

AL335/279 2

League of Red Cross Societies

BULLETIN

HEADQUARTERS:
8, rue Munier-Romilly
GENEVA



Telephone 4 13 60
Telegraphic Address:
LICROSS GENEVA

This Bulletin is the organ of the Universal Federation of the National Red Cross Societies. Published every three months in English, French and Spanish. — Annual Subscription: 50 cents or 2s. 6d.

CONTENTS

The Red Cross the World Over

The Junior Red Cross helps destroyed schools.
— Missions.

The Common Task

News of the national Red Cross Societies in Australia, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Union of South Africa, United States.

The Nursing Advisory Committee

Report on the first meeting held by the League Nursing Advisory Committee since the war, attended by fourteen nurses holding leading positions in their countries.

The Portuguese Red Cross

On her return from her mission to the Portuguese Red Cross, Señorita Morcillo-Cobo, Assistant Director of the League Pan-American Bureau, gives an account of the work performed in peace and war since 1865 by one of the oldest Red Cross Societies, which has lost none of its pristine vigour.

Highway First Aid

The Standing International Commission on Highway First Aid, the secretarial work of which is carried out by the League Health and Relief Bureau, met at the League Headquarters last February. A short report on the meeting and the text of the Resolutions adopted are contained in this article.

THE RED CROSS THE WORLD OVER

The Junior Red Cross helps destroyed schools

EUROPE has been at peace once again for nearly a year. In the tragic calm which followed on the first joyful celebrations as the silencing of the guns died down, millions of men, women and children became aware of the sum total of their sufferings and the depth of their distress. War had stretched its destroying hand everywhere. Thousands and thousands of children have no home but ruins and rubble, no clothes but rags, eyes but to weep with.

From every corner of the world, urgent appeals are made to all the relief organisations, to all men of good-will. There is crying need of foodstuffs, clothing, hutments, and all this in large quantities. Everything that is necessary for daily life is lacking. Powerful and rapid measures must be taken. In the devastated and ruined countries, life is restarting despite all difficulties. The Red Cross is there to help and has taken over a considerable share of this new crusade against misery and desolation.

The delegates of forty-three national Red Cross Societies who came together from all parts of the world last October to meet in Geneva heard the most pathetic appeals for rapid and efficient assistance for the suffering children.

The Board of Governors of the League joined in the moving message sent out jointly by the League and International Committee of the Red Cross on behalf of the pitiable victims of the dreadful war; it calls upon all Red Cross Societies to intensify and multiply their efforts to mitigate the sufferings of the war victims. The supreme authority of the League has instructed its Secretariat to begin forthwith a widespread campaign of mutual assistance on behalf of the children of Europe through the national sections of the Junior Red Cross.

The Junior Red Cross Bureau of the League will propose to the national Societies a simple and efficacious plan of action which will arouse the enthusiasm of millions of Juniors grouped under the Red Cross standard. This movement of "Youth coming to the help of Youth" must be supported by the whole of the population of every country. Something novel must be found, something which will take into account the character of the international aspect of the mutual assistance and the experience gathered so far on every side.

The appeal was launched towards the end of December. The plan of action had been drawn up quickly yet only after exhaustive study. It is based on the conclusions of the recent missions of the League delegates and the authoritative advice of several national Red Crosses, in particular the Swedish and Belgian Societies.

All the national sections able to come to the assistance of the children of Europe, victims of the war, are invited to divide their Juniors into groups of from two to three thousand. Each of these groups will adopt a school which has been destroyed in Europe. The destroyed schools will be reported by the national sections concerned to the League Junior Red Cross Bureau which will allot them to a certain group of Juniors. The main feature of this campaign will be essentially its school character. The Juniors will collect the funds from among those in their immediate proximity in accordance with a scale of regular but modest subscriptions subject to the supervision of their schoolmasters. If it is found impossible to apply this method in some countries, then a collection may be made of gifts in kind. The total amount of the gifts collected by any given group will allow the establishment in the school to which it is allotted of a canteen, a pharmacy, a clothing depot for the children or a play-ground. By adopting the schools and not the children in general it will be possible to ensure a rational distribution within the school itself, or in other words, in that sphere of activity which is proper to the Junior Red Cross.

It will be the duty of some of the national sections to start and maintain this work of adoption, and of others to provide reports on the schools most in need and organise the distribution of the relief. The Junior Red Cross Bureau of the League will act as the pivotal organ of this movement, while encouraging direct relations between the various Societies; it will place its services at the disposal of the latter for the organisation and development of the scheme of adoption and facilitate and expedite the despatch of relief.

* * *

Two months after launching this appeal a score of national sections had already replied. The difficulties of postal communications and the great distances are responsible for the fact that all Sections have not been able to make known their opinion; moreover, the plan had to be gone into very thoroughly and in many cases a large number of authorities had to be consulted concerning the possibility of putting the scheme into effect.

Many sections threw themselves at once into the work with enthusiasm and energy, and have informed the Junior Red Cross Bureau of their unreserved assent. They are making every endeavour to assist the common work to the best of their ability; their means are naturally



H. E. Admiral GUILHERME IVENS FERRAZ,
President of the Portuguese Red Cross.

war and their families; it set up this service in 1898, during the Spanish-American War.

The Portuguese Red Cross played an important part during World War I as an auxiliary to the Army medical service and in forwarding messages and relief to civilians and prisoners-of-war.

Towards the end of that war, in 1918, it organised, *inter alia*, an orphanage for waifs and strays and for the foundlings discovered in hospitals after the death of their parents during the influenza epidemic. It maintained this hospital until 1921, and only closed it after all the inmates had been placed out.

In 1939, at the beginning of World War II, the Portuguese Red Cross again established a service for the exchange of correspondence and the despatch of parcels to prisoners of war. Up to the end of 1944, it had sent or reforwarded 225,408 letters and messages, 1,553 mail bags, (29,862 kilogs) and 118,184 parcels, or an average of about 100 parcels a day. Several trains carrying loads of food purchased by the Committee for the co-ordination of the revictualling of the Belgians through Europe, were sent through the agency of the Portuguese Red Cross to the necessitous population of that country. In 1943, the Society received a group of children from the war-stricken countries who were on their way to America.

On the termination of hostilities with a proper comprehension of the terrible situation in which

thousands of child-victims of the ravages of war found themselves, the Society decided, like many other national Societies, to organise relief work in the schools of Portugal. This includes the organisation of a system of adoption by the Portuguese schools of the destroyed schools of Europe, the despatch of relief to the child-victims of the war, the admission of children to homes in Portugal, together with welfare work for indigent Portuguese children. This work has received the support of the Minister of Education and of the Minister of the Interior.

At home, it organises hospitals, convoys and the transport of the wounded and injured in cases of epidemics, fires, floods and shipwrecks. It has made several consignments of food and clothing.

The Portuguese Red Cross has set up first aid posts which operate permanently in the principal agglomerations of the country. It has organised courses of instruction for nurses and trains stretcher bearers in the carrying of wounded in cases of accidents, riots, catastrophes, etc.

Red Cross Committees have been set up in the following places: Porto, Braga, Viana do Castelo, Estremoz, Setubal, Funchal, Ponta Delgada, Beira, Leiria, Elvas, Horta (Azores), Cape Verde, Macao, Nova Goa (Portuguese Indies), St. Tome e Principe, Lourenço Marques, Guinea. Most of these Committees have a permanent first aid post and an ambulance. At Lisbon, in addition to its head office, the Portuguese Red Cross has five permanent first aid posts and ambulances which render very valuable services to the population.



H. E. GENERAL FERREIRA MARTINS,
Vice-President of the Portuguese Red Cross.

During the first twenty years of its existence, the Society has served the public as follows: Care of the sick and injured, 1,526,246 cases; transport of sick and injured, 161,447; consultations 221,579; anti-smallpox vaccinations, 100,254, surgical interventions and operations, 1,047, various services, 80,159.

