

SIGHTLESS MASSEURS' SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

How loss of sight can be transformed into a definite asset, in one walk of life at least, is revealed in "Massage as a Profession for the Blind," a bulletin (No. 10) published by the National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, London, W.1, price 6d.

The late Sir Robert Jones, the famous orthopædic surgeon, used, the bulletin states, to speak of an extremely skilled masseur known to him, who always closed his eyes as he treated his patients, because he found concentration came to him more easily in this way. It continues, "If concentration and delicacy of touch in dealing with surfaces made sensitive by pain are the two outstanding qualities of a good masseur," it is stated, "then the trained blind worker is in a strong position."

Since its establishment during the War, 264 sightless men and women have been trained at the Massage School of the National Institute. Not one has failed, while the large majority have been conspicuously successful after qualification.

At the Institute's own clinic in the Massage School, an average of 140 patients are treated weekly by blind men and women; while a few doors away is the Eichholz Clinic, where diathermy treatment, remedial exercises and a wide balneological system are administered by fully-qualified blind masseurs and electrotherapists.

The hardest burden that blindness imposes on active persons is the sense of dependence on others. Massage, the new bulletin points out, is pre-eminently a profession by which those afflicted with loss of sight can gain not only independence but also a satisfying knowledge that they are contributing to the welfare of their fellow men.

The conditions laid down at the present time require candidates for admission to the National Institute's School of Massage to be between the ages of 19 and 40 except in the case of medical men and registered nurses who have lost their sight.

BALNEOLOGICAL TREATMENTS.

British spas are all the time making progress in the scientific administration of balneological treatments; in many of the methods in use this country is in no way behind the Continent. In the application of the radioactive thermal waters of Bath two important advances have just been made.

The first of these relates to a new method in the administration of the Bath waters in an atomised form for throat and nasal sprays, a treatment for which many English people have in the past gone to Continental spas. Atomisation has previously involved the lowering of the temperature of the water. This disability has been completely overcome by means of apparatus specially devised for Bath. The atomised mineral water combined with the natural gas, rich in radon, given off from the spring can be applied to the throat and nasal passages at any prescribed temperature.

Another form of treatment in which there has recently been considerable development is the "aeration bath" in its various forms. There are now available deep aeration baths in which the patient, relaxed in 500 gallons of the radio-active thermal water, is subjected over the whole surface of the body to the gentle massage of innumerable bubbles of air driven through the bottom of the bath, the limbs being exercised while in the buoyant water; reclining baths providing similar treatment in the modified form for older or more feeble patients, and even local baths for the extremities, hands and forearms, legs and feet.

OLD PHOTOS.

"AN OLD NURSE'S MEMORY."

Around my room in shabby frames,
Your faces, friends, I see—
Stiff poses, clothes quite out-of-date,
But, oh, so dear to me.

Each one recalls some happy time,
Like music, sweet and strong:
Some cheery word or kindly act
That helped the load along.

Such busy days, such strenuous hours,
Scarce time to tend to half;
The ready help, the sly dry jest
That woke the merry laugh.

But others do the work to-day;
At times, I think, they scorn
The work we did, with stumbling feet,
In the light of the misty morn.

And Science' torch burns bravely now—
"Results" are clear and bright;
But I like to think, 'old friends, we helped
To keep the spark alight.

Our work is done, old friends: God grant
That each one did their best;
The Master calls us, one by one,
To fold our hands and rest.

"RACHEL."

WHAT TO READ.

- "The Reign of King George V," Memoirs and Biography. D. C. Somervell.
- "Life Errant." Cicely Hamilton.
- "What I left Unsaid." Daisy, Princess of Pless.
- "Fifty Years with John Company." Ursula Low.
- "Petulengro." A Romany Life.
- "Patriotic Lady." Marjorie Bowen.

FICTION.

- "Return to Coolami." Eleanor Dark.
- "Wise Generations." Barbara Goulding.
- "Progress of Stories." Laura Riding.
- "Agents and Patients." Anthony Powell.
- "Michael and His Angels." Lewis Gibbs.
- "Never in Vain." J. L. Hardy.
- "Christina." Claude Houghton.
- "Silas Crockett." Mary Ellen Chase.

HISTORY.

- "Magna Britannia." J. Coatman.

HAIL AND FAREWELL.

A permanent form of the Empire's farewell to King George has been issued by *The Times* under the title "Hail and Farewell: The Passing of King George V." It is profusely illustrated, and contains the story of King George's illness and death. The demand for a record of this kind will be great. It can be obtained direct from the publisher, *The Times*, Printing House Square, London, E.C.4., price 2s. 10d., post free, or through booksellers at 2s. 6d.

WORD FOR THE MONTH.

Death comes to set us free.
Oh! meet him cheerily
As thy true friend;
And all thy fears shall cease,
And in eternal peace
Thy penance end.

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