

best-looking one, or the first choice of the man, inexperienced in such things, who is to wear it.

In order to secure uniformity and high excellence in the artificial appliances supplied to disabled men and kept in repair for them by the Government, France has requisitioned all artificial appliances made by her manufacturers; and the Government has established a series of types of artificial limbs, etc., which alone may be supplied. In this way, while a wide choice is left to orthopædic surgeons in the selection of artificial appliances, all the evils of commercialism have been avoided.

The continental governments supply, broadly-speaking, two main types of artificial limbs to their mutilated soldiers. There is the rough, strong arm or leg for heavy work and the more or less elaborate one for lighter employment; the chief use of the latter type of limb is that it disguises a loss. In limbs which are often supplied, a combination of the two types is effected, so that a man has a useful, strong instrument for work and, by the addition of an appropriate attachment, is able on occasion to dissimulate his loss. The more elaborate mechanical limbs, such as the arms enabling an armless man to strike matches, take off his hat, etc., are, at present, useful especially for those engaged in light employment and for those who have lost both arms.

In Australia, since the dependence of a disabled man upon his artificial appliances is recognized, those who have lost arms or legs are supplied with duplicate limbs so that they will have always one in reserve, ready for use, should the other be broken. The French Government is providing for the repair of the thousands of artificial appliances which its people will wear for half-a-century to come by the establishment of manufacturing orthopædist throughout the country. Men receiving artificial limbs will be given a fraction of the cost of their appliances annually with which to keep them in repair.

In its own workshops, the French Government produces artificial limbs at a cost of less than one-third of the usual retail price. The Canadian Government has also established a plant for the manufacture of artificial limbs in connexion with the large Central Military Hospital for returned soldiers at Toronto. The advantages of having a workshop, in connexion with an institution where there are large numbers of men requiring prosthetic appliances are obvious. Such an arrangement ensures the delivery of properly-fitting appliances to their wearers within a reasonable period and makes it easier for the surgeon to be certain that his directions have been followed by the makers of artificial limbs.