The Portuguese Red Cross intends to develop its welfare services. With a view to giving effect to this decision, it will set up a larger number of relief posts, improve and multiply its means of transport, increase the scope of its Committees. Furthermore, it is about to establish a child clinic in Lisbon. At present, it is preparing the way for the Junior Red Cross. Finally, it should be pointed out that the Portuguese Society organises a "Red Cross

Week" every year as also charitable entertainments, sports meetings, etc. The Portuguese Red Cross magazine which was first published in 1889 still leads a vigorous existence. The many activities of the Portuguese Red Cross and the indefatigable spirit of devotion which it has manifested during the 81 years of its existence, have brought to it many tokens of gratitude from the Government and sister Societies.

It is fitting to conclude with a well-deserved tribute to Colonel Affonso de Dornellas, Secretary General of the Portuguese Red Cross, who for thirty-one years devoted himself entirely and with the greatest self-sacrifice to the welfare of his Society.

E. Morcillo COBO.

Meeting of the Nursing Advisory Committee

THE first meeting since the war of the Nursing Advisory Committee was held in Geneva on February 6th, 7th and 8th, 1946, at the headquarters of the League of Red Cross Societies. Nine national Red Cross Societies as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Florence Nightingale International Foundation and the International Council of Nurses had been invited to send representatives. The following delegates attended: Miss Gertrude Banfield, American Red Cross, Miss Gabrielle Kaeckenbeek, Belgian Red Cross, Dame Emily Blair, British Red Cross, Mrs. M. Reichtova, Czechoslovak Red Cross, Miss Hélène Rouvier and Miss F. Marminia, French Red Cross, Miss Athina Messolora and Miss Ariane Lecos, Greek Red Cross, Miss Augusta di Cossilla and Miss Maria Senni, Italian Red Cross, Miss Magdelaine Comtesse and Miss Monika Wuest, Swiss Red Cross, Miss Lucie Odier, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, Mrs. Maynard Carter, Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

The Secretariat of the League was represented by M. de Rougé, Secretary General, M. Milsom, Under Secretary General, M^{lle} Y. Hentsch, Director of the Nursing Bureau, and Professor E. J. Pampana, Director of the Health and Relief Bureau.

Unfortunately Miss Jadwiga Suffczynska representing the Polish Red Cross was delayed on her journey to Geneva and she arrived too late to attend the meeting. Dame Beryl Oliver, of the British Red Cross, and Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, Executive Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, were both prevented at the last moment from being present.

1. Address by M. de Rougé, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

2. Report of League the Nursing Bureau, 1937-1946.
3. Florence Nightingale International Foundation:
 - Suggestions regarding the future organisation of the Foundation;
 - Proposals regarding the five League representatives on the Grand Council.
4. The Red Cross and the shortage of Nurses.
5. Remission of training in the case of V.A.D.'s wishing to enter the nursing profession.
6. Voluntary work in the Red Cross: study of recommendations suggested by the Advisory Conference of the League in October 1945.
7. Uniforms of Red Cross nurses and Voluntary Aids.
8. Future programme of the Nursing Division of the League.
 - Study of recommendations submitted by the Advisory Conference of the League in October 1945.
 - Other proposals.
9. Conclusions.

Greeting the delegates, M. de Rougé recalled that this was the eighth meeting of the Nursing Advisory Committee, the last meeting having taken place in Paris in January 1937. M. de Rougé also recalled the fact that membership of the Committee was decided upon by the Committee itself at previous meetings; in so doing it gives due consideration to the ethnical grouping and the degree of development of nursing in the different countries. Members therefore did not serve for a definite time of office. They were invited to attend each meeting, because of their personal qualifications and special knowledge of the points on the Agenda, which enabled them to offer guidance to the Nursing Bureau of the League. Thus also each meeting was attended only by a limited number of people which greatly facilitated its work.

M. de Rougé further stressed the importance of the items placed on the Agenda of this first post-war meeting. The conclusions reached by this committee will be set in the form of recom-

mendations which in turn will be submitted to the approval of the next meeting of the Board of Governors; this will then constitute a basis for the activities of the Nursing Bureau in the future.

Following a suggestion from M. de Rougé, Miss Kaeckenbeeck, representative of the Belgian Red Cross, was invited to take the chair. In accepting this responsibility, Miss Kaeckenbeeck expressed her thanks to the League for having called this meeting so soon after the war; members, she said, were particularly grateful for this opportunity of coming together in Geneva, imbued with such peaceful and international traditions.

REPORT OF THE LEAGUE NURSING BUREAU

Before presenting her report for 1937-1946, Miss Hentsch, Director of the Nursing Bureau, pointed out some of the important changes which have taken place within the nursing services of National Red Cross Societies and which have directly affected the work of the Bureau. In the *American* Red Cross, Miss Mary Beard replaced Miss Butler in 1938 at the head of the Nursing Service. In 1944 Miss Beard was replaced by Miss Virginia M. Dunbar. Miss Dunbar is leaving her post on February the 15th of this year.

Following the death in 1938 of Mrs. Rome of the *British* Red Cross, Dame Johanna Cruickshank directed for a few months the Trained Nurses' Department of the British Red Cross Society. She was succeeded by Miss Darbyshire who unfortunately, on account of ill health, was obliged to resign in 1943. The present Matron in Chief is Dame Emily Blair.

The Nursing Service of the *French* Red Cross has been hard hit by the war. M^{me} Soulange-Bodin, who had succeeded M^{lle} d'Haussonville at the head of this Service, died in Germany in 1945. The present director is Miss Hélène Rouvier.

In the *Greek* Red Cross, Miss Lecos has been entrusted with the chairmanship of the Nursing Committee, whereas Miss Messolora continues to direct the Nursing Service.

In the *Italian* Red Cross, H.R.H. Princess of Piedmont, who is National Inspector of Red Cross Nurses, is assisted by Miss Paula Menada, Vice Inspector, and by Miss Augusta di Cossilla, Secretary-General. Miss Maria Senni has recently been appointed General Supervisor of all Red Cross professional nurses.

The *Swiss* Red Cross created at the end of 1944 a central nursing office, the Director of which is Miss Comtesse, a trained nurse.

In submitting her report to the approval of the Committee, Miss Hentsch stressed the fact that the activities of the Nursing Bureau of the League are directed primarily by the needs of Red Cross Societies and must be based on close co-operation with these Societies. The

present meeting offered therefore a welcome opportunity for the Nursing Bureau to receive new directions for the future. The various points of the report were commented upon one by one:

Scholarships. — Following a recommendation made by the Nursing Advisory Committee in 1937, the League has continued (unfortunately on a reduced scale owing to war conditions) to award full or half scholarships to nurses or student nurses recommended by their National Red Cross Society. Thus since 1937, seven nurses representing six different nationalities have benefited from these scholarships. Four of them were students of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation courses in London whereas the three others followed a basic course in general training.

Moreover the League awarded several grants for study visits of a short duration to nurses who wished to study special aspects of hospital or public health nursing in a given country. The League will continue within the limits of its budget to grant these scholarships, the value of which was emphasised by all delegates present.

Publications. — The Nursing Bureau has published and sent out to National Societies several studies the subjects of which, in most instances, had been suggested to it by the Societies themselves. This activity of the Bureau will be continued, in so far as it answers definite requests.

The Information Bulletin for Red Cross Nurses is a periodical publication created by the League in July 1943 on its own initiative. It is addressed to all National Red Cross Societies and the delegates present unanimously agree that it has rendered and still does render most valuable service. It is, therefore, highly desirable that its publication should be pursued, and that it should continue to make the Red Cross known in all nursing circles. In the course of the discussion, it was pointed out also that the League authorized and strongly encouraged the reproduction and translation for use in nursing publications of articles appearing in the Bulletin.

Missions. — Valuable personal contacts have been created between National Societies and the Nursing Bureau through the many visits which Miss Hentsch was able to make. The delegates expressed the wish that these visits should be more frequent.

Latin America. — The Nursing Bureau has made a special point of strengthening its ties with Red Cross Societies in Latin America. It has endeavoured to help these in the organisation of their nursing services, and has always recommended that the training of Red Cross nurses be pursued along the lines

advocated by the International Council of Nurses. It has often been called upon to suggest important changes in existing nursing services. In some cases it has had to recommend the establishment of a new school of nursing, whereas in others it has had to advise against the continuation of a school which did not seem to meet the needs of the country.

