

trainees are not paid. The Department will, in approved cases, pay the fees and allowances of L10 to purchase necessary uniforms and of L2 for purchase of books. In addition, a sustenance allowance is paid at the rate of L3 3s a week for trained nurses and L1 10s a week for untrained nurses. Intending trainees should not, however, anticipate that a vacancy will be available as soon as their application is approved. The Karitane Hospitals have long waiting lists, and even though preference will be given to suitable servicewomen, there is certain to be a delay of greater or less extent before entry.

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Railway Instructional Courses.—A number of servicemen, railway employees in civil life, have written to the School of Education requesting study courses as prepared by the Railway Department. It would appear that these men have information supplied to the effect that these courses are available through N.Z. School of Education when such is not the case. Correspondence to New Zealand requesting information on this subject has not yet resulted in the Railway Department's making available to the N.Z. School of Education any courses covering phases of railway work and administration. Should any courses become available this information will be published in CUE. Railway employees in the Armed Forces overseas can well employ their time taking one or more of the regular courses provided when such will assist towards their later studies.

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Minimum Wage for Trainees.—The Rehabilitation Board's Trade Training Centres were some time ago declared essential undertakings, and trainees therefore come under the provisions of the Minimum Weekly Wage (Essential Undertakings) Order 1945. The benefits of the minimum wage operate mainly in respect of time lost

on account of wet weather and to that extent first year trainees have always received the normal weekly wage in spite of any weather interruptions.

Carpentry trainees during their extension training period will be entitled to a minimum of L6 a week under the order, unless absent through sickness, accident or their own default. Previously carpentry extension trainees under the Building Modification Order conditions had a different minimum wage basis but this Order was revoked as from August 1, 1945, and all extension trainees are now working under award conditions on a forty-hour week basis.

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"Consult your local Rehabilitation Officer first."—Most of the advice about how to go about things when you return starts with these words. To expedite the granting of loans and settling of affairs and to bring the valuable local knowledge of District Committees to bear in advising servicemen, the Rehabilitation Board has delegated many of its functions to local committees. In spite of this many men are still applying direct to the head office for information and assistance. It doesn't help them at all. As all detailed personal files are held in the appropriate District Offices, the matter is duly referred back there and that takes time. Much quicker action would have been obtained by going there in the first place. If you fail to get satisfaction from your local Rehabilitation Officer or Committee, by all means appeal to the head office. That is your right. But do give your own Rehabilitation Officer a chance first. He can almost certainly satisfy you and if he can't he himself will refer the matter to the head office. Remember that the local committees were set up to speed things up for you and to give you the benefit of the members' local knowledge. The system is working and working well. Give it a chance to work for you.