

## THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

We have received the Annual Report, 1938-39, of the National Institute for the Blind, presented in most attractive form.

The most interesting event of the year was the visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen on March 16th to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the present Headquarters, at Great Portland Street, London, W.1, when they made an extensive tour of the building and were deeply impressed by the many activities of the blind.

During the year £125,806 has been subscribed, given and collected for the work performed and assisted by the Institute; and £36,243 has been received in legacies and endowments. No help could be given to a more deserving cause than to assist blinded people to take an active part in the body politic.

excellence of their work is proved by the success of the Eichholz Memorial Clinic and Institute of Massage and Physiotherapy.

The blind have made their mark in other professions besides massage. In the Church, in law, in lecturing, teaching and writing they have proved their efficiency.

The blind piano tuner is a skilled craftsman, and all who wish to keep their pianos in good order should give these blinded workers a trial. Chair-caning is another one of the many handicrafts in which blind home-workers excel.

### The Importance of Braille.

From infancy to old age, at school and in private study, in work and in recreation, Braille plays a most important part in the life of the blind.

Classics, thrillers, text-books, books of the hour, are all put into Braille.

Another service of international friendship in the blind



*Here are three sides of life at Chorleywood College; a studious hour in the classroom working out geometrical problems: a quiet hour in the beautiful*

*grounds one girl knitting while her friend reads aloud to her from a Braille book: and an hour of sport, opening with a plunge into the swimming pool.*

The Sunshine Homes carry on work of the very greatest importance and interest. Blind babies are trained by devoted staffs to lead normal and useful lives.

Illustrations in the Report depict happy youngsters enjoying a romp in a cornfield; playing in the sand with their spades and pails; and one little girl is lavishing loving care on her dolly.

### Making Useful Citizens of Blinded Persons.

Girls and boys from the Chorleywood and Worcester Colleges for the Blind, if they so desire, are trained in the profession of massage; and in the Evening Massage and Electrical Clinic between forty and fifty patients are treated in an evening by senior students and one blind chartered masseur, under the supervision of medical officers and a sighted sister.

Massage by the blind, after a quarter of a century's achievement, has firmly established itself. The medical profession recognises the training, qualifications and work of blind masseurs and masseuses by affording them opportunities to demonstrate their skill and efficiency. The

world is Braille music. More progress has been made in this branch than in any other activity undertaken on behalf of the blind. Selection of works for publication is entrusted to a committee of experienced professional blind musicians, who understand professional needs and pay special attention to the requirements of music teachers and of students sitting for examinations or taking part in competitive festivals.

### The Showroom at Headquarters.

The showroom at the Institute's Headquarters in Great Portland Street is one of the most interesting shops in London, for here are for sale all types of attractive goods made by the blind.

We can most heartily recommend a visit to this shop when looking for Christmas presents; woollen goods of every description, baskets for every possible occasion, and many other useful and dainty gifts, all made by the blind, will be found to please the eye in this establishment, and, what is more important, every purchase made provides work for a blinded person.

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