The League has also co-operated with the American Red Cross in the selection of Latin American nurses to whom the said Society offered scholarships for one year's post-graduate study in the United States.

In January, 1945, a consultant nurse was appointed to the Pan-American Bureau of the League: Miss Marjorie Duvillard, of Swiss origin, born in Argentina, and a graduate from the «Bon-Secours» School of Nursing in Geneva. The delegate from the American Red Cross wished to stress before the meeting the remarkable work accomplished by Miss Duvillard, without which some of Miss Hentsch's previous work in Latin America might have had no follow-up. It is to be hoped that the League will continue to maintain this post which undoubtedly contributes to the development of nursing in that part of the world.

Assistance to sick nurses. — The report of the Nursing Bureau states that on January 1st, 1946, the following nurses had benefited or were benefiting under this special League scheme of assistance to nurses victims of the war: 8 Belgian, 6 French, 5 Greek, 5 Dutch and 3 Italian nurses. Moreover 2 Polish and 8 Yugoslav nurses were to be included in the scheme. The League hoped to extend this action to still more nurses.

Gratefulness was expressed to the League by the delegates present for this plan from which nurses had already benefited so much, physically and morally. Thanks were also expressed to the donating countries, for their generous support of the scheme.

Information service. — The Nursing Bureau endeavoured to keep up-to-date and as complete as possible its information files on nursing organisation and activities in the various countries, and more particularly on all that concerns nursing under the Red Cross. The help of National Red Cross Societies was necessary to the Nursing Bureau for this Service and the delegates present promised to contribute to it as much as they could.

Miss Hentsch concluded her report by recalling the excellent relationship which existed between the Nursing Bureau and the different international organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Florence Nightingale International Foundation and the International Council of Nurses with all of which close co-operation had been maintained throughout the past years.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Mrs. Maynard L. Carter, chairman of the Committee of Management of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, presented a brief report on the activities of the Foundation since 1939. She recalled that a Provisional Committee had conducted the affairs of the Foundation during the years 1939-1945. On September 14th, 1945, a full representative meeting of the Committee of Management as constituted in July 1939 took place in London for the first time since the war. The Committee of Management approved the report of the Provisional Committee. It also appointed two sub-committees: the Constitution Sub-Committee and the Education Sub-Committee.

The Constitution Sub-Committee had met twice since September 1945 and had presented a report to the meeting of the Committee of Management which met again on January 25th, 1946. Mrs. Carter drew the attention of the members of the Advisory Committee to the main points of this report. One of those points dealt with the structure itself of the Foundation and was raised by the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee in Canada. The latter suggested that the Foundation be placed under the direct control of professional nurses. Unanimously the Constitution Sub-Committee recommended that no action be taken that would deprive the Foundation of its autonomy and right to self-government and the Committee of Management endorsed this recommendation. Upon examining the question the Nursing Advisory Committee noted that complete autonomy was granted to the Grand Council under the present Statutes. Thus constituted the Foundation has rendered undeniable service since its inception in 1934, and although nothing stood in the way of the Constitution and By-Laws being altered, it did not seem opportune nor justified that they should be altered now on this particular point.

On the other hand, other amendments to the Constitution were no doubt necessary in order that the Foundation be adapted to present needs. The Nursing Advisory Committee, therefore, approved another recommendation of the Committee of Management suggesting that at least three of the five representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies on the Grand Council and at least two of the three representatives of the League on the Committee of Management should be trained nurses. Thus the affairs of the Foundation would be largely controlled by nurses since they would form a greater majority on the governing and directing bodies.

The report of the Constitution Sub-Committee further suggested that the Grand Council should be given a greater responsibility in the

election of the Committee of Management. The suggestion recommended that the Committee should consist of 17 members, eight of whom would be elected by the Grand Council from candidates nominated by the member bodies.

A further suggestion of the Constitution Sub-Committee recommended that the Education Committee should be a standing Committee of the Committee of Management, and that it should be elected by the Grand Council. Members should be persons from several countries connected with nursing education and this Committee should be responsible to the Grand Council for the whole education policy of the Foundation. So far the educational work of the Foundation was centred in London. From various quarters, however, it had been suggested that this activity should be decentralised and that advantage be taken of the many new educational facilities now existing in a number of countries. Until such time as the Grand Council could meet and decide on the future educational policy of the Foundation, the Committee of Management had adopted a provisional programme which will offer a useful basis of experiment for the future. In the course of the last twenty years considerable changes in regard to post graduate nursing education had taken place and opportunity for post-graduate study had become more common in a number of countries. This should be taken into account even if in decentralising the studies, the advantages offered to students of all nationalities through a year of common study in residence were lost. Several members of the Nursing Advisory Committee stressed the importance of these contacts. The discussion demonstrated the fact that young nurses in most countries have a great desire to go abroad for post-graduate study. On the other hand there is a great shortage of leaders. It would seem that the Foundation should take these factors into account and should continue to aim at training selected candidates for leadership, and to add to this training as far as possible the valuable experience of common study between nurses of different countries.

A meeting of the Grand Council of the Foundation will be held on September 11th, 12th and 13th, 1946. At this meeting new honorary officers will be elected and a new Committee of Management will be appointed. Before laying down office the present Committee of Management would present a report containing recommendations for revision of the Constitution and rules and changes in the educational policy of the Foundation. All member bodies have been invited to forward suggestions in this respect and they are strongly encouraged to seize this opportunity of giving their advice on the future of the Foundation.

Pending the meeting of the Grand Council the Committee of Management adopted an interim policy and with the help and advice of the Education Sub-Committee it was arranging post-graduate studies both in Great Britain and elsewhere. The available funds of the Foundation only allowed for administrative expenses, and the individual student must be provided with a scholarship from other sources. Application can be made to the Foundation through the National Florence Nightingale Committee of the student's country of origin or where such a Committee did not exist, through the National Red Cross Society or the National Nurses Association. Each scholarship amounted to approximately 300 pounds a year. The nurses who have already benefited from studies arranged by the Foundation during this interim period since the autumn of 1944 included: — three Indian nurses who had studied or were studying at the Royal College of Nursing in London on scholarships provided one, by the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of that country and two by the Indian Red Cross. There were further two Greek nurses studying one in Toronto, Canada and one in Edinburgh, Scotland; plans were in progress for a Chinese nurse to study at Wellington, New Zealand, on a scholarship granted by the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of New Zealand. Further plans are being made for several more nurses.

The headquarters of the Foundation were now at 45 Gloucester Place, London, under a lease of a further three and a half years. Miss Baggallay who had been recalled to her post as secretary of the Foundation in January 1944 obtained in July of the same year a leave of absence for one year which was prolonged to two years. She had been working for UNRRA in Greece and was due to return to the Foundation in July, 1946. In the meanwhile Mrs. Carter assumed the joint responsibilities of Chairman of the Committee of Management and of Secretary of the Foundation.

The financial situation of the Foundation was as follows: the endowment fund amounted to approximately 18,000 pounds from which an annual income of about 545 pounds is derived. In addition the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of New Zealand was sending an annual contribution of 100 pounds for a period of three years. With this income it was possible to continue the work of the Foundation on the present scale until the end of 1947. There was a further sum of 40,000 dollars (approximately 10,000 pounds) being held by the American Nurses Association for the Foundation. This will be transferred to the Central Fund at the appropriate time and will bring the fund up to approximately 28,000 pounds. It was estimated in 1939 that the minimum sum with which the activities of the Foundation could be carried on

was 50,000 pounds. It was, therefore, hoped that the remaining 22,000 pounds might be forthcoming before the next meeting of the Grand Council in September 1946.

The Nursing Advisory Committee expressed its thanks to Mrs. Carter and to her British colleagues for having kept the Foundation alive through these difficult years.

SHORTAGE OF NURSES

The Nursing Advisory Committee heard several interesting reports regarding this subject, which all tended to show that the shortage of nurses was almost universal at this time, and in some instances was really alarming. The discussion which arose on this point seemed to prove that the main reasons for this shortage were generally speaking due to the inadequate living and working conditions of the nurses.

