

BLIND GI'S 'READ' TALKING BOOKS

Special Phonographs. Provide Everything From Plato to Pyle.

By NEA Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—Blinded veterans in rehabilitation centers are likely to be found enjoying a good book these days.

Maybe they're listening to "Gone With the Wind," whose story unfolds from 80 phonograph records, or the works of Plato in 40 records. Maybe they're listening to Jan Struther read her own "Mrs. Miniver," or one of the record-makers' trained staff reading a rip-roaring Western story, or Ernie Pyle's "Here Is Your War."

Sightless veterans have access to the library of congress' collection of over 1000 talking books ranging from Greek tragedy to P. G. Wodehouse. Late best sellers, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," and "A Bell for Adano," are already talking books, as well as many classics. The listener can go in for birdlore or Walter Lippmann.

Project Growing

Mrs. Louise Maurer, talking-book librarian and constant reader, in charge of the project, says the talking-book collection, built up over the first 10 years of the project, is only an embryo, but it's beginning to grow up with more money to spend from this year's \$500,000 appropriation for library of congress blind services.

The fiscal year 1943 added 150 titles to the library in contrast to only 35 in 1939. In selecting these titles, Miss Maurer had suggestions from blind listeners, bookmen, and other interested persons all over the country. She skimmed the entire publishing output, sent books to library experts for review, finally submitted lists to book-selecting committees made up of librarians, special subject advisers and prominent bookmen.

A blind adult can get one of the 23,000 talking book phonographs by applying to the library of congress, Washington, and signing an agreement to care for the machine, not to tinker it himself and to limit its use to blind people, since book publishers donate copyrights for that purpose.

Slow-Motion Machines

The machines are special slow-motion jobs, 3 1/4 turns a minute thus each side lasts 15 minutes. The reading sounds like monkey chatter at the normal 78 turns a minute, and few ordinary phonographs can be turned to the slow speed. The voice can be broadcast like a radio, or be heard through earphones in case the listener is in a room with others.

Agencies for the blind, libraries, and schools distribute the 12-inch records made on a non-profit basis by the American Foundation for the Blind in New York, and the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Ky. The library of congress paid \$1836 for 50 copies of the 18 records that make up part III of Thomas Wolfe's 48-record "Look Homeward, Angel." Cost of a single copy of 15 records of Pearl Buck's "Good Earth" is \$16.25, so it's a good thing there's free library service on them.

POLIO GROUP GIVES \$2160 TO HOSPITALS

An allocation of \$2160 to the infantile paralysis funds of Riley and City hospitals has been approved by the executive council of Marion county chapter, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc.

The money will be used to purchase hot pack machines for Riley hospital and to provide a special nurse at City hospital. The new grant increases to \$16,470 the allotments of the chapter to funds for hospital polio victims.

The chapter will hold its 12th annual fall meeting at noon Tuesday at James E. Roberts school.

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