

Occupational therapy is no less important. The men's individual hobbies provide its basis. In special workrooms the patients are given work from which their disability will derive most benefit. They include weaving and spinning, leather work and cane work, pokerwork, and the making of such things as toys, slippers, gloves, and handbags. Heavy machines have been fitted for sewing, all necessary equipment and tools are provided, and there is a carpenters' shop (an order for several workshop machines is expected to be filled soon). Qualified instructors are attached to the staff, and under their tuition patients quickly learn the craft they take up. The goods they make they are able to buy for the cost only of the materials.

A sick bay, a nursing sister, and four V.A.D.s are able to care for the men who have to stay in bed. A dispensary is attached. In the same building is the physio-therapy department for the treatment of muscular complaints. There are three masseuses; there is also all the necessary equipment, including infra-red, ultra-violet light, inductotherm and short wave machines, galvanizim, faradizer, wax baths, and muscle training apparatus.

Where necessary, specialists' opinions, x-rays, or treatment are arranged with the Auckland Public Hospital. This means that, in addition to the services of the staff doctors, each man, if necessary,

has the opportunity of examination by a doctor who specializes in his own particular trouble.

Here is a typical day's routine at Raventhorpe: 0645 hours, wake-up, get-up; 0730, breakfast; 0830, roll call, occupational therapy, and a specialized P.T. period; 0930 to 1015, games or an organized stroll outside the camp grounds, followed by morning tea and a film or a lecture either by a member of the staff or of A.E.W.S.; 1145, lunch period; 1300, rest period; 1400, specialized exercises and games, afternoon tea; 1600, showers and clean-up; 1715, dinner.

The evening is for relaxation. In the large theatre there are films, concerts, socials, and dances on different nights. Housie is a game that is popular. There is a library, plenty of radios. For those who prefer quietness there are reading, writing, and card rooms. There are three billiards tables, tables for table tennis, a room for indoor bowls. The time passes quickly to lights-out, and then it's bed with sheets, pillow cases, and kapoc mattresses.

Raventhorpe is a military establishment, run on Army lines and with Army discipline—but that discipline is mild and those in charge understanding. Work and fatigues are done only by volunteers; and those men are allowed additional leave privileges. Time of convalescence varies, of course, with the nature and extent of the complaint, but there is a minimum of two weeks. One man was there a year and was sorry to go.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. Aitken Paterson, E.D., N.Z.M.C., is the officer commanding, Captain Noel Crump (former New Zealand swimming champion) the adjutant. The staff, of sixty-five, is made up of five nursing sisters, twenty-six Waacs, five officers, and twenty-nine other ranks. Many of that staff are returned men of either this war or the last, and their experience overseas has been helpful. In the two years that the depot has been in operation, more than two thousand patients have been admitted for treatment.

The 26 acres that are the site of the Raventhorpe Convalescent Depot were once used as a fort in the Maori Wars.



One of the recreation rooms.