek Hill's death. In recent years he has become a familiar figure among the sighted helpers at the Ovingdean Sports Week-end.

Derek, who was 50, met John Simpson some four years ago when they both lived at Croydon. He acted as John's escort on London to Brighton walks and at Club meetings at Ewell. Later, after both men had moved to Brighton they kept up their partnership.

The cremation service at Worthing on Friday, 3rd March, was attended by many walkers and walking officials and St. Dunstan's was represented by John and Mrs. Simpson, George Hewett and Jock Carnochan from Ovingdean. Amongst the many floral tributes was one from Ovingdean, and another from the Walking Section.

HELP FOR THE BLIND

An experiment to help blind pedestrians at Stoke-on-Trent will be extended throughout the city if it is a success outside the workshops for the blind. Ribbed concrete blocks will be fitted at the ends of pedestrian crossings so that the blind can feel the crossings with their feet.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

The next meeting of the Club will be held on Thursday, 13th April, 1972, at 7 p.m. The meetings for April, May, June and July will be taken up with the Sir Arthur Pearson tournament games, Darts "A" and "B" section, Crib and Dominoes fives and threes. There will be no meeting in August.

FRANK RHODES
Chairman/Secretary

LONDON

Despite the power cuts which always seemed to occur during our Thursday evening Domino sessions we were pleased indeed to see so many St. Dunstaners turn up. The oil lamps casting their weird ceiling shapes round the Club Rooms did not deter from the enjoyment of our members during last month's black-out.

We are indeed sorry that Mrs. Padley is having such a long spell of illness and can only wish that by the time our Club members have received this *Review* that she will be back among us once again.

The Football Pontoon ending on 19th February, 1972, was shared by W. Allen, H. Meleson and Mrs. Meleson, with Hull, Arsenal, and Southampton respectively. The "booby" prize was won by L. Douglas, J. Lynch, P. Nuyens and Mrs. Watkins, their teams being Burnley, Watford, Huddersfield and Coventry.

The Domino winners during February were as follows:

3rd February	1	D. Watkins
		W. Miller
		M. Sheehan
5th February	1	C. Hancock
	2	D. Watkins
		J. Padley
10th February	1	W. Miller
	2	C. Hancock
24th February	1	C. Hancock
	2	J. Padley
		W. MILLER

SUTTON

The following three dates have been booked at Sutton Adult School for Club meetings, **Saturday, 8th April, Saturday, 13th May and Saturday, 10th June**, starting at 3 p.m.

On 11th February we were invited by the Reigate Blind Club to join them at a performance of the "Gondoliers" at Dorking Halls followed by tea with the cast, the Dorking Dramatic and Operatic Society.

For those who were able to attend this was a very enjoyable afternoon. Mr. Chudley, the secretary and organiser, has extended an invitation to us to join with them on any convenient date.

DIANA HOARE
Secretary

MIDLAND

Although we did not know whether we should have to suffer a power cut or not which would have meant the loss of lighting and heating, we managed to hold our usual monthly meeting on Sunday, 13th February.

Several members brought along flasks of hot water in case we needed it to make tea, but fortunately we were able to use our electric urn as usual.

We had the pleasure of Miss Newbold's company at this meeting. A number of domino games were played off in our Sir Arthur Pearson knock out competition and we further discussed our annual outing.

A very excellent tea was arranged for us by Mrs. Joan Cashmore and we all thanked her very much.

Our next meeting will be held at the usual time of 3 p.m. on **Sunday 9th April.**

DOUG CASHMORE
Secretary

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From R. W. Evans of Newbury, Berks.

Some St. Dunstan's physiotherapists working in hospitals may be familiar with the non-slip tray which has been designed for the use of persons disabled by injury or disease.

It has occurred to me that this tray could also be of great use to St. Dunstaners who occasionally like to carry a breakfast tray upstairs. The tray has a special handle by which it can be carried in one hand and so allows the other hand freedom to open doors or feel for banisters. The surface of the tray is treated with a special substance to prevent the contents from sliding. It is durable and can be washed.

EDITOR'S NOTE

These trays could be made available from Men's Supplies Dept. should there be a demand from St. Dunstaners. The cost would vary with size but might be below £1 in the case of 16" trays.

