

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

The record of another successful year in the annals of the National Institute for the Blind is just to hand.

The work for blinded persons has gone steadily forward, the war has not been allowed to curtail any of the activities, rather have they been increased.

Over this country can be seen many scars made by the Nazi bombs; and from these places have been gathered, into the Homes of Recovery, men, women and children who have been blinded in the raids. One of these homes is on the quiet Shropshire hills overlooking Bridgnorth; another on the verdant border of the Thames at Goring; and a third on the Devonshire coast at Torquay. At Bigbury-on-Sea a house has been kindly lent by Miss Pearl Dence, which acts as a place of refuge for bombed-out blind people.

Blind Babies' Homes.

The most momentous episode of the year in Blind Baby-



CHILDREN FROM SUNSHINE HOMES VISIT A FARM.

land was the trek of the babies from the ruins of their bombed Home at Southport by the sea to Whitfield Hall in the heart of the country. Perhaps the only speck on the experience was the thought that persisted in the babies' minds, as Christmas drew near, that Santa Claus would not be able to find their new home. Otherwise, they have revelled in the change.

The farmyard animals of their rhymes and songs have become delightful realities, and they chat with actual cowmen and dairymaids. In summer they have enjoyed the haymaking and in winter the magic of deep snow.

Near the home at East Grinstead many people living in the district have become warm friends of the children. The babies also appear to have fascinated members of the London Auxiliary Fire Service, for they have sent them 80 toys of their own fabrication.

Schools.

The National Institute Schools are special schools supplementing the elementary schools for the blind, which

cover the country. Worcester College for Boys, and Chorleywood College for Girls (including a Preparatory School for Boys) provide a thorough secondary education, enabling pupils to pass on to the Universities or to enter the professions, but they do not neglect technical and commercial education, artistic culture, the social qualities, and proficiency in sports and games.

The number of boys at Worcester, 55, is greater than ever before. Musical appreciation and performance have been improved by the addition of a full-time music master to the staff, and the first-rate gymnasium, added to the school equipment in 1939, is the centre of a new approach to the whole problem of the physical education of the blind, the developmental and remedial indoor work being dovetailed into the running, rowing and swimming, for which the school is already so well known.

A voluntary Useful Services Association has been formed amongst the boys, who have carried out successfully jobs such as painting the walls of the Chapel, weeding the running track, shovelling coke into the bins, and sundry duties in the house.

There are at present 43 pupils at Chorleywood. Of the four girls who left during the year, one is working for a Fröbel Certificate at a Training College for Teachers; the second for a Diploma in Household Management at a Domestic Science College; the third is doing secretarial work, and the fourth has a post in a Public Library.

Massage Services.

The war has not hindered the Massage Services, rather has it inspired them. During the year, 32 students have been in training in the Massage School. Amongst them is the first blinded soldier, whose preliminary training was given at St. Dunstan's, and two civilians blinded in air raids. Ten students passed the Examinations of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics in Anatomy and Physiology; 13 in Massage; 14 in Swedish Remedial Exercises; and 13 in Electro-therapy. The number of hospital and clinic posts secured was 34, and 15 qualified masseurs and masseuses were established in private practice. It should be noted that the Principal of the School is himself blind.

At the Evening Clinic, patients' attendances amounted to 5,185 and 9,859 treatments were given—over 3,000 more than in the preceding year. In the Eichholz Clinic, 2,972 patients were treated, and 7,557 treatments were given. During one week alone 225 treatments were administered.

Publications in Braille and Moon Types.

Owing to the paper shortage, the publication of books in embossed types has suffered considerably.

A fine example of British resilience in difficult circumstances is given by the war-time achievements of the National Institute for the Blind. It was soon ready to deal with any war-blinded casualty that might occur among our civil population.

The Chairman, Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., and officials of the National Institute for the Blind are to be much congratulated upon the results attained in their increasing efforts for the welfare of our blinded citizens. This is, indeed, a noble work.

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