

The Red Cross : the idea and its development. A sketch / [Sir James Magill].

Contributors

Magill, James, Sir, 1850-1936.

Publication/Creation

London : Cassell, [1926]

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THE RED CROSS

THE IDEA & ITS DEVELOPMENT

COLONEL SIR JAMES MAGILL

K.C.B., M.A., M.D.

23/7/27

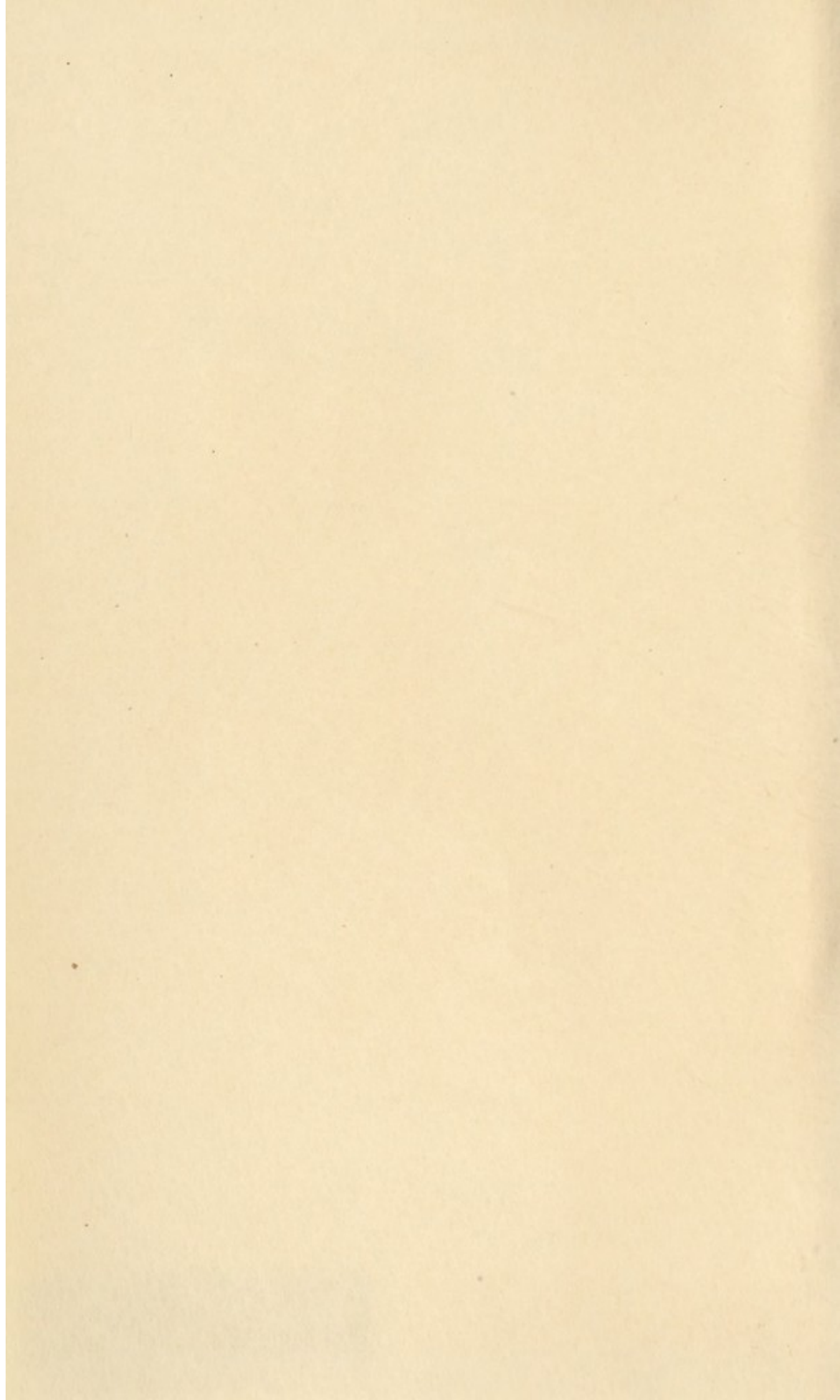
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THE RED CROSS :
THE IDEA AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

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THE RED CROSS

THE IDEA AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

A SKETCH

BY

COLONEL SIR JAMES MAGILL

K.C.B., M.A., M.D.

Hon. Organizing Secretary, British Red Cross Society

“But to use brevity, and avoid much labouring of the work, is to be granted to him that will make an abridgment.”—*Maccabees II., ii. 31.*



CASELL AND COMPANY, LTD.
London, Toronto, Melbourne and Sydney

RED CROSS

JQD (2)

First Published 1926



Printed in Great Britain

PREFACE

THE Red Cross movement has made such great advances during the past twenty years in this country and in the Dominions, that it is not inopportune to place on record the steps which have led up to its remarkable development.

An attempt has therefore been made to sketch the origin and growth of the idea "Inter Arma Caritas," from its small beginnings to its present wider field of activity, in the hope that the subject may be of some interest to the members of the British Red Cross Society.

J. M.

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THE RED CROSS

I. ORIGINS AND EARLY DEVELOPMENTS OF THE RED CROSS MOVEMENT

THE idea underlying the Red Cross movement is nothing new, for the introduction of civil aid to armies in the field dates back to the time of the Crusades, but it was speedily forgotten. The change of the idea into an organized practice, and its development into an international compact, are, however, of comparatively modern growth.

From the sixteenth century and onwards agreements were made on many occasions between contending generals, that the wounded and their attendants should be cared for, and indeed in some cases these agreements were much more liberal than those of the present day.

“It is perhaps curious to note that the period displaying the greatest amount of humanitarian sympathy with the victims of war was in the middle of the eighteenth century, the period of Voltaire and Frederick the Great, and that of least sympathy the middle of the nineteenth century.” *

* Lecture on *The Geneva Convention*, delivered at Cambridge, February, 1910, by Colonel W. G. Macpherson, C.M.G. (now Major-General Sir William Macpherson, K.C.M.G., C.B.).

Perhaps the earliest convention for the benefit of the sick and wounded in war was made during the siege of Tournay in 1581; and in the succeeding centuries nearly 300 similar agreements and treaties had been entered into regulating the status of captured hospitals, the disposal of their patients, and the freedom to be accorded to the medical personnel. A treaty on broad and philanthropic lines was made between France and Spain in 1683; and another of great interest between Lord Stair and the Duc de Noailles, commanding respectively the English and French forces in the Dettingen campaign of 1743.

This agreement was very noteworthy, and formed the precedent for the exchange of prisoners of war for a considerable period.

Some of its articles are well worthy of special attention, for example: "physicians, apothecaries, directors and other officers serving in the hospitals or armies shall not be liable to be made prisoners of war, but shall be sent back as soon as possible;" "care shall be taken of the wounded on both sides, their medicines and food shall be paid for, and all costs shall be returned on both sides. That it shall be allowed to send them surgeons and their servants with passports from the generals." It is added that they may be sent back "upon condition that those who have been made prisoners shall not serve until they have been exchanged."

