



Banishing the blues at The Close Hospital, Bridge. Residents are being taught by voluntary helpers to make articles from leather and sea shells which are later sold.

## Banishing boredom in hospital

A scheme to banish boredom among long-term patients and residents at The Close Hospital, Bridge, has been established through the initiative of the superintendent, Mr. H. K. Urwin.

He describes it as "diversional therapy" and the aim is to keep the patients mentally alert and help them to develop skill in the use of their hands.

So 14 patients and residents, whose ages range from 46 to 88, are now working as a group and producing — and selling — a variety of articles made from sea shells, leather, and other handcraft materials.

The group meets on Wednesday afternoons under the supervision of two voluntary helpers, Mrs. M. Carless, of the Bridge Women's Institute, and Mr. E. Pomeroy, a member of the Bridge branch of the League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals.

"And we couldn't manage without them," said Mr. Urwin, "because no public funds are available for this work so the scheme must be self-supporting."

What do members of the group think about it?

Miss Nellie Hopkins, a 46-year-old spastic, with only limited use of her hands, has found a new interest in life and 88-year-old Mr. Walter Tipping, who has lived at The Close for over 10 years, has become quite an expert on shellcraft work.

Another permanent resident, Mr. Cyril Russell (72), is also enjoying the pleasure of creative work but sprightly, cheerful Miss Grace Pegden (64), who has

spent 30 years in various hospitals, is the star pupil.

Although physical infirmity confines her to her room—which she shares with Billy, her green budgerigar—Miss Pegden is an expert needlewoman, makes children's soft toys, and produces a variety of leather work, stools, and other articles.

The group specialises in the decoration of ash trays, small boxes and similar articles with sea shells or mosaic work, the finished pieces being exhibited for sale in the entrance hall of the hospital.

And one day—who knows?—they may be as expensive and eagerly sought-after as Victorianiana is today.

Mr. Urwin told the "Kentish Gazette" that the group would welcome sea shells, large or small, for ornamental use, and fancy wine bottles for lamp standards.

Anyone interested in helping with handicraft in the wards one afternoon a week should contact Mr. Urwin.

## Turned down

Plans to build 20 terraced houses at The Red House, London Road, Canterbury, have been turned down by the City Council. In refusing planning permission the Council said the development was excessive for the site and would result in an over-intensive use of Fisher Road by traffic.