

**Rehabilitation of the Newly Blind.**

The scientific training of newly blinded adults to readjust themselves to the conditions which blindness imposes is an idea rich in promise for the welfare of the blind of the new age. Its aim is not simply to guide and train fingers and footsteps mechanically, but to remould the mind and revitalise the soul. It builds competence on confidence, and lays the foundations of confidence on character, thereby inculcating the right attitude towards blindness.

A principal feature of the training is that immediately a newcomer enters one of the Homes he is made to feel that he is one of a happy, busy and striving community—happy in the fellowship of people handicapped as he is, and with the same object in view, busy with them in dozens of intriguing pursuits from learning the topography of the place to operating a hand machine, and striving with them to master a new method of living, of making the most of startling conditions which have their own startling opportunities.

Many are the activities that go on from the headquarters of the Institute in Great Portland Street, London, W.1; but the main object always is to help the blind to be useful and happy citizens; all the work which has been here described owes its being to voluntary support, which it is sincerely hoped may continue.

**The New Chairman.**

Upon the retirement of Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., from the chairmanship of the National Institute for the Blind, we learn that General Sir Hastings Ismay, G.C.B., C.H., D.S.O., has accepted office.

This appointment, we learn, has given much pleasure to all concerned.

**A LINK WITH THE FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS, 1915.**

Miss Anna B. Banks, S.R.N., S.C.M., has just retired from the post of Assistant Matron-Sister Tutor at the Connaught Hospital, Walthamstow, which she has held for close upon 20 years. Trained at the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh, her name was first brought to our notice when she applied for admission to the French Flag Nursing Corps (a band of British Nurses who volunteered to go to France to nurse the wounded French soldiers in the 1914-1918 great war), where she did much valuable work in co-operation with the late Miss Emily J. Haswell.

After the war, she stayed on in France to help the people in the devastated areas; a small hospital was started of 22 beds, of which she was in charge, containing an operating theatre and casualty department; district nursing over a wide area was organised, including what was left of 80 villages, many patients then living in dug-outs.

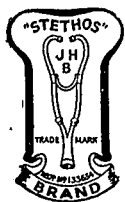
In September, 1920, Miss Banks joined the Rockefeller Foundation in France, teaching French student nurses in preliminary training schools, hospitals, infant welfare and school nursing centres, where she remained until December, 1926.

Upon returning to England she took up the appointment she has just relinquished, which was not without adventure during the recent world war, where air-raid casualties were very heavy, and much devotion to duty demanded.

A tour among friends and relatives in Scotland is the immediate plan of Miss Banks; but we trust her interest will continue to be maintained in the Profession she has served so well.

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