"That the sick on both sides shall not be made prisoners, that they may remain with safety in their hospitals," and "chaplains and other persons proper

to attend on the sick shall not be made prisoners but shall be sent back."

"William, Earl of Albemarle, was the British representative who signed this treaty." *

Some months prior to the battle of Hohenlinden, in 1800, Baron Percy, the celebrated French military surgeon, proposed liberal arrangements to the Austrians regarding the coming casualties. These were remarkable in their generosity to the sick and wounded, and, as their author says, were based on the compact of 1743, between the English and French, already quoted. †

In these articles the germ of the greater part of the benefits realized in our day by the Geneva Convention may be found, and indeed in some particulars the earlier excels the later, as far as the wounded are concerned.

The permanent addition of medical officers to the staffs of the fighting forces had helped to alleviate the horrors of early battle-fields; and in the Napoleonic armies the introduction of the mobile ambulance by Baron Larrey, and the formation of a corps of stretcher-bearers by Baron Percy, made a revolution in the methods of the removal of casualties.

During years of peace the spectacle of the stricken

* *Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps*, March, 1914.

† "Dans ce but, il proposa au général en chef de conclure avec le général Kray, commandant des forces autrichiennes, une convention analogue à celle qui était intervenue entre Maurice de Noailles et Lord Stair dans la campagne de 1743, afin qu'en aucun cas les chirurgiens, les infirmiers et les blessés de l'une et de l'autre armée ne pussent être retenus prisonniers."—*Journal des Campagnes du Baron Percy, Chirurgien en Chef de la Grande Armée.*

field faded from the public view, and the sufferings of the wounded in bygone days tended to be forgotten.

Our country was awakened from this stupor by the calamities of the Crimean War, where sickness almost accomplished what the enemy failed to achieve. Famous to all time was the successful devotion of Miss Florence Nightingale and her band of trained nurses, an inspiration to the world for the future, opening a new era in hospital management, and in the care of the sick and wounded, primarily.

Nor was England alone in this matter, for a noble Russian lady organized voluntary help for her suffering countrymen, thus starting a movement which eventually became that popular and efficient body, the Russian Red Cross.

In 1862 a little book appeared entitled *Un Souvenir de Solferino* which well deserved the epithet of epoch-making. Its author was M. J. Henry Dunant, a Swiss gentleman who in a private capacity happened to be present at the battle of Solferino, and to the best of his ability, aided by a few associates, endeavoured to relieve the sufferings of some of the wounded. Solferino was fought on a very warm day in June, 1859, the French and Italian armies attacking the strong position held by the Austrians. The battle lasted fifteen hours, and from the three hundred thousand combatants the casualties were enormous, the Plain of Lombardy being reddened by the blood of such a mass of wounded

The Crimean War.

Dunant and his Work.

that the medical services were totally inadequate to deal with them.

After the war, three writers of different nationalities, the Italian Palasciano, the Frenchman Arrault, and the Swiss Dunant had the same idea and urged that international recognition should be accorded to the neutrality of wounded and sick, and to the inviolability of medical personnel and ambulances.

M. Dunant, in his book, urges the formation of voluntary societies whose aim should be to succour the wounded in time of war, assisting the medical services in the field and continuing to function in the hospitals. Societies of this class once formed, though more or less inactive in time of peace, could render aid in epidemics or national disasters.*

Dunant endeavoured with untiring energy to interest the European Governments in his scheme for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in war. And his efforts were rewarded by great success. Beginning at home, he secured the help of La Société Gènevoise d'Utilité Publique, and the assistance of its President, M. Moynier, a gentleman of European reputation as a jurist, to whom much of the later success of the movement is due.

After deliberation, it was decided to endeavour to bring together at Geneva an International Conference. The result was greater than could have been expected, and in October,

**International
Conference
of 1863.**

* "Ces Sociétés pourraient même rendre de grands services pendant des époques d'épidémies, ou dans des désastres comme des inondations, des incendies."—*Souvenir de Solferino*, troisième édition, 1863, Genève.

1863, the first meeting was held, 36 members being present, among whom were 14 delegates representing various Governments (Great Britain being one) who had accepted the invitation of the Geneva Committee, subsequently termed the International Committee.

This Conference had no official status, but it adopted various resolutions laying the foundation of the Red Cross Societies of the present day. It recommended the formation in every country of a committee whose duty it would be to co-operate in time of war with the medical service of the army, and to train volunteer nurses in time of peace for service in the event of war, these nurses to be self-supporting and to wear a white band with a red cross upon it, as a distinctive and uniform badge.

The immediate interest in the Conference and in the resolutions it adopted was very wide-
Geneva Convention of 1864. spread. The Swiss Government therefore issued invitations to twenty-five States to send official representatives to consider the momentous conclusions arrived at, and in the succeeding year, 1864, sixteen countries were represented diplomatically, and formulated the Geneva Convention, an agreement of the highest importance.

Among its provisions the following are worthy of special mention :

The neutrality of ambulances and military hospitals as long as they contain any sick or wounded, also of persons employed therein; protection to be afforded to persons and houses sheltering wounded; sick and wounded to be taken care of independent of nationality; an arm badge (brassard) for individuals neutral-

ized; a distinctive and uniform flag for hospitals and ambulances, always accompanied by the national flag. The flag and the arm badge to bear a red cross on a white ground.

It is remarkable that the idea uppermost in Dunant's mind, "il faut des infirmiers et des infirmières volontaires, diligents, préparés ou initiés à cette œuvre," and urged by the Conference of 1863, was never mentioned in the Articles of the Convention of 1864.*

In view of later experiences, reference must be made to the omission of the Conference of 1863 to devise a uniform designation for the national organizations to be established in the various countries. The consequence was that the good work speedily begun in almost every country was known by a variety of confusing titles. The Dutch Society was the first to adopt the name "Red Cross," and other countries followed and accepted the appellation now so universally known.

**First Use of
the Term
"Red
Cross."**

* "In 1872, M. Dunant read a paper in London upon the movement. His first words were these: 'Though I am known as the founder of the Red Cross, and the originator of the Convention of Geneva, it was an Englishwoman to whom all the honour of that Convention is due. What inspired me to go to Italy during the war of 1859 was the work of Miss Florence Nightingale in the Crimea.'"—*Florence Nightingale*, II, 205. E. T. Cook.

II. THE NATIONAL AID SOCIETY. THE CENTRAL BRITISH RED CROSS COMMITTEE

WHEN Red Cross work began in England, it did so under the cumbrous title of the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War (a phrase suggested by the language of the Geneva Conference), while working under the ægis of the Red Cross, and conforming to the precepts of the Geneva Convention. For many years its varied activities were continued under the title originally chosen, which among foreign nations was replaced by Croix Rouge Anglaise, and shortened in this country to National Aid Society, or more familiarly to British Red Cross.*

The War of Secession in the United States in 1861-5 saw the origin of the Sanitary Commission, which as time went on performed brilliant service to the sick and wounded in the matter of trains, hospitals, and supplies, and was a most generous assistant to the official departments in every way.