From G. Fallowfield, of Durrington, Worthing, Sussex

MOTORING FOR THE DEAF-BLIND

Mobility has probably been the chief problem of the Blind as long as there have been Blind, and one ancient solution to the problem was the faithful Dog at the end of a piece of string long before the Guide Dog was introduced. Then the Stick, this became the "White cane" about 1921, and more recently the "Long cane". Other mobility methods have been invented but these are little use to the totally Deaf-Blind. Although I have read of Deaf-Blind men having a Guide Dog, it is doubtful whether they got much pleasure from this way of overcoming the handicap of mobility. I have found a really pleasant way of overcoming this problem of mobility, and my answer is the Automobile.

There's no question of this being the best method from a business point of view because one gets round so quickly, and certainly not from a pleasure point of view because one can get to a Park or

Beach so easily and take one's Braille reading; refreshments are carried so easily and there's no limit to the distance one may go. You do not stand about in the cold or wet waiting for the out-of-date 'bus and get in amongst a lot of others coughing and choking with, perhaps parcels under your arm. No, you just open the door and get inside and settle yourself, you can fill your pipe and sit back and smoke in perfect peace. All you have really to do is insert the ignition key and give it a half-turn; you feel the engine spring into life and then you release the hand-brake and you are off. Of course an automobile requires somebody to steer it, but your wife, a relation or friend will do that simple task for you!

STAFF OBITUARY

Mr. W. H. Ottaway

Our readers, and particularly St. Dunstaners of the First World War who knew him best, will be very sorry to learn of the death on 11th February of Mr. William H. Ottaway at the age of 96. Mr. Ottaway joined the staff of St. Dunstan's as Workshops Superintendent in Regent's Park in 1918, and he became Manager of the After Care Department in 1932 and Welfare Superintendent on the change of title in 1937. When he retired in 1944 and St. Dunstaners subscribed to a farewell gift to him, Mr. Ottaway asked only for a fountain pen for himself and that the remainder of the money subscribed should be used to purchase Braille watches for the Deaf/Blind. Accordingly a Deaf/Blind Watch Fund was set up, administered first by Mr. Askew and later by Mr. Lloyds. The total money subscribed to this fund to date is no less than £1,772.

Mr. Ottaway was buried at Lavender Hill Cemetery, Enfield, on 18th February and St. Dunstan's was represented by Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Mr. G. A. Stevenson, and our St. Dunstaner, Frank O'Kelly. A wreath was sent from the Council and his St. Dunstaner friends.

In a letter to Mr. Lloyds, Mr. James Ottaway says of his father, "in 1956 he moved to Somerset and lived in a country hotel at Cleeve until 1964 when, although in excellent health, he moved into the old people's home, Badgworth Court. He maintained his interests and intellectual vigour until his death, and a good measure of physical vigour too. He continued gardening until he was over 90. He read aloud to old ladies and read the prayers at the morning service right until the day of his death".

Sister N. E. O'Callaghan

We have also to report with regret the death of Sister N. E. O'Callaghan on 13th January, in New Zealand.

Mr. J. E. May, our representative in New Zealand writes:

"Sister O'Callaghan was the first matron appointed to New Zealand St. Dunstan's and played a very great part in establishing the excellent training centre which flourished for the years immediately following the Second World War. Even after her resignation from this position to take the matron's post in a large private hospital in Auckland she kept in close contact with our members and their families and gave a tremendous amount of voluntary service and help."

Memorial Service to Miss Bridget Talbot, OBE

A Memorial Service to Miss Talbot who died on 29th November, 1971, was held in the Red Ensign Club's Chapel in Dock Street, E.I., on Wednesday, 15th March. So many people attended that the Chapel was full and some had to stand outside. The Rev. Frank and Mrs. Spurway were present as were St. Dunstaners, Ernest Carpenter, Horace Kerr, Paul Nuyens, Frank Rhodes and William Scott escorted by Mrs. Sheila McCleod, Dr. J. Rhodes, Mr. B. Mills and Mr. N. Smith.

A tribute by Michael Burns appeared in the January Review.

Ovingdean Notes

On looking back over the events of the past month one is struck by the fact that all the entertainment in the house was provided by St. Dunstaners or staff or a combination of both.

