

the work has been most successful. A special corps of ward aides was trained and it became a regular part of the procedure in all departmental hospitals for men to spend a portion of the day in performing some useful occupational work. This training is often commenced while the patient is bed-ridden. The sale of the articles produced has proved a welcome addition to the Departmental allowances.

RE-TRAINING OF THE BLIND.

The re-training of blinded soldiers is an important branch of the Department's activities. Their training, as was early recognized, must be of such a character as to enable them to adjust themselves to a new condition and to develop to the greatest extent the senses of touch and hearing. The blinded soldiers are taught how to be blind. Blinded soldiers formed a very small percentage of the casualties of the Great War, the number receiving pensions on account of blindness or impaired eyesight being 1,966, of whom 192 had sight so impaired as to require re-training, 110 of these being totally blind or having only a perception of light. Arrangements were made by the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment whereby all in this condition who wished to do so might receive training at St. Dunstan's Hostel, Regent's Park, London. The Department also entered into arrangements with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind for the training at Pearson Hall, Toronto, of those who did not avail themselves of the facilities provided at St. Dunstan's, and for a special post-graduate course for those who did. Further, provision has been made through the Institute, at the expense of the Government, for after-care and for establishment in business of those capable of looking after themselves. Blind soldiers have received training in such industries as massage, poultry farming, carpentry, piano-tuning, stenography, broom-making and telegraphy.

PROVISION OF ARTIFICIAL LIMBS AND APPLIANCES.

The Military Hospitals Commission recognized in June, 1916, that in order adequately to give effect to the Government's policy of caring for disabled members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, it was necessary to supply artificial limbs to those men who had suffered amputation as a result of their war service. Prior to this date the manufacture of these appliances had been in the hands of private firms in Canada and the United States and no standard type was universally available, while the number of experienced limb fitters and surgical appliance makers was limited. The essential thing was that the Government should be in a position to control and to standardize the issue of these appliances, in view of the fact that renewals and repairs would have to be issued in all parts of Canada. It was therefore decided to establish a Governmental organization independent of private interests. Further it was recognized that this industry would form a very useful and remunerative occupation for a number of returned men who had themselves suffered amputation. The first government artificial limb factory was temporarily