In this country the establishment of a National Society for aid to the sick and wounded had been urged by Mr. (later Sir) John Furley, Professor Longmore of Netley, and Captain (afterwards General Sir) Henry Brackenbury, among

War of Secession in the United States.
Franco-German War.

* Her Majesty Queen Victoria, in an autograph letter from Balmoral in October, 1877, writes: "Most sincerely does the Queen wish the Red Cross Society all possible success, and will be thankful for any future account."—*Memoir of Lord Wantage, V.C.*

others, but the outbreak of the Franco-German War in 1870 was the immediate cause of their repeated proposals being carried into effect. Though Great Britain had in 1867 officially approved the Geneva Convention, no steps had been taken to form such a Committee as had been constituted in most of the other European nations. An appeal in the Press on August 8th, 1870, by Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, V.C. (afterwards Lord Wantage), was the cause of an outburst of wide public sympathy, and the National Aid Society came into being. It was resolved :

“ That a National Society be formed in this **National Aid Society.** country for aiding sick and wounded soldiers in time of war, and that the said Society be formed upon the Rules laid down by the Geneva Convention in 1864.”

“ That this Society do forthwith place itself in communication with Her Majesty’s Government in order to obtain official recognition, and in order that the aid which the Society proposes to send out to the sick and wounded may be transmitted with the sanction of Her Majesty’s Government.”

“ That the aid and assistance of the Society be given in the first instance to the sick and wounded of our own Armies should we unfortunately be engaged in War; but should this country continue neutral and uninvolved in War, that the aid be given impartially between the sick and wounded of the belligerent Armies.”

“ That the Society adopt the Badge and the Flag which have been recognized by the International Convention of Geneva.”

Her Majesty Queen Victoria accepted the position of Patron, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales became the President of the Central Committee, and H.R.H. The Princess Christian gave her most valuable services to the Ladies' Committee, on which she was supported by Miss Florence Nightingale.

The necessity for immediate action was felt, in view of the recent wars—the Crimean in 1854-6, the Italian in 1859, the Danish in 1864, the Austro-Prussian in 1866, as well as the recent gigantic conflict in America, where the medical staff of the respective armies was totally unable to cope with the mass of suffering which follows a great battle.

It was decided, therefore, to send out at once Surgeons and Nurses speaking the languages of the belligerents, with medical stores and such supplies as might be needed, also placing Agents with the Headquarters of both armies to learn the more pressing wants and to relieve the same in kind or by money grants.

While appealing for funds, the Central Committee hoped and believed that England would show her charity now, and that having once organized this Society, she would never in future be found unprepared.

The Lord Mayor of London opened a subscription at the Mansion House, and premises for offices and stores were acquired near Trafalgar Square. Contributions of money and material poured in, and by the end of September about £200,000 had been received in money alone.

The needs of the battle-fields and the hospitals far

exceeded all anticipation, and while supplying every demand made by the Society's own Staff, the Committee decided to make a grant of £20,000 to each Headquarters for the use of the sick and wounded, and this mission was carried out by Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, who visited the Prussians at Versailles and the French in Paris.

Remembering this country's recent experiences as regards Red Cross work abroad, it is instructive to note the demands on our Surgeons and Agents in the early period of the war of 1870. Money was always being asked for, and after it came requests for Surgeons, instruments, waterproof material, drugs and dressings.

Within a month 40 medical men were sent abroad by the National Aid Society, and were equally divided among the French and German Armies, a great point in the selection of applicants being the knowledge of languages. They gave their services gratuitously, but received an allowance of £1 a day for expenses.

Though the Society had to improvise its staff and to create its organization at a time of the utmost pressure, the character of the work done was admirable, and its activities were on the widest scale.

Its expenditure was chiefly on transport, food, clothing, medical and surgical stores, and grants in aid of local needs. Before the conclusion of the War, it was employing nearly 200 Surgeons, Nurses, and Agents, and among the latter must be specially noted Mr. John Furley, who commenced his first official connexion with that Red Cross work which he con-

tinued with untiring zeal at home and abroad for fifty years.

Reference must be made to the Anglo-American Hospital, which originally was organized by the Société de Secours aux Blessés, with a staff of eight English and eight American Surgeons. These numbers were subsequently augmented, and the addition of a party of English volunteer ladies increased the efficiency of the nursing department. Under the able direction of Sir Wm. MacCormac (of St. Thomas's Hospital), the Anglo-American Hospital performed distinguished service at the battle of Sedan.

The National Aid Society established more than a dozen central store depôts, and its total expenditure approached a quarter of a million sterling.

At the termination of the War a balance remained in the hands of the Committee, and part of this was devoted towards the training of women nurses at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, the nucleus of the present most efficient Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

The rest of the surplus was invested, forming a permanent reserve fund whereby in subsequent wars the Society was enabled to act at once without having to await the delay necessitated by a public appeal. In this way much valuable help was rendered in subsequent years both in foreign wars and in minor campaigns in which British troops were engaged.

The powers as well as the limitations of the Geneva Convention were but very imperfectly known in the war of 1870, and it is not surprising that numerous misuses of the Red Cross took place, so much so that

**Training of
Women
Nurses.**

the value of the emblem was greatly curtailed. Even before this date, the Austro-Prussian War of 1866 had raised many questions bearing on the interpretation of certain Articles, and, to settle the various points raised, a Second Geneva Convention (1868) had in many directions modified and extended the decisions arrived at in 1864. It paid special attention to problems connected with war at sea, drafting ten Articles on this subject.

**Geneva
Convention
of 1868.**

Its decisions were, however, never confirmed by the Powers, and it was not until many years later (1906) that a new diplomatically appointed Conference met, reviewed the original articles, and had its conclusions confirmed by the respective Governments.

Subsequent to the termination of the Franco-German War, the National Aid Society rendered valuable help on many Continental battle-fields.

**Continental
Campaigns.**

During the Turco-Servian War of 1876-7 it employed 35 Surgeons, Nurses, and Agents, providing tent hospitals and wagon transport service, as well as reserve depôts at convenient bases, the demand for trained personnel and medical stores being always pressing.

This campaign was speedily followed by the Russo-Turkish War, and again the assistance of the National Aid Society was forthcoming. A staff was speedily dispatched to the scene of hostilities, a small steamer was hired for service in the Black Sea, and store and transport arrangements were organized round Plevna,

while a special distribution was made to the Montenegrin sufferers.

Two small wars in which Great Britain was engaged, namely, the Zulu War of 1879, and the **British Campaigns.** Transvaal War of 1881, did not call for any large amount of voluntary help, but in both cases extra medical comforts, hospital equipment, supplies of literature, and warm clothing for invalids were sent out, and gratefully acknowledged by the Army medical authorities.

As soon as the Egyptian Expedition of 1882 had been decided on, the President of the National Aid Society put himself into communication with the War Office, offering assistance in any way desired. He was assured that both as regards personnel and material, measures had been taken with a liberality unknown in any previous campaign. There was, however, one way in which aid could be rendered, namely, by the dispatch to the seat of war of those lady nurses whom for some years past the Society had been helping to train under military auspices for such a contingency as the present. Some of them were therefore sent to Egypt, while others were employed in hospital ships. Their services were of the greatest use and received the highest approval.

