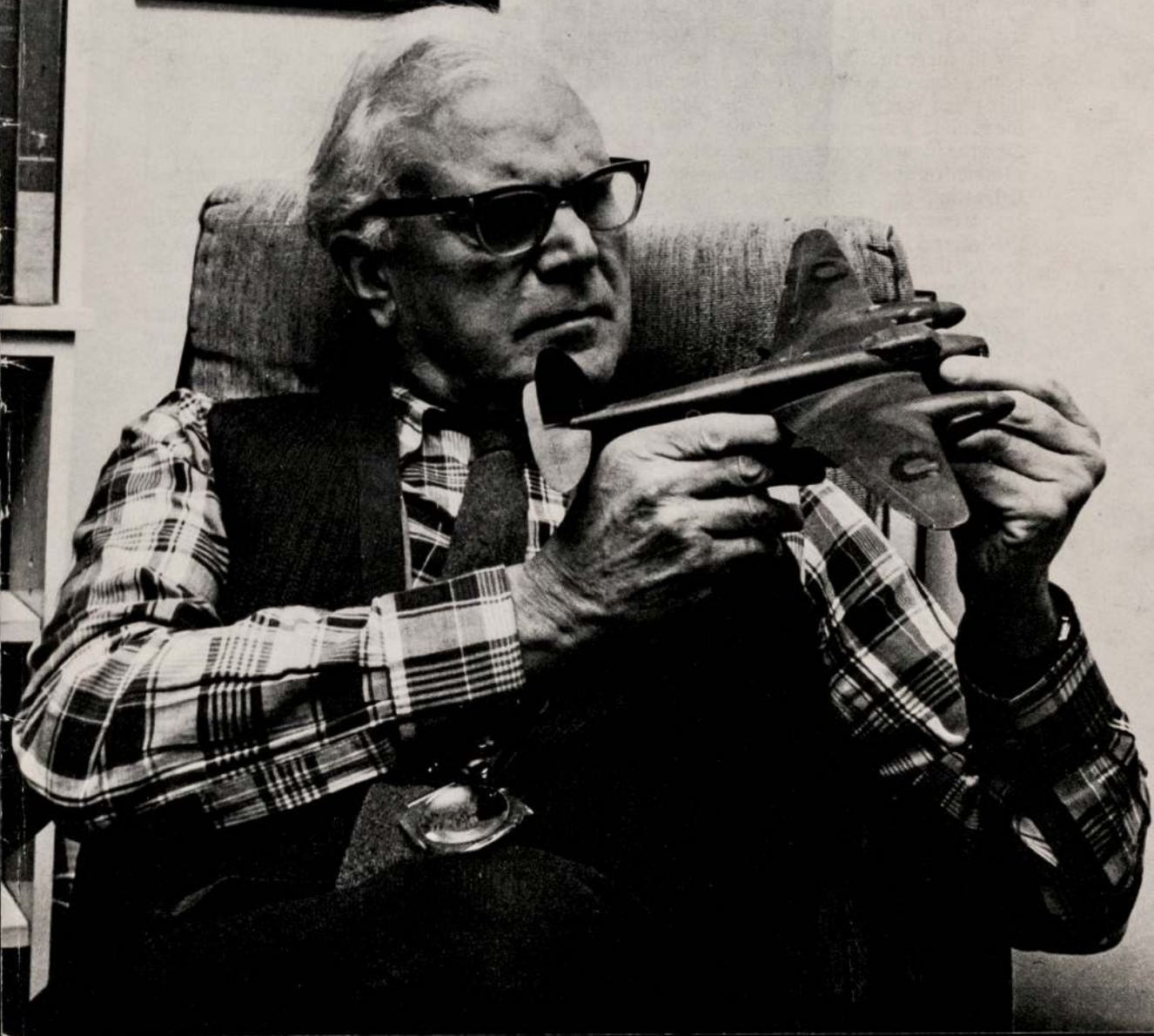
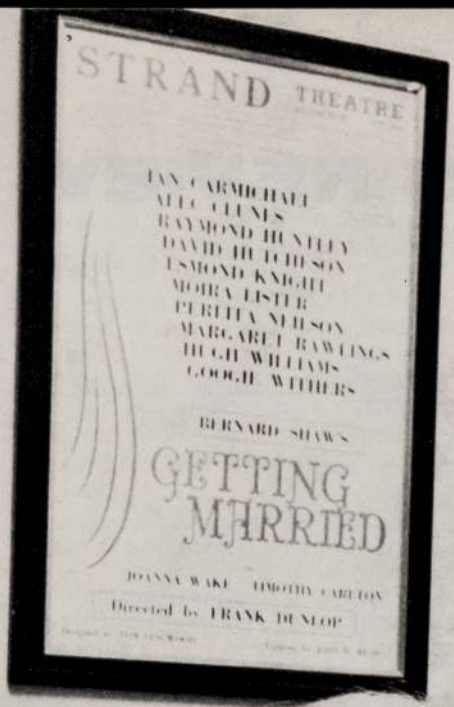


1974

St Dunstons REVIEW JUNE



St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

NO 653

JUNE 1974

5p MONTHLY

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Grocers

Already this year, Lady Fraser and I have had the pleasure of attending Reunions at Southampton and Brighton and we were delighted to meet many of you and your wives or escorts and find you in such good spirits. On each occasion I was able to greet a number of guests and staff on St. Dunstaners' behalf.

At Brighton I was especially pleased to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress and local friends from the Sussex Grocers' Association and Southdown Motor Services. I reminded my listeners that St. Dunstan's was founded in 1915; in 1918 we opened our first seaside home, then called West House, now called Pearson House, and the money to buy and equip this place was provided by the National Federation of Grocers' Associations throughout the United Kingdom under the active leadership of the Brighton and Hove branches. Since then the local Grocers, supported by other Grocers throughout the country, have arranged a summer outing, a grand Christmas dinner and a gift of sherry for resident St. Dunstaners at Brighton every year. They are doing the same this year.

However, it is well known that all good things come to an end and it seems to all of us that after 55 years we can no longer expect these parties to continue. I wanted to place on record the deep indebtedness of hundreds of blinded ex-servicemen and women to the St. Dunstan's Entertainment Committee of the Sussex Grocers' Association and to our many friends amongst Grocers generally for their generosity and kindness over more than half a century. Finally, I paid a special tribute to Mr. K. S. C. Phillips, Chairman, and Mrs. M. G. Lillie, Secretary, who were present at the Reunion, and Mr. L. Lutwyche, previous Chairman, who had all been particularly responsible for the work in recent years.

I am sure all St. Dunstaners who have ever enjoyed and benefited from one aspect or another of the Grocers' kindness will echo my message of thanks.

War Pensions

In the last *Review* I summarised a discussion in the House of Lords in which I took part and it will be remembered that one of the questions was whether in future annual reviews of war pensions and allowances should be related to the average earnings of the working population or to the cost of living. At that time it was proposed to relate pensions to earnings and I said that this would be a good thing if earnings were improving, but I wanted to be sure that the cost of living would be taken into account as well.

Since then, the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mrs. Castle, has introduced a Bill in the House of Commons which clearly leaves it open to the Minister to use either earnings or the cost of living as the measure, whichever would be the better for the pensioner. I am glad to report this enlightened amendment.

COVER PICTURE: *Esmond Knight holds a model D.H. Mosquito bomber of the Second World War presented to him by the late Geoffrey de Havilland. Behind him on the wall a star-studded playbill includes his own name.—See Ways of Life on centre pages.*

Worldwide

One of the things about St. Dunstan's which interests me is its worldwide reputation. We have in South Africa a powerful organisation which is independent of us but affiliated to us and we have also in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, complementary or sister organisations which look after St. Dunstaners in the St. Dunstan's way; and an interesting aspect of it is that very much of the pattern in these countries is parallel to what is over here. For example, I went to two reunions in South Africa just after Christmas, one in Cape Town, one in Johannesburg, and there I met men, from the 1st World War, some retired, some still working, not very many, and a number of the Second World War men who were occupied in precisely the same way as St. Dunstaners here.

While I was there, I read and heard on the wireless about the floods in Brisbane, in Queensland, Australia. There was one man there who had built up a substantial business over the last 25 years; he was blinded in the Second War and lost his hand as well. The whole of his business was swamped, water three or four feet deep, his stock ruined and the work of 25 years more or less destroyed. We were able to give him help to set him up again. I only mention this because I like you to realise the influence of St. Dunstan's is not only in the United Kingdom but spreads over the whole of the British world.

In my speeches to St. Dunstaners at the Southampton and Brighton Reunions I told them, "I know precisely who all of you are, what you are doing. You are the chaps who have made the reputation of St. Dunstan's by your example. I would like to say a word of praise on behalf of St. Dunstaners, of praise to the wives, many of whom have come with us to-day and have done so much to help us all, and you I am sure will wish to pay your tribute to them. I would like then finally to tell you that my wife and I greatly admire all of you and that we bring our love and affection to you and wish you all the very best of good luck."

Fraser of Lonsdale

SUMMER OUTING

Sussex Grocers' Association announce their final Summer Outing which will take place on **Wednesday, 17th July** to Eastbourne with tea at 4.30 p.m. followed by "Startime 74" at the Congress Theatre at 6 p.m. starring Ronnie Corbett, Rod Hull and Emu, Kenneth McKellar etc.

Any St. Dunstaner not on **Mrs. Lillie's** mailing list and wishing to attend should write to her at **11, Lancaster Road, Brighton, Sussex BN1 5DG.**

Mr. Harry Bennett

All those who knew him will be very sorry to hear of **Mr. HARRY BENNETT's** death at Falmouth on 10th April and will join us in extending deep sympathy to his widow and to other members of his family.

