

## DOGS WITH EYES FOR TWO.

It may not be generally known that there is a school for dogs only—at Wallasey, in Cheshire—and, the result of an enquiry into the Guide Dog Movement by *John Bull*, has been reprinted in leaflet form.

It teaches Alsatians road-sense, when it is safe for them to leave the kerb, how to adapt their gait to the number of people on the pavement, and much other knowledge that human beings could themselves learn with advantage. Its finished product is a dog that "you can't run over."

Human beings have never been provided with such a school as yet, but in their case the need is not as great. For these school dogs, when they have passed their examinations with honours, are to be blind men's dogs—their guardians, their friends, their very eyes.

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association which controls the school, would no more pass out an unsuitable dog than the Pharmaceutical Society would pass out a dangerous and unqualified dispenser. That is why at least 70 per cent. of the canine pupils are "failed" as unfitted to such a career, and sent out into the world to end their days as mere pets.

The first part of the training consists of teaching a dog to lead a man along at an average normal speed, slowing down when there are a lot of people about and not resorting to tugging when the road is clear. That, if the dog is temperamentally suited, is easy.

Then he must learn to give the trainer who accompanies him warning of any obstacle, leading him safely round it. After that, he must be taught how to come to a dead stop before steps that go upward and sit down for stairs that go downward, and give easily understandable signals in a score of varying emergencies.

At last he comes to the biggest test of all his intelligence—behaviour in traffic. Not until he looks from left to right and then back to left, waiting for the most convenient time to cross a road, and then going on his way without nerves or after-thoughts, is his trainer satisfied with him.

But his school days are not over even then. Now begins the task of making him one with his master, who has arrived to take over possession. He must do for the blind man what he has done for the trainer, and furthermore, the blind man must learn to understand him.

Then the blind man must guide him with such verbal commands as "Left!" "Right!" and "Forward!" In this way will the master be able to go to any place he chooses in his own neighbourhood, the dog seeing to his safety.

The aim of this school is to do for our own blind what is already being done for them in many countries abroad, notably Germany, America, Italy, Switzerland and France—to give them eyes that are next best to eyes of their own. Ten thousand of our totally blind have no such assistance. A few rely on shaggy little mongrels as guides—lovable little fellows, who can do no more than tug them along, and are all too susceptible to a dog-fight.

Great dogs, these—friends, guides and companions. They do as noble a job of work as any living creature in the world. That is why the pity is that there are not more of them.

All donations, however small, are welcomed and faithfully applied to this great work. Please address remittances to The Secretary, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 58, Mark Lane, London, E.C.3.

Work done grudgingly is Servitude,  
Work done willingly is Service,  
But work done lovingly is Sacrament.

## KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

### THE KING'S MESSAGE TO THE HOSPITALS.

At the meeting of the Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund yesterday, H.R.H. the Duke of Kent read the following message from H.M. The King:

I am glad to see that in these difficult times King Edward's Hospital Fund still shows itself resourceful and progressive. I trust that in the midst of so many conflicting claims no one will forget the hospitals. A full measure of voluntary support is more than ever needed. New methods for the prevention and cure of disease entail ever-increasing expenditure. Co-ordination and co-operation must constantly be sought, and in this connection I am sure that the Council will feel that no greater tribute could well be paid to the work which the King's Fund has tried to do than the recent splendid gift of Lord Nuffield to form a nucleus of a Fund for Hospitals outside the London area.

GEORGE R.I.

The Duke of Kent, in his presidential speech, said that the King's Fund would this year distribute £304,000. Of this sum £43,500 had been made in special emergency grants and an extraordinary grant of £15,000 has been made to the Westminster Hospital and a further one of £15,000 towards the building of a new hospital on the amalgamation of the Central London and Golden Square Throat, Nose and Ear Hospitals. In view of the special circumstances this year, a further distribution would be made when the hospital accounts for 1939 become available.

### Voluntary Hospitals in War Time.

In talking of the needs of the hospitals, the Duke said, "The Government is responsible only for the cost of the beds reserved for casualties. But for the civil work, which has never stopped and is now increasing, the hospitals are dependent on voluntary contributions, and the need is all the more urgent because so many of their supporters are themselves hard hit by the war."

Sir Harold Wernher, in presenting the report of the Emergency Bed Service, stated that since the Service was opened in June, 1938, 10,000 cases had been admitted to hospital through its agency. Though the Service had been closed on the outbreak of war as the staff had been seconded to the Ministry of Health for work in connection with the casualty scheme, it had been possible to reopen it by the middle of September, and it was now in full operation and handling a steady flow of cases.

### ALEXANDRA DAY.

It was reported at a recent meeting of the Alexandra Day Council that the collections on Alexandra Day in London on June 20th amounted to £46,143, to which had to be added collections by steamship companies of £628 and other income amounting to £5,477, making a total of £52,248.

The expenses amounted to £7,398, and comprised cost of roses made by cripples and sold on Alexandra Day £5,690, salaries £460, expenses of local secretaries £277, printing, stationery, rent, light, heating, telephone, and miscellaneous expenses £971. This left a surplus of £44,850.

Out of the surplus £4,770 has been given to those charities in which the Duchess of Kent is especially interested, and £37,758 15s. 3d. has been distributed to various hospitals and charities. The balance will be carried forward to next year.

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