A hospital opened in Cairo by Lady Strangford soon became of the utmost value to the troops. It was organized and administered by a staff of Surgeons, Nurses, and Orderlies furnished by the Order of St. John.

During the fighting in the Soudan, 1884-5, the Society rendered very generous aid, providing a stern-

wheel steamer for service on the Nile, and sending Surgeons, Nurses, and such equipment and supplies as the circumstances of the case suggested.

During the hostilities between Servia and Bulgaria in 1885-6, the assistance afforded was on a limited scale; the Society, however, furnished personnel and material to each of the belligerents, and at its conclusion awarded a certificate or diploma in the following terms :

**Servo-
Bulgarian
War,
1885-86.**

“BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Founded 1870.

Patron

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

President

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., etc.

“This Diploma and the accompanying commemorative badge is awarded toby the British Red Cross Society in recognition of gratuitous and voluntary assistance afforded in the Hospitals of the Society at Belgrade established in aid of the sick and wounded during the Servo-Bulgarian War, 1885-86.”

(This certificate is evidence of the early use of the title British Red Cross Society in official documents.)

The National Aid Society afforded assistance in the Rhodesian Expedition in 1896, and in the succeeding year to each of the belligerents in the Greco-Turkish War.

**Further
Activities
of the
National
Aid Society.**

In the Soudan campaign of 1898, the Society dispatched an Agent and Nursing Sisters, at the same time providing a steamer for the transport of sick and wounded from Assouan to Cairo. These

services received warm commendation from Lord Cromer as well as from the military authorities.

At this point reference must be made to the fact that between 1863 and 1897, six International Conferences of Red Cross Societies were held in various capitals for the purpose of discussing the many important questions which war experience and the advance of medical science had brought to the front.

From all the National Aid Society was absent, a fact which caused comment. Great Britain, however, was officially represented at each Conference by an officer of the Army Medical Service, while Mr. John Furley, that distinguished member of the Order of St. John and life-long advocate of voluntary aid, was present at them all.

Subsequent to the Conference held in Vienna in 1897, steps were taken by the Secretary of State for War to bring together representatives of the National Aid Society, the St. John Ambulance Association, and the Army Nursing Service Reserve (which owed its inception to H.R.H. Princess Christian), "with the object of considering the advantages which would accrue in time of war by bringing the voluntary aid societies into touch with the Army Medical Service in time of peace. This meeting was held on July 8th, 1898, and the "Central British Red Cross Committee was then formed," * and was officially recognized the next year, and honoured by H.R.H. The Princess of Wales graciously consenting to be President.

* *In Peace and War*, by Sir John Furley.

“The Committee,” it was laid down, “will have no control over nor take any part in the work and objects of the Societies represented on it, except in so far as these are concerned in providing and organizing assistance for relief of the sick and wounded in wars in which British troops are engaged.”

Regulations were drawn up with the object of defining the spheres of activity of the constituent bodies, and these may be summarized as under (hostilities in South Africa being now imminent):

South
African
War,
1899-1902.

1. That all subscriptions received from the public on behalf of the sick and wounded should be handed over to the general funds of the National Aid Society.
2. All contributions of clothing and hospital comforts should be under the direction of the St. John Ambulance Association.
3. That a Red Cross Commissioner should proceed to South Africa, and put himself in touch with the Principal Medical Officer of the Field Force.
4. That two hospital trains and a hospital ship should be fitted out with funds provided by the National Aid Society.
5. That all offers of nurses should be referred to the Army Nursing Service Reserve.
6. That all offers of assistance from men as orderlies, etc., should be referred to the St. John Ambulance Brigade.
7. That all offers from medical men should be

referred to the Director-General, Army Medical Service.

Throughout the South African War the work of the three bodies composing the Central British Red Cross Committee was carried out with complete harmony, and proved a most valuable adjunct to the Army Medical Service.

Though not under the auspices of the Committee's organization, special reference must be made to the large drafts of trained sick attendants which the Order of St. John furnished to the Field Hospitals and Bearer Companies, a highly useful addition to the ranks.

The Good Hope Society, which was formed at Cape Town on the outbreak of War, performed valuable service in all matters connected with the care and transport of the sick and wounded, and, by keeping in the closest touch with the efforts of the British Committee and the Army Authorities, prevented any overlapping in their respective spheres of duty.

During the War, twenty-one Commissioners and Agents were employed under the Central British Red Cross Committee, grants in aid were given, clothing and medical stores were provided, the hospital ship "Princess of Wales" was chartered, and the hospital train "Princess Christian" was purchased.

Another hospital ship, "The Maine," was also employed in the transport of sick and wounded, and owed its existence to the generosity of a body of American ladies.

The details of the "Princess Christian" hospital train were arranged by Sir John Furley (who acted as Special Commissioner for the Committee), the actual construction being carried out by Mr. J. W. Fieldhouse of Birmingham. The train was composed of seven corridor carriages, each 36 feet in length and 8 feet in width, the passage through the centre being continuous. Including the Staff, it had accommodation for 97 persons. Its fittings and general arrangements were completed with the most recent devices for the comfort of patients on a long railway journey. For purposes of identification it was painted white; and, beginning in Natal in the earlier days of the War, it continued its beneficent work until the termination of hostilities, having carried over 7,500 cases with comfort never before approached on active service.

The demand for sick transport having become pressing in the spring of 1900, the military authorities suggested that one of the Commissioners of the Red Cross, Sir John Furley, should endeavour to put together another train, improvising it from ordinary rolling-stock, and this he succeeded in doing, thanks to the hearty co-operation of the South African Railways.

This train was arranged for 114 cases, and the whole of the expenses were paid by the Central British Red Cross Committee. It was known as "No. 4," was largely employed in Cape Colony, the Orange Free State, and the Transvaal, and did most useful service under the direction of Dr. (now Sir Edward) Stewart.

In this connexion special mention must be made of the assistance rendered by the Canadian Red Cross and by the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association, while various foreign Red Cross Societies provided or offered substantial aid.

Several hospitals, privately financed, and many of them of the highest class, for example, the Portland, the Yeomanry, the Scottish, the Irish, the Welsh, the Langman, the Edinburgh, etc., were of invaluable assistance to the sick and wounded, and supplemented to a very large degree the arrangements made by the Army Medical Service.

At the same time Georgina, Countess of Dudley, did a work of the greatest value in London. She collected a fund, and, aided by Sir William Bennett and other eminent medical men, provided home accommodation or professional treatment of the highest order for Officers and Nurses invalided from the front, expending upwards of £40,000. "Sister Agnes," too, turned her house into a hospital.

Under the personal supervision of H.R.H. Princess Christian, the Army Nursing Service Reserve increased its membership and supplied Trained Nurses for work in the hospitals abroad as well as at home.

The above were among the chief of the official channels through which voluntary aid and private liberality ministered to the needs of the sick and wounded.*

Many persons, however, desirous of giving assist-

* *Vide Report by the Central British Red Cross Committee on Voluntary Organizations in Aid of the Sick and Wounded during the South African War.*

ance, proceeded to South Africa without any definite idea of the duties incumbent on those who undertake the nursing of the sick, and occasionally they were a hindrance, though they meant to help, a state of things demanding more stringent Government control.