It was of primary importance to National Red Cross Societies that they should be able to enrol at all times a sufficient number of nurses, both for their peace and war time activities. The present shortage had, therefore, direct bearing on the Red Cross and it is recommended that each National Society studies in which way it can best contribute to solve this problem. It was suggested moreover that the League and the International Committee of the Red Cross should make a thorough study of the question based on information sent to them by National Societies.

REMISSION OF TRAINING IN THE CASE OF V.A.D.'S WISHING TO ENTER THE NURSING PROFESSION

Most countries since the war have had to make alterations in the programme of instruction of Voluntary Aids, as well as to face the problem of helping them to enter the nursing profession. The delegates of the United States, France, Greece and Great Britain gave a description of what has been done in their country in this respect, and it is recommended that all National Societies send to the League a summary of their experience in this field.

VOLUNTARY WORK IN THE RED CROSS

The point as to whether it is contrary to the Geneva Convention to remunerate Red Cross voluntary personnel in money or in kind was discussed at the Advisory Conference of Delegates of Red Cross Societies at Geneva in October 1945. The question was put to the Nursing Advisory Committee in the light of how it affects Red Cross Nursing personnel.

Miss L. Odier recalled that at the beginning, all Red Cross work was done on an unpaid basis. This point, however, had not been stressed in the Geneva Convention. It furthermore was ne-

cessary to adapt oneself to the needs of the time, and to remember that what matters most was to attract to the Red Cross persons who were best qualified for the work both technically and morally. If circumstances do not allow these people to work without pay, it would seem quite in order to give them some remuneration, or at least some advantage in kind.

Several delegates describe the way in which their society had attempted to solve this problem. The majority of them had made grants of some kind to their Voluntary Aids, although the methods adopted vary greatly from one country to another. On the other hand the principle of unpaid work was the root of the Red Cross itself; the question needed to be studied with care and the Nursing Advisory Committee, therefore, resolved to request the League and the International Committee of the Red Cross to make a study of the problem as it related to Red Cross nurses and nursing auxiliaries.

UNIFORMS

The discussion which arose with regard to nurses' uniforms went to show that several National Red Cross Societies had had to modify their uniform regulations for nurses and nursing auxiliaries with a view to meeting the new conditions of work as well as army regulations and shortage of material due to war conditions. It was suggested, however, that uniform regulations are a national problem which each Society should solve in co-operation with its own military authorities and the national Nurses' Associations. The meeting further provided an opportunity to point out that the emblem of the Red Cross according to the Geneva Convention must appear on a white ground, whatever the colour of the uniform with which it is worn. Miss Odier also reminded the delegates of the importance of the identity card which all nursing personnel should carry constantly since this identity card alone would entitle its bearer to the privileges of the Geneva Convention.

FUTURE PROGRAMME OF THE NURSING BUREAU

The last day of the meetings of the Nursing Advisory Committee was devoted to summarising some of the tasks of the Nursing Bureau in the future. Recommendations were drawn up by a special Sub-Committee which had been appointed to that effect and adopted by the meeting. These recommendations expressed the opinion of the Nursing Advisory Committee on the recommendations made by the Advisory Conference of Delegates of Red Cross Societies as well as on the various items on the Agenda. They will form the basis of a report to the next meeting of the Board of Governors.

I

The Nursing Advisory Committee of the League

Associates itself with Recommendation No. XXV of the 1945 Advisory Conference¹ and pays tribute to the trained nurses and voluntary aids in all parts of the world, who gave up their lives whilst upholding the spirit of the Red Cross, and have thus merited its undying gratitude.

II

The Nursing Advisory Committee

Having considered recommendation No. XXIX of the 1945 Conference¹ expresses the wish that the principle of voluntary (unpaid) service within the Red Cross be safeguarded.

Owing to the importance of the question, it expresses the wish that the League and the International Committee of the Red Cross undertake a thorough study of this question as it relates to nurses and voluntary aids in time of peace and war.

III

Recognising the rapid expansion of the health services in all the countries, the importance of the rôle of the nurse in those services and the necessity to ensure an adequate number of nurses,

The Nursing Advisory Committee

Recommends that the National Societies urge their Governments to pass legislation defining the status of the nurse and the conditions under which she works and to which her responsible position entitles her.

IV

The Nursing Advisory Committee

Associates itself with Recommendation No. XXVII of the 1945 Conference¹ and recommends that the efforts already undertaken by the League be pursued with a view to unifying the basic training of Red Cross trained nurses in conformity with the recommendations of the International Council of Nurses, and of facilitating reciprocity as well as the exchange of nurses between one country and another.

V

The Nursing Advisory Committee

Having considered Recommendation No. XXVIII of the 1945 Conference¹, recommends that the Secretariat of the League studies which should be the essential items to be included in the programme of instruction for Voluntary Aids in all countries and encourages that a common designation be adopted for these aids.

VI

The Nursing Advisory Committee

Having studied Recommendation No. XXXIII of the 1945 Conference¹ expresses the hope that instruction relating to social questions shall be included in the programmes of instruction for Red Cross nurses and voluntary aids.

VII

The Nursing Advisory Committee

Recommends that the League should continue to assist National Societies by awarding scholarships either for basic training in nursing or for post graduate study or study visits of a short duration.

VIII

The Nursing Advisory Committee

Endorses Recommendation No. XXXII of the 1945 Conference¹ and recommends that the League continue to publish the "Information Bulletin for Red Cross Nurses" and give it the widest possible distribution. It further recommends that publication of this Bulletin in a Slav language be envisaged.

IX

The Nursing Advisory Committee

Emphasises the importance of personal contacts between the Nursing Bureau of the League and the Nursing Departments within the various national Red Cross Societies and recommends that these contacts be as frequent as possible.

X

The Nursing Advisory Committee

Notes with satisfaction the special effort made by the League in nursing in Latin America which has contributed to the promotion of nursing in that Continent; it therefore expresses the wish that this action be further pursued.

XI

The Nursing Advisory Committee

Having considered Recommendation No. XXX of the 1945 Conference¹ expresses the hope that the necessary funds be placed at the disposal of the League to enable it to continue its assistance to sick nurses.

XII

Whereas the Florence Nightingale International Foundation bears the name of Florence Nightingale who was not only an accomplished nurse, but also a pioneer and an organiser whose influence is still felt in health and social services throughout the world;

Recognising that the contributions made by the League of Red Cross Societies and by the International Council of Nurses to the Foundation are of paramount importance;

Recognising that the international courses organised by the Foundation with the co-operation of Bedford College and the Royal College of Nursing have hitherto rendered great service,

The Nursing Advisory Committee expresses the wish,

That the League of Red Cross Societies should maintain its interest in the Foundation;

That the Foundation should retain complete autonomy in regard to all international bodies;

That nurses should have a leading part in its management and administration;

That its whole policy should continue to develop a spirit of universality and international understanding and be broadened to take into account the increased opportunities for study which exist in the various countries.

XIII

The Nursing Advisory Committee, in view of the fact that the meetings of the said Committee are of undeniable value to national Red Cross Societies,

Recommends that the League should organise such meetings as frequently as possible, and, in any case, not less than once every second year.

¹ Advisory Conference of Delegates of Red Cross Societies, Geneva, Oct. 15th to Nov. 3rd, 1945.

Session of the Standing International Commission on Highway First Aid

Geneva, 5th to 6th February, 1946.

THE Commission was set up in pursuance of a resolution of the XIVth International Red Cross Conference, held at Brussels in 1930, recommending that the International Red Cross and the Central International Touring Council should appoint delegates to constitute a Standing Commission responsible for the application of the principle on which the organisation of first aid posts on highways should be founded.

This Commission, the Secretariat of which is provided by the Relief Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies, held its first meeting on 23rd February, 1931. Since that date, the Commission has been represented at all International Red Cross Conferences and co-operated with all congresses dealing with first aid technical problems. The Commission succeeded in laying down the standard equipment which a first aid post on highways should contain and in drawing up a general plan for the organisation of first aid on highways which on the eve of World War II had been adopted by some thirty countries. This plan is set forth in a booklet entitled "*First Aid Posts on Highways*" published in 1936 by the League of Red Cross Societies.

