

Furniture like this is hard to come by these days, and you learn that it is already sold, mostly to returned men setting up homes.

A door on the right leads to an unusual feature in a vocational training centre: this is an artificial-limb factory. The League has become connected with the manufacture and fitting of artificial limbs only recently and has extended this work in its new quarters. Here are dressing cubicles and a "walking race," rather like a small skating-rink, where men may try out artificial legs and get the "feel" of them. There is a plaster room, where accurate plaster



Getting the "feel" of new limbs.

casts are made of stumps: and there is the workshop itself.

This is a large well-lit room fitted with strange shapes in wood, leather, and duralumin—artificial limbs in the process of manufacture. Some are complicated arrangements of springs, hinges, and universal joints designed to do almost everything that a normal limb will do, others are more like the wooden "peg-leg" of ancient story. Each limb is designed to meet the needs and preferences of the man concerned. Some, for instance, prefer wooden "buckets" (the bucket is the part of an artificial limb which fits on the stump), and a man is busy cutting buckets out of willow. Another man is working at a lathe, and it is only

on closer inspection that we realize that one hand is a cunning contrivance of metal designed as a tool-holder.

In this shop a man learns a trade which will support him, and at the same time is able to help other disabled men, whose problems he must understand and sympathize with.

You pass on to another room sweet with the resinous smell of timber and varnish. This is the cabinetmakers' shop, where disabled men learn the whole art of joinery and cabinetmaking. There are a dozen or so carpenters' benches and an assortment of power machinery: an elaborate workshop, you would say, but it is pointed out that if a disabled man is to hold his own in the labour market he must not only be as good as the average craftsman, but better than most other men; for this reason his training is thorough, and he learns the intricacies of all the processes and machines used in the trade. The work being turned out here is of a uniform standard of excellence, and to the experienced eye the "finish" of each piece shows clearly the work and care that has gone into it.

In another room we find men making baskets—work for nimble fingers this. Before the war such things were made mostly of cane and sea-grass, but wartime conditions have prevented the importation of these materials. So, nothing daunted, the centre carries on with split supplejack and osier willow. Arrangements are being made whereby ample supplies of willow will be grown for future work, but at present some of the willow is being used in its green state. The baskets made range from small shopping baskets suitable for the housewife up to the familiar Army pannier.

Upstairs (there is a lift for disabled men) you enter first the jewellery shop. Silver comes from New Zealand mines at Waihi, and paua shells from Stewart Island. These provide the materials for the distinctive and ever-popular silver and paua jewellery. A wide variety of articles is made here; on the bench, for example, is a polished set of silver spoons with handles inlaid with paua shell; on another bench