

successfully to the hearts of the many. The beginning of the hopes and plans might be found among the early workers in what was called the Canadian Free Library for the Blind, which had an unostentatious beginning in a private residence in the little village of Markham, Ontario, in 1906. The distribution of literature from this centre increased so rapidly that in October, 1911, it was necessary to remove the Library to the Capital of Ontario, where, by the kindness of the Public Library Board, it was given lodgment in the basement of the Western Branch. The present residence, 142 College Street, Toronto, was secured in the closing months of 1916; and, with the formation of the Canadian Women's Association for the Welfare of the Blind, began a new era of development, when this organization bent all its energies to the equipment of the lately-acquired home for the now imposing collection of books in Braille. In December, 1918, this institution was amalgamated with the Institute as its Library and Publishing Department.

The late Mr. E. B. F. Robinson, B.A., of Markham, the first blind graduate of a Canadian University, who took his degree from Trinity College with the highest honors, Mr. F. W. Johnston, a member of the Executive Committee of the Institute, who is an inspiring example of the successful blind business man; Mr. S. C. Swift, M.A., Head of the Library Department, Dr. C. R. Dickson, who played a prominent part in the organization of the Institute and was its first president, Mr. C. W. Caruthers and other workers strove towards arousing the community to the need for a national work for the Blind—and their struggles were not in vain.

The present membership of the Library, which means those who are more or less regularly and frequently tak-

ing advantage of the circulation of books and music in embossed type from the institution is six hundred and nineteen. The average circulation a month of books and sheets of music is about seven hundred and forty-four. Through the generosity of the Dominion Government, the carrying of such books to and from the blind reader by post is absolutely free; and, as the service of the Library is also without fee, the blind reader, however remote he may be from the distributing centre, is assured of the arrival, the perusal and the return of the desired volumes without any expense save the trifling cost of the stamp which carries his request.

THE general public may quite naturally ask: "What effect had the war on the interest in work for the Blind?"

As we look back upon those years of horror and strife, we realize that our sympathy with the wounded or blinded soldiers had a reflective influence upon all citizens handicapped in the struggle for life. It is gratifying to know that the first activity on behalf of individual blind persons, inaugurated by the Institute nearly two years ago, was the furnishing of instruction in Braille and light vocational lines for a small group of blinded Canadian soldiers at the Library.

The return to Canada of A. G. Viets, P.P.C.L.I. and Captain E. A. Baker, M.C., Croix de Guerre, who had lost their sight in military service, and who had been trained at the well-known hostel of St. Dunstan's in London, gave a fresh impetus to the training of the blind, and when these young men became members of the Library Board, they naturally supported warmly and