The Commission has not been able to meet since the beginning of World War II, but the Advisory Conference of Delegates of national Red Cross Societies, convened by the League at Geneva from 15th October to 2nd November, 1945, adopted a Recommendation (XVII) to the effect that "national Societies should particularly devote their attention to the setting up of a network of static first aid posts on the highways supplemented by a system of mobile units". The same Recommendation went on: "That the collaboration of local medical authorities be secured by national Societies. The League should also revive at an early date their relations with the proper medical bodies and tourist organisations in order to hasten results and to modernise the standard scale of equipment". Pursuant to this Recommendation and at the request of one of the founding members of the Commission, Mr. E. Dronsart, Director General of the Belgian Red Cross, the League convened three of the founding members, the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the representatives of the International Association of Recognised Automobile Clubs, for the purpose of reconstituting the Commission, examining the present situation of first aid for victims of highway accidents and establishing the future programme of the Commission.

The following persons attended the meeting which took place on 5th and 6th February, 1946, at the headquarters of the League of Red Cross Societies:

Dr. P. Behague, Chairman of the Standing International Commission on Highway First Aid, Vice-President of the French National Union of Tourist Associations. (U.N.A.T.). Mr. E. Dronsart, Director-General of the Belgian Red Cross. Mr. P. Duchaine, Secretary-General of the International Touring Alliance, Brussels, President of the Belgian Touring Club. Dr. E. Mende, Delegate of the International Association of Recognised Automobile Clubs (A.I.A.C.R.), Central President of the Swiss Automobile Club. Mr. G. Milsom, Under-Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, Director of the Junior Red Cross Bureau. Dr. E. J. Pampana, Director of the Health and Relief Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies. Mr. J. Pictet, Assistant Secretary-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Col. E. Primault, Director-General of the Swiss Automobile Club, Vice-Chairman of the Technical Committee of the International Association of Recognised Automobile Clubs, Berne.

M. de Rougé, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, opened the session and Dr. Behague then made a short speech in which he spoke of the pleasure he felt in finding himself among old members of the Commission and expressed his conviction that the newcomers would contribute greatly to facilitate the discussions. He thanked M. de Rougé for kindly according the hospitality of the League's offices to the Commission.

On the conclusion of its work the Commission adopted the following resolutions:

I.

After noting the presence of three *founding members* of the Commission (Mr. Behague, Mr. Dronsart and Mr. Duchaine) and of the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (Mr. Pictet) and of the League of Red Cross Societies, (Dr. Pampana) the Conference appointed Colonel Primault, Vice-Chairman of the Technical Committee of the International Association of Recognised Automobile Clubs, and Director-General of the Swiss Automobile Club, to be the sixth permanent member of the Commission.

In accordance with the procedure hitherto followed the Commission will always be glad at each of its meetings to appoint other representatives of touring or Red Cross Associations to be temporary members. It expressed pleasure at the attendance of Dr. Mende, Central President of the Swiss Automobile Club, delegate of the A.I.A.C.R., and of Mr. Milsom, Under-Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies and Director of the Junior Red Cross Bureau.

The Commission then proceeded to elect its officers. It confirmed Dr. Behague in his post as Chairman, and appointed Mr. Dronsart Vice-President, Dr. Pampana Secretary and Colonel Primault, Assistant Secretary.

The Commission paid tribute to the memory of Mr. E. Clouzot and Mr. Carlos Resines, former members, who have died since the last meeting.

II.

Whereas in accordance with information received mobile first aid units established in various countries have not given good results although they had proved themselves very useful in the United States and whereas it would be an excellent thing for the Commission to know the methods used in the various countries and in particular in the U.S.A. for bringing traffic regulations to the notice of the general public and for the prevention of traffic accidents;

The Commission would be glad if a delegation from the Inter-American Touring and Automobile Federation and one or more delegates from the American Red Cross Societies were appointed to attend the next meeting of the Commission as temporary members.

III

The Commission draws the particular attention of the Red Cross authorities and of the touring and road-traffic organisations to the fact that drivers of motor vehicles should have elementary but precise notions on first aid and the behaviour to be observed in the event of an accident.

The Commission is confident that they will all in their respective fields take the measures necessary to put this recommendation into effect.

IV.

The Commission notes that one single road traffic accident nowadays will frequently cause several victims and that the gravity of the accidents and injuries is in proportion to the increasing speed and density of traffic;

Is of the opinion that special traumatology services should be established with a view to dealing with shock conditions, injuries to the nervous system, serious burns, open fractures, etc. and that the therapeutical aids recently developed during World War II should be used;

Recommends the installation of such services in the greatest possible number of hospitals which should be brought to the notice of the organisations concerned in order that road victims should benefit thereby.

V.

The Commission has been informed of the experience acquired in France by the French National Union of Tourist Associations which, in agreement with the Confederation of medical practitioners associations, has arranged that the medical attendance given to the victim of a road accident, on the spot, should be paid according to a fixed scale. Under these conditions, the medical practitioner receives his fee without further delay from the French National Union of Tourist Associations which recovers the amount subsequently from the insurers liable in the case or from the victim himself. The French National Union of Tourist Associations thus recovers about 90% of the sums paid by it; the Commission draws attention to this system under which medical attendance can be procured in a greater number of cases and which only entails a slight financial participation on the part of the organisations responsible for first-aid posts on highways.

VI.

The Commission notes that one of the main qualities required of the nurses responsible for instructing the staff of first aid posts is their capacity to teach, and draws the particular attention of the Red Cross Societies to the advisability of choosing instructresses for this quality.

VII.

The Commission, in view of the example shown by the Belgian Junior Red Cross suggests that when youth holiday camps and in particular camps organised by the Junior Red Cross are established near the main highways they should be set up at points where accidents are most frequent with a view to assisting the victims.

VIII.

The Commission appreciates the excellent results obtained in Switzerland by the special instruction on road traffic given in all the schools, requests to be informed if similar instruction is given in other countries with a view to making known the efforts undertaken and the results obtained and invites its Secretary to take all steps necessary for this purpose.

IX.

The Commission draws the attention of the national Red Cross Societies and touring and automobile associations to the ever increasing need of organising a network of first aid posts on highways.

Acting on the advice of its members representing the International Red Cross, touring and automobile organisations it recommends that action should be taken as quickly as possible in this sphere.

It instructs its Secretary to undertake an enquiry in every country with a view to ascertaining:

1. How many first aid posts were in operation on the eve of World War II.
2. What number of first aid posts can be put into operation forthwith.
3. Whether or not they are established in accordance with the standard model¹ proposed by the Commission; if not, why the standard equipment was not adopted.
4. The organisation or authorities responsible for the posts.
5. What standard of knowledge and skill it requires from first aid workers.
6. If the organisation of air-borne first aid for road traffic accidents is contemplated.

X.

The Commission, in view of the important part played by it in connection with the Commission on the Unification of Road Signals of the League of Nations and in view of the many new questions which arise today in the field of its work,

instructs its officers to undertake all necessary negotiations with a view to the co-operation of this Commission with the work of the competent new international organisations.

XI.

The Commission draws the attention of the national Red Cross Societies and builders of motor ambulances to the need to conform to the definition of ambulances laid down in February 1932 by the I.C.R.C.² and to adopt the methods of signalling proposed by the Commission, with the following additions:

1. The roof of the vehicles should compulsorily bear the signs³ necessary for their identification by aircraft.
2. The sound signal to give warning of the ambulance's approach should be made uniform as rapidly as possible within each country at least, if not within each continent, by adopting the same warning note as that of fire-fighting vehicles.

Furthermore, the Commission is of opinion that every ambulance should be provided with a sending and receiving wireless apparatus.

Notes to resolutions IX and XI (see page 15):

¹ The following is recommended as the minimum equipment for a first aid post:

- 1 first aid box
- 1 stretcher or canvas sheet
- 1 blanket
- 1 instruction booklet
- 1 address list
- 1 block of requisition forms for the replacement of used material.

The standard first aid box approved by the Commission contains:

- 1 hemostatic bandage with accessories
- 6 packets of cotton wool
- 1 set of splints; from two to six triangular bandages
- 4 wide gauze bandages
- 4 narrow gauze bandages
- 2 small sterilised bandages
- 4 medium sterilised bandages
- 2 large sterilised bandages
- 12 safety pins
- A preparation for the treatment of burns
- A general stimulant
- A heart stimulant
- 12 pieces of sugar.

