Of Bavaria's nine million people there are more than 6,000 citizens who have stumbled over ruins and rubble without ever having seen them. Nor did they see this year's spring come to Bavaria's hills and fertile valleys. They are the totally blind.

The ranks of these people who because of congenital weakness or accident must live in total darkness were substantially increased during World War II.

In order that they can become useful citizens again in an economy that could ill afford to have them otherwise, certain provisions have to be made for their future. They must be rehabilitated by training which will help them to earn their own living once again.

Through much effort and patience it has been proven that the blind, once trained, are as efficient as those who have their sight. Occupations for which the blind are especially adopted include machine knitters, basket makers, telephone operators, typists, stenographers, masseurs, lawyers, teachers and singers.

However, many of these vocations take months of concentrated preparation.

Training a blind person to become a stenographer, for instance, takes nine months. At the end of that time the graduate should be able to handle 120 words a minute.

After six months of training a telephone operator is expected to operate a switchboard with a ten-place minimum.

A masseur must go through nine months of rigorous training and within that time must have mastered the principles of anatomy, pathology, psychology and hygiene.

War's aftermath presented its own particular problems to the blind. Currently it is almost impossible to place blind mechanics because of the shortage of raw materials. Ordinarily the labor association for disabled blind maintains special workshops for the blind. They provide raw materials and handle the sale of finished products for the membership workmen.

One of today's most worthwhile contributions towards rehabilitation of the blind is the school for dogs for the blind, established in Munich immediately after World War II by the Bavarian Red Cross. This school, supported by private donations, has kennel accommodations for 100 dogs.

However, suitable dogs to be trained and materials used in training are
Typhoid Outbreak Fought in Neuotetting

BETWEEN 20 and 25 new cases of typhoid are occurring daily since the outbreak early in May of the second epidemic of the disease in three years in the village of Neuotetting in Altoetting County, Bavaria. As of June 13 there have been 810 cases and 34 deaths in the county.

Neuotetting, located approximately 65 miles east of Munich, is the site of the Shrine of St. Margaret to which thousands of religious pilgrims attend every week. The influx of these pilgrims was not effectively halted until after the second week of the epidemic. In the first 13 days of June, 23 new cases of typhoid reported in 13 other counties of Bavaria were traceable to Neuotetting, while 67 other cases in Bavaria were not traceable to this source.

The epidemic was believed by public health officials to have been caused by a defective water chlorination system and an impaired main system permitting cross contamination with sewage. A serious typhoid outbreak occurred in the same town in November 1946, resulting in 350 cases and 26 deaths. At that time only 1100 of the 5,000 inhabitants consented to voluntary vaccination.

During the present epidemic, 747 emergency hospital beds have been set up in two schools. A team of six doctors, 60 nurses and four disinfectors were sent to the area by the German public health office in Munich. A widespread program of immunization with anti-typhoid vaccine has been put into effect. German police are maintaining strict supervision over German traffic.

The town of Neuotetting has been placed “off limits” to all US and Allied personnel. AFN Munich has repeatedly broadcast warnings of the epidemic and informed all US personnel to stay away from the area. No troops are billeted in Neuotetting, the nearest military installation being at Erding to the west.

The Public Health Branch, OMG Bavaria, is maintaining close supervision of the epidemic and is in daily liaison with OMGUS public health officials, the EUCOM surgeons office in Heidelberg, and the office of the base surgeon in Munich.

Chest Funds Aid GYA

More than 9,000 German youngsters, members of the 11 American-sponsored German Youth Clubs in Berlin, have begun work on numerous creative activities with materials purchased from proceeds of the Community Chest drive conducted in the American community of Berlin last fall.

The first shipment of supplies arrived in May. Included were more than 100 yards of material for clothes, thread and needles, knitting yarn, sewing equipment of all kinds, modeling clay, drawing pads, pencils, crayons, and paints.

Two other larger shipments, expected to arrive in Berlin in the near future, will include more sewing supplies, material for arts and crafts groups, and sports equipment.

Current projects include making garments for the needy, learning manual skills in clay modeling, painting, gardening and others. A major part of the material and yarn is being used by girls’ sewing groups in the youth centers to make clothing for orphans and children’s hospitals.

Jews Willing to Leave

More than 70 percent of the Jews living in Germany and Austria are willing to emigrate to Palestine immediately, Chaim Hoffmann, director of the Jewish Agency for the two countries, announced in Munich while commenting on the recent establishment of the Jewish state of Israel.

This figure includes 15,000 youths who pledged to accept any civilian or military positions in the service of the new state, he said.

Hoffmann disclosed that mass transportation would start in July, and the dissolution of all Jewish DP camps could be expected by the middle of next year. Approximately 40,000 Jews from Germany and 15,000 from Austria have entered or attempted to enter Palestine thus far.—ICD’s News of Germany.