

KITCHENER HOUSE.

A CLUB FOR WOUNDED SAILORS AND SOLDIERS.

The problem of the disabled soldier grows and intensifies as the war drags on. Each month, each week, each day the numbers increase, and it becomes overwhelming. It is to help to solve this problem that Kitchener House, 8, Cambridge Gate, Regent's Park, has been opened. The House, financed by the Joint War Committee, is lent by Mr. John Galsworthy, who some time last autumn visited Californian House, Lancaster Gate, for disabled Belgians. So struck was he by its methods and aims that he offered his fine residence in Regent's Park to provide similar accommodation for the English disabled, provided that Miss Heyneman, the able Secretary of Californian House would undertake the organisation of this prospective venture.

By February, Kitchener House was opened, and was speedily in working order.

It supplies a crying need for the wounded soldier. The spacious, beautiful, recreation room overlooks the park, and is provided with very easy chairs, newspapers and games. Here every man is welcome who chooses to take advantage of its hospitality. Here he may obtain a good dinner free of charge with half an hour's notice; here he can have free tea without notice of any kind. Sometimes as many as a hundred guests are present.

But though the men are quite at liberty to use the house for recreative purposes only, this is not its primary object. The aim of Kitchener House is more far reaching than the mere social side of the men's lives. The top floors of the house are devoted to the educational side, and the men are encouraged to take full advantage of this most important scheme.

Miss Heyneman is most anxious to break new ground in this direction, and with this end in view, she is creative in her aims, seeking to introduce branches of trade that have practically never been practised, or have become lost arts in this country.

Wood carving, gilding, frame making, book-binding are among the industries taught. Boxes and picture frames are modelled in Gesso. Classes for French and Spanish are held, and one for Dutch has recently been demanded.

Miss Heyneman is most anxious to secure the co-operation of Sisters and nurses who have charge of the wounded. Devoted as they are to the nursing of their patients, they do not perhaps all sufficiently realise the all-important "after care" of their destinies. The real tragedy of these men's lives comes when they are discharged from the hospital and have to face life, as it will be for them in the future. They are then no longer the centre of unremitting attention and often spoiling, but from that moment they are thrown on their own resources. No longer able to follow their own calling, they have learned no other craft to take its place. What can Sisters and nurses do in this

matter? They can tell the men about Kitchener House, and so far as is in their power remove every obstacle to their becoming members of it. The authorities of the Club leave no stone unturned to make it easy. If it is signified from a hospital that two or three badly-disabled men are anxious to take advantage of the Club a conveyance is sent for them free of charge. In many cases the less helpless have their bus fares paid. Distance, therefore, is no hindrance, and the men come from long distances. The younger and more disabled the man the more welcome he is. Men who come for the purposes of recreation only, frequently catch the spirit of their more enterprising comrades, and are induced to join one of the classes. It cannot be argued that a short stay in hospital will render attendance at the Club useless. Often the seed of future success is sown even if the fruit is not brought to maturity at once.

Sisters and nurses are earnestly begged to visit the Club and see for themselves the great advantages that will accrue to their patients, both in the present and in the future, by becoming members of the Club.

Miss Heyneman will give them a cordial welcome and tea any afternoon, and it is certain that enthusiasm will follow an interview with her and with Mr. Cuthbert Crowley, who has the welfare of the men so closely at heart.

It is a unique opportunity for nurses to widen the sphere of their activities, and to feel that while they have taken their share in restoring wounded bodies, they have done their part in helping to provide these same bodies with means of sustenance, and to rescue minds and bodies from hopeless apathy if not from despair.

Everything is *free*—dinners, teas, transit, education. All that is asked for is hearty co-operation.

VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT HOSPITALS.

On Tuesday, October 16th, Captain Bennett Goldney asked the Prime Minister if he would take an early opportunity of making it known whether women workers and nurses voluntarily or for partial remuneration have undertaken all the arduous and varied duties in connection with Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospitals. He further asked the Prime Minister to represent to His Majesty the claims of these women to some honourable but inexpensive recognition, such as a distinctive ribbon, so that all those who merit it shall be able to receive such an honour now, instead of being made to wait for some unknown period after the war.

In replying, Mr. Bonar Law said that every effort was being made in conjunction with the Chairman of the Joint War Committee to afford such recognition as is possible to these ladies. Neither the War Office nor the other departments concerned regarded with favour the suggestion that a distinctive ribbon should be instituted.

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