The address list should carry the names of persons whom it may be necessary to call on in case of an accident, e. g., doctors, hospitals, motor ambulances, police, fire-brigade, etc.

Whenever possible, the first aid post should also contain a telephone which can be used at all hours, and lighting facilities. A second stretcher is advisable, for when an accident occurs, the number of persons injured is likely to be more than one. If sheets are used instead of stretchers, they should be bound with rope so as to give a good hold. The advantage of such sheets is that they are cheap and easy to carry. The whole of the material in each post should be kept together in a special place.

The instruction booklet may usefully be supplemented by illustrated posters.

² 1. The following shall be considered as ambulance vehicles, to the exclusion of all others, and assimilated to the relief posts referred to in paragraph 4 of Article 24 of the Geneva Convention of July 27th 1929:

- (a) Vehicles belonging to, or utilized by, national Red Cross Societies (Red Crescent or Red Lion and Sun Societies) which are exclusively reserved for the transportation without charge of sick and injured persons, or medical personnel and material.
- (b) Vehicles belonging to, or utilized by, touring associations which have concluded with the national Red Cross Society (Red Crescent or Red Lion and Sun Societies) an agreement authorizing them, under paragraph 4 of Article 24 above-mentioned, and under the conditions therein specified, to use the emblem of the Geneva Convention.

Such ambulance vehicles shall have the right to carry the emblem only during the time when they are exclusively occupied in transporting without charge sick or injured persons, or medical personnel and material going to mobile medical units, relief posts, or hospitals units open to the public.

2. Transportation without charge means that the transportation of a sick or injured person must never be subject to payment in advance. The expenses of transportation may be recovered from the sick or injured person in so far as he is able to reimburse them, but no direct or indirect profit must accrue to the person transporting the patient.

³ The International Commission on Highway First Aid considers that motor vehicles, as above defined should be marked in the following uniform way in all countries:

1. (a) *by day*: A Red Cross flag one foot wide, should be flown from the top of the vehicle, and in front, behind and on each side of it should be painted a red cross on a white ground, the cross being at least eight inches square.

(b) *by night*: The red cross on a white ground in the front of the vehicle should be strongly illuminated, and the red cross on the back should be lighted in the ordinary way.

2. There should also be a *special sound signal* by horn or bell, the tone of which should be scientifically defined after experiment and kept for the exclusive use of ambulance vehicles.

The Commission takes the view that ambulance vehicles, as defined above and carrying the marks proposed, should be accorded the following advantages:

- (a) priority at cross-roads;
- (b) priority in passing other vehicles and getting through traffic (on the sounding of the special horn or bell);
- (c) waiving of all speed limits, except those which may be imposed for any particular vehicle after technical inspection having in view its purpose as an ambulance;
- (d) priority for the purchase of fuel and for repairs if necessary.

Books Received by the League Secretariat

Handbook of Infectious Diseases with Notes on Prophylaxis, Serum Treatment and Vaccination, by the Staff of the Cantacuzène Institute, under the direction of Professors C. IONESCU-MIHAESTI and M. CIUCA (Series of League of Nations Publications, III. Health 1945. III. 1. C. H. 1454, 337 pp.)

This book will be most welcome. During this post-war period, everyone is alive to the dangers of epidemics and a recrudescence of the endemic diseases some of which constitute really serious problems today. Nevertheless, in the course of the war, great progress was made in epidemiology and the treatment and prophylaxis of infectious diseases, knowledge of which must be spread far and wide. A medical practitioner whose training is based solely on treatises would today be insufficiently instructed in the handling of infectious diseases; on the other hand, medical journals whose duty it was to keep knowledge on a level with day to day progress were insufficiently informed, in continental Europe at least, as to what was going on in the rest of the world. The handbook published by IONESCU-MIHAESTI and CIUCA with the co-operation of the scientific staff of the Cantacuzène Institute in Bucarest, an institute well known to all interested in bacteriology or, more generally, in experimental medicine, has been translated and published in French and English by the Health Section of the League of Nations. The Health Section did not restrict itself to a mere translation but brought the text up-to-date by the inclusion of new chapters on the latest knowledge published in medical literature which was available to the Health Section but to which the authors did not have access. In this connection, we are very glad to note that "Hygiene — Medicine — Biology: Notes and Abstracts" published by the League of Red Cross Societies has also been used for bringing this concise compendium up-to-date.

This volume is published in handy pocket form. It can be considered as the swansong of the Health Section of the League of Nations. We can prophesy that it will be consulted so frequently and will be so highly appreciated by medical practitioners and medical officers of Health that they will long keep grateful memories of the Health Section which for twenty-five years has performed such useful work in assisting public health authorities by its services to and promotion of scientific progress. D^r E. J. P.

varied according to the possibilities of each country. Nevertheless, all are most keen on providing every possible assistance for the children who are suffering such miseries. Many schools are already being adopted and others will be shortly. Every day new sections join this movement of mutual assistance and once again throughout the world the Juniors will prove that their motto "We serve" is not an empty phrase.

In its number of January 1946, the Belgian Red Cross issued a vibrant appeal to the Belgian schoolchildren calling upon them to give immediate assistance to the children of Greece, the Netherlands and Poland, in which countries the Belgians intend to adopt the destroyed schools. The most noteworthy phrases of this appeal may be quoted with peculiar timeliness:

"Some persons may express astonishment at seeing Belgium, herself so cruelly affected, numbered among the assisting countries, rather than among the assisted ones. Have we not ourselves also our unfortunate children; children who are homeless, mutilated, enfeebled, the children of parents who have been deported or murdered? We can assure our countrymen on

this point: our own children will not be forgotten. We believe, however, that there is in Belgium a sufficient fund of goodwill and adequate material possibilities to enable us to come to the help of our own children and those of other countries. However severe the test through which we have passed, we must count ourselves today among the privileged of the world; it is our turn to give to those yet more unfortunate than ourselves, in return for the great benefactions which we received in our sombre hours from other countries...

"Great and small, each one of us will desire fervently to contribute his utmost to this work of rescue. May the fact that we have ourselves suffered make us more pitying towards the misery of others. May a vast movement of mutual assistance and of universal fraternity rise today in our country which has issued so successfully from its day of test..."

This is the spirit in which the Juniors of the whole world, closely united in solidarity and friendship, should strengthen their ties and put their shoulder to the wheel. It is in them that we place all our confidence and all our hopes.

Missions

As the Netherlands Red Cross invited him to come and see for himself the work it has accomplished since the liberation of the country, Mr de Rougé, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, recently paid a brief visit to the Netherlands. In the course of his mission he was able to realise the great effort and important progress made by the Netherlands Red Cross, especially in the devastated regions of Arnhem where this Society has accomplished, as elsewhere, magnificent work.

Mr de Rougé also went to Belgium where, together with Mr Milsom, Under-Secretary-General of the League, he got into touch with the Belgian Red Cross officials. With them he discussed among other things, the details of the Junior Red Cross relief work for children victims of the war, work which takes the form of school sponsorships. The Belgian Red Cross devotes itself zealously to this activity. In Belgium Messrs de Rougé and Milsom met Count Folke Bernadotte, President of the Swedish Red Cross, with whom they discussed the activities of this Society and the relief work undertaken by it in favour of necessitous populations in Europe.

* * *

Miss E. Morecillo Cobo, Assistant Director of the Pan-American Bureau of the League, has

just returned from a mission to the Portuguese and Spanish Red Cross Societies.

During her stay in Portugal Miss Morecillo discussed with the officials of the Portuguese Red Cross and particularly with its President, H.-E. Admiral Guilherme Ivens Ferraz, and its Vice-President, H.-E. General Ferreira Martins, the organisation of relief work in favour of children victims of the war and the creation of a Junior Red Cross section.

In order to help in the development of this work, the Portuguese Red Cross has set up a special Committee composed of six members of this society, of whom one is a representative of the Ministry of the Interior and the other the civil Governor of Lisbon. Miss Morecillo was also made a member of this Committee.

The establishment of a Junior Red Cross Section in Portugal has been warmly welcomed by the Portuguese Red Cross. This Society has obtained the support of the Minister of Education in their propaganda for the organisation of this work in the Portuguese schools.

