

Vocational Training is the term applied to the instruction given to disabled men in order to prepare them for the occupations to which their aptitudes and social circumstances make them most suited. In France, it has been estimated that about four-tenths of one per cent. of the wounded will require vocational re-éducation; since it will be inadvisable for them to follow their former employments.

It is extremely important, from every point of view, to ensure an opportunity to be self-supporting to every disabled man. The after history of those who have received monetary compensation, alone, for injuries incurred through industrial accidents shows that the rehabilitation of an injured man cannot be secured by the mere payment to him of a sum of money. Disabled men who receive money alone, and are not assured an occupation, almost always deteriorate and lose their social position. For that reason, the rehabilitation of an injured soldier cannot be secured by bringing his disability to an irreducible minimum and by the payment to him of a pension; to discharge its indebtedness to him his country must, in addition, make him employable, by appropriate reëducational training, if military service has deprived him of his occupation, and must help him to find employment.

The selection of an occupation suitable for him is of paramount importance to a disabled man. His choice must not be made lightly. He must be guided and assisted by those expert in the estimation of abilities and in the advising of vocations. The aim must always be to select for a disabled soldier an occupation in which, by superior training and knowledge, he will be able to support himself, in spite of his physical handicap, in competition with sound workmen. It is a difficult thing to do, since a mutilated man can never be the physical equal of one who is sound; for that reason, it is necessary to furnish a disabled man with knowledge sufficient to give him an assured position. Often, it is possible to make a man capable of directing others by giving him further instruction in an occupation already familiar to him; he is then, consequently, placed in a position either to become an overseer or an employer of labour.

It is essential that the occupation of a disabled man should be carefully chosen. Past experience makes it certain that the present spirit of gratitude and sympathy towards disabled soldiers will not always survive. It will diminish, and perhaps disappear, in a few years after the war when the economic struggle once more becomes keen. Competition will be acute, then, and unless a disabled man