

(continued from previous page)

"We prefer our workers to be graduates, and if possible, to have had a certain amount of teaching experience. It makes a great difference in dealing not only with the children but with the staff of schools. Vocational guidance workers must also acquire a knowledge of social and economic conditions, of industrial and commercial trends; they must keep in touch with developments in all branches of education. Most important of all, they must be sincerely interested in the people they meet and not regard them as 'cases'."

"Do you advise secondary school pupils about courses at university?"

"Yes. Our job is to put forward all the possibilities of different careers and professions, which includes training and preparation for them, as well as to advise primary school children about the courses at secondary school and where they will lead. As a matter of fact, it is often news to children and parents that whereas professional and especially commercial courses have a fairly limited scope, the often-despised home-life course leads to such work as dietetics, dressmaking, commercial art, shopwork and hairdressing."

"Of course it is much easier so far as children living in the centres are concerned. We had a letter the other day from a small Standard IV. boy in the country, who wrote 'I am fond of arithmetic. Can you tell me how to become an accountant?' Chiefly for reasons such as this we have published a booklet which we can send to those who cannot come to a vocational guidance centre. And it has the added advantage of suggesting and explaining careers other than the ones specially asked for."

#### Crippled Children

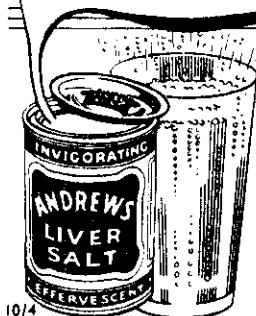
"Do you work much with crippled children?"

"Indeed, yes. Particularly after the infantile paralysis epidemic. But on the whole, they are not our 'problem children.' And we find that once they are satisfactorily placed and make progress in their work, many of them have made rapid progress in overcoming their disablement. We had one young girl who could not walk without specially-made boots. She started work in a shop with a very sympathetic supervisor, and did so well that she was eventually made head of her department. The last time we saw her she was walking naturally, and had been able to discard the boots."

"What do you consider are the possibilities of the extension of this work in New Zealand?"

"I think they are almost unlimited. We had to fight hard to get the first vocational guidance centre started in Christchurch, but during the 10 years that I have been an officer, I have been able to watch a very steady growth. At present we have four centres established — in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin, and branches of the association have recently been formed in Wanganui and Invercargill. We are working on the principle of opening a new centre only if there is a keen and persistent local demand for it. All the same, we are hoping that there will be a demand, and that more young people will seriously consider taking the work up as a career. Naturally we cannot expand greatly during the war, but as we deal with all aspects of the child's life — academic, mental, emotional, health and so on — we hope eventually to include psychiatrists, doctors and other specialists in our full-time staff."

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