

BLINDED SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' HOSTEL,

ST. DUNSTAN'S,

REGENT'S PARK, N.W.

(Near HANOVER GATE.)

12th January, 1916.

Dear Mrs. Baker,

I thought you would like to hear how
your boy is getting on.

I should like to begin by telling you
that he is showing the greatest aptitude of any
Officer or man who has been blinded in the War.
He seems to have, naturally, several gifts which
only as a rule come to people who lose their sight,
after long years.

He has, for example, the very important
faculty of walking in a straight line, and also has
developed a curiously accurate perception of obstacle,
which most blinded people only obtain after years of
blindness, and which some never obtain at all. Not
only is he aware of the existence of a wall some feet
before reaching it, but he knows when approaching
thin objects such as lamp-posts, and when walking
with someone in the street he seems to instinctively
step aside and avoid persons approaching in the oppo-
site direction.

All this is of the utmost importance to him, for it gives him confidence in the feeling that blindness is, after all, not so dreadful a thing. He is getting on extremely well with Braille and typewriting, and we yesterday arranged that he should have a course of instruction in office routine and Organisation, as he hopes to be able to continue work as an Electrical Engineer. Whether he finds this practicable or not, Office Instruction will do him no harm. Whatever business he eventually finds he can best follow you can rest assured that he is going to be a competent, adept, clever and self-reliant blind man.

His cheeriness and good humour are never failing, and he makes friends wherever he goes. Personally I regard him as one of the nicest boys I have ever met, and I shall always esteem it a pleasure and a privilege to do everything possible to help him along. You may feel quite happy and comfortable about him.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Arthur Pearson