Mr. Bennett joined St. Dunstan's staff in 1923 and quickly rose to Sales Manager. During the 2nd World War he took on the additional duties of Industrial Director. After the war **Mr. Bennett** rebuilt our home industries activities and he retired in January 1956.

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.

James Henderson of Heywood, Lancs., joined St. Dunstan's in April, 1974. He served in the Royal Engineers in the 2nd World War and was wounded in Italy in 1944. He is a bachelor.

Derby Coach

Our Derby Coach is now almost fully booked up. Will all participating St. Dunstaners, escorts and friends be at our meeting point, **H.Q. in Marylebone Road, at 9.00 a.m. prompt on Wednesday, 5th June.**

W. MILLER.



Mrs. Kathleen Lloyd, wife of our St. Dunstaner, Robert Lloyd, presents a bouquet to Lady Fraser at the Southampton Reunion.

Guide Dogs, Evan and Johnny get acquainted at Southampton. Also in the picture are their masters, Bill White and John Gilbert with Mrs. White.



SOUTHAMPTON REUNION

This year's Reunion in Southampton took place on 4th May, Cup Final Day, in a new venue, The Post House Hotel. From the familiar Polygon we found ourselves in an oblong. An oblong set on end to tower over the famous Southampton Docks. The Post House is an ultra modern hotel with ample parking and as at all Reunions, the staff was obliging and helpful—even to providing a running score board of events at Wembley—whispered between courses to our reporter.

Nearly 90 guests assembled for lunch under the chairmanship of Lord Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser. This comparatively small party enabled them both to meet and chat informally with many St. Dunstaners and their wives. 6 St. Dunstaners who served in the First War were present and 28 who served in the second.

Speaking after luncheon Lord Fraser welcomed a visitor, "Hardly a stranger because she's been with St. Dunstan's a very long time, that is Mrs. Avis Spurway."

He named members of the staff of various departments attending the Reunion, mentioning particularly Mrs. Yvonne Lyall, the Welfare Visitor responsible for arranging the Reunion.

"There are three new boys with us," he continued, "That is to say they are not so new but they are men who have come to their first Southampton Reunion today. They are Charles Butler, William White and John Gilbert. I am sorry for the reason that brings them to join us, but very happy to welcome them to St. Dunstan's."

Lord Fraser then referred to the increases in War Pensions expressing appreciation of Governments of both sides but he continued, "I am sure you know very well that I have talked about this in the Houses of Parliament for a very long time and put a bomb under them sometimes when that has been necessary."

He then talked of the worldwide connection of St. Dunstan's, a theme he has developed more fully in Chairman's Notes in this issue and concluded with a tribute to St. Dunstaners and their wives, whose example has built up St. Dunstan's reputation.

Edward Slaughter of Salisbury, rose to propose the vote of thanks, "I came here with a lot of things in my mind which Lord

Fraser has already mentioned. He has been very modest himself as to his part in St. Dunstan's. In my mind there come some words of Longfellow, 'The lives of great men all remind us, we can live our lives divine and departing leave behind us footprints in the sands of time.' And into those footsteps stepped Captain Ian Fraser in those days, and he has carried on a harring and energetic work for the men of St. Dunstan's, ex-servicemen and women and other handicapped people. My father-in-law was a member of Hansard staff in the House of Commons and he once came to me and said, 'I heard Captain Ian Fraser this morning and that young officer will go far,' and there is no doubt that he has done. His work has been praised by his peers as you will have read in this month's *Review*. It is worth reading and it will, no doubt, leave me with less to say. He also has taken the words out of my mouth in thanking our Secretary, Mr. Wills, and Miss Rogers, whose kindly letters of encouragement and of happiness I love to receive and we thank also our visitor Mrs. Lyall for the arrangements we have had to-day and for the staff of this hotel in which we have enjoyed an exceedingly good lunch. Thank you very much and thank you Lord Fraser for the way you have proposed this toast to St. Dunstan's."

St. Dunstan's Secretary, Mr. C. D. Wills, chats to Arthur Hill Brown and his wife Irene.





At the Brighton Reunion Lord Fraser shares a joke with the Mayor, Alderman Sheldon.

Brighton Reunion

From the quiet of Hampshire to swinging Brighton, went Lord and Lady Fraser to their second Reunion within seven days. At the Metropole on Saturday, 11th May, the gathering numbered about 300 including 47 First War St. Dunstaners and 86 Second War and after.

This was an occasion with many guests headed by the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton, Alderman and Mrs. B. Sheldon, others were Mr. K. S. C. Phillips, Chairman, Sussex Grocers' Association, Entertainments Fund; Mrs. M. G. Lillie, Secretary; Mr. G. C. Smith, General Manager, Southdown Motor Services Ltd., and Mr. A. K. Sharp, Hon. Secretary of the St. Dunstan's Outing Fund. The Rev. W. Popham Hosford, Chaplain to St. Dunstan's, Lady Ellerman and Mrs. E. F. Dacre.

Another welcome group of guests was one of retired staff headed by Mr. A. D. Lloyds, C.B.E. Representative members of the staff of all departments completed the gathering which sat down to an excellent meal in the Hotel Metropole's main banqueting room.

As other civic engagements claimed them that day, the Mayor and Mayoress had to leave before Lord Fraser spoke and Alderman Sheldon contented himself with a few words of warm welcome to "one of

our greatest institutions in Brighton, St. Dunstan's and those who attend it." He pledged his help for St. Dunstan's in any way possible during his mayoral year.

Lord Fraser, opening his speech, said he wanted to make reference to some among the guests. They were the representatives of the Sussex Grocers' Association and Lord Fraser expressed St. Dunstan's thanks for the Grocers' many years of generosity towards our organisation and St. Dunstaners. His sentiments are more fully expressed in his Chairman's Notes.

Continuing Lord Fraser referred to Lady Ellerman's presence and to members of the staff, together with those who had retired. He expressed appreciation of Miss H. Stewart, Welfare Visitor responsible for the Reunion and Miss B. Blebta who assisted.

He greeted six St. Dunstaners attending their first reunion at Brighton, Cyril Aldridge, Henry Bachell, James Caldwell, Leslie May, Leslie Robinson and Stanley Wilkins.

Lord Fraser referred to the increases in war pensions before concluding with a tribute to St. Dunstaners and to their wives for the example they have set over the 59 years of life of St. Dunstan's.

Victor Buck of Brighton, a St. Dunstaner of the 1st World War but who was not admitted until 1961, proposed the vote of thanks in splendid style. He quoted a

proverb, "Blessed is the man who can give and forget and the man who can receive and remember." "Taking the first part", he said, "Lord Fraser referred to the birth of St. Dunstan's in 1915 and from that day up to the present day there have been ladies and gentlemen who have contributed by their money and services to St. Dunstan's and they have thus helped to build up the funds and organisation. We have been blessed by the fact of having the connection of the Pearson family with us from its inception as President and for the last 53 years we have had the finest Chairman that any organisation could have and I refer to Lord Fraser.

"Now coming to the second phrase of my proverb I would like you to bear with me and think of those at St. Dunstan's organisation who have always been willing to help and assist us; I refer to Lord and Lady Fraser and to the General Council. And then I want to refer to the Administration side, the staff. Reference has been made to the present staff, but I would like to include in my words of thanks appreciation for the past as well. We are all grateful when we go to Headquarters for assistance or advice, the willingness that is given in trying to help us to solve our difficulties and problems.

Thanks to Brighton Staff

"Coming nearer home, to Brighton. I refer to the Commandant, Mr. Fawcett, the Matrons, Mrs. Blackford and Miss Hallett and our old friendly Scottish friend, Dr. O'Hara, and there are several of the retired V.A.D's present, but I would like to say to all of the staff who are at Northgate and at Pearson House, we may not wear our hearts on our sleeves but we do have you in our thoughts and appreciate all that is done for us."

"Lord Fraser refers to our wives and I want to say this both to the wives and to those ladies who look after us and I have been very fortunate that since I came to Brighton I have been well cared for and looked after. It says in the Good Book that our wives are as good as jewels. When you lose them, you know what the price is. So to you ladies I want to say a word and endorse all that Lord Fraser has said. And there is another group of people that I ought to make reference to on behalf of St. Dunstaners and that is the outside

escorts. We are inclined to take a lot of things I have mentioned for granted in this day and age. We begin to get a little bit selfish. We are taking too much for granted. We want other people to do things for us. Now we at St. Dunstan's have been trained differently. If you look back to your days of your training you were taught to adapt yourself to what was there to accept and to do the best you could so that when you went out into the world you did not go out as a disabled person but one who was an asset to the nation."

Grocers and St. Dunstan's

Mr. K. S. C. Phillips, spoke for the Grocers' Federation in reply to Lord Fraser. "I thank him for the very nice things that he has said about the Grocers' Association and me. I have always been, all my life, a wholesale grocer, the Grocers that have served and have helped St. Dunstan's in the past on these outings are retail Grocers and I have been very delighted that I have known them to help them with the job and I would like to emphasise again what a tremendous job the retail Grocers have done in the past.

"As you know we are holding two outings this year and unfortunately these are the last two we shall be able to do. I am afraid my morale will have gone because St. Dunstaners always help me to get over all my difficulties and to feel, after the end of the "do's", well revived".

The afternoon continued with dancing to the Ken Lyon trio.

