

# Cheating the War Devil

**Wonderful Results In Training War Cripples for Useful Work — Two Hundred Occupations Are Listed — Reconstruction Is Along Mental As Well As Physical Lines**

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Among the marvellous constructive developments of the war, none perhaps has been more epochal, and certainly none has been more striking, than the stimulus that has been given to the scientific conversion of human wrecks into normally functioning human beings.

The aftermath of past wars has been a pitiful army of useless, helpless cripples, each of the man economic liability, an object of charity. The cripples of the present war, ever so many of them, are cripples only for a time, each of them converted from an economic liability into an economic asset, with a chance to come back into the world of action as a helpful and constructive unit in society.

Human reconstruction, as it is being practised in the war hospitals of France and England, and in America and in this country, does not deal with the restoration of the body alone. It is more than material. An important element is psychological—moulding the wounded man's thoughts and outlook on life at the time that his mangled body is being educated to function under radically changed conditions.

The importance of this co-ordinated reconstruction of the mind with the

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body was the subject of a recent statement from the office of the Surgeon-General in Washington, to the effect that many well intentioned individuals have offered to take crippled soldiers into their service as watchmen, messengers and in positions of similar character. While the spirit in which these offers are made is appreciated, said the statement, they conflict with the policy of the medical department of the army.

### Work Starts At Once.

From the time a wounded soldier is taken to the field hospital he is encouraged to understand that the seriousness of his wounds will not render him worthless, for useful work. The work of reconstructing him both physically and mentally is carried on simultaneously.

At the present time there are many soldiers in the army hospitals in this country who have been crippled in the course of duty. In many cases these men are deceiving the preliminary training which will be finished by civil boards authorized to continue the work begun by the Surgeon-General.

It is hoped that business men in general will accept these trained men on an equal footing with men who have not been crippled. These men will receive a training which will make them competent in the trade or profession which they elect to follow.

According to the vocational rehabilitation act recently enacted by Congress, those disabled in the military and naval forces of the United States have been placed under the joint authority of the Surgeon-General of the army and the federal board for vocational education. The Surgeon-General has jurisdiction until the time the person is injured until he is restored to good physical condition, when he receives his honorable discharge from the service. The federal board then offers him vocational re-

education and training which will enable him to return to useful active employment, and the United States Employment Service Department will find him a job.

Discouragement. When a man is returned from the battle line disabled, with one or both feet or hands gone, or blinded, life is likely to look to him like an utterly hopeless thing. Before he entered the service he lived a complete existence, and no matter what was his station in life he had the full, unhampered use of a normal and complete body.

Upon becoming a part of the war machine, life became more than ever an affair of action—strenuous action, in which he was constantly wearing himself to utter weariness, and then glorying in the added strength that

came as the first fatigue wore off. He was subjected to training of which physical perfection was an ideal. When he got to the line, he had come fairly close to that ideal. He bordered on the superman.

And then—the crash. He became, it seemed to him, nothing or worse than nothing, a mangled body with its spark of life, a body trained to the point of mastery, but now a pitiful, helpless body that he could not master.

### Awaken Hope.

Not only was the glorious strenuous life of the fighting man over, but the evenly-ordered, mild-mannered life of the normal civilian was likewise forbidden to him. He could not work, he could not play, he could not, perhaps, read, he could not move except with difficulty. There rose before him the vision of a blank existence as a creeping watchman, or a pencil vendor. While the body lived on, the soul was deadened. Ambition was killed. For how can there be ambition when there is no hope.

The first step in the work of reconstruction, then, is to awaken the hope that arouses ambition.

A potent factor in getting the best of the disabled men's discouragement is informing them of the many instances where men, seemingly totally and

hopelessly disabled, have refused to be downed by fate, have surmounted the obstacles imposed, and have "come back." As the work of reconstruction goes on, there are more and more of these cases to cite as an inspiration to men who have just been crippled in battle.

### Choice of Trade.

The choice of a trade to be learned depends not only on the nature of the disability of the man and on what physical faculties he still retains, but just as much on his temperament and his natural inclinations. A line of activity is not decided on unless it is apparent that it will be congenial, and the sort of work to which the man in question is temperamentally suited.

The prospect of steady employment is also seriously considered. Disabled men are discouraged from taking up trades that for the moment are booming, but that will, in normal times, fall off in wages or in the matter of demand for help.

When possible, a man who is prevented by his injuries from continuing his former pursuit is encouraged to select a new occupation which is in some way related to it, so that he will be able to apply to his new work the knowledge and experience of the past. So it will be seen that the choice of occupation is not made in a haphazard or arbitrary manner. Expert vocational counselors advise the men according to the circumstances of each individual case.

### Many Opportunities.

There really is almost no end to the opportunities open to a man who has been, by the fortune of war, bereft of the complete use of his body. Boundless encouragement is indicated in this list, for instance, of agricultural occupations which may be pursued successfully by certain types of war cripples. It was pre-

## A Pimply Face or Poor Complexion Quickly Restored

Thousands of young men and women would be handsome and attractive were it not for unsightly pimples, blackheads, and rough uneven skin. Custom seems to recommend lotions and salves, but unfortunately their effect is but temporary. These disfiguring blemishes do not originate in the skin—their birth in every case goes further back, to the blood, which must be cleansed of humors before the pimples depart for good.

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