Guide Dogs for the Blind

Not long ago a correspondent sent us a pamphlet descriptive of the work of a training centre of dogs for the blind. This movement has been in existence in England for the past ten years and is worthy of all support. A guide dog fulfils four objects: it gives its blind owner freedom and independence, it teaches him to see through its eyes, it adds to his health, and it destroys his feeling of inferiority. Not every dog is suitable for this work, in fact only about 30 per cent. of those dogs sent on approval to the training school are accepted, and only after most careful temperamental tests. It is obvious that Rab, "who had fought his way all along the road to absolute supremacy and had the gravity of all great fighters," would not have done for this work.

The dog has to be most carefully trained, and then the blind owner has to be trained with him. When this is over the pair form a two horse-power single unit. The cost of training amounts to about £60, including that of the blind owner. The scheme is entirely dependent on voluntary subscriptions and is most worthy of our support. As our correspondent says, "our work is really finished when a patient has become blind, but notwithstanding this, we can all help by sponsoring the movement." And anyone who is a dog lover, and there can be few who are not, will have, in case of blindness supervening, besides the joy of calling to mind all the great dogs of English fiction, from old Mother Hubbard's poor specimen, through Bevis, Snarleyyow, and Rab, to Bill Sykes's famous "Warmint," whose name, in case readers have forgotten it, was Bull's-eye, as well as a faithful friend. The official address of the movement is "Willing House, 356, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1."

ABSTRACTS

SURGICAL OPERATIONS


(1) O'Brien reviews the results of 220 consecutive cases of cataract extraction, 110 of these were operated on by the keratome-scissors technique and 110 by the Graefe knife section. He comments on the greater ease and safety of the former technique for beginners. The keratome is easier to handle, it is also easier to