A programme compiled, recorded and presented by Henry Kerr took us on a trip down memory lane. The title "Ovingdeanies, Past and Present" is self explanatory, and it was a great pleasure to hear again excerpts from previous concerts by our own talented singers and instrumentalists. Some of the performers we heard have now moved on, while others are fortunately still with us. That they are always willing to give of their time and energy to entertain us they proved at the end of the month when "The St. Dunstan's Players" appeared in a grand variety concert. The show was produced by Bill Jack, and compered by Dorothy Williams. There were songs by Betty Brown, Harry Boorman, Joyce Briant, Andy Black, Enid Lane, Bill Jack, Frankie Jarram and Roy Cramer, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Wright. Monologues from Fred Barratt, and a comedy playlet in which most of the party plus nearly all the V.A.D. staff appeared, completed the programme.

In a vote of thanks to our Wednesday Group guest of the month, Eddy Allchin remarked that he, meaning our speaker, is really "one of us". He was referring to St. Dunstaner, Ron Smith, to whom he was expressing our appreciation of a talk entitled "Birds, Beasts and Fish". Thanks to Ron's knowledge and love of nature, and the expressive use of his tape recordings, we heard and understood exotic and amusing bird calls, the cries of various animals, and most fascinating of all, the "underwater orchestra" produced by the porpoise family as they call to one another.

Our Wednesday Group discussion "That the Modern Standards of Education are Not so High as They Were Forty Years Ago", was well attended and members listened with interest to the opening speeches by Henry Foster and Harold Mallinson. Although most of our members were educated at a time when great emphasis was put on learning the three Rs, and lazy boys were spurred on by liberal applications of the cane, their knowledge of present day class-room technique was quite amazing. Apart from some criticism of the somewhat unusual spelling employed by children today, most of us were of the opinion that modern teaching is as good as, if not better than in the days of our youth.

The Chess and Bridge instruction weekends took place during the month.

FAMILY NEWS

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. HARRY COPE of Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs., who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 22nd December, 1971.

Sincere congratulations to MR. AND MRS. BERT GREEN of Portslade, Sussex, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 3rd March, 1972.

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. STANLEY GIMBER of Whitton, Middlesex, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 4th March, 1972.

Ruby Wedding

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. GEORGE BROOKS who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 27th February, 1972.

Very many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. CYRIL HOBBS of Ferring-on-Sea, Sussex, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 19th March, 1972.

Sincere congratulations to MR. AND MRS. DAVID EDWARD TAYLOR of Stratton St. Margarets, Swindon, Wilts., who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 23rd January, 1972.

Grandfathers

Many congratulations to:

CLIFFORD CHADWICK of Kirkham, Lancs., who announces the arrival of a second grandchild on 4th March, 1972, when his daughter, Margaret, gave birth to a son, who is to be called Martin Christopher.

HERBERT GREASLEY of Coventry, who is pleased to announce the arrival of a grandson, Anthony, born on 4th February, 1972, to his daughter, Julie.

LEONARD HOLLAMBY of Oldham, Lancs., became a grandfather for the sixth time, when his son's wife, Evelyn, gave birth to a girl, on 30th January, 1972. She is to be called Amanda Jane.

JOSEPH WALTON of Sunderland, Co. Durham, who announces the safe arrival of his first grand-daughter, Nicola Christine, born on 27th February, 1972. He already has a grandson.

JOHN LEWIS of Ewell, Surrey, on the arrival of his first grandchild, Robert John Lewis, born on 9th March, 1972 to their son Roy and his wife.

HAROLD WILLIAMSON, of Prestatyn, Wales, on the arrival of his 8th grandson, Damian Peter who was born on 16th January, 1972.

Great Grandfathers

Congratulations to:

PERCY JOHN of Torquay, Devon, who is proud to announce that his grand-daughter presented him with a great grand-daughter on 23rd February, 1972, who is to be called Joanne.

WILLIAM MEGSON of Ovingdean, Sussex, on the arrival of his first great grandson born towards the end of February, 1972 and who is to be called Alan.

MRS. WINNIE EDWARDS of Partridge Green, Sussex, is pleased to announce the marriage of her second son, Phillip, to Carol Arnold at Horsham, on 19th February, 1972. We send our best wishes.

LESLIE FENSOME of Warley, Worcestershire, announces the marriage of his son Stephen to Gail Thomas on 4th March, 1972, and we wish them every happiness.

BRIAN JUBB of Orpington, Kent, has much pleasure in announcing the marriage of his daughter Denise to Colin Barber at Orpington Methodist Church on 25th March, 1972, and we wish them all happiness in their life together.

GEORGE SALTERS of Liverpool, reports that his daughter Nora and family have emigrated to South Africa and have settled very happily in Johannesburg.

