

Waiting for a few moments in the lounge, one wonders how these men, so newly blinded, find their way about with such certainty, and then the Matron, Miss Davidson, explains that if they keep on the strip of drugglet which crosses the room, it leads directly to the French window opening on to the terrace. Across the terrace is a strip of zinc; when this stops they know the steps begin, and when they reach wood they know there are no more steps.

The large conservatory has been turned into a workshop, and here the men are busy learning trades which it is hoped when they become expert will render them self-supporting.

poultry farming and market gardening, taught by a properly qualified instructor. Many of them hope to live in the country, some are married and others may be, and the occupation appeals to them as a healthy and pleasant one, in which it will be possible for them to make a living.

As I walked with the Matron along the gravel path leading to the chicken run there was a faint sound of chimes. They were the Japanese bells, swaying in the breeze, which guide the men to the gate in the wire netting which surrounds the run.

Instruction is given a great deal on models, and from these the men learn the position and management of the full-sized runs.

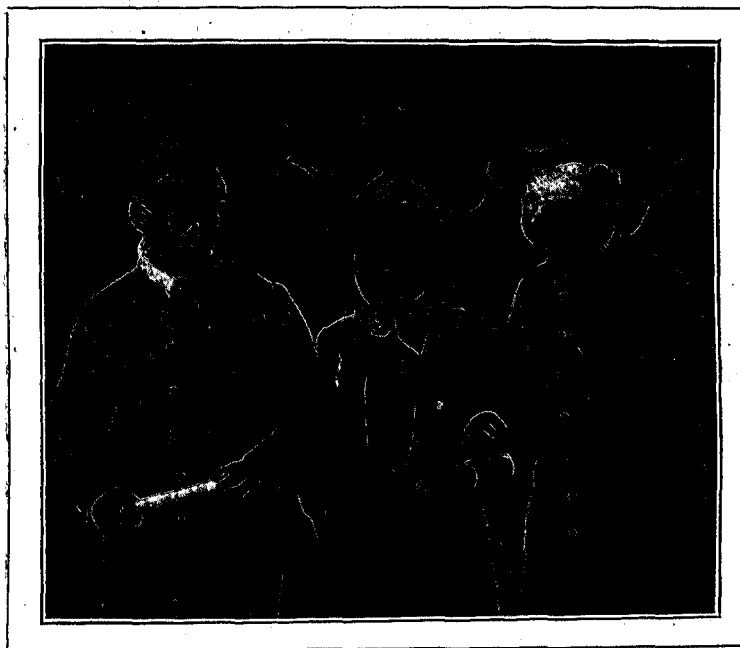
Other openings for training are in typewriting, telephone operating, and massage, and it is hoped that, in massage, men of suitable appearance, disposition, and intelligence may be able, when trained, to earn a good living.

The object, in many cases, is not to complete the training at St. Dunstan's, but to find out what a man is best suited for, then to give him preliminary training, after which, owing to the large grant made by the Prince of Wales' Fund, it will be possible to arrange for his further training and to settle him in life, or if at the end of six months he is sufficiently skilful, to find him paid employment, in which case he will be provided with a typewriter, or with tools, from a special fund raised for the purpose.

From this fund also the travelling expenses and board and lodging of near relatives, who are invited to spend a few days close to their husbands, sons, or brothers, are defrayed.

The Committee has been carefully selected to include those interested in the different blind societies, and the cost of maintaining the Hostel is borne by the National Institute for the Blind, the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and the British Red Cross Society.

The staff, besides the Matron, includes a trained nurse and eight voluntary helpers, members of voluntary aid detachments, who do the housework, sweeping, dusting, and waiting, besides orderlies. An orderly sleeps in each of the dormitories, and the nurse's room is on the same floor.



THEY FOUGHT FOR US.

Carpentry is taught in its preliminary stages by a teacher supplied by Mr. Guy Campbell, of the Royal Normal College, Gipsy Hill, the method being an ingenious adaptation of the Swedish slojd system; from this the men pass on to practical carpentry, taught by Mr. E. H. Atkinson, of Sheffield, himself blind, who has given up a profitable business in order to help.

Boot repairing is also taught by a blind instructor, mat making and weaving are in process, and the whole atmosphere of the place is that of a busy workshop.

But one of the most popular sections is the Country Life Section, under the superintendence of Captain Peirson-Webber, himself a well-known blind expert (an officer who lost his sight in a previous war), in which the men learn

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)