

six wards, and have endowed or equipped no less than 942 beds. They have donated three huts for convalescent soldiers and established four convalescent homes. 'Twelve soldiers' and sailors' clubs are the result of the activities of the primary chapters, and also eleven club rooms. They have furnished one infirmary and a gymnasium. Most of these are branches of war work that grew out of needs which began in 1916, and will continue for years to come.

There was one domestic need arising out of the war to which all the primary chapters were asked to contribute. Early in the winter of 1917-18, the terrible disaster occurred in Halifax, when a ship loaded with high explosives blew up in the harbor and shattered the city, with terrible loss of life. The National Executive issued an appeal for contributions towards a Halifax Relief Fund, and the first intention was to establish a "Home for Unclaimed Children." When conditions in Halifax became normal, it was evident that the number of homeless children was not so great as the authorities feared in the first hours of the catastrophe. The National Executive felt that, as the money had been collected for the children of Halifax, it should be expended for the benefit of the little ones. Acting upon the advice of women who were in touch with the special needs of the Capital City of Nova Scotia, it was decided to establish a "Home for Mentally Deficient Children." As the direct result of a war-time emergency, the Daughters of the Empire will always be able to claim the honor of having established the first institution of its kind in Canada, and of taking the initial practical step in a work of national conservation that is bound to grow more important as the years go by.

Special undertakings of a picturesque character have been reported to Head Office from