

knows and loves her France, and her chapter in *Women War Workers* has been reviewed with well-deserved praise. The book, which costs 3s. 6d., is published by George G. Harrap & Co., 2 and 3, Portsmouth Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.

A Sister writes:—"We have been exceedingly busy ever since the two Sisters went on leave—is it not always the case when one risks taking a holiday? . . . Both the *deuxième* and *troisième* corridors present the most picturesque mixture of races you could imagine. Senegalese and their still darker neighbours from Soudan, Somalis who won't look or speak to the 'inferior' Senegalee; tall, graceful Arabs, lithe as young race-horses, and quaint yellow Annamites with black teeth and almond-shaped eyes. One poor little mite of fifteen was brought to us the other night in a dying condition with acute pneumonia. The little thing reminded us of a sick baby, so helpless and miserable looking. The Annamites are making the roads near the front; they speak very little of any language but their own. We hope the tiny one is going to pull through. He is still alive; in fact, a degree stronger. . . .

"We had been greatly looking forward to apple blossom time in Normandy, and strangely enough we positively have hardly had time to more than peep at the blossoms through the Ward window. From my bedroom window I have the most charming view of black and white houses, and a far-away horizon of trees and meadowy hills. Now the colouring is perfect. Pale pink may blossom, blending with lilac purple and white, and the golden clusters of laburnum, with the lovely pale purple of the wistaria, complete the loveliest sight one could desire. . . . Alas! yesterday suddenly came the heavy rain and carpeted the bouvelard with fallen petals of rose and purple and white."

Normandy in May! A Paradise of flowers. Out of the war zone, an exquisite environment in which to tone up mental and physical wrecks. We wonder how its tender greenness and delicate glories impress the men from the lands of "burning suns and sands."

THE NATIONAL TRIBUTE TO OUR PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

Permanently disabled! While the words are falling glibly from our tongue, the full realisation of what they mean is daily, hourly coming home to thousands, and tens of thousands of husbands, sons, and brothers of our land. Never again in the old occupation, the old sport, the old free independence. There is nothing bitterer to some natures than dependence on others.

Those who can find time to visit the Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops in the Brompton Road, should make it their business to do so.

If they have eyes to see and hearts to under-

stand, they will carry away great and noble lessons from the splendid examples of manhood that work here.

Men who have refused to let their disabilities overcome them, but who are instead overcoming them, and rising triumphantly above and beyond them.

It is necessary to call at 122, Brompton Road to obtain a permit to view the shops, and armed with this there are no further difficulties.

On the occasion of our visit, we were escorted round the premises by a guide who had lost his right arm and his left hand. It was not till he courteously asked us if we would open the doors that we were aware of the extent of his misfortune. Fancy both hands! But he finds his niche as a messenger.

Visitors are requested not to converse with or question the men at work, and this very wise restriction is no doubt appreciated by the workers as a preventive against what might easily become a great annoyance.

The guide answers any questions.

There are a large number of workrooms, and a great variety of articles manufactured. Eighty different kinds of toys are turned out—jointed dolls, "Fums Up," Noah's arks, jig-saw puzzles, are among them. Some of the composition jointed baby dolls were really charming and restored the hope that the slump in dolls was going to be overcome.

It was very interesting to see the different processes by which they were moulded, and the skill to which the workers had attained. The more delicate parts of colouring the toys was done by young girls who were all near relations of wounded men.

The capturing of the toy-making industry will no doubt lead to a very profitable trade.

But much more ambitious work is done by the men in the shape of cabinet-making, and we saw some pretty white ornamental bedroom furniture, and suites of chairs just completed.

It is a wonderful scheme, and a very complete organisation. The men all receive a minimum wage of £1 in addition to the State pension, and a skilled workman can earn trade union wages, if that was 50s. a week he obtained it, in addition to his State pension. One must be fascinated by the attitude of these men so bravely and cheerfully submitting to the altered conditions of life. The same high courage which upheld them in battle, sustaining them in what is an even greater ordeal.

An appeal for funds to establish these workshops throughout the country should meet with a generous response. This is no charity, but a commercial self-supporting industry, it is of no transitory character, but will be of lasting benefit to all whom the scheme reaches. Once established these workshops are a financial success. No contribution is too small to be of use, and no object could be more worthy.

Those who can see their way to sharing in this great enterprise should send their contributions to The Secretary, Lord Roberts Workshops, 122, Brompton Road.

H. H.

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