

he is entitled to under the following regulation: "A soldier who, as the result of injury, wound, or disease directly traceable to active service, incurs loss or disease of teeth, fracture of either jaw, fracture of artificial plates, crowns, or bridges, will be entitled to receive such dental treatment as may be deemed necessary to enable him to follow his ordinary civil vocation."

Relatives visiting Hospitals.

When a soldier upon landing is found to require in-patient treatment at a hospital, but is well enough to first visit his relatives, he obtains one week's sick-leave for this purpose, but if his condition makes the granting of this privilege unwise in his own interests he goes straight to hospital, and free railway return warrants from their homes to the railway-station nearest to the hospital of the class to which the soldier is entitled will be issued to the soldier's wife and parents on application to Base Records. Where the soldier has no wife or parents one warrant will be issued to the next-of-kin. In addition, should the soldier patient's condition be critical, the next-of-kin or one other relative will be granted an additional privilege of one-half fare once each month so long as the soldier's condition remains critical.

Soldiers' Dependants—Medical Treatment.

The Department of Public Health, Hospitals, and Charitable Aid provides free hospital treatment for the wives and children of soldiers on active service, and the wives and children of returned soldiers who are still undischarged. It also provides free treatment for the parents, sisters, or brothers of soldiers on active service, and also of returned undischarged soldiers, if such relatives are solely dependent upon the soldier for support.

If a course of treatment of a soldier's dependant is commenced, it will not be discontinued because of the soldier's discharge, but will be completed.

All cases not covered by the above are dealt with on their merits by Hospital Boards, which have full power to give free treatment, or treatment at reduced rates, to those who are unable to pay the ordinary maintenance fees.

Maternity Treatment.

The Department has also during the war extended the concession of free treatment at the St. Helens Hospitals for maternity, or maternity wards or hospitals controlled by Hospital Boards, to wives of soldiers on active service; wives of returned soldiers who have been discharged as medically unfit (whether married before the outbreak of the war or afterwards); and wives of men in the Navy who were married expecting to be discharged about the beginning of the war, but were required to remain in the service. Free maternity treatment is available at the St. Helens Hospitals until twelve months after the return of the soldier or sailor to New Zealand.

Hospitals and Convalescent Homes.

There are cases necessitating special treatment—orthopædic or medical—and these are preferably taken at the special institutions organized for the purpose. There are also convalescent homes which are of great value in helping the sick soldier to re-establish himself in good health.

The institutions under the control of the Defence Department are as follows:—

Auckland Military District.

General and Orthopædic: The military annexe to Auckland Hospital is situated in the Domain, in good surroundings. It has accommodation for about two hundred cases, and is provided with very complete orthopædic, massage, and electrical department.