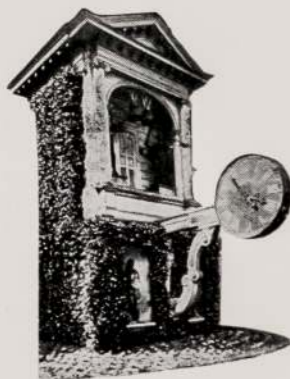
Correction

In last month's report on the Bristol Reunion held on 30th March we said in connection with the vote of thanks by Joseph Harris:—

"It was grand to have Mr. Nigel Pearson there in such good form. If there were no funds, he said, there would not be so many happy faces present on that day."

We are now assured that the words actually spoken were:—

"It is grand to have Mr. Nigel Pearson here in such good form, and, as you know, he is the grandson of the Founder of St. Dunstan's, and if it had not been for him there would not be so many happy faces present."



IT STRIKES ME

by Magog

Good News in Braille

One of the most popular modern versions of the New Testament is one entitled "Good News for Modern Man." It has already been published in paperback editions and now it has been chosen by the British and Foreign Bible Society to be published in Braille.

The Scottish Braille Press, who print the *Review*, are producing this modern version in nine volumes. The four Gospels are already available from the Society at 20p per copy. Their address: British and Foreign Bible Society, 146 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BX.



Bill Griffiths talking to H.R.H. Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh. Photo-Blackpool Gazette and Herald.

Enjoy yourself

We mentioned **Reg Page's** efforts at tree felling in an article last month. At the Brighton Reunion he told me about one of the results of his work: "It was my birthday. I got up about eightish and my wife Audrey said, 'Many Happy Returns of the Day. If I were you,' she said, 'I would take things easy, after all is said and done, you only get a birthday once a year. Do what you want to do, that's the best way on your birthday.'"

Like any other experienced married man Reg's reaction to this was a cautious, "Well, dear, I suppose it is." Audrey went on, "The sun is shining beautifully and it's a lovely day so you get yourself out there and cut that wood up!"

Bill meets the Duke

Among some 3,500 Ex Far East P.O.W.'s wives and guests in Blackpool over the week-end of May 3rd-5th, were **Bill and Alice Griffiths**. It was the Annual Conference and Reunion of the F.E.P.O.W. organisation and the guest of honour was H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Bill was one of those fortunate enough to be introduced to the Duke, who was interested in the fact that Bill was wounded in Java, now part of Indonesia, recently visited by the Queen and Prince Philip. "He asked me my unit," Bill said, "I told him the R.A.F. He said, 'Were you shot down?' and I said, 'No, I was blown up.' He laughed."

Sport cropped up and the Duke said he was delighted to hear that Bill still enjoys swimming and athletics, "In a limited way!"

Frank Reviews

Cat. No. 1825

Royal Flush

by Margaret Irwin

Read by Anthony Parker

An historical biography of Minnette, sister of Charles the Second. Although I make no bones about disliking this type of work I found this book less heavy going than usual. The author draws Minnette as a very likeable young woman and her husband Phillip as an obnoxious effeminate mincing bore. Of course the intrigues of Catholic and Protestant religions are given their full play, and indirectly Minnette takes part in a political plot which long after her death will lose the Stuarts the Crown of England.

Cat. No. 1817

An Edge to the Laughter

by Jay Gilbert

Read by Arthur Bush

A young architect and his student engineer wife are struggling to adapt and convert a Victorian derelict house into an up-to-date, all mod. con. boarding house. What has begun as a labour of love has become a millstone round their necks. The author takes us into a series of personality studies under various pressures. Stephen, the most tolerant of husbands, knows that Mike, their first lodger and friend, has fallen in love with Pauline, his wife. Mr. Gillespie a most eccentric little man reads much more into the affair than is justified and is delighted when Julie comes on to the scene to seduce Mike. The over-worked Pauline finds the behaviour of Mr. Gillespie too much to handle, particularly when the police come knocking at her door, but Stephen can't find it in his heart to chuck the old man out. The situation is saved when Stephen accepts another post in the country, but for Mr. Gillespie it is the end of the road.

Most entertainingly written but for the life of me I cannot connect the work to the title.

Cat. No. 1854

Flashman

by George Macdonald Fraser

Read by Peter Reynolds

Allegedly part of the autobiography of Colonel Harry Flashman revealing the cowardice and lechery which won him fame and fortune in Queen Victoria's reign, after he was expelled from Rugby. This is a fascinating novel in which the author takes for his hero—I beg your pardon—anti-hero, the infamous character from Tom Brown's school days.

Cat. No. 1820

Mr. Olim

by Ernest Raymond

Read by Jon Curle

A retired Civil Servant lies in the grass and happily remembers his old form master who shaped his thoughts towards life and learning in his school days before the First World War.

Interesting reading and a good character study of a teacher who was as rough with a cane as he was with his tongue.

Cat. No. 1827

The Campbells are Coming

by Felicity Hayle

Read by Carol Marsh

Definitely one for the ladies! A full blooded hospital romance. Dedicated young houseman meets dedicated young nurse. Dedicated doctor turns out to be of noble birth. Dedicated young nurse knows she is a foundling and not worthy of him. Heartbreak and separation as dedicated nurse decides to become dedicated beauty queen. Dedicated doctor mistakes her motive. The dedicated business tycoon who was once their joint patient waves wand and all worries and troubles vanish and they all live dedicatedly happily ever after. Perhaps I'm not being fair to the author. I'm sure many people will enjoy this book, but oh dear! oh dear!

KEMP TOWN NOTES

We had two play readings in March, the first included a serious One Act Play called "The Dark Hour", also 3 separate acts about "The Luscombes"—a West Country family who once featured in a radio programme. We welcomed Miss King, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Dennis as guest readers; the remainder were staff.

The second, at the end of March, was "Spring and Port Wine", a Lancashire comedy. We persuaded Mr. Edward Chapman to read the father, Rafe Crompton, the type of part we've heard or seen him do in films or television with great success. He was ably supported by Mr. and Mrs. Lilley, Mrs. Wood, Miss King, Mr. Boorman, Mr. Holland and our own Mrs. Dennis.

The following week Mr. Chapman concluded his weekly Wednesday afternoon short story readings.

Fortnightly drives have been enjoyed as we have had many sunny days, particularly a visit to Guy Harwood's Racing Stables. Geoff Lawson, the jump jockey,

Frank Reviews—*continued*

Cat. No. 1838

The Light that Failed by Rudyard Kipling

Read by Garard Green

Here is one of Kipling's classics resurrected for our benefit. A young artist who has found fame as a war correspondent meets again his childhood sweetheart and endeavours to woo her but she is only interested in his art. When blindness strikes him she just doesn't want to know, so its back to the field and an honourable bullet through the head, which I suppose is one way out with no St. Dunstan's or R.N.I.B.

I don't think he should have left all his money to that girl though.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Our readers will note with regret that the obituary of FRANK HICKS is published in the In Memory column. We hope in future to carry a review of Talking Books by PHILLIP WOOD of Crewe.

showed us round and many of the horses' names were recognised by our racing fraternity. To round off the afternoon we were given a most generous tea in the stable lads' canteen.

The town came to life with the event of the Eurovision Song Contest, although it was not possible for the public to obtain tickets.

Easter

The tone of Easter was set by the Church Service on Good Friday and in the evening Tom Eales once more gave a delightful stereo programme of Easter and Spring time music—some very well known, such as "Rustle of Spring", and perhaps not quite so familiar Schumann's "Spring Symphony" were included in a restful programme. We had small numbers for the Whist and Domino Tournament, but no less enjoyable.

This is the first year for very many that Jay Thomas with her Concert Party from Worthing did not come for Easter Sunday. I know many of you will remember her and be sorry to hear that she is unwell. Instead we were very fortunate to have the "Arena" who had compiled a programme especially for us called "Pardon my French!" A talented trio, led by Mrs. Anne Goodman, their Director. It's a complete change, as they write a great deal of their own material.

A Dance and Easter Bonnets—yes, we had them! It would be impossible to describe them all, but I feel that Cyril Eighteen deserves a mention as he brought his masterpiece with him, called an "Easter Wedding". It was a top hat complete with church porch with a bell tower and bridal couple on the front.

What a delightful judge we had, Mrs. Andrew Bowden. Her husband, who is, of course, our Member of Parliament, came but took a back seat this time. As she presented the 8 ladies' and 8 gents' prizes, she described every hat—a marathon in itself!

April ended with a lively concert from the "Optimists" on their first visit, compéred by Wally Muspratt, known to us all, as he has a florist's shop near by.

Private Hopper's Friend Meg

This extract from Sir Arthur Pearson's "Notes by the Chief" is reproduced from St. Dunstan's Review, January 1919. It is interesting to note that the Guide Dog training movement began in this country in 1931, and that the first large scale scientific training of dogs for the guidance of blind people began in 1916 in Germany. As an individual and at very nearly the same time, Private W. J. Hopper was working on remarkably similar lines to the technique which has developed since then—apart from the whippings, of course! William Hopper, who lived in Bridlington died in 1952.

NOTES BY THE CHIEF

Some months ago I wrote a note telling of the failure of experiments which had been made in France in the matter of training dogs to act as guides to blinded soldiers. The attempt to accomplish this started in a way which led to highest hopes, but the carefully trained dog guides when put to actual use, proved quite incapable and unsatisfactory. I have lately had a correspondence with Pte. W. J. Hopper, who left St. Dunstan's in Septem-

KEMP TOWN NOTES—*Continued*

Plenty of songs to join in, an excellent harmonica player, and a hard working accompanist—a most enjoyable evening and we shall hope they'll come again.

I feel the garden deserves a mention as it is such an improvement on this time last year—the two raised beds are full of colourful wallflowers and tulips, and after the recent rain, combined with watering, the lawns seem established. We must seek out and dust down the garden chairs in preparation for the warmer days.

