

ST. DUNSTAN'S LODGE, REGENT'S PARK, N.W.

THE BLINDED SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' HOSTEL.

The loss of sight is one of the greatest of tragedies that can befall a human being, and even in the case of the aged, when it is gradually failing, we feel that there are compensations if death comes while sight remains.

This loss becomes intensified when it befalls the strong and able bodied, in the first vigour of youth, and it is one which has befallen a

with the same heroism under their great misfortune, cheerful, even gay, and, under the supervision of blind teachers, learning trades and occupations which will fit them to be self-supporting.

At present there are 30 men there, able bodied except for the incapacity of the injury which has befallen them, but there are 25 more on the books, and more sleeping accommodation is to be added, so that more of these disabled soldiers can be received. They at present include two officers—both Irishmen—and three Belgians, as well as our own men.

The house placed at the disposal of the



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certain number of the men whom we saw a few months ago marching through the streets of London on their way to the front, where they have borne themselves as heroes. With them it is not the gradual failing of the light, but the blinding flash, the sudden injury, and then, for the rest of life, darkness—darkness which can be felt—and if a helping hand is not held out to them, helplessness and dependence for the rest of their lives.

But already such help has been extended in the most generous way, and at the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel, at St. Dunstan's Lodge, Regent's Park, one sees the men who have fought our battles bearing themselves

Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Care Committee, of which Mr. C. Arthur Pearson is Chairman, by the generosity of Mr. Otto Kahn, an American banker, stands in such beautiful surroundings that one feels a keen pang of regret that the men who are enjoying its hospitality cannot see its beauties.

On entering the hall one sees through the ballroom, immediately facing it, and which is now used as a lounge, the beautiful grounds, fifteen acres in extent, adjoining Regent's Park.

An arm of the large lake in the Park runs into the gardens, thus making it easy to enjoy boating, and in Mr. Pearson's opinion rowing is the best exercise for the blind.

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