







## They See With Their Hands

HE sightless men and women of the Blind Institute in Auckland support themselves by working in the institute factories, and also, by their work, contribute to the upkeep of the institute, which otherwise relies on subscriptions and Government aid. The goods they make from the smallest sewing baskets to enormous wicker crates, from dolls' prams to elaborate chairs

for war-wounded, and the smartest, and now men are working in pairs or latest things in streamlined lounge furniture, from cottage door-mats to cargo nets and fenders for ships, and from cocktail trays to an order of several thousand hammocks for the Navy-are sold or ordered in huge quantities and numbers throughout New Zealand. Before the war, baskets and chairs were the main manufactures; but since the fall of Singapore and the loss of huge supplies of cane, many of the rooms have been turned over to rope work-

teams on the great nets to be used for slinging cargo aboard ships (and later, perhaps, as escape ladders from those ships in battle), on the small and big fenders for the ships, and on furniture for naval and military hospitals. The women make the ends for the hammocks and do all kinds of basket work. Others knit socks and other garments and make articles suitable for sale as Christmas novelties.

Of the 200 or so men, women and children at the institute, more than 100 have their permanent home there; some of the married men live in the houses (23 in number), built and owned by the institute; others live near by and come to the workrooms daily. There is very little machinery anywhere in the workrooms and what there is is worked by members of the sighted staff of instructors. (There are, of course, blind teachers and instructors both in the school and the workrooms)

## Politics for Conversation

It was smoke-o in one of the workrooms when I arrived last week to see over the institute and take some photographs for The Listener. In a sunny paved yard pairs of men had been working on the small ships' fenders, roping the small stuffed bundles as if they were trussing up strangely silent pigs. For smoke-o they sat on their pigs and smoked and talked-mainly politics. Inside, they were sitting in a circle in a dim corner, smoking and talking politics. Enormous door-mats hung on weaving frames, a huge bow-fender loomed like a giant V, and step-ladders, trays, and sailors' hammocks gave an idea of the variety of the work done in this room. On a big table near the door, someone was working at a cottage door-

"This is Peter, well-known to the wrestling fans," the supervisor said, introducing me.

"Yes," said Peter, "I go to the wrestling with Gordon Hutter." He wore glasses over his clear brown eyes, and his face was creased with smilewrinkles - he seemed most happy to share in the announcer's jokes at the wrestling matches. After I had talked to him for a time I said I couldn't see anything abnormal about his eyes (he had been quite blind for nearly 40 years).

"I know," he said. "They look all right from the front, but they're worn out at the back." I could not have been

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## MAN GARDEN

This is a glimpse of the past ... and of the future. A symbol of a heritage regained, to have your man back in his garden ... to enjoy in peace the serenity, the beauty of simple things.

You are hungry for these things; and be assured, they will be restored to you. How soon, who knows? In the meantime, you carry on with the courage that springs from faith in beauty. Beauty is not so delicate that it cannot be exposed to

frost. It will flower again ... at the first warm touch of spring. Berlei beauty is suffering the severe, but necessary frost of restrictions. But Berlei's intrinsic beautythe underlying support and fit-remains unaffected. And someday Berlei beauty will bloom again . . . when peace comes . . . when your man is back in his garden.

Berlet bas given the Standards Institute its wholehearted co-operation because poise, posture and health are ensured by Berlei designs, divided into 13 figure-type groups. But,

> please do insist on being fitted accurately, for there is less elastic now to take up fitting inaccuracies.