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Peter, son of DONALD BAKER of Rhyl, N. Wales, who is a student at the Rycotwood Agricultural Engineering College, Thame, Oxfordshire, has won the Student of the Year Award and the Hollindrake Award and has been invited to take a graduate course.

ber, 1917, and who was deprived of his right hand as well as of his sight, and who in his last letter writes as follows: "I am pleased that you are interested in my dog 'Meg'. To start from the beginning, as regards her training I must confess I lost my patience with her, as she would persist in pulling me along. However, I persevered, and by degrees got her to go steadily. Now she goes fine. I have to give her a few whippings, of course. I adopted no special course of training—my idea in the beginning was to get her used to the town. This I did by going out with my wife, who walked at my side touching elbows, as it were, and checking the dog if she tried to draw me from my wife's side. By degrees she began to realize that she must keep straight ahead. I checked her from the first from the habits dogs usually adopt, viz., taking notice of other dogs, and smelling about, etc. In short, if she strayed from the straight course she got severely reprimanded. She soon got to know what was required of her, and what houses and shops are frequently visited, and when I am nearing them I just say: 'Find it, Meg,' and she very rarely fails to do so. The worst thing I have to contend with is gossiping women and perambulators.

'Meg' is thoroughbred Newfoundland, and her height when full-grown will be about three feet. The leash I use is about one foot long." Now, Hopper worked out the dog guide problem in quite a different way from that followed by the French people. They used little dogs, who had to be taught to trot on ahead of the blind man. Hopper trained a big dog who walks by his side. When I first lost my sight I was spending most of my time in the country, and I several times thought of trying to train a big, quick-walking dog, who would come with me for country rambles, but I had not much time to spare, and one or two awkward experiences led me to abandon the idea. It does seem, however, to me, that a dog like Hopper's friend "Meg," might well be a very useful outdoor companion. Newfoundlands are usually credited with being extraordinarily intelligent dogs, and I have no doubt that this has something to do with the success of Hopper's experiment.

St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

SUPPLEMENT JUNE 1974

IMPROVEMENTS IN WAR DISABLEMENT PENSIONS AND NATIONAL INSURANCE BENEFITS

Mrs. Barbara Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, has presented to Parliament proposals to give effect to the increases in Retirement Pensions and other National Insurance Benefits recently announced in Parliament. Details of the proposed increases and of the improvements to be made in War Pensions and in some of the Supplementary Allowances, are given in this leaflet. The White Paper has not yet been published and whilst there is little doubt but that the following particulars will be confirmed, they must be treated as provisional at the time of going to print.

WAR PENSIONS

Basic Pension

The Pension for 100% disablement is to be increased by £3.60 a week, and proportionately for lower assessments, so that a private soldier with a 100% disablement pension will receive £16.40 a week instead of £12.80 a week as at present.

Constant Attendance Allowance

A St. Dunstaner with guiding vision at present receiving £2.60 will receive £3.30 a week. The rate for total blindness which is at present £5.15 will be increased to £6.60. A St. Dunstaner with disabilities additional to blindness who now has £7.75 a week will be entitled to £9.90 a week, and a St. Dunstaner with exceptionally severe disabilities, such as the loss of both hands, additional to blindness who at present receives £10.30, will receive £13.20 a week.

Comforts Allowance

There is to be an increase in this Allowance from £2.20 to £2.80 a week for the totally blind and for the Unemployability Supplement pensioner and from £1.10 to £1.40 a week for the pensioner with guiding vision.

Unemployability Supplement

This Supplement which is payable to those War Pensioners who by reason of their pensionable disability are unemployable, is to be increased from £8.40 to

£10.75 a week, and any family allowances which might be payable with this Supplement will also be increased as follows for the 100% Pensioner:—

Wife or other adult dependant:
from £5.25 to £6.50

First Child
£4.18 to £5.28

Second Child
£3.27 to £4.37

Other Children
£3.18 to £4.28

The level of earnings permitted before title to Unemployability Supplement is affected remains at £4.50 per week. But in the case of the wife the level of earnings has been raised to £21 per week before the Additional Wife's Allowance will be completely eroded.

Invalidity Allowance

This allowance, payable to those War Pensioners who are awarded the Unemployability Supplement prior to attaining the age of 60 (55 for women), has also been increased. Where the incapacity for work begins before the age of 35 the allowance is increased from £1.60 per week to £2.05, where the onset of the incapacity falls between the ages of 35 to 45 the allowance is increased to £1.30 per week instead of £1.00 per week and where the onset occurs between 45 and 60 (55 for women) the new rate is 65p per week instead of 50p.

Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance and Severely Disabled Occupational Allowance

Both these Allowances are to be increased this year to £6.60 and £3.30 a week respectively.

Allowances for Rank

Lady St. Dunstaners will be pleased to hear that the differential between male and female has been abolished.

Clothing Allowance

There is to be a small increase in this Allowance (payable where there is exceptional wear and tear on clothing because of an amputation or for some other special reason) to a maximum of £26.00 a year.

Allowance for Lowered Standard of Occupation

This allowance which is paid in exceptional cases only to a very small number of St. Dunstaners who receive less than 100% pensions is to be increased from up to £5.12 a week to up to £6.56 per week.

Examples which may help St. Dunstaners to appreciate how the increases affect them personally may be found on page 4, but if there are any difficulties, will they please get in touch with Mr. L. Slade, our Pensions Officer, at Headquarters.

War Widows

The standard rate of pension for a War Widow aged 40 or over, or under that age with children, is increased from £10.10 per

week to £13.00 per week. The Rent Allowance for War Widows with children is increased from up to £3.90 per week to £5.00 per week. The age allowances for elderly Widows is to be doubled to £1.30 for those ladies between 65 and 70 years of age and to £2.60 for those ladies over 70 years of age.

The increased rates of pension and allowances will operate as from the first pay day in the week commencing 22nd July 1974 which means that the effective date of payment in the majority of cases should be Wednesday the 24th July 1974. It is just possible that pensioners will not actually receive their increases on that date due to the mammoth task the officers of the Department of Health and Social Security have been set by the early date this year of the increases, but should there be some delay pensioners will, of course, receive arrears backdated to the 22nd July.

Industrial Injuries Act

The 100% Disablement Pension payable under this Act to employees disabled in the course of their employment is to be increased from £12.80 a week to £16.40 a week with proportionate increases for lower assessments and some of the allowances payable with the Disablement Pension, which are very much in line with those payable to War Pensioners are also to be increased.

The Industrial Pension for widows which is at present £8.30 a week is to be raised to £10.55.

NATIONAL INSURANCE

The standard flat rate of Unemployment and Sickness Benefits will go up from £7.35 to £8.60 a week for single people and from £11.90 to £13.90 for married couples.

Retirement Pensions are to be increased for the single person to £10.00 a week and for the married couples to £16.00.

The Widow's Pension will also be increased from £7.75 to £10.00 a week. The Widow's Allowance for the first 26 weeks of widowhood will go up from £10.85 to £14.00.

All pensioners over 80 receive an additional 25p per week—no change.

Other proposed National Insurance Benefits improvements include Invalidity Benefit, Dependancy Allowances for Children, Widowed Mother's Allowance, Guardian's Allowance, Attendance Allowance, and Maternity Allowance.

The total amount needed to pay for all the proposed increased benefits—no separate figures available at present as to cost of increased War Pensions and Allowances—is of the order of £1,250,000,000.

The Government has decided that the way to meet the cost of the improvements

in the National Insurance Benefits payable out of the National Insurance Fund is to increase the graduated contributions paid on earnings of more than £20 a week and the flat rate contributions paid by employers.

Flat rate contributions paid by employees will be reduced by 9p.

An increase will be required in the flat

rate contributions of self-employed persons who do not pay graduated contributions in order to ensure that they pay their fair share of the cost of improved benefits.

The full rate of graduated contributions paid by employees and employers has been increased and the earnings limit has been raised from £54 to £62.

Examples of the new weekly rate of combined flat rates and graduated contributions of the employed man are:

	<i>Present</i>	<i>New</i>
	£	£
Not Contracted Out of the Graduated Scheme		
Earnings £15	1.15	1.09
£20	1.41	1.38
£30	1.91	1.93
£40	2.41	2.48
£50	2.91	3.03
£60	—	3.58
£62	—	3.66
Contracted Out of the Graduated Scheme		
Earnings £15	1.02	0.95
£20	1.15	1.12
£30	1.65	1.67
£40	2.15	2.22
£50	2.65	2.77
£60	—	3.32
£62	—	3.40

The contribution of the self-employed man is to be £2.41 instead of £1.99 a week and for the non-employed man the contribution is to be £1.90 as against the £1.56 he is now called upon to pay.

At present St. Dunstan's is paying the whole of the contributions for those non-employed St. Dunstaners who are liable and is helping with the contribution of the

employed and self-employed St. Dunstaner. Further information on this point will be given at a later date.

Subject to Parliamentary approval the increases in National Insurance Benefits and in contributions are due to come into effect during the week commencing 5th August, 1974.