Action was taken in 1902, when the Foreign Office issued a statement to the effect that until further notice the Central British Red Cross Committee was the only body authorized to deal with Red Cross matters throughout the Empire.

Two years later, in 1904, the word Council was substituted for Committee in the title, and the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association was included among the constituent bodies.

During the South African War the money placed in the hands of the National Aid Society in the form of donations, or collected by the committees of private hospitals, amounted approximately to £500,000.

The Central British Red Cross Committee, in the smoothness of its working and in the extent of its activities, proved the wisdom of the establishment of one voluntary organization to supplement the Army Medical Service in time of war.

In February, 1904, the Russo-Japanese War broke out. This was outside the scope of the Central Committee's operations, as British troops were not engaged. The National Aid Society, however, determined, as a mark of sympathy, to make a grant of £2,000 to the Red Cross Society of each belligerent, and subsequently a further grant of £5,000 was sent to Japan, but no opportunity presented itself for rendering any

**Russo-
Japanese
War.**

further aid to the Russian Society. Sir Frederick Treves, Serjeant Surgeon to the King (who had been a Consulting Surgeon to the Forces during the South African War), proceeded to the scene of hostilities to aid and to learn, and on his return furnished valuable information regarding the medical aspect of war on the grand scale.

III. RECONSTRUCTION OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

THE year 1905 marks the reconstruction of the British Red Cross Society. Successful as had been the work administered by the Central British Red Cross Council, it was felt that the principle of unification might be still further extended, so that arrangements might be made in peace to anticipate the necessities likely to arise in time of war. Among those gentlemen who took a leading part in these deliberations were Lord Knutsford and Sir John Furley, both representatives of the St. John Ambulance Association on the Central British Red Cross Council, and Surgeon-General Sir Alfred Keogh (Director-General of the Army Medical Service).

Subsequently, by desire of His Majesty, Viscount Esher, assisted by Sir Edward Ward, of the War Office, and Sir Frederick Treves, continued the inquiry as to the possibility of establishing one comprehensive British Red Cross Society for the whole Empire.

The result was announced at the inaugural meeting of the newly organized Society at Buckingham Palace on the 17th July, 1905, under the Presidency of Her Majesty the Queen, who made an important speech :

“ It has been on my mind ever since the South African War, and I became President, to try and

reorganize the Red Cross Society on a more practical and sound basis.

“ It affords me, therefore, the greatest satisfaction to learn that the Red Cross Council has consented to join hands with the National Aid Society, founded by that distinguished soldier, the late Lord Wantage, under one title, the British Red Cross Society.

“ I therefore propose that this new organization should be based upon Membership and Association, and the Members and Associates of the Society shall be recruited from all classes throughout the Empire.

“ The Society shall be entirely voluntary, and while in touch with the War Office and Admiralty, the Society shall be organized and act wholly independently of those Departments in time of peace, but naturally in time of war it must be under Naval and Military control.

“ I therefore now appeal to all the women of the Empire to assist me in carrying out this great scheme, which is essentially a woman's work, and which is the one and only way in which we can assist our brave and gallant Army and Navy to perform their arduous duties in time of war.”

The National Aid Society was possessed of certain funds which were in the hands of Trustees, with the provision that no part of the money was to be expended except in the actual event of war, and only then if British troops were engaged. The interest on this sum was to be used for the furtherance of the new organization, while the capital became part of the funds of the British Red Cross Society.

The inauguration of the British Red Cross Society

of course brought to an end the Central British Red Cross Council. One of the first duties of the Society as reconstituted was to start branches in every county, and this work progressed steadily, in a great measure through the active support of the wives of the Lords Lieutenant, who, inspired by the example of Her Majesty, advanced the objects of the Society and strengthened its local organization.

The War Office and Admiralty accorded their official recognition. It may be noted that this recognition was confirmed and emphasized in "Field Service Regulations," Part II. 84 (issued by the War Office 1909), under the heading "Voluntary Assistance to the Sick and Wounded." "All voluntary offers of assistance in aid of the sick and wounded made in the United Kingdom on the outbreak of war or during the progress of hostilities, other than those coming from the Ambulance Departments of the Order of St. John and the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association for the provision of personnel, must be submitted in the first instance to the British Red Cross Society, who will communicate them to the Army Council if they are likely to be of use." *

**Official
Recognition of the
British
Red Cross
Society.**

The International Committee of Geneva, on receiving notification of the reconstruction of the Society in 1905, proposed as a graceful compliment to hold its approaching Conference in London in 1907, and

* Similar instructions as to the rôle of the British Red Cross Society regarding "voluntary offers of assistance" in time of war are contained in "Field Service Regulations," Vol. I, para. 193 (1923).

with the approval of His Majesty the invitation was accepted, and the necessary arrangements were put in hand.

Mr. Vokes, the Secretary of the Society, who had originally been connected with the National Aid Society, retired in 1908, and was succeeded by Mr. Frank Hastings, who had been acting as his assistant for three years.

At this point the British Red Cross Society may be left for the moment, perfecting its county organization, extending its influence and increasing its membership, while a brief account is given of two most important Congresses, viz. that held in Geneva in 1906, for the revision of the Geneva Convention of 1864, and the "Second Peace Conference" which met at The Hague in 1907. These demand special attention as they are the two official State-enacted agreements which regulate the position of sick and wounded in war.

It is hardly necessary to draw attention to the distinction between Geneva Conventions and International Conferences of Red Cross Societies. The former met in 1864, 1868, and 1906, and were composed of diplomatically appointed representatives of various countries, and the conclusions arrived at (except those of 1868) were confirmed by their respective Governments.

The International Conferences, beginning in 1863, and meeting at intervals of some years in various capitals, were mainly composed of adherents of Red Cross Societies, but their conclusions, useful as an expression of educated opinion, carried no legal weight.

It had taken time for the armies of Europe to master the principles and the practice of the Red Cross movement, as laid down in the Articles of the Geneva Convention, and the wars of forty years had only emphasized the urgent necessity for the revision of the original statutes passed in 1864.

Vagueness was alleged in some of the paragraphs, the absence of reference to Naval warfare was urged, and the want of safeguard against the unauthorized use of the emblem.

Red Cross Societies also felt that they had been ignored in the original Convention, and claimed that their services now were deserving of sympathetic attention.

So, on the invitation of the Swiss Government, a new Conference met at Geneva in 1906, and was attended by representatives from forty-one States, as compared with sixteen who had considered the drafting of the original Articles.

**Geneva
Convention
of 1906.**

The Conference formulated 33 Articles (as compared with 10 in the Convention of 1864).

In this Convention, as in its predecessor, Naval warfare is not touched on, except a single reference to river steamers carrying sick.

Some of the articles must be specially referred to, having particular bearing on the activities of Voluntary Aid Societies.

Article 10 deals with "the personnel of Voluntary Aid Societies duly recognized and authorized by their Government."

Article 16 discusses "the material of Voluntary

Aid Societies which are admitted to the privileges of the Convention.”

