

men worship her. She gets letters from them when they get back, and has the biggest fan mail of anyone I know."

Matron MacGeary is Miss Agnes MacGeary, who, at General Wingate's request, undertook the running of the hospital at Imphal. She was awarded the M.B.E. "in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Burma and on the Eastern Frontier of India."

#### War and Mental Health: Few Cases of "Blitz" Neurosis.

There is no evidence that the war has resulted in any increase in serious cases of mental breakdown. This summing-up of the effect of the war on mental health is given in the 30th Annual Report of the Board of Control.

The Board point out that although admissions to mental hospitals do not by themselves give a complete picture of the incidence of psychosis and neuro-psychosis, they do indicate the general trend.

"Even in the 'blitz' areas," the report states, "there are relatively few cases in which the mental breakdown can be attributed with any degree of certainty to the effects of war, and more particularly of air-raids. In those cases in which the breakdown appears to have been caused or accelerated by air-raids, it is generally found that the past history of the patients suggests that they might have developed mental trouble in any event, though possibly at a later date."

The Board mention that a neurosis survey recently carried out by the Ministry of Health did not show any alarming increase in neurosis, particularly when allowance was made for the fact that the war has forced into industry, often in unfamiliar and trying conditions, many who previously led sheltered lives and whose breakdown under unaccustomed strain might have been regarded as inevitable.

"Looking at the situation as a whole, we feel that it may fairly be claimed that the war has demonstrated the mental stability of the nation," it is stated.

During the year the Board, at the request of the War Office, organised a scheme of after-care for Service patients discharged from special hospitals and emergency medical service centres on account of psychiatric disability or mental abnormality. The aim is to ensure that such patients will, on discharge, know where to look for skilled treatment and advice.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Health the Board have also undertaken a follow-up of ex-Service cases of this kind. These inquiries will be purely fact-finding and will not overlap the after-care scheme. They will cover

cases discharged from the Army through emergency medical service neurosis centres.

The Board are also assisting the War Office in a somewhat similar follow-up of cases discharged from military mental units; wartime difficulties of staff, however, will not permit detailed inquiries at present, but when it is possible to complete the investigation "it should throw valuable light on the success of modern methods of treatment."

At the end of 1943, the number of persons suffering from mental disorder notified as under care in England and Wales was 147,557 (63,054 men and 84,503 women) a decrease during the year of 39. Over 86 per cent. of these cases were being treated in mental hospitals provided by local authorities. Direct admissions to County and Borough

Mental Hospitals during the year increased by 2,321, of which just over 2,000 were voluntary cases.

Ministry of Health,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

#### The War Progress in U.S.A.

From the office of the Surgeon-General Technical Information Division at Washington, reports are issued constantly of all progressive movements calculated to benefit the wounded. From these sheets we derive valuable information.

#### PROGRESS OF DISABLED IMPEDED BY THOUGHTLESS CIVILIANS.

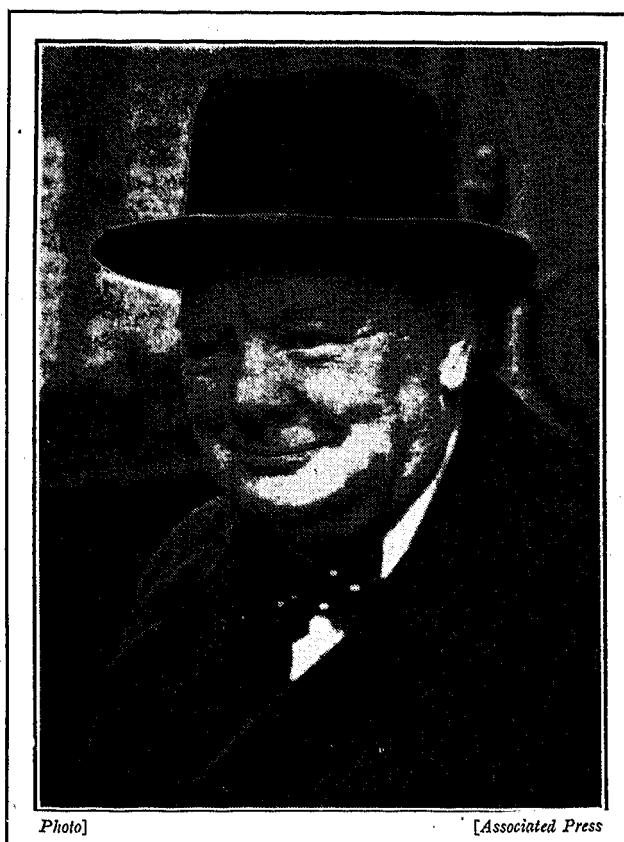
Disabled soldiers being prepared for their return to civilian life are seriously hampered in their efforts to adjust themselves by the morbid curiosity and thoughtlessness of some civilians, according to Staff-Sergeant Robert K. Yandell, who lost a leg in the World War and is now instructing amputation cases at Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D.C. A leg amputee is taught how to camouflage his prosthesis by balancing exercises, special shoulder and arm

movements in walking, placing his feet in certain positions when he sits down or rises, and by many other means which help to avoid drawing attention to his disability. All the hours spent in this practice are nullified if people embarrass the men by stares and prying questions. The Army Medical Department has appealed to the public for understanding and co-operation in this respect.

#### We Must Keep it Up.

Contributors to the Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund are raising an average of £100,000 a week.

More than 26,000,000 Red Cross parcels of food and comforts have now been sent to British prisoners of war and internees in European camps.



*Photo*

[Associated Press]

THE RT. HON. WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL,  
PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE.

"The Pilot who Weathered the Storm."

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