

centre of reëducation to an employment. It has been found that, if they do not find remunerative occupation so soon as they are ready for it, they are apt to become discouraged and to accept their incapacity as a permanent disability, instead of as a stimulus to unusual effort.

At first, in France, as in England, disabled soldiers were loathe to undertake a course of vocational training which involved a stay of several months in an institution. The advantage gained by the training was soon appreciated, however, and, in France, that disinclination has disappeared. Now, the situation is quite changed and men ask for and insist upon receiving the instruction provided for them. They have come to appreciate everything which secures renewed independence to them. The most successful of the Institutions devoted to vocational training are residential and are strictly regulated; it is found that men, far from resenting discipline, welcome and are anxious to maintain regulations when the advantage of them is understood.

While France commences the vocational training of disabled soldiers in hospitals and has established special "centres of reëducation" for that purpose, full use is made of educational institutions already existing. Unfortunately, the number of disabled men who can be taught in existing technical schools is not very large; if a considerable proportion of those attending these schools are disabled soldiers the ordinary running of the institution is interfered with and made impossible. Arrangements have also been made by which disabled men may obtain instruction through apprenticeship or employment in business houses. In order to stimulate disabled men by example and to prove to them that men disabled like themselves can be successful the teachers instructing disabled soldiers are, as far as possible, themselves chosen from among disabled men.

It is fully realized that one of the most important of the functions of a centre of reëducation is to secure a proper outlook and a spirit of cheerful hope to its inmates. Depressed by suffering and overcome by a knowledge of their incapacity they are often downcast; they are prone to believe that they can never again be self-supporting. Since the importance of a proper mental attitude in wounded soldiers is recognized; every effort is made in the French hospitals—by the counsel of physicians and nurses, by pictures posters and instruction of all sorts—to spread the knowledge that men, though disabled, can by appropriate reëducation become self-supporting. Every means is taken of informing men in hospitals of