Article 18 runs : “ As a compliment to Switzerland, the heraldic emblem of the red cross on a white ground, formed by reversing the Federal colours, is retained as the emblem and distinctive sign of the medical service of armies.”

Article 20 refers to the armlet (brassard) with a red cross on a white ground, delivered and stamped by the competent military authority, and accompanied by a certificate of identity in the case of persons who are attached to the medical service of armies, but who have not a military uniform.

Article 23 : “ The emblem of the red cross on a white ground and the words ‘ Red Cross ’ or ‘ Geneva Cross ’ shall not be used either in time of peace or in time of war, except to protect or to indicate the medical units and establishments, and the personnel and material protected by the Convention.”

It is to be noted that the original Convention of 1864 did not define the precise form of the red cross, and different nations followed their respective tastes. It was not until several years subsequently (1890), that, in view of an action at law in one of the signatory States, a question was put to the International Committee at Geneva, “ What form should the red cross have ? ” The opinion given was to the effect that it was not an accident, but a matter of deliberate policy, which induced the Convention of 1864 not to legislate specifically on the precise form of the red cross, and that their action was wise, one reason being that as

**The Form
of the
Red Cross.**

the flag on which the emblem is borne must be distinguishable at a distance, minute heraldic details were out of place and might lead to errors of observation.

Now, however (1906), the form of the cross is defined as a reversal of the Federal colours, which by a Swiss by-law of 1889 are "une croix blanche, verticale et alézée, placée sur fond rouge et dont les branches, égales entre elles, sont d'un sixième plus longues que larges." (*Arrêté fédéral* du 17 Nov., 1889.)

The above reversed is, therefore, the accurate description of the Geneva Cross, as officially authorized by the Convention of 1906, which also laid it down that the emblem had no religious significance; indeed Turkey had already replaced the Cross by the Crescent, while Japan concurred in the opinion above expressed.

In the year succeeding the meeting at Geneva above referred to, the Second International Peace Conference assembled at The Hague (June, 1907) "for the purpose of giving a fresh development to the humanitarian principles which served as a basis for the work of the First Conference in 1899."

Peace Conference of The Hague, 1907.

Forty Powers were represented by official delegates. Among other matters of the greatest moment, Conventions on the following topics were drawn up :

- Pacific Settlement of International Disputes.
- Opening of Hostilities.
- Laws and Customs of War on Land.

Rights and Duties of Neutral Powers.

Laying of Automatic Submarine Contact Mines.

Bombardments by Naval Forces.

Adaptation of the Principles of the Geneva Convention to Maritime War.

It is to be noted that several of the Governments signed the agreements with Reservations as to certain paragraphs.

The *Conventions* were thirteen in number, and were followed by a *Declaration* "prohibiting the Discharge of Projectiles and Explosives from Balloons, or by other new methods of a similar nature." This met with great opposition, no fewer than seventeen States, including several of the Great Powers, declining to agree to the proposals. The following instruction is noteworthy: "The present Declaration is only binding on the Contracting Powers in case of war between two or more of them. It shall cease to be binding from the moment when, in a war between the Contracting Powers, one of the belligerents is joined by a non-Contracting Power."

Authorization was given to Turkey to continue to use the Red Crescent as the emblem instead of the Red Cross, and permission was granted to Persia to fly a flag bearing a Red Lion and Red Sun, thus making a breach in the uniformity agreed upon at Geneva in 1906.

It should be mentioned that during the late War the Press often confounded the Conventions of The Hague with the articles of the Geneva Convention, and many complaints were made about alleged

infringements of the Geneva Convention which should really have been made against alleged breaches of the principles agreed to at The Hague.

Reference has already been made to the proposal to hold an International Red Cross Conference in London, and this Conference was held in the summer of 1907.

**Red Cross
Conference
in London.**

The delegates of Governments and of Red Cross Societies representing twenty-nine nationalities were welcomed by a gracious message from Her Majesty the Queen, as President of the British Red Cross Society.

Field-Marshal The Rt. Hon. Earl Roberts, K.G., V.C., presided over the deliberations, while Mr. J. Danvers Power, M.V.O., was Chairman of the Committee responsible for all the details of organization.

The discussions ranged over a wide field, and after a free exchange of views resolutions on the following subjects, among others, were passed :

Aid to Prisoners of War by Red Cross Societies.

Abuse of the Red Cross Emblem.

The Rôle of Women in War Hospitals.

The Red Cross in Naval Warfare.

The Transport of Wounded.

The Participation of the Red Cross in the Battle against Tuberculosis.

At the termination of the Conference, M. Ador, the esteemed President of the International Committee of Geneva, looking back over the past 45 years, said : " The Red Cross, to-day universally respected

not only in official channels, where it is an indispensable and precious auxiliary, has become, wherever its banner is unfurled, synonymous with honour, goodness, and devotion. Its services are accepted with gratitude not only on the battle-field . . . but also in time of peace, wherever there is a combat to be waged for the assistance of suffering humanity."

A notable step in the advance of the Red Cross movement in Great Britain was the granting of a Charter to the Society by His Majesty King Edward VII. The Charter of Incorporation states that the British Red Cross Society was formed "by the fusion of two previously existing bodies, the British National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War and the Central British Red Cross Council, and that the primary object of such Society is to furnish aid to the sick and wounded in time of war, and that it is governed by a Council and has its affairs managed and regulated by an Executive Committee annually appointed by the Council," with Her Majesty the Queen as President and Lord Rothschild as Chairman.

The Charter, *inter alia*, gives power to the Society to take over funds, to purchase buildings necessary for its purposes, to form local branches, and enrol subscribing, guaranteeing, and honorary members and associates according to the Rules, in all parts of the Empire; to organize lectures and classes, to act as a Voluntary Aid Society subject to the provision of the Geneva Convention, etc. The Patron of the Society is His Majesty the King, and the President

**Charter
granted to
the British
Red Cross
Society,
1908.**

Her Majesty the Queen during her lifetime, and subsequently the Queen Regnant or Queen Consort. The Council shall be the governing body, and shall consist of forty members at the most.

This Charter was issued by Warrant under the King's Sign Manual on the 3rd day of September, 1908, in the eighth year of his reign.

The year 1907 witnessed the passing of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act, an Act which was to have a most important bearing on the future activities of the British Red Cross Society.

**The
Territorial
Force,
1907.**

The Executive Committee, having first approached the Secretary of State for War, conferred with the Director-General of the Army Medical Service as to the precise character and extent of the work the Society might be asked to undertake in connexion with the new Forces about to be raised for Home Defence, and eventually, in 1909, the "Scheme for the Organization of Voluntary Aid in England and Wales" was issued by the War Office. This Scheme, recognizing "the necessity for voluntary aid for sick and wounded in war in the home territory," for the purpose of filling certain gaps in the Medical Service of the Territorial Force, and affording members of the civil population an opportunity of allowing themselves and their efforts to be co-ordinated in the event of a war in the home territory, lays it down that "The County Association therefore is charged with the responsibility of the organization of voluntary aid in the

**"Scheme"
of 1909.**

county," adding that "each County Association should through the medium of the local branches of the British Red Cross Society form Voluntary Aid Detachments with an establishment which is laid down in the Scheme."