EXAMPLES OF PENSIONS

Employable

	<i>Present</i>	<i>New</i>
	£	£
Totally Blind		
Basic Pension	12.80	16.40
Attendance Allowance	5.15	6.60
Comforts Allowance	2.20	2.80
Wife's Allowance	0.50	0.50
Child's Allowance	0.38	0.38
	£21.03	£26.68
Guiding Vision	£	£
Basic Pension	12.80	16.40
Attendance Allowance	2.60	3.30
Comforts Allowance	1.10	1.40
Wife's Allowance	0.50	0.50
Child's Allowance	0.38	0.38
	£17.38	£21.98
Totally Blind with exceptional maximum rate of Attendance Allowance	£	£
Basic Pension	12.80	16.40
Attendance Allowance	10.30	13.20
Comforts Allowance	2.20	2.80
Special Occupational Allowance	2.60	3.30
Exceptionally severely disabled Allowance	5.15	6.60
Wife's Allowance	0.50	0.50
Child's Allowance	0.38	0.38
	£33.93	£43.18

Unemployable

	£	£
Totally Blind		
Basic Pension	12.80	16.40
Attendance Allowance	5.15	6.60
Unemployability Supplement	8.40	10.75
Comforts Allowance	2.20	2.80
Wife's Allowance	5.25	6.50
Allowance for First Child	4.18	5.28
*Invalidity Allowance	1.00	1.30
	£38.98	£49.63
Guiding Vision	£	£
Basic Pension	12.80	16.40
Attendance Allowance	2.60	3.30
Unemployability Supplement	8.40	10.75
Comforts Allowance	2.20	2.80
Wife's Allowance	5.25	6.50
Allowance for First Child	4.18	5.28
*Invalidity Allowance	1.00	1.30
	£36.43	£46.33

*Based on the assumption that the St. Dunstaner is between the ages of 35 and 45 when first drawing Unemployability Supplement.

If a St. Dunstaner is 65 years of age or over, he will be receiving in addition to the above an Age Allowance of £3.60 a week.

AN EYE FOR THE FUTURE—Esmond Knight

Talking to David Castleton



Acting being sighted: Esmond Knight, as Bishop de Quadra in the famous Elizabeth R series on BBC TV "writes" a letter, although in life he can only see large block letters held close to his eye. Photo: BBC

Off King's Road, London's trendy high-way of boutiques and 'gear' shops with their amplified music and their population of dolly birds, run the small side streets where the real Chelsea tradition continues to flourish. In one of these lives a St. Dunstaner who fits perfectly into that tradition, an actor of standing in his profession and an amateur artist of talent and originality despite his severe visual handicap. He is Esmond Knight.

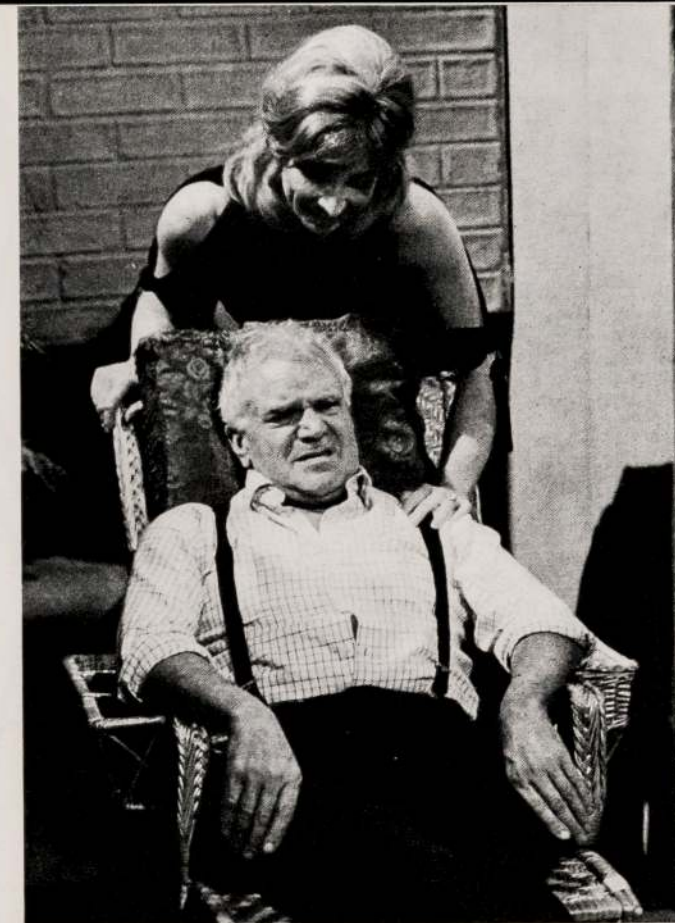
Many of the articles in this series have told the stories of St. Dunstaners for whom their loss of sight has meant a change in their way of life. Some of them believe that change to have given them more success than they might have achieved with their sight. Esmond Knight, despite his blindness, at first total and now partial, has been able to continue and succeed in his profession as an actor. A profession in which most of us would conclude that perfect vision is essential.

Surprisingly, he disagrees: "Acting is about the only job you can think of in which one has the opportunity of practising

or rehearsing what you are going to do. If you are a surgeon doing a big operation, you don't have the opportunity of rehearsing what you are going to do, but in the theatre that is what rehearsal is for".

His acting career began in 1925 at the Old Vic when he was 19, like others before him he found it a long haul to success. "I had been acting on and off, doing various things, struggling on until the old fairy tale chance suddenly, turned up at the right moment: somebody picking me out and saying, 'that's the chap I want', and getting me into musicals. I played the lead in this thing called *Waltzes from Vienna*. From earning £5.00 per week I was suddenly earning £60.00. It was like a great dream playing the lead in the West End".

Through musicals and straight plays the dream continued until, during a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in Regents Park, it began to crumble. "We heard the sirens going off in anger for the first time. It was a Saturday afternoon when they bombed the docks". Not long



From immaculate Elizabethen Bishop to untidy contemporary husband—Esmond Knight as Foss with Dora Reisser as Mrs. Foss in an episode in the BBC TV Trouleshooters series. Photo: BBC

after that Esmond Knight joined the RNVR to begin his service which led to his involvement in the famous Bismarck action in which, as an officer in H.M.S. Prince of Wales, he was wounded and lost his sight.

At St. Dunstan's he learned typing and Braille and formed a determination, "to get back to the only thing I knew". He recalls those days at Church Stretton and their humour. "Somebody sent us a song they made up saying: Dear St. Dunstaners, I am sure you dear boys would all like to learn this jolly song I have composed for you. I am sure it will give you great heart when you are walking to work in the morning. It goes, 'Tap, tap, tap, tap, jolly St. Dunstan's boys'. She sent it to us and suggested we all sing this—it soon got a fairly rude version set to it!"

"My first venture back into the old business was doing a radio series. I had to learn it because I was never good enough at Braille to be able to read it at speed like those wonderful Braille readers do. So each week I raked up a famous story about

the Navy, or maybe an infamous one, and I simply learnt it and spouted it for about four and a half minutes."

Friends advised Esmond against going back to the theatre. "They said everybody will know you are blind and they will only be thinking about your condition. It will ruin any kind of decent performance you might conceivably be giving because they will be thinking, 'Oh, isn't it a shame, you know, he can't see'. They would inevitably be waiting for me to fall over the footlights into the orchestra pit or do something unrehearsed which could only cause acute embarrassment both to the audience and to myself. Actually, I did, I did fall into the orchestra pit during a performance of *The Taming of the Shrew* at Stratford in which I made an entrance staggering on to the stage backwards; misjudged my angle and fell backwards about 10 feet off the edge of the stage—to loud laughter and applause from the audience! Everybody back-stage thought I must have killed myself but I came to having seen several remarkable constellations in my head,



With some treasured possessions—swords once used by Henry Irving on stage.

climbed on to the back of the carpenter and pulled myself on to the stage to continue the play”.

So, when another fairytale chance came his way, an offer to play in a film, *The Silver Fleet* with Ralph Richardson and Googie Withers, the war-blinded Esmond Knight asked if there was a really nasty part in it. “There happened to be a very unpleasant part of a German Gauleiter. You see the only hope was to play a stinking, horrible character, so that it would look as if I were not playing for sympathy. A really nasty man so that it kind of took the curse off the thing”.

He was totally blind at this time, the part called for him to negotiate narrow gangplanks, to climb into the conning tower of a submarine, to come downstairs, to pick up the telephone. It was, perhaps, an act of faith on the part of an old friend, Michael Powell, to cast Esmond Knight in

that part. “He said, ‘I am sure we can work things out’—and of course you can: one, two, three paces into a room, half left turn, one pace, put your hand down there’s the telephone. You take your cigarette case out. You don’t go on looking ahead like blind people are inclined to do, you look at your cigarette case. I was acting being sighted”.

In that first film part Esmond was evolving techniques which have served him well on stage, on film set and, in recent years, in television studio. For although a cataract operation and subsequent treatment by the late Dr. Vincent Nesfield restored some sight to his remaining eye, throughout his post war career each production has represented a race with hurdles of varying heights. Sometimes he may be able to see who he is acting with, or where he is going, another time he may not.

“As I have got a lot of opacities and a badly damaged retina, if you have a big film light shining into your eye it is like a torch shining at you in a dark room. You can’t see anything past it. If I can’t see somebody I am acting with, say you, there, I am liable to look here and say, ‘Oh, David, with regard to that . . .’ The director comes and says, ‘I am terribly sorry, dear, but David is about 15 degrees to your right’, and then I ask you to speak and then I get it right. Otherwise I am liable to look in the wrong direction”.

Nevertheless, “every bit of sight you’ve got is useful”, and when, in Spring 1943, Esmond found some perception of light returned under the treatment, he was able to accept an offer from Laurence Olivier of a part in his film *Henry V*. It was to be a small part, “Then I met him and told him I was getting some sight back. He said, ‘How’s your Welsh?’, I said, ‘Well, not bad’, so he gave me the part of Llewellyn. By the time we began to make it at the end of June, 1943, just about two years after I had got knocked out, I found myself in the absolutely wonderful position of playing in this marvellous film with Olivier”.

