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a man from the South Island who had to come up to see a specialist. He had lost both hands, and was almost totally blind also. His father was travelling with him as escort. Imagine how much it meant for this man to spend his time in a quiet home. Badly injured men don't want to be public spectacles, yet they certainly don't wish to shut themselves up and keep out of people's way.

Sometimes a man is well enough to leave hospital, but it isn't considered wise to send him on a long journey for a day or two. He may not know anyone here, so, instead of spending his time in hospital, he now goes to stay at a private home as a most welcome guest, and a bed in hospital becomes vacant for a waiting patient.

When a member of the Forces is dangerously ill, the Army always sends



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for the next-of-kin, and they also appreciate the hand of sympathy extended to them from a private home, even though they may be there as paying guests.

"The Best Medicine"

The special need, however, is for people to recognise that our sick and wounded soldiers require much more than hospital treatment and words of praise. There are many devoted women already doing much to help them, but I am sure there are many others who are anxious to help but not sure just what to do. The best medicine for a sick and wounded man is a place where he can sit by the fire in comfort when it is cold and wet, or enjoy the sunporch or garden when the sun shines.

I have already explained what you can do to help our sick and wounded while they are still undergoing treatment, but what about the time when they discard their uniform and take up civilian occupation again—or, worse still, find that their injuries will not allow them to go back to their usual jobs—a new one has to be taken up. There is much that some of you can do to help. When a man's war injuries prevent him taking up his usual civil occupation again—perhaps, for instance, because he is an amputee—arrangements are made for him to be taught a new trade at the Disabled Servicemen's Vocational Training Centre in Wellington; but what of those whose homes are in far-away districts and have to find board in this city? This is pretty difficult, you will say—but it needn't be once the need is made known. Don't you think that they deserve all the comforts only a private home can give them?



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