

THE WAR.

Work for the Disabled.

The Queen recently visited the "Back at Work" exhibition which is being held at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, to show what is being done for men, women and children disabled or blinded in the war. Members of the public were allowed to enter and leave as freely as usual, and there was an absence of formality about the visit which enhanced its purpose.

The Queen saw every section of the exhibition, chatting with many of the men, who, having been trained to earn a living, are demonstrating their capacity to overcome the most grievous disabilities. She asked them individually about their experiences and prospects, and showed great interest in the skill with which they did their work.

A feature of the occasion was a running commentary by a woman teacher for the blind which thus enabled the men working at the machines in the section for the blind to follow the progress of the Queen round the exhibition.

New Chief of United States Nurses.

A new Chief of United States Army Nurses has arrived in England, Lieut.-Colonel Ida W. Danielson, who has been appointed Director-General of the U.S. Army Nursing Service in the European Theatre in succession to Lieut.-Colonel Margaret E. Aaron, who, we regret to report, has returned to the United States owing to ill health. This position is an exceedingly strenuous one, and we wish Lieut.-Colonel Danielson health and strength for its efficient performance. We are now used to meeting U.S.A. nurses in their very neat uniform in London streets, often surrounding a policeman who, no doubt, is quite capable of directing their tours of investigation.

A Splendid Response.

The Duke of Gloucester, presiding at the annual meeting of the Red Cross and St. John Fund in London, announced that it had reached a total of over £30,000,000.

We have no doubt that thousands of lives of sick and injured prisoners of war have thus been saved.

A Great Step Forward.

The *Daily Telegraph* emphasises the following progressive result of aviation for the benefit of the wounded:—

"When the invasion starts in Europe," it states, "American nurses will fly in transport planes to the first captured airfields to evacuate wounded collected there. In many cases, they will have to do it under fire. And the planes will not be marked as hospital planes.

"On outward trips the aircraft will be carrying rein-

forcements or supplies. That is why they will not bear hospital markings.

"Evacuation of large numbers of wounded by air has been decided on as much more effective than having big field hospitals near the front.

"It has proved much easier to bring a patient by air to a big hospital in safe territory than to try to give thorough treatment in the field," said Col. Ehrling L. Bergquist, a Ninth United States Air Force flight surgeon to a reporter recently.

"Many wounded in Italy would never have had a chance if they had had to take the long boat trip.

"In addition, air transport is safer. The low-flying transport plane is less likely to be shot down than a boat is to be sunk or an ambulance to be shot up and wrecked.

"In all the operations in the Mediterranean campaign not a single American hospital plane was lost."

"The nurses who will undertake this work are the women of the American air evacuation squadrons. Nearly all of them are in their twenties. Many were airline hostesses before the war.

"Sometimes they may make two trips a day to the front line.

"The aircraft used by American evacuation squadrons are the big Douglas D.C.3. troop carriers. Each squadron can evacuate 900 patients a day, assuming each plane does one trip."

35 Australian Nurses Missing.

The Australian Army authorities have posted as prisoners of war in Sumatra 32 of the 71 Australian nurses who were overtaken by the Japanese southward drive, says Reuter from Canberra.

Thirty-three are still recorded as missing in Malaya, and six as missing in Rabaul, but four of the latter may be prisoners of war, as letters have been received from them.

We feel sure our colleagues in Australia will agitate that their Government will take action.

We have heard two little stories which greatly pleased us.

"And Me a Soldier Too"!!

A mentally defective little lad, a constant worry to a kindly Home Guard owing to his idiotic behaviour, was one day observed marching up and down, a stick over his shoulder, with a proud and prancing step. As he passed he called out, "And me a soldier, too."

Yes, indeed, and an instinctive patriot into the bargain.

A King's Man.

Selected for the mines instead of the Army, a bright youth observed to District Nurse:

"I am willing to do any work for my country, but I will not be called a 'Bevin Boy.' I am a 'King's Man' now and for ever!"



Photo.]

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LIEUT.-COL. IDA W. DANIELSON,
Director-General of the United States Army
Nursing Service in the European Theatre.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)