Learning Lines

There is a problem Esmond meets before he enters stage or set and that is learning lines. This is a problem that his wife, the famous actress Nora Swinburne, helps him to overcome, “I either get Nora to teach them to me or, if I write them out in huge block letters, by holding it about two or three inches from my face I can read”. This seems a laborious method but he points out, “lines learnt by reading are very much more inclined to stay in the mind than lines learnt verbally. In fact it is an awful trick but this is what actors do, you visualise the page, that speech is at the bottom of the page; you remember the speech at the top of the next page. It creates a sort of photographic impression”.

“Mark you, that’s not the good way of learning. The best way is to so well understand the character that you can think that this man is actually saying the dialogue and you are speaking naturally as this man. The words flow naturally out of the character. It depends how good the part is or how well written. It certainly applies to Shakespeare or to Bernard Shaw or to somebody like that”.

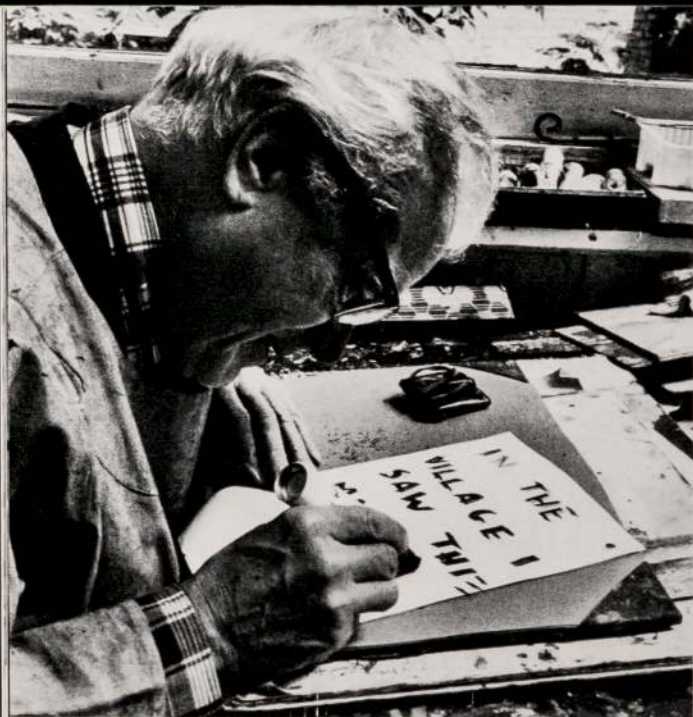
Because of his difficulties, Esmond concentrates on learning his part early. To the eternal surprise of fellow actors he comes to first rehearsal word perfect. “We all sit round a table. The director says, ‘Do you know everybody? That’s Miss so and so, that’s Mr. Snodgrass. Right, shall we have a reading now? That’s fine. Will you begin, er, John’ He starts reading and they are all reading away, smoking away—and I am just sitting. When it comes to my cue I speak and they all say, ‘Oh, how marvellous, you know your lines already’. I say, ‘It isn’t marvellous, you could learn them if you took the darn trouble to. It’s just that I have to, I can’t read”.

Knowing lines early is an advantage, particularly as each set in each production is different and, not having to read, he can concentrate on learning the lay-out of the set in rehearsal. “The actual jobs I get are nearly all through people who know me or know that through the medium of rehearsal I can very quickly be urged or encouraged to get into the right place”.

Beacons

“I always hope that on the set there are going to be one or two light-houses or beacons as I call them. The property man is very important to me. They often say, ‘Is there anything I can do, Esmond, to make this a bit easier for you?’ I had to do a bit in a thing that was shown on T.V. last Saturday. I was an old General in a wheelchair. I had to turn my chair and wheel across the set missing a table or two on the way to get to where my crutches were leaning. When I turned my chair round I couldn’t see anything at all. It was an absolute blank. So I said to the director, ‘Would you mind if I asked Jimmy, the props, could he just put a beacon somehow on that table?’ So we got a newspaper the end of which hung over the edge of the table and there happened to be a light which just caught it and that was a lovely beacon. I could go straight towards it.”

“In *Fall of Eagles* I am playing a part of a Russian General. We have to stop the old Czar’s train and I have to get on board to tell him that the delegates of the Duma have requested him to resign. We shot this in a period railway carriage on the flats of Norfolk but there again I had a very strong light pointing in my eyes. They had to give me an eye line every time. I remember



Using a thick, heavy marker, Esmond writes the large capital letters that he can read.

the Czar was sitting down and I was inclined to be looking there and they'd say, "No, it's here, Esmond". Then, when he gets up he's not here but he's there and the camera was there, you see, and then you've got to be tricky. You must never look smack into the lens of the camera—it immediately spoils the illusion. But all the time people are nice enough to employ me and take that little bit of extra trouble."

There have been many people willing to take that trouble. "I've really played almost everything, Yorkshiremen, Welshmen, funny Frenchmen. I've played a terrific lot of characters in Shakespeare. I have been in Old Vic. I have been at Stratford. I think, nowadays, acting is really better with the kind of realism that has come in. If you look at the average television play, the actual substance of the play may be nonsense—which it often is—but the general standard of acting is frightfully good, I think, nowadays."

"So good that it is much better to act as little as possible and by that I mean that you stand a better chance of giving a convincing performance on this very exacting medium if you are typecast to play what you are. Speaking boastfully, because I have had a lot of experience, there are character parts that I can play fairly well but I notice that as time goes on my

friends seem to get cast for parts which are, in fact, right for them. I might play a doctor or an old soldier or a farmer, but a man of my age and, for the most part, speaking more or less as I do, without any special accent."

Esmond goes to the theatre a lot. "I think it's one's duty to go. I have been to see a lot in the theatre recently. Mark you, there's not a hell of a lot which attracts me because I do not like the modern trend in playwriting. Dirty lines, your old four letter words, have become almost clichés in the theatre now. I say clichés because now there is no censorship everybody uses them and it is just simply sort of boring. I feel that wouldn't matter too much provided that one felt a dramatic and valid purpose but very often there doesn't seem to be a story, a beginning or an end. It's just dirt for dirt's sake. Another thing I find a bit disturbing is that, with a few notable exceptions, most of your modern authors seem out to destroy everything that was ever held to be worthwhile. Marriage, sex, any feeling for country, or for principle, they are all dragged in the mud".

Disillusioned

"In fact our old theatre-going public who at one time went regularly to a favourite theatre or a play by a favourite author have now become so disillusioned by what they have to sit through and, incidentally, by what they have to pay, that they are inclined to stay away. Thank God, for the sake of those actors employed, for the foreigners who flock to London imagining that our theatre is almost the best thing we have to offer."

When he says he has been to see a lot in the theatre, how much *can* Esmond see? "It is an extremely hard thing to describe. If you screw your eyelids down to their absolute meanest aperture. Close them down, then open them very gently until the first glimmer of light comes through—that's roughly how much I can see. You don't get much detail because the light doesn't come into the eye".

So Esmond Knight acts blindfolded with just the merest chink of light in one eye. He also paints and there are two very good canvases on his lounge wall. He paints in oils, "Oil painting is wonderful, particularly if you are painting on a board. You



At work on a painting in his small studio extension.

make several boss shots and you simply get a rag soaked in turpentine and wash it out and start again, or paint over what you have done and by mistake get a marvellous effect!"

He relies entirely on his visual memory in painting his subjects: landscapes, seascapes or theatrical pictures of actors in the wings, dark against the bright lights of the stage. "I am remembering, if you are looking out at a harbour or over fields, how the light changes as the distance goes away. If it is a landscape I always start with the sky, whether it is a storm or a clear pale blue with dark clouds and white. You decide how high up on the canvas your actual eye line is going to be. It might be a picture in which the horizon is very, very low. This gives a wonderful feeling of space. Then, if you want to show more, you simply put the horizon up. Then, of course, the stuff in the foreground comes right up to you in perspective".

Mixing colours can be difficult, "I very often have to ask Nora, 'What is that colour? Is that an olive green or is it a paler green?' Once I have established that, I

squish them out on a palette. I have red on the left because it is red for port and green on the right—green for the starboard side—black in the middle and so on".

He did not study art but it is in his family. "My great grandfather, a chap called John Buxton Knight, has still got pictures in the Tate Gallery and all my ancestors on my father's and, indeed, on my mother's side, could paint". He paints in an impressionistic style and finds a creative feeling of satisfaction in his hobby. "It's sort of fun to stand back and say to yourself, only about five hours ago there was nothing on that board at all, now there is a picture".

He has put his art to the test of public exhibition. "It was very surprising, all kinds of people turned up and one after another of these things were sold. This kind of snob thing goes on. When people look round and see the little red dots on pictures they begin to think, 'Oh, this chap must be quite good. Perhaps we ought to have one of these'."

An essentially visual man, he misses his cars, "I had my last lovely old Talbot '105'



Acting with Ralph Richardson in *She Stoops to Conquer*.

Photo: BBC

motorcar in 1940 and that's the last time I have ever driven. A motorcar meant liberty as far as I am concerned. I often say to people, 'If I could see, that would be the last thing I would get rid of. All the time you've money to buy some petrol you can get into your car and clear out.'

But the man who visualises his lines on a page, or the perspective of a landscape; who uses the chink in his blindfold to move around the stage or studio set and to paint pictures, has to face the fact that his blindfold is slipping. 'I have developed this wretched condition of glaucoma and I have to take pills and eye drops to keep the pressure down. All the time I can keep the pressure down in my eye, I ought to be able to hang on to the vision I have.'