These Detachments were to be of two classes, consisting respectively of men and of women, and in each county these were to be raised by an official styled the County Director.

The education of the personnel was a matter of great moment, and in order to secure a uniform standard of efficiency the Scheme laid it down that "all persons wishing to join a Voluntary Aid Detachment should be in possession of both first-aid and field-nursing certificates of the St. John Ambulance Association." Unforeseen difficulties soon became only too evident on the education question, and strong representations were made that holders of recognized certificates like those of the London County Council should not be debarred from joining a Voluntary Aid Detachment without further examination. Efforts to obtain a *modus vivendi* were made without success, and eventually the St. John Ambulance Association withdrew from participation in the Scheme (June, 1910).

With the object of furthering the important work, now threatened with disaster, the War
"Scheme" Office, after due deliberation, issued a
of 1910. revised Scheme (in December, 1910) containing certain important emendations to the proposals already made in the pamphlet issued the preceding year. For example, the composition of the

Voluntary Aid Detachments was altered; * the number of certificate-granting bodies for "First Aid" was increased; and the following paragraph was inserted: County Associations "are empowered, however, and are recommended to delegate the formation and organization of detachments to the British Red Cross Society, which is prepared to carry out the Scheme on the lines suggested herein, and which is the only body that the War Office is prepared to recognize for this purpose in cases where Associations do not directly undertake the work. Should County Associations decide not to utilize the services of the British Red Cross Society, they may employ such other means of raising the detachments, and of continuing the instruction, as they may think fit, and in this connexion a Brigade or County Company formed under the rules laid down in leaflet

* The composition of Voluntary Aid Detachments, as revised in 1910, was as follows:

Men's Detachment.

- 1 Commandant.
- 1 Medical Officer.
- 1 Quartermaster.
- 1 Pharmacist.
- 4 Section Leaders.
- 48 Men (divisible into 4 Sections of 12 men each).

Total 56

Women's Detachment.

- 1 Commandant (man or woman, and not necessarily a doctor).
- 1 Quartermaster (man or woman).
- 1 Trained Nurse as Lady Superintendent.
- 20 Women, of whom 4 should be qualified as cooks.

Total 23

T.B. 9.A. of the St. John Ambulance Association may be regarded as equivalent in every respect to a Voluntary Aid Detachment. In either case, however, the only responsible body the War Office recognizes in this work is the County Association itself."

In conformity with the above ruling, Voluntary Aid Detachments were therefore to be for the future of three kinds, namely, those raised directly by the County Associations themselves (which were comparatively few), and those organized by the British Red Cross Society or by the Order of St. John.

To help in the instruction of its Detachments, successive steps were taken at the Society's Headquarters, a series of Red Cross Manuals was issued, viz. "Training," "First Aid," and "Home Nursing" by Colonel (later Sir James) Cantlie. These proved most popular, and were succeeded by a similar text-book on "Hygiene and Sanitation" by Colonel (now Sir) Guise-Moores, and one on "Cooking" under the editorship of Mr. Herman Senn. At a later date these were followed by others.

The British Red Cross Society issued its own certificates, with the approval of the War Office, and appointed lecturers and examiners. It regularized the uniform to be worn by men and by women, and it instituted a County Badge for members of the Society. In 1910, Colonel (now Sir James) Magill was appointed Organizing Secretary.

Besides lectures and demonstrations throughout the counties, summer camps were established, and

Field Days were held (frequently in conjunction with the Military), when Hospital trains were improvised out of ordinary rolling-stock and temporary hospitals were set up, the equipment for them usually being obtained locally on loan. In many instances these practical demonstrations of Red Cross work reached a very high standard of excellence, receiving warm official approval. County competitions were instituted in many localities, and were entered into with zest.

In addition to supervising the raising of Voluntary Aid Detachments, the County Director not infrequently ear-marked buildings which in the event of invasion might be utilized as temporary hospitals, at the same time making local arrangements for the necessary equipment, with provision for cooking, water supply, and sanitation.

A Scheme for the Organization of Voluntary Aid in Scotland was issued in October, 1911, and differed in a few unimportant particulars from that already described. It was immediately taken up with the greatest enthusiasm.

As the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act did not apply to Ireland, official Voluntary Aid Detachments could not be enrolled there, but before long the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society raised and trained bodies of men and women on the lines indicated in the War Office pamphlet.

In order to bring the counties into closer touch with the Headquarters of the Society, as well as with each other, a Voluntary Aid Advisory Sub-Committee was set up in 1911, and proved of the greatest practical utility.

**Voluntary
Aid Advisory
Committee,
1911.**

Sir Frederick Treves, as Chairman of the Executive Committee since the reorganization, had for seven years laboured to make the British Red Cross Society worthy of its name, and by negotiations, correspondence, and public addresses had infused his zeal into those with whom he came in contact, and was largely instrumental in the success achieved all over the country. In March, 1912, he tendered his resignation, and was succeeded as Chairman by Mr. E. A. (later Sir Aurelian) Ridsdale, a gentleman of wide experience and great energy, who was able to devote time and attention to the furtherance of the varied activities of the Society, now daily increasing in extent and complexity.

Such was the rapidity with which the Scheme was taken up that by September, 1912, the Society had raised, and registered at the War Office

1025	detachments in England,
105	„ „ Wales,
345	„ „ Scotland,

with a total personnel of 43,954, the leading counties as regards numbers being Sussex, Hampshire, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Glamorgan, and Devon.

In order to regularize the use of the Red Cross, a short Act of Parliament, known as the Geneva Convention Act, 1911, was passed, forbidding “any person to use for the purposes of his trade or business, or for any other purpose whatever, without the authority of the

**Retirement
of Sir
Frederick
Treves.**

**Appoint-
ment of
Mr. E. A.
Ridsdale.**

**Geneva
Convention
Act of
Parliament,
1911.**

Army Council, the heraldic emblem of the Red Cross on a white ground formed by reversing the Federal colours of Switzerland, or the words 'Red Cross' or 'Geneva Cross,'” adding: “Proceedings under this Act shall not in England or Ireland be instituted without the consent of the Attorney-General;” and “This Act shall extend to His Majesty’s possessions outside the United Kingdom subject to such necessary adaptations as may be made by Order in Council.”

War having broken out in the Balkans in the autumn of 1912, the Council of the Society at a special meeting determined to send medical assistance to each of the belligerents, and as its invested funds were only available for wars in which British troops were engaged, an appeal for subscriptions was made in the Press, and a generous response was the result.

**The Balkan
War,
1912-13.**

The Executive Committee subdivided its duties thus: two gentlemen were responsible for the selection of personnel, two others arranged all detail-connected with organization and equipment, while the financial side of the work was managed by the Chairman and the non-professional members.

The Governments of all the belligerents gratefully accepted the offer of the Society’s help, and the Foreign Office sanctioned the proposal and furthered its objects.

Three Red Cross Directors were appointed to supervise the work of the parties it was proposed to send to the seat of war, viz. one Director for Bulgaria,

Servia, and Montenegro; one for Greece, and one for Turkey.

