

they enjoy their gossip across him. He is afterwards taken home to tea and Tiddly-winks, but he announces that he "has a terrible temperature coming on," and makes good his escape.

The "Head Bandage" is a series of sketches showing how, in spite of the repeated attempts of the night nurses to fix the bandage, its condition becomes progressively worse and worse till at last the "Hopeless Dawn" sees its climax. The two scrubbers exchanging their mutual grievances is a very clever skit, "Perhaps your Officers don't Call You Boadicea." As there are over a hundred of these sketches we can only mention a very few of them, but we are sure that any nurse who can spend an hour in the Camera Club will be well repaid for her visit. The admission is free, but there is a box into which visitors are invited to place contributions for providing comforts for the wounded in the hospital which has produced so much delightful talent.

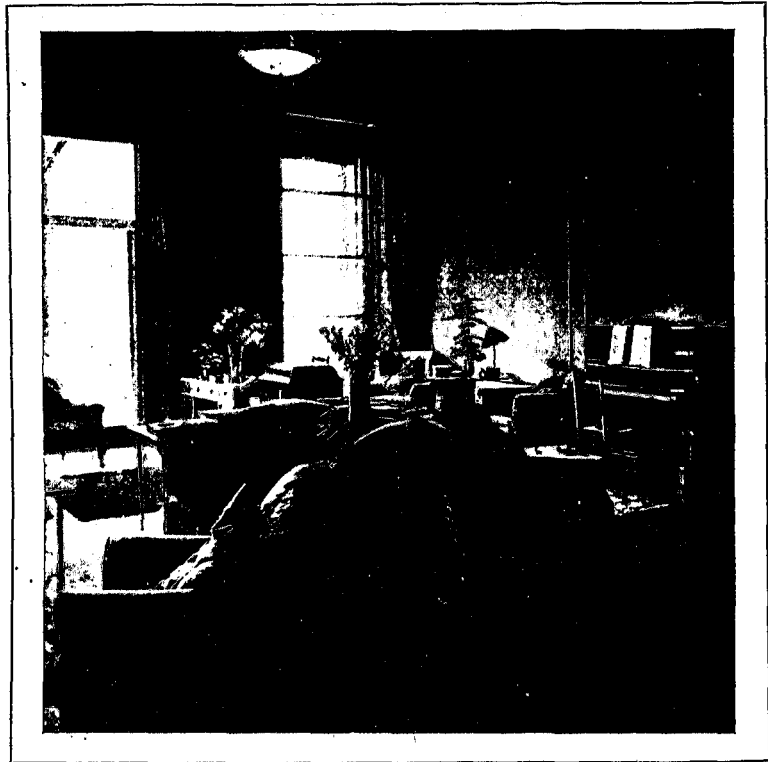
LEARNING TO BE BLIND.

Through the kindness of the Matron of the Bungalow Annexe, Miss Craven, over 50 of those who had attended the Conference of the National Union of Trained Nurses, were able to visit on November 20th, St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, for whose welfare Sir Arthur Pearson has done and is doing so much. The first and strongest impression produced on the mind is the extraordinarily cheerful atmosphere of the whole place; all the men seemed to be busy and interested in their work. Many of them were singing or whistling. Not one seemed to be depressed. We were told that practically every man before he leaves the Hostel has learnt one or more of the following occupations:—Massage, shorthand writing, telephone operating, boot-repairing, mat-making, basket-making, joinery, poultry-farming, or market-gardening. Whatever occupation a blinded man intends ultimately to follow, he learns Braille, some typewriting and lettering. Typewriting is only taught as an occupation to those who learn shorthand but a limited knowledge of it enables a man to correspond with his friends; and on gaining the certificate, every man is given his own typewriter.

We saw many men at their Braille lesson, each having an individual teacher—this accounts for the rapid progress made in this difficult subject. Many of the teachers have themselves learnt Braille since the outbreak of the war, so as to be

able to assist others. Three occupations are open to men who have had a fair general education—massage, secretarial work and telephone operating. Massage is the one occupation at which a blind man can especially excel. We heard a class being given, and in every case the questions put to the men were answered quickly and correctly. Each man has to pass the I.S.T.M. examination, and is then able to obtain a good post. Men who wish to take up secretarial work have to learn Braille shorthand. This is very difficult, but the men seem to master it in a surprisingly short time. These men and those who take up telephone operating are able to obtain good posts.

Many of the blinded have taken up cobbling,



BROUGHTON ROOM.

these men are, as a rule, taught mat-making as well; others take up basket-making or joinery and on leaving the Hostel are able to add considerably to their pensions by their trades. One of the most interesting departments is poultry-keeping. An opportunity is given to wives and mothers of the blinded to learn something about poultry-keeping—they are given a six-weeks' course free of charge, and so are able to help the blinded man, when he starts work for himself.

Everyone who has not yet visited St. Dunstan's should make a point of doing so. It is only by seeing the men at their work and play, that one can realise how thoroughly they are "taught to be blind."

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