'But as far as the future is concerned, it depends, on one thing and one thing only, how well my eye is going to stand up. If it is, in fact, slowly deteriorating all the time and it ultimately goes altogether a few people might still employ me to act in the way we have described but it would mean that I wouldn't be able to paint at all. As far as I am concerned it would be awful. It would really be the end'.

'I think I could write a bit. It's a terribly easy thing to say, but I think I might be able to. I wrote a terrible book called *Seeking the bubble* at the time I was in the *Silver Fleet*. I dictated this book which took me a long time. It was a very bad book, I wish I had waited until now to do it'. In fact, this is something of an understatement. He already writes for magazines.

So Esmond Knight is quite literally a man with an eye for the future. Meeting him and talking with him one finds a man of wide talent, high courage and, perhaps most important, of infinite adaptabilities. It is hard to imagine him ever really finding himself at an end.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Readers might like to know that on BBC Radio 4 at 10.15 p.m. on Sunday, June 23rd, Esmond Knight is broadcasting a solo programme entitled, Our King went forth to Normandy. In it he tells the story of Agincourt in the character of a soldier who enlists in a contingent raised in a remote village in Wiltshire and who took part in the Battle.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Peter Spencer, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset

WAR PENSIONS

Lord Fraser, the Royal British Legion and others, have for years voiced the need to Governments of all political shades for improvement in War Disabled and War Widows pensions and I shudder to think, without their efforts, what the situation would be like to-day.

Many of us are baffled, and at times nauseated, by consecutive Government statements relating these pensions, to the cost of living, the standard of living, inflation, deflation and so forth, when really it is an attitude of Scrooge-like meanness which prevents fair compensation being awarded.

In European countries the War Pension is at least double, and even in Yugoslavia it is 80% more. I wonder if their cost of living is higher than ours? War Pensions in the Commonwealth countries are also, I believe, considerably higher than in the U.K.

Damages for blindness given recently by a civilian Court in this country could, after investment, bring in an income of £120 per week after paying tax and jolly good luck to them too.

The British war disabled, however, are proud and patriotic and will, of course, receive this latest increase with dignity and thanks, but please, please, please never let any Government say or even think they are being generous when it comes to paying fair compensation to the war disabled and war widows.

From Mrs. J. H. Griffiths, South Woodingdean, Brighton.

I have just read David Bell's account of his journey along the Roman Wall and as I spent a great deal of my younger life up there I have written to tell him how much pleasure his article gave me. My first husband was Billy Watson, who also was a St. Dunstaner, and he was born not far from the Roman Wall, and his people still farm there, so David Bell's account brought back very many happy memories.

CLUB NEWS

London

After a run of six weeks the Football Pontoon ended on 27th April and was jointly shared by J. Carney, J. Lynch, H. Meleson and J. Padley, their teams being Carlisle, Sunderland, Arsenal and Tottenham respectively. The "booby" prize was won by Mrs. Carney with Oxford.

The domino winners during the month of April were as follows:—

- 4th April. **1. J. Padley**
2. C. Hancock
- 18th April. **1. J. Padley**
2. J. Majchrowicz
- 25th April. **1. R. Armstrong**
2. J. Padley

We are happy to report that at long last the Sir Arthur Pearson Domino Fives and Threes Knockout Competition has been concluded. Paul Nuyens defeated Pat Sheehan by two clear games to nil.

W. MILLER

LETTERS—continued

From Alfred Pointon of Bexhill-on-Sea

I think that it is the third verse of John Masefield's poem "Cargoes" which starts "Dirty British coaster with a salt caked smoke stack, butting through the Channel in the mad March Days."

On many March days that would be so right, but the last week-end of March this year when St. Dunstan's again arranged fishing trips was an incredible exception. Two days of flat calm sea, and enough sun to give those hopefuls amongst us who dangled bait into the Channel but somehow caught a million dollar tan. Maybe we did not solve all the world's problems, but despite light hauls of fish the week-end was, if only for the incredible weather a very memorable one.

Maybe one day we will check up on the other two verses—"Quinquareme of Nineveh from distant Ophir" and "Stately Spanish Galleon coming from the Isthmus." Maybe not—riding at anchor off Newhaven, and dangling is so much more relaxing.

A Charity Football Match

or how not to kick-off at a Soccer Match

by Trevor Tatchell

The staff and patrons of the Beverley Hotel in Cathedral Road, Cardiff, decided to organise a charity football match in aid of the Cardiff Fund for the Blind and they proposed that the Ladies would challenge the Men.

The Match took place at the Sophia Gardens on the morning of Sunday, March 31st, 1974, and, as Secretary of the Fund, I was invited to kick-off.

I Kick-Off

The Referee blew up and I duly kicked-off, then, hey presto, all hell was let loose, players were running in all directions, the ladies were shrieking, the men were bellowing and the spectators yelling, for the first time in my life I experienced the sounds that carry to the middle of a football pitch. More than ever I admire the players who are subjected to this overwhelming noise at the Cardiff Arms Park with Bread of Heaven, the Hampden Roar in Scotland and the Kop in Liverpool, with You'll Never Walk Alone. My escort, forgot all about me and ran off the field and as I did not know what was happening I remained rooted to the spot in confusion. My daughter realising my problem started to run on to the field and met Mr. Payne halfway he, then, promptly turned around and ran back to me; he was about the sixth person to manhandle me by this time but we eventually all got off the pitch safely. Believe me I was very happy to get out of that melée. After that hilarious start the ladies, dressed in borrowed Rugby-forwards' shorts and shirts from a local Soccer Club rushed up and down the pitch and successfully defeated the men by 4 goals to 3; imagine the ladies dressed in 17-stone Rugby-forwards' shorts enthusiastically chasing every ball that came their way.

At the end of the Match we all marched back to the Beverley Hotel accompanied by a Jazz Band from the Rhondda called the Magpies. All stirring stuff and enough to bring a lump to the throat of any Welshman.

WALKING CLUB

Results

The Walking Section held their usual races at Ewell throughout the winter months, and completed their season with the seven miles Championship on Saturday, 23rd March, with eight St. Dunstaners taking part.

The result of the race was easy to forecast, but not so, the final placings in the aggregate of handicap points for the Archie Brown Trophy. Charles Stafford, Stan Tutton and Bill Miller were each hoping to win the much coveted cup for the first time, and Bob Young for his second time, since the competition started eleven years ago. When the final result was known, the happiest man was **Bill Miller**.

Result of 7 mile Championship

Order of Finish	Actual Time	Allowance	Handicap Time
W. Miller	70.56	scr.	70.56
D. Purches	71.42	1.30	70.12
J. Simpson	72.28	1.00	71.28
M. Tetley	73.59	6.30	67.29
S. Tutton	77.35	10.30	67.05
R. Young	80.47	14.00	66.47
C. Stafford	80.55	12.00	68.55
J. Wright	85.19	12.00	73.19

The 1974 Result of the Archie Brown Trophy

W. Miller	28 points
S. Tutton	26 "
R. Young	26 "
C. Stafford	25 "
M. Tetley	22 "
J. Wright	15 "
D. Purches	15 "
J. Simpson	3 "
C. Redford	2 "

W. H. MILLER

3RD PRIZE—50p

Congratulations to Raymond Standford of Bolton, who exhibited a wool rug in the local Handicapped Persons' Handicraft Exhibition and won 3rd prize—50p and a medal. Raymond joined St. Dunstan's in 1972 and has taken a great interest in handicraft work.

BRIDGE NOTES

BRIGHTON

On Saturday, 27th April, 18 St. Dunstaners with their wives, friends and helpers, assembled at the Saltdean Community Centre for a bridge drive which took place in the ballroom. Altogether there were 9 tables. We were particularly pleased to welcome Miss Blodwyn Simon and Miss Vera Kemmish amongst us. Winding up the afternoon's activities, Reginald Goding, on our behalf thanked Mrs. Nicholson and Mr. and Mrs. Dickerson for providing us with a lovely tea and refreshments and also John Whitcombe for all his efforts in organising such a successful afternoon. The prize winners were as follows:—

1. S. Webster and C. Ling
2. W. Scott and Mrs. A. Negus
3. J. Whitcombe and Miss C. Sturdie
4. F. Rhodes and Mrs. I. Gover

R.A.F.

London

The fourth Individual Competition of the London Section was held on Saturday, 4th May. The results were as follows:—

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| W. Allen and R. Evans | 78 |
| W. Phillips and J. Lynch | 68 |
| J. Huk and W. Miller | 63 |
| H. Meleson and P. Nuyens | 57 |
| J. Padley and F. Dickerson | 57 |
| R. Stanners and J. Majchrowicz | 55 |

P. NUJENS,
Secretary.

Correction

We are sorry that two names were omitted from the Brighton 3rd Individual Competition in the May Review. We should have recorded that W. BICKLEY and R. FULLARD scored 63 points.

St. Dunstan's Daughter Weds

Joy, elder daughter of MR. AND MRS. HARRY COPE of Newcastle-under-Lyme, married Robert Walker on Easter Saturday, 13th April, 1974. We wish them every happiness. *Below*, Joy with her father.



FAMILY NEWS

Birth

Many congratulations to MR. and MRS. TONY WARREN of Meppershall, Beds., on the safe arrival of their second daughter, Emma Louise, on 24th April, 1974.

Silver Wedding

Congratulations to MR. and MRS. ARTHUR MORGAN of Burton Stone Lane, York, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 23rd April, 1974, whilst they were on holiday at Cliftonville.

Grandfathers

Congratulations to:-

ROBERT CHRITCHLOW of Leicester, who is pleased to announce the safe arrival of a grand-daughter, born to his daughter, Karen, on 20th December, 1973. The baby is to be called Shelia Ann.

