

DUTCH KIDS HELP THE BLIND:

Many a mickle makes a mickle! Translated into Dutch, that means that if you collect enough old newspapers, you can save up enough money to buy a guide dog for a blind man. Which is just what these Amsterdam schoolchildren are doing. It takes them a year. All the papers they collect are taken along to a rag-and-bone merchant, and as the months go by the piles grow steadily bigger.

So do the youngster's savings.

At last there's enough - 350 guilders, about £33, the price of a fully-trained guide dog. So the children take their money to the nearby Guide Dog Training Centre, to choose their gift personally. Nothing stuffy about this dog's school - the pupils are allowed to entertain their friends.

The children take plenty of time to make up their minds - for many different breeds make efficient guide-dogs, and they're all here to choose between.

But this handsome Alsatian is their final choice.

Before they leave, the children are shown something of the methods by which dogs such as this are carefully trained to be the eyes of a man and woman who have none of their own. Thanks to these children, more blind people can move around freely and safely.