Deaths

We offer our very sincere sympathy to:

EDWARD JINKS of Oldham, Lancs., who mourns the death of his father on 1st February, 1972, after a long illness.

WRIGHT ROYLE of Stockport, Cheshire, who mourns the death of his sister on 16th February, 1972.

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.

Bernard Collins. *1/6 Royal Warwickshire Regiment.*

Bernard Collins of Gardiner, Victoria, Australia, died on 10th October, 1971, at the age of 81.

He served in the 1/6 Royal Warwickshire Regiment from 1914 until 1916, when he was wounded on the Somme. He came to St. Dunstan's in January 1917 and trained as a basket-maker, continuing with this occupation until 1942, when he took up industrial employment. In 1948 Mr. and Mrs. Collins emigrated to Australia to join their daughter who had gone to live there two years earlier. Unfortunately during the later years neither Mr. or Mrs. Collins enjoyed good health and Mrs. Collins died in 1961. He leaves a daughter, Miss Margaret Collins.

Albert Jordan. *17th Middlesex Regiment.*

Albert Jordan of Ewell, Surrey, died on 10th February, 1972, at the age of 74.

He enlisted in the 17th Middlesex Regiment in 1915 and served with them until his discharge in 1918, when he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained in mat making and other handicrafts and won many prizes in handicraft exhibitions. In 1963 he decided to retire due to health reasons and in 1968 he and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Shortly after this they moved from Mitcham to Ewell, Surrey, where they have enjoyed a happy retirement. He leaves a widow.

Dr. John Austin Leo Magee. *Royal Army Medical Corps.*

Dr. Leo Magee, of Diss, Norfolk, died on the 26th February, 1972, at the age of 80 years.

He served in the First World War and then practised as a family doctor in Newcastle for many years, but also had a special interest in biochemistry and wrote a book on the cause of cancer. He retired in 1964 and lived quietly in the country. His eyesight ultimately deteriorated and he became a St. Dunstaner only three months before his peaceful death at home.

He leaves a widow and grown up family.

ALBERT SPOONER of Woking, Surrey, who mourns the death of his wife on 7th March, 1972.

CECIL PADDICK, East Barnet, Herts., who mourns the death of his father-in-law, who died in September, 1971, at the age of 85 years. He had lived with Cecil and his wife for a number of years.

William James Moon. *Royal Artillery.*

William James Moon of Tredegar, Monmouthshire, died on 15th February, 1972, at the age of 53.

He enlisted in the Royal Artillery and served with them from 1939 to 1945 but his eyesight did not deteriorate until later and he became a St. Dunstaner in 1963.

Mr. Moon did not enjoy good health but he did, for a short time, make string bags. His health deteriorated considerably over the last year or so nevertheless his death was sudden and unexpected. During his lifetime he enjoyed very much his visits to Ovingdean. He leaves a sister, with whom he lived, and members of the family.

William Raine. *Durham Light Infantry.*

William Raine of Maldon, Essex, died on 18th February, 1972, at the age of 85 years.

He enlisted in the Durham Light Infantry in 1915 and served with them until his discharge in 1919. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1926. He trained as a poultry farmer and a mat maker and settled in Essex, where he carried on both these occupations assisted by his wife. In 1953 Mr. and Mrs. Raine found the work too heavy for them and retired. Mrs. Raine died in 1953 and Mr. Raine lived with his married daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Bertram, and enjoyed a happy retirement. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Bertram, Mr. Raine leaves a son and a daughter and their respective families.

Walter Woods. *Royal Navy.*

Walter Woods of Edmonton, N.18, died on 11th February, 1972, at the age of 72 years.

Mr. Woods served as a seaman from 1916 and he was on the Naval Reserve in 1939 when recalled to the Service. In the interim period he worked for the Post Office. He was discharged from the Service in 1941 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1945.

Mr. and Mrs. Woods enjoyed a happy retirement, but in recent years his health declined and he was seriously ill in 1971. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Rose Elizabeth Woods, who nursed her husband devotedly, and a son.

William Maurice Upton. *5th Inniskilling Fusiliers.*

William Maurice Upton of Barton-under-Needwood, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, died in hospital on 16th February, 1972. He was 49 years of age.

He served in the 5th Inniskilling Fusiliers from 1942 to 1945 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1964. He was in poor health when he came to St. Dunstan's but nevertheless enjoyed having holidays at Brighton and attending Reunions. He had been in hospital since September 1971 and his death was not unexpected. He leaves a widow and grown-up son.