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# Your Duty to the War Cripple

The cripple is not helpless but capable, provided the right job is found for him, and he is trained in preparation for it.

Idleness is the calamity too great to be borne. So what the cripple needs is the chance to work, and the encouragement to take advantage of it.

In the past we have done everything possible to make the cripple a failure. We have been lavish with sympathy and charity but short on giving him a real opportunity to make good. The attitude of the public has been a more baffling difficulty than the loss of a limb.

With our new responsibilities to the men disabled in fighting for

us in this war, we must make our influence a help rather than hindrance.

It is no kindness to reduce them to the ignominy of dependence on others, for that makes them "crippled" indeed. We must put them back in the game, make them useful, and, in consequence, make life well worth living again.

Nothing short of this is a square deal to our men.

There are today many seriously crippled men—some without legs, some even with both arms gone—who are doing their full share in the work of the world. But they had exceptional strength of character to overcome the difficulties placed in their path.

With a fair chance many others could do the same. In this light

the problem is hopeful rather than discouraging.

The cripple needs thorough training for a trade which he can follow, and intelligent placement in employment. These the government will supply for the returning soldiers, but the responsibility for making this work effective rests with the public.

You can help to make life worth while for our crippled soldiers—

By showing them real gratitude and respect but avoiding hero-worship or sentimental sympathy.

By expecting them to continue doing their duty and encouraging them in the effort.

By finding them real jobs which they can hold down. If you are a worker, by seeking out positions in the shop or office which cripples can hold; if an employer, by reserving for cripples jobs they can

properly fill, not as charity, but on the basis of competency alone.

By helping others to a sensible and intelligent view of the matter.

We cannot now afford to leave in idleness men who can be useful producers. So as good patriots we can start with the cripples now among us and continue the work with the crippled soldiers when they return.

We may have cripples in the physical sense, but the moment we get them at a useful job the vital handicap disappears.

Can our crippled men count on you as a real friend?

Prepared and distributed by the Red Cross Institute for Crippled and Disabled Men, 311 Fourth Avenue, New York City. The Institute will gladly send, on request, to those interested in the future of our crippled soldiers, booklets descriptive of what is being done to rehabilitate the cripples of the war.



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