

WAR DEPENDS ON WORKERS' HEALTH.

The Labour Correspondent of *The Times* wisely emphasises the importance of the health of the workers as a factor of victory in this war. He reports:—

"Prompted by recent correspondence in *The Times* on the value of voluntary medical service in industrial and commercial concerns, the Industrial Welfare Society has taken up the subject again in a revised brochure.

The gain to workpeople by improved health and to business undertakings by better attendance at work through medical oversight at the place of work is being increasingly recognised. What is the total loss of work through sickness no one can say. Among the insured population, the brochure points out, 31,500,000 weeks are lost annually by absence from work through sickness—the full-time work of 610,000 persons—but these figures do not usually include the first three days of sickness nor accident cases for which compensation is payable. Workpeople do not need to be told of the personal loss and disability of even minor ailments that keep them from work, nor employers of the derangement and possibly serious dislocation caused by the absence of workpeople, particularly if the individual is one of a team.

A firm's doctor is primarily engaged in preventive work, but if in full-time employment he can also supervise the whole hygiene of the factory and can act educatively in all matters touching the health of the workers. In the event of accident he will be immediately at hand. The Industrial Welfare Society's opinion is that 'the work of the doctor has long ceased to be considered as a semi-philanthropic activity on the part of a firm, but has become one which it is difficult for the well-managed firm to neglect.'

How the firm's doctor functions, the accommodation and equipment needed, the doctor's position within the firm, the probable cost of both full-time and part-time service, and the kinds of records to be kept have all been the subject of enquiry. Even the small-sized factory can arrange for part-time medical service."

CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL HERBS.

It has been decided by the Ministry of Health to give encouragement, under the scheme indicated below, to the further production in this country of belladonna, digitalis, henbane and stramonium.

Owing to the closing of some foreign sources of supply, much interest, both professional and amateur, has recently been shown in the growing and collection in this country of all kinds of herbs. Many proposals have been advanced, ranging from suggestions for collecting wild plants by botanists, teachers, schoolchildren, etc., to arrangements for extended cultivation by existing firms, private gardeners, and so forth. The various proposals and the whole needs of the situation have been discussed at the Ministry with representatives of the various interests and in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In the result, it is felt that extended production on an organised scale may well be limited to the four herbs named above and that the scheme should be on a commercial basis.

The essence of the scheme is that the present commercial firms should extend their cultivation and drying plant. Farmers and owners of large private gardens who wish to engage in the cultivation of the herbs are recommended to operate in close association with commercial firms to ensure that the crop is properly harvested and dealt with. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will advise on the problems relating to production and method of cropping.

Accordingly, farmers and private gardeners who are desirous of growing the herbs are advised to get into touch without delay with the Wholesale Drug Trades Association, 28, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

- "The Last Days of Paris." Alexander Werth.
 "Stalin's Kampe." Joseph Stalin's own credo written by himself.

FICTION.

- "Victor's Freedom." Francis Brett Young.
 "I Married Adventure." Osa Johnson.
 "The Bright Pavilion." Hugh Walpole.
 "Men Against the Sky." Winifred Galbraith.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- "Dunkirk and After." Gordon Beckles.
 "Why England Slept." John F. Kennedy.
 "Battle of France." André Maurois.

HELP FOR THE CHILDREN OF LABRADOR AND NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Grenfell Association of Great Britain and Ireland, which does such wonderful work amongst British settlers in Labrador and Newfoundland, appeal to our readers to think of them when they are Christmas shopping. They have on sale seven different designs of Christmas cards:— (1) "Winter Quarters," design in black and white, on heavy white stock folded along left edge, measures 6 in. by 5 in., price per box of six, 1s. 6d.; (2) "Dogteam," in black, faint blue tinting on heavy white stock, folded along left edge, measures 6½ in. by 4½ in., price per box of six, 2s.; (3) "Penguins," in black, background tinted in blue, on heavy white stock folded along left edge, measures 5½ in. by 3½ in., price per box of six, 1s. 6d.; (4) "Dancing Animals," in full colour on heavy white stock folded along left edge, measures 6 in. by 4 in., price per box of six, 2s. 3d.; (5) "Christmas Eve in Labrador," in full colour, attached to twice-folded cream-coloured stock, measures 4½ in. by 6½ in., price per box of six, 2s.; (6) "A Labrador View," in black and white on heavy stock folded along left edge, measures 6 in. by 4 in., price per box of six, 1s. 6d.; (7) "Polar Bears," design in black and white with faint tinting and scintillating dusting on heavy stock folded along left edge, measures 6 in. by 4 in., price per box of six, 1s. 6d. Envelopes are supplied with all cards, and postage of box is extra in each case.

By the sale of these Christmas cards the children of Labrador and Northern Newfoundland will benefit; the Association specially want to help them this year, when so many of their fathers are on this side now fighting with us.

The Grenfell Association have also for sale books by Sir Wilfred Grenfell; dog team stationery, 24 sheets of notepaper and envelopes, 1s. 4d., post free; packets of six oil facsimile views of the Labrador for 1s., and many handicrafts which vary in price from 1s. 6d. to three guineas.

Further particulars and all goods may be obtained from the Secretary, The Grenfell Association of Great Britain and Ireland, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, who will be grateful for any help this coming Christmastide.

A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

Happy, thrice happy shall the monarch reign,
 Where guardian laws despotic power restrain!
 There shall the ploughshare break the stubborn land,
 And bending harvests tire the peasant's hand:
 There liberty her settled mansion boasts,
 There commerce plenty brings from foreign coasts.
 O Britain, guard thy laws, thy rights defend,
 So shall these blessings to thy sons descend!

JOHN GAY: "Epistle to Pulteney" (1718).

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)