During her visit to the Spanish Red Cross, Miss Morecillo Cobo had a talk with the President of this Society, H.-E. Dr. Manuel Martinez de Tena, and the Secretary General, H.-E. Dr. L. Valero Carreras, concerning the organisation of relief work for children victims of the war.

THE COMMON TASK

AUSTRALIA

For the liberated prisoners

The Australian Red Cross accomplished a highly important piece of work in helping with the thousands of ex-prisoners of war and liberated internees in Singapore.

As soon as the first Red Cross unit from Australia reached Singapore, its members made a bee-line for the overcrowded concentration camps. On arrival there they distributed the comforts brought with them, gave messages from loved ones, received and transmitted replies, and did everything they could to cheer up the men and women.

The greater number of ex-prisoners of war were speedily evacuated to Australia. At the aerodrome where they were received, after being flown in from outlying areas, the Red Cross extended a warm welcome and handed out drinks, food and cigarettes. They also placed welfare workers on board the ships returning to Australia with ex-prisoners, and added extra supplies to the ships' stores of food and comforts.

For the internees released and retained in Singapore for a longer period, the Red Cross workers offered their services freely. Games were organised for the children, and special attention was paid to their health and diets.

As many of the ex-internees were in a very weak condition and in poor health, the Red Cross supplied V.A.D.s to assist the medical staff treating them.

On arrival in Australia the ex-prisoners and internees were cared for by the Red Cross. One of the first large groups of civilian internees to be transported to Australia consisted of more than a hundred British men. These were transported by special buses from their ship to the Town Hall in Sydney, where the Red Cross awaited them. Those men whose families were in other parts of the country or who had nowhere to go were taken by the Red Cross officers to a hostel which had been handed over by the Government to the Society for this purpose. Here medical, dental and optical treatment was given to those requiring it, and arrangements were made for the men to travel as quickly as possible to different parts of the country.

CANADA

Rehabilitation of the Disabled

Handicrafts play a great part in the rehabilitation of the disabled. Through their war experience the Canadian Red Cross Society realised this and consequently have started, as part of their post-war programme, what is known as the "Hospitals Arts and Crafts Service".

Red Cross members who have talent, interest or experience in this work take a few months' preparatory training, or have previously received training in a technical school. They then go out as handicraft instructors in the Canadian military hospitals. In all places they work under the direction of the Department's occupational therapists.

Every type of handicraft is taught, e. g. the weaving of scarves and small rugs, the making of calico and felt animals, tooled leather work, beadwork,

woodwork, etc. Many a war-weary invalid has strengthened his muscles, learned to adapt himself to his disability and gained peace of mind through struggling with some type of handicraft taught by these Red Cross workers, and many more will do so through this new post-war Service.

CHINA

Medical Relief for the Population

Wishing to ensure during the war that the population of Chungking, which was then overcrowded, should have medical relief, the Chinese Red Cross started two free clinics and one 60-bed hospital. The patients admitted to the hospital paid only a nominal fee for food expenses. The clinics cared for 600 patients daily, and the Out-Patients' Department of the hospital had an average daily attendance of 120. By this time the Medical Relief Corps had two clinics in Kwieyang, where almost 500 people were cared for each day.

As the number of patients requiring hospitalisation increased, the Chinese Red Cross decided to build a hospital of 150 beds. This new establishment, which was opened in July 1943, was admitted by all to be the best hospital in Free China at that time. In 1944 the Health Administration borrowed it as a teaching hospital, and have run it ever since. It is now functioning in full force and is being extended to 300 beds.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Work of the Red Cross

The Dominican Red Cross developed its work considerably during 1945. It reorganised its Association of Red Cross Trained Nurses, and gave it a new programme. It also started courses in first-aid, at the conclusion of which a large number of those attending received certificates.

At present the Ambulance Service of the Dominican Red Cross possesses five cars, but it will soon have another three.

At the beginning of the year a sum of 800,000 pesos was set aside for relief work among the victims of public disasters.

Finally, the campaign for the enrolment of new members brought in a sum of 5,000 pesos.

EGYPT

Junior Red Crescent

The Egyptian Junior Red Crescent, Cairo, placed under the patronage of H.R.H. Princess Ferial, began its work in May 1944. The membership is now 1500 and is steadily growing. The organisation consists of an Executive Committee, presided over by Princess Emina Toussoun, with 15 members; a Teachers' or Leaders' Committee, composed of the chief teacher or leader of each school and some members of the Executive Committee; the groups in the schools, each having its own president, secretary and treasurer who work under the guidance of the teacher responsible for the Junior Red Crescent activities in the school.

The Executive Committee and the Teachers' Committee meet once a month to plan and discuss the programme of activities, and report on the work done by the groups. The greater part of the members are girls from the Government secondary schools and there are also members in several private schools. The literature is published in Arabic, English and French.

First Aid Courses are held regularly each year beginning in January and ending in March with an examination. Up to now the courses were given in the Red Crescent Hospital, but due to the increasing interest some will now be given in the schools. All the courses are to be based on a First Aid manual which has been prepared. It is also planned to give lectures on social work each year for the older girls.

ECUADOR

Open-air camp An open-air camp has recently been added to the activities of the Guayas provincial committee, and the results are excellent.

The beach on which the camp has been set up is situated at some distance from Guayaquil. Fifty debilitated children, selected from those who are treated at the Red Cross dispensary, spend periods of four months there. During their stay the children are supervised and cared for by nuns. Members of the Red Cross visit the camp periodically to make sure that everything is in order.

Being anxious to collaborate in this work, the Ministry of Education has seconded a teacher to the camp for the education of the children.

GREAT BRITAIN

The Red Cross and epidemics Foreseeing the possibility of an outbreak of epidemics, the British Ministry of Health has arranged for home relief to be given to families affected by epidemics which, like influenza, do not as a rule require that the patients be hospitalised.

According to a circular issued by this Ministry, this relief will take three principal forms: medical and nursing service, help in the work of the home, and the supply of meals.

As regards the first two forms, the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John will be able to make a large contribution towards the success of the plan. These two bodies have, in fact, already agreed to cooperate in the organisation and eventually the carrying out of this relief.

Picture Library Scheme A few months ago the British Red Cross Society put into operation what is known as the "Picture Library Scheme". As the name implies, this is a library — a library not of books but of pictures. The idea is to make collections of pictures at the London Headquarters and then circulate them among Red Cross hospitals and sanatoria all over the country, exchanging them every few months.

The first set of pictures was sent to a Sanatorium beautifully situated in Hampshire. The place was so bright and fresh that it seemed little more could be desired. However, it was amazing what a difference

there was when those pictures were hanging on the walls of the wards and rooms. It was a well varied collection of reproductions of traditional and modern masterpieces, Franz Hals, Vermeer, Constable, Turner, Monet and Paul Nash being represented in it. The pictures had adhesive strips attached to the top and bottom, so as to make them easily interchangeable among the wards and rooms. The patients were allowed to choose their pictures from the collection and to help in or make suggestions regarding the hanging.

"Penny-a-Week Fund" It will be remembered that in November 1939 the British Red Cross started the "Penny-a-Week Fund".

This has been described as the most successful charitable appeal that has ever been made in Great Britain.

The Fund was closed in the middle of December last, when the final figure for the amount raised was found to be £17,522,225. At least 14,000,000 workers had contributed.

ITALY

Italian Junior Red Cross The Italian Junior Red Cross which as is known, has been reorganised, is at present occupied in relieving necessitous and under-nourished children, as well as helping the least privileged schools.

Last summer this national section organised 150 summer school groups in Rome, the aim of which was to keep the children off the streets. Some 6,000 children attended these schools. The teachers were paid out of Junior Red Cross funds, while the children's meals were prepared in the Junior Red Cross canteens with food provided by UNRRA.

Out of the membership fees paid by the schools, children are sent to holiday camps, first-aid kits and medicines are supplied to groups in rural schools in localities where there is neither a doctor nor a pharmacy, and subsidies are given to schools for such purposes as the purchase of books for the school library.

