

Subsection 4.—Casualty Rehabilitation

The rehabilitation of veterans with physical disabilities is a process that commences at the time a disabling condition is diagnosed. The objective of this rehabilitation is the return of the disabled veteran to the best possible physical, mental, social, economic, and vocational adjustment and usefulness of which he is capable. This definition sets not only the standards to be attained, but also indicates the type of problem encountered most frequently.

The compass of rehabilitation for the disabled is so broad that every division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, together with many other government and private agencies, may be required to contribute to the provision of the total range of services necessary in any individual case. As it is the aim of the Federal Government's rehabilitation program that disabled veterans be prepared to return to the successful performances of jobs in normal competitive industry, industry must itself co-operate by receiving the disabled into its employ. Finally, the disabled themselves play the most important role in this program. They must use intelligently the services provided and must justify the confidence of employers. The vast majority of disabled veterans are demonstrating in their efforts to rehabilitate themselves qualities of initiative and determination of the highest possible order and are proving to be efficient, safe and reliable employees.

The Casualty Rehabilitation Division, the function of which is to provide vocational guidance, assistance in securing suitable employment and vocational after-care, maintains a register of all those veterans whose disabilities in relation to other factors, such as education, previous employment experience, and personality, constitute a serious problem in occupational adjustment.

There were, up to Mar. 31, 1949, 32,950 registrations with this Division of which 13,454 were still active cases. The registration according to the type of disability is shown in the following statement:—

<u>Type of Disability</u>	<u>Active Cases</u>	<u>Closed Cases</u>	<u>Total</u>
	No.	No.	No.
Amputation.....	500	1,588	2,088
Other muscular and skeleton system disabilities.....	3,732	7,036	10,768
Total and partial loss of hearing or sight.....	763	1,489	2,252
Neurological cases.....	535	631	1,166
Heart and vascular system.....	942	2,037	2,979
Respiratory disabilities.....	5,149	3,932	9,081
Mental and emotional disabilities.....	492	366	858
Unclassified.....	1,341	2,417	3,758
TOTALS.....	13,454	19,496	32,950

During the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1949, the total number of registrants increased by about 2,900 cases but the number of active cases decreased by approximately 4,400 cases. Progress in the rehabilitation of the cases between Mar. 31, 1948, and Mar. 31, 1949, was as follows:—

<u>Status</u>	<u>Mar. 31, 1948</u>	<u>Mar. 31, 1949</u>
	No.	No.
Employed.....	20,384	24,478
Unemployed.....	1,785	1,592
Receiving treatment, training or other services.....	6,472	5,551
Rehabilitation not feasible.....	785	997
Unknown.....	614	332
TOTALS.....	30,040	32,950