

EXPENDING AGENTS

At its first meeting the Board appointed the following expending agents :—

- The Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the New Zealand Red Cross Society.
- The Commercial Travellers' and Warehousemen's Blinded Servicemen's Trust Board.
- The High Commissioner for New Zealand in London.
- The New Zealand Senior Trade Commissioner in Australia, Sydney.
- Major K. R. Collins, Cairo.

The Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the New Zealand Red Cross Society

This organization is entrusted with the work of providing comforts and amenities for the sick and wounded, as well as the conduct of the four convalescent homes mentioned previously, and the recreation huts attached to the hospitals at Auckland, Rotorua, Lower Hutt, and Wellington. An important phase of the organization's work is that of diversional and occupational therapy, which does much towards promoting the happiness of patients, and in many instances equips them with a means of livelihood on discharge from hospital.

During the twelve months ended 31st March, 1948, the following comforts, &c., were distributed by the Joint Council to ex-service patients throughout New Zealand :—

Cigarettes (packets)	146,884
Tobacco (packets)	22,249
Tissues (packets)	22,257
Fruit (cases of 40 lb. each)	930
Chocolate and sweets (packets)	79,182
Cake (blocks)	713
Aerated waters (dozens)	72
Periodicals	26,752
Clothing (including pyjamas, dressing-gowns, and underclothing)	2,237
Handkerchiefs	2,033
Hospital supplies (including face-cloths, towels, sheets, hot-water bags, pillow-slips, &c.)	1,998
Soap (tablets)	144
Games of all kinds (including playing-cards, assorted games, table tennis, cricket-sets, golf-balls, &c.)	
Tea (lb.)	1,260
Sugar (lb.)	2,520
Books—a comprehensive range supplied to all homes and huts.	

In addition, supplies of tooth-paste, tooth brushes, razor blades, safety razors, &c., were made available when requested.

Picnic parties, sports events, concert parties, and other recreational facilities were also arranged for the sick throughout the year.

The Commercial Travellers' and Warehousemen's Blinded Servicemen's Trust Board

This Board has been appointed expending agent to provide relief, assistance, and support for blinded ex-servicemen and their dependants. An amount of £25,000 has been allocated for the purpose.