

RAID-SHOCKED BABES LEARN TO FORGET.

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Babies with shell-shock ! That is one of the minor achievements of the Luftwaffe, to the glory of the Fatherland. A Tunbridge Wells nursery training college has opened its doors to a hundred little victims of London air raids. Directed by a student of child-psychology the treatment slowly heals the unseen wounds that have all but shattered their little minds. One big help is the general atmosphere of peace, in which they tend to forget the sirens and the scream of bombs. Several babies have been brought to the home unable to eat or sleep - pitiable little things for whom it seemed impossible elsewhere to do anything.

The age limit is five. They're not all shell-shocked; many suffer from what the director here calls 'Shelteritis' the effects of living for months underground, in bad air, bad light, and without properly cooked food. The worst cases arrive little more than bags of bones, less than half the weight they were last summer.

Artificial sunlight, very carefully administered, at first only for a few minutes, soon begins to work wonders. Yet this Institution would have had to close down if it had not been rescued by the British War Relief Society of America. Typical United States generosity has kept the place open. Some of the toddlers are in such a bad way that only by tireless patience can they be coaxed to eat anything at all,

Play based on child-psychology gives back to the children their lost confidence. They watch each-other. When one gets along well the more backward ones soon follow suit. The Shelteritis cases are often well again in a month or so. Shell-shocked babies take longer.

Early to bed and good sleep complete the routine....It doesn't reflect too well on ourselves that, but for kindly Americans the little ones might be mentally injured for life. It isn't the fault of infants that there's a war. Every baby smile and gesture is an appeal to give the chance of normal life to the little victims of the world-storm.