A Junior Red Cross Week was held from 15th to 22nd December last, with the approval of the Minister of Public Instruction who issued a special circular in support of this enterprise. The funds collected served for the purchase of toilet articles (soap, tooth-brushes, tooth-paste, etc.) for distribution to necessitous children.

The Italian Junior Red Cross is very anxious to resume its international school correspondence.

NORWAY

Red Cross Stamps On the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the national Red Cross Society the Norwegian postal authorities issued a 20 Øre stamp with a 10 Øre surtax for the benefit of the Society's work.

The Red Cross Week held in Trondheim last September was a complete success. 5,500 new members were recruited at Trondheim and 1,400 at Strinda. The Junior Red Cross also was able to enrol 4,000 new members.

NETHERLANDS

Red Cross 1945 The Netherlands Red Cross now has 254 local Committees with more than 500,000 members. Twenty new local Committees are in process of being formed. In 1939 the Society's receipts were 64,490 florins, while in 1945 they amounted to 1 million florins.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

"Healthy Moments" The South African Red Cross has recently brought out a delightful book for children, entitled "Healthy Moments". By means of very attractive coloured illustrations, this book points out the principal rules to be observed in order to keep oneself in good health. The first part deals with healthful habits and is presented in the form of an alphabet, each of the letters occupying a whole page with a picture illustrating the particular health advice there given. The second part tells about the campaign against disease; the third is devoted to the care of the skin, eyes, nails, hair, hands and feet. The last section gives information concerning food and drink.

This little book, which is a complete success, is sold for 4.5 d, and the proceeds go to the South African Red Cross. The League Secretariat has ordered a number of copies which it will be glad to send to national Junior Red Cross Sections that apply for them.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Work of Volunteers The post-war work of the American Red Cross Volunteers was recently discussed at a conference held in Washington and attended by 150 delegates from 39 different States.

Since the end of the war the work of Volunteers employed where there are ports of embarkation or service hospitals has much increased, and it will not come to an end until the actual war emergency period is over. The American Red Cross Volunteers will then return to their traditional task, which is to be useful wherever they can and especially to collaborate with the public services.

Civilian Blood Transfusion Service The American Red Cross recently authorised its regional committees, or "chapters" to recruit blood donors in order to assist in the development of civilian blood transfusion services operated by reliable medical and health organisations. The chapters may also provide both technical and non-technical staff as well as the equipment for the installation of a Blood Donor Centre.

When the Red Cross recruits donors, one important provision is that the blood and its derivatives must be furnished free of charge to all physicians or hospitals desiring it, within the areas served by the chapter.

The Portuguese Red Cross

THE foundation of a Portuguese Red Cross Society is due to a great scientist, Dr. José Antonio Marques. When acting as Portuguese delegate at the Geneva International Conference in 1864, he stated that although his country did not yet have an institution of the kind contemplated by the Conference, nevertheless he relied upon the charitable spirit of the Portuguese people which had so often been put to severe tests during times of civil war and serious epidemics; he did not doubt that the humanitarian task which the Conference had in view could be carried out successfully in Portugal.

On his return to his country, Dr. Marques turned all his energies indefatigably to prove the truth of his statement. He reached his goal, for five months later, on 11th February, 1865, a Portuguese Committee for the relief of sick and wounded "members of the armed forces in time of war" was founded. This was the ninth Society to be constituted after the signature of the Geneva Convention of 1864. It was only three years later, on 26th May, 1869, that the Portuguese Government issued the Decree approving the Articles of Association of the Committee.

In 1887 the Committee took the style and title of "Portuguese Red Cross Society" and its existence was legally approved by a Decree

dated 4th May of the same year. On 20th July following the International Red Cross Committee gave its approval to the Portuguese Red Cross Society and on 28th May, 1919, the Portuguese Society became a member of the League of Red Cross Societies.

The medical corps, the stretcher bearers detachment and all the medical and health formations set up at the very beginning in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Decree dated 14th December 1912 were placed on the same footing as the military medical services by the Decree of 19th August, 1919.

The Portuguese Red Cross has never deviated from the principles on which it was founded. It has subordinated all its hopes, all its acts, all its desires to the precepts of absolute charity, without distinction of any kind between the victims.

It extended its range of action to foreign countries so to speak from its very inception. Thus the Portuguese Red Cross issued appeals to the Portuguese population during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, to come to the assistance of the victims, and since then it has not ceased to give generous help to the victims of the many conflicts which have bathed the nations in blood. The Portuguese Red Cross was the first Society to organise a news service between prisoners of

advocated by the International Council of Nurses. It has often been called upon to suggest important changes in existing nursing services. In some cases it has had to recommend the establishment of a new school of nursing, whereas in others it has had to advise against the continuation of a school which did not seem to meet the needs of the country.

The League has also co-operated with the American Red Cross in the selection of Latin American nurses to whom the said Society offered scholarships for one year's post-graduate study in the United States.

In January, 1945, a consultant nurse was appointed to the Pan-American Bureau of the League: Miss Marjorie Duvillard, of Swiss origin, born in Argentina, and a graduate from the «Bon-Secours» School of Nursing in Geneva. The delegate from the American Red Cross wished to stress before the meeting the remarkable work accomplished by Miss Duvillard, without which some of Miss Hentsch's previous work in Latin America might have had no follow-up. It is to be hoped that the League will continue to maintain this post which undoubtedly contributes to the development of nursing in that part of the world.

Assistance to sick nurses. — The report of the Nursing Bureau states that on January 1st, 1946, the following nurses had benefited or were benefiting under this special League scheme of assistance to nurses victims of the war: 8 Belgian, 6 French, 5 Greek, 5 Dutch and 3 Italian nurses. Moreover 2 Polish and 8 Yugoslav nurses were to be included in the scheme. The League hoped to extend this action to still more nurses.

Gratefulness was expressed to the League by the delegates present for this plan from which nurses had already benefited so much, physically and morally. Thanks were also expressed to the donating countries, for their generous support of the scheme.

Information service. — The Nursing Bureau endeavoured to keep up-to-date and as complete as possible its information files on nursing organisation and activities in the various countries, and more particularly on all that concerns nursing under the Red Cross. The help of National Red Cross Societies was necessary to the Nursing Bureau for this Service and the delegates present promised to contribute to it as much as they could.

Miss Hentsch concluded her report by recalling the excellent relationship which existed between the Nursing Bureau and the different international organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Florence Nightingale International Foundation and the International Council of Nurses with all of which close co-operation had been maintained throughout the past years.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Mrs. Maynard L. Carter, chairman of the Committee of Management of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, presented a brief report on the activities of the Foundation since 1939. She recalled that a Provisional Committee had conducted the affairs of the Foundation during the years 1939-1945. On September 14th, 1945, a full representative meeting of the Committee of Management as constituted in July 1939 took place in London for the first time since the war. The Committee of Management approved the report of the Provisional Committee. It also appointed two sub-committees: the Constitution Sub-Committee and the Education Sub-Committee.

The Constitution Sub-Committee had met twice since September 1945 and had presented a report to the meeting of the Committee of Management which met again on January 25th, 1946. Mrs. Carter drew the attention of the members of the Advisory Committee to the main points of this report. One of those points dealt with the structure itself of the Foundation and was raised by the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee in Canada. The latter suggested that the Foundation be placed under the direct control of professional nurses. Unanimously the Constitution Sub-Committee recommended that no action be taken that would deprive the Foundation of its autonomy and right to self-government and the Committee of Management endorsed this recommendation. Upon examining the question the Nursing Advisory Committee noted that complete autonomy was granted to the Grand Council under the present Statutes. Thus constituted the Foundation has rendered undeniable service since its inception in 1934, and although nothing stood in the way of the Constitution and By-Laws being altered, it did not seem opportune nor justified that they should be altered now on this particular point.

On the other hand, other amendments to the Constitution were no doubt necessary in order that the Foundation be adapted to present needs. The Nursing Advisory Committee, therefore, approved another recommendation of the Committee of Management suggesting that at least three of the five representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies on the Grand Council and at least two of the three representatives of the League on the Committee of Management should be trained nurses. Thus the affairs of the Foundation would be largely controlled by nurses since they would form a greater majority on the governing and directing bodies.

The report of the Constitution Sub-Committee further suggested that the Grand Council should be given a greater responsibility in the