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EDITORIAL.

WORK FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS.

There are many claims upon the generosity of the public just now but none comes with greater force, or deserves more universal support, than the effort which is being made, in connection with the Lord Roberts Memorial Fund, to extend the movement for providing workshops for disabled soldiers and sailors.

The late Lord Roberts was a military genius of the first rank, a patriot whose advice the nation has had to pay dearly for ignoring, and whose exceedingly winning personality made him adored by the men he commanded, and respected and beloved by all with whom he came in contact, not least by the members of the nursing profession. On the ground alone that the memorial is designed to honour the great soldier for whom no honour can be great enough, its widespread support should be ensured.

But the object of the memorial is also one which must commend itself to every British man and woman. It should be regarded as a debt of honour to the sailors and soldiers whose incomparable valour has preserved these shores from the horrors of invasion, by a foe whose excesses and cruelties are a by-word throughout the civilized world.

It is much that our brave wounded should be restored to health by the skilled care they receive in our hospitals, but it is not enough.

A man in the vigour of life demands not only the right to live, but the right to work, and there is no place for them in the ranks of ordinary workers. The halt, the maimed and the blind, however physically vigorous, cannot compete in the open market with men not handicapped by such disabilities, although they may be pro-

ductive workers under favourable circumstances.

It is here that the Incorporated Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society (122, Brompton Road, S.W.) finds an opportunity of service in promoting Workshops Extension for the disabled men of both services, in connection with the Lord Roberts Memorial Fund, and its collecting sub-committee appeal for £100,000 to complete the memorial at the earliest possible date. This sum is urgently needed to extend the workshops, for there are not nearly enough to meet present needs, and the number of permanently disabled men increases daily.

"Permanently crippled! Long years of uselessness to be faced! Out of the running for the rest of his life! How could we face such a prospect for ourselves or for those we love? And yet thousands of British men are facing it to-day, men who came forward when their country needed them. . . .

"These workshops give back to the disabled men that sense of independence and self-respect and contentment which only useful employment can assure. Once acquired, and fitted up with the necessary machinery and fittings they pay their own way." The factories inaugurated at the close of the South African war are specially equipped and fitted with machines adapted to the use of the maimed. There are machines workable by one armed men, others for legless men, others for the partially paralysed, so that the men in these shops become as useful as many an able-bodied worker.

What better memorial could there be to a friend or relative fallen in the war than to aid these crippled men to take their place in the ranks of productive workers? If those we care for have been preserved in the perils of mortal combat how can we better express our thanksgiving than by supporting these workshops?

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