THOMAS D. DONNELLY of Aldridge, Staffs., is pleased to announce the arrival of a grandson, born to his daughter, Joyce, on 25th March. He is to be called Lee Nathan Straughan.

THOMAS EVANS of Flint, who became a grandfather for the 10th time when another grandson, Stephen David, was born on 28th February, 1974, to his son Mervyn and daughter-in-law, Jackie.

DOUGLAS FAULKNER of Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, is delighted to announce the birth of a grand-daughter, Emma Jane, born to his daughter, Peggy, on 13th March, 1974.

HENRY JAMES HASKEY of Harrow, Middlesex, has pleasure in announcing the arrival of a grand-daughter, Sara Joanne Haskey, born on 20th February, 1974.

RONALD GEORGE HOMEWOOD of Norwich is pleased to announce that his daughter Wendy gave birth to a daughter, Alison, on 20th March, 1974. This is Ronald's fifth grandchild.

FRANK PALFREY of Westmoors, Dorset, who is proud to announce the safe arrival of his first grandchild, born to his daughter Joy Dalby, on 25th January, 1974. The baby is to be called Carole Louise Dalby.

GEORGE ROAKE of Catford, London, S.E.6, has much pleasure in announcing the safe arrival of a grandson, born on 8th March, 1974 to our St. Dunstan's son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Roake. The baby is to be called Dominic Leigh.

PERCY L. SAYWELL, of Leamington, who is pleased to announce that his daughter Pamela, gave birth to a daughter, Clare Louise, on 13th January, 1974. Clare Louise is his first grandchild.

Great Grandparent

Very many congratulations to:-

MRS. PHYLLIS HARDING, widow of the late William Harding, of Finchley, London, N.3, on the arrival of another great grandson born to her grand-daughter Janet and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Greenaway. The great grandson has been christened Scott and is a brother for Ross.

GEORGE EUSTACE of Chessington, Surrey, has pleasure in announcing that his eldest grand-daughter, Alison, aged 15, has won her Queen's Guide badge. She is a member of the Hook, Surrey, Girl Guide Company and completed a study of meteorology to qualify.

Long Life and Happiness to:-

Anne, daughter of MR. AND MRS. COLIN FRASER of Sunderland, Co. Durham, who married Romano Minchella on 18th April, 1974.

Graham, son of BOB AND JOAN OSBORNE of Saltdean, and grandson of Joe Walch, married Averil Cutler on 29th April 1974, at the Parish Church, Leatherhead, Surrey.

Kathleen, daughter of MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR "MICKY" ROBINSON, of Patcham, Sussex, who married David Grey in Beaconsfield, Bucks., on 16th April, 1974. Kathleen is continuing with her profession as a Teacher of Domestic Science and other subjects.

Brenda, daughter of MR. AND MRS. ALBERT SERDET of Staines, Middlesex, who married David Hoff of Bournemouth, at Staines Kingdom Hall, Chestnut Grove, on 13th April, 1974.

Susan, daughter of MR. AND MRS. EMRYS TUCKER of Dulwich, S.E.21, who married Nicholas Satchell on 16th March, 1974.

Mary, younger daughter of HARRY COPE of Stoke-on-Trent, is due to run in the trials of the 800 metre race to be held shortly.

CORRECTION

Apologies to GEORGE AND BETTY STANLEY for taking two years off their married life. They have been married 27 years, not 25 as was implied by our caption in the London Club in Pictures feature last month, which said they were celebrating their silver wedding.

Deaths

We offer our very sincere sympathy to:-

LEVI KIBBLER of Warley, Worcs., whose father died on 28th April, 1974, at the age of 78. Although he was frail, his death was quite unexpected.

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.

Herbert Cummings. Royal Corps of Signals

Herbert Cummings of Cardiff, died in hospital on 9th April, 1974. He was 75 years of age.

He served in the 1st World War and was gassed; between the wars he was in the Territorials and he was commissioned and served again at home and abroad in the 2nd World War. Later his sight gradually failed and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1972. By that time he had retired and his general health was very poor but he managed to attend one Reunion in Bristol. Last autumn he was taken seriously ill and had been in hospital ever since, but he was always wonderfully cheerful and enjoyed a short visit to his home at Christmas.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Winifred Cummings and a married daughter and grandchildren.

Francis (Frank) Hicks. Royal Engineers

Francis (Frank) Hicks of Twickenham, Middlesex, died on 12th April, 1974 at the age of 46 years.

He enlisted in the Royal Engineers in October 1945 and served with them until his discharge in November 1947. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1962.

He trained at Ovingdean in typewriting, Braille and handicrafts but unfortunately his training was interrupted by ill-health and he returned home in January 1964 to carry on with hobby interests.

Later his health improved and Mr. Hicks studied script-writing and journalism and settled in Teddington where he had an office built in his garden and he continued with his journalistic work. For several years past he contributed his report on Talking Books to our *Review* under the heading "Frank Reviews".

His young son was a student at a special school for deaf children, and then later undertook an apprenticeship as a draughtsman where he is still working and studying.

Mr. Hicks was re-married in 1971 and moved to his present home in Twickenham where he has been able to keep in touch with many friends in the neighbourhood, including the British Legion.

Mr. Hicks was admitted to a London hospital on 31st March and became suddenly seriously ill and died on Good Friday, 12th April.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Lorna Hicks and his son, David.

Benjamin Hind. *Labour Corps*

Benjamin Hind, late of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, and who has been living at Northgate House, Rottingdean, since last Autumn, died there on 17th April, 1974. He was 75 years of age.

He enlisted in the Labour Corps in 1917 and served with them until his discharge in 1919, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1957. Mr. Hind lost the sight of one eye when he was wounded in action in 1918. When he joined St. Dunstan's he was working as a telephonist in a local Nuneaton hospital. Despite his poor health, he continued working until his retirement in 1963. After this his health improved for a time but sadly this deteriorated again and as Mrs. Hind is not very fit, Mr. Hind went to Northgate House for nursing care last Autumn.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Olive May Hind, and a son and a daughter.

Walter Leonard. *2nd Suffolk Regiment*

Walter Leonard of Hove, Sussex, died on 16th April, 1974, at Northgate House, Rottingdean, Sussex. He was 77 years of age.

He enlisted in the 2nd Suffolk Regiment and served with them from 1913 until his discharge in 1916. He came to St. Dunstan's in the same year. He trained in Typewriting, Braille, netting and making mats. He worked for many years as a mat maker, and in addition had a small poultry holding. In 1927 he undertook further training and learnt to make wool rugs.

At the beginning of the 1940s Mr. Leonard's general health was less robust and they moved from Surrey to Kent. A few years later they moved to Sussex. Unfortunately in more recent years Mr. Leonard suffered badly with severe head pains as a result of his war injuries and he and his wife continued to live in retirement.

He leaves a widow Mrs. Clare Leonard and two married sons, Richard and Jack, and their respective families.

George Owens. *7th Regiment, Durham Light Infantry*

George Owens of Burnley, Lancs., died at his home on 16th April, 1974. He was 84 years of age.

He enlisted in the 7th Regiment of the Durham Light Infantry in August 1915 and served with them until June 1916. Although Mr. Owens served in the First World War, it was not until 1968 that he came to St. Dunstan's, by which time he had already retired. Although he had to bear a good deal of ill-health, Mr. Owens was a very cheerful

man and much enjoyed the company of other St. Dunstaners at the local Reunions and at Ovingdean where he was able to enjoy some holidays.

Unfortunately he became ill at the end of last year and was nursed devotedly by his wife until he passed away.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Edith Owens and his children.

Augustus Henry Rodgers. *King's Own Royal Regiment*

Augustus Henry Rodgers of Barrow-in-Furness, Lancs., died at his home on 15th April, 1974. He was 76 years of age.

He enlisted in the King's Own Royal Regiment in March 1917 and was wounded at Ypres in July and came to St. Dunstan's in September of that year. He trained in basket and mat making, but it was on the former occupation that he later concentrated all his efforts, giving a high standard of workmanship. Unfortunately he was obliged to give up his basketry work in 1936 but he undertook some rug-making as a hobby occupation and later kept a small number of poultry.

Despite rather poor health he suffered in recent years, Mr. Rodgers always attended the local Reunion whenever possible. Sadly he became seriously ill early in April, and it was at his home that he died just one week later.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Mary Rodgers and his three sons.

George Swaddle. *3rd Leicestershire Regiment*

George Swaddle late of Dunston-on-Tyne, Gateshead, and recently residing at Northgate House, Rottingdean, Sussex, died there on 16th April, 1974. He was 74 years of age.

He enlisted in the 3rd Leicestershire Regiment in 1917 and served with them until his discharge in 1919. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1956. Although Mr. Swaddle was wounded in 1918 it was not until very much later that he lost his sight and came to St. Dunstan's. He suffered from poor health and after a number of visits to Brighton and hospitals in the North he finally made his home at Northgate House. It was always a great sorrow to him that his health did not permit him to return to the North to visit his family there.

He leaves a sister, Mrs. B. Pattinson who lives in Gateshead.

Alfred William Walker. *Pioneer Corps*

Alfred William Walker of Billingham-on-Tees, Cleveland, Yorkshire, died at his home on 13th April, 1974. He was 86 years of age.

He enlisted in the Pioneer Corps in 1915 and served with them until his discharge in 1919. Although Mr. Walker suffered mustard gas poisoning during his service in the 1st World War he did not come to St. Dunstan's until March of this year, by which time he was an invalid and confined to bed.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Dora Walker and his son Arthur, the one son living at home, from a large family.