The composition of a party or "unit" was as follows: 3 medical officers, 3 dressers (fourth-year students), 6 nursing orderlies (one as sergeant), 5 general duty orderlies, and 1 cook. Total 18. When possible, a Royal Army Medical Corps officer was placed in command, sanction having been first obtained from the Army Council. Most of the nursing orderlies were "trained sick attendants" (ex-soldiers of R.A.M.C. who were no longer in the Reserve). Some of the general duty orderlies were furnished by Men's Voluntary Aid Detachments. They received pay and rations (or an allowance "in lieu"). Each member of a unit was provided with khaki uniform and personal equipment. Medical and surgical supplies were sent with each unit, several days' rations, and a large quantity of extra stores, varying in composition and amount according to the destination.

The Foreign Office provided each party with a "laissez passer," thus facilitating the transit of the baggage through the different custom houses.

On October 16th, 1912, the first unit was dispatched. Its destination was Montenegro. A hospital was established at Antivari, with advanced posts near the fighting line. In response to the representation of the Medical Officer in charge, six female Nurses were sent out, and did valuable work at the base.

Two units were sent to Greece, and proceeded to Salonika, where, in addition to doing duty in the hospital, they did good service in the refugee camp.

At a later date a number of female Nurses followed.

The largest contingent dispatched by the Society went to Turkey, viz. three units. They took over the Fine Art School at Constantinople, and after certain structural rearrangements had been completed, they established an excellent hospital of 90 beds. The wounded arrived in numbers, many greatly in need of surgical attention, and were soon followed by an influx of patients suffering from cholera, who greatly complicated the situation and taxed the powers of the medical staff. To deal with this new problem, the Society sent out a party of officers specially trained in the treatment of epidemic diseases, a bacteriologist and a laboratory, besides a liberal supply of money and stores. A hospital was opened on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus specially for cases suffering from cholera, and the results obtained were highly satisfactory.

On November 3rd two Red Cross units left for Bulgaria, and after a brief stay at Sophia proceeded to Kirk Kilisse, where much valuable surgical work was performed, accommodation having been secured for nearly 200 patients.

Servia was the last of the belligerents to which the Society sent assistance. Two parties went out, and were located at Uskub, where the needs of the civil population were an additional tax on the Surgeons, only too fully occupied with war casualties.

The Servian Government gave every possible help to the British units.

The total personnel sent by the Society to the

Balkans was 213, and the amount of money subscribed by the public was £41,000.

It may seem remarkable that the two countries with which the greatest sympathy was shown in England, and for whose assistance funds were most readily subscribed, were Turkey and Bulgaria, States which in less than two years ranged themselves on the side of the Central Powers in the Great War.

In 1913 the Society commenced a Journal entitled *The Red Cross Journal*, with the object of keeping all the Branches in touch with the progress of the movement at home and abroad. During the Great War this magazine, under the editorship of Mr. Danvers Power, proved a most useful means of disseminating news relating to the work in the counties as well as to that in the various theatres of war.

Under the chairmanship of Sir Walter Lawrence the War Office set up a committee in June, 1914, to inquire into and report upon the difficulties which had been experienced in reference to the carrying out of the "Scheme for the Organization of Voluntary Aid," but before its deliberations were concluded, graver duties fell to the lot of the British Red Cross Society and its Detachments, the latter now numbering 1,990, with a personnel of 57,714.

IV. BRITISH RED CROSS WORK IN THE GREAT WAR. THE RED CROSS OF THE DOMINIONS, COLONIES, ALLIES, AND NEUTRAL POWERS

AUSTRIA having declared war against Serbia, a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society was held on July 31st, 1914, to decide as to what preparations should be made to enable immediate assistance to be available in the event of the United Kingdom becoming involved in hostilities.

On August 4th the Council met at St. James's Palace, authorized the co-opting of persons likely to be useful, and resolved that the unexpended balance of the Balkan War Fund, some £8,000, should be placed to the credit of the Executive Committee for present needs.

Owing to the exigency of the military situation, the building which the Society had engaged for the extension of its work was no longer available.

To solve this pressing difficulty, the Duke of Devonshire offered the use of the ground floor of Devonshire House, which thus became the centre of the Society's activities. Before long even larger premises were required, and these were secured at 83, Pall Mall.

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, as President of the British Red Cross Society, issued an appeal for funds

on August 8th, and Lord Rothschild, as Chairman of the Council, followed at greater length on August 13th, while *The Times* lent its powerful advocacy. An immediate and generous response was the result.

Munificent offers of help were received at the Society's Headquarters, hospitals fully equipped were offered for the sick and wounded, and mansions were promised for the reception of convalescents. The earliest of these proposals came from Kent, Suffolk, Surrey, Lincolnshire, and Nottinghamshire. The Society therefore appointed three medical officers of rank to visit and report upon the suitability of the various buildings.

Similar offers reached the War Office direct, and were referred to the Society in conformity with the Regulations of the "Field Service Manual." The results of the inspections of the premises were then tabulated, and presented to the War Office by Mr. (now Sir George) Makins, until he went to France as a Consulting Surgeon to the Forces.

Not only was the British Red Cross Society appealing in the Press for funds in support of its varied activities, but the Order of St. John of Jerusalem was doing precisely the same. As the Army Council desired to avail itself of the services of both bodies

**Agreement
between
the British
Red Cross
Society
and the
Order of
St. John.**

it commended their appeals equally to the public, and urged their co-operation in the responsible duties they had undertaken. Under these circumstances it was decided that the two Corporations should pool their resources, and enter upon a working agreement with a view to economy and

efficiency "during the existing war and thereafter if the circumstances permit and require it" (October 24th, 1914).

It was further laid down that "Nothing in the agreement shall in any way affect the status of either body as incorporated, or its powers, duties, and privileges, or the duties under the Charters and By-laws of the respective Corporations or their officers as defined therein."

It should be mentioned that it was decided that the first £200,000 subscribed should go to the British Red Cross Society, the remainder, and all amounts received thereafter, excluding sums specially earmarked by the donors, should be considered as the Joint Fund, afterwards commonly known as the *Times* Fund.

A supplementary agreement dated July 8th, 1915, was afterwards entered into with the object of varying and extending the powers of the Joint Committee of the two bodies. It, however, laid down that the two important hospitals, the St. John Ambulance Brigade Hospital in France, and the British Red Cross Hospital at Netley, should be managed respectively by the Order and the Society.

It may here be noted that the Scottish Branch was not a party to the agreement detailed above, but collected its own funds, and administered them separately.

**Scottish
Branch.**

The Honourable (now Sir) Arthur Stanley became Chairman of the Executive Committee of the British Red Cross Society (succeeding Mr. E. A. Ridsdale, who henceforth occupied the

**Hon.
Arthur
Stanley.**

position of Vice-Chairman (September, 1914); and next month, on the formation of the Joint War Committee, he was unanimously selected as its Chairman also, positions which he occupied through the War with distinction and holds at the present day.

The *Reports by the Joint War Committee and the Joint War Finance Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England on Voluntary Aid rendered to the Sick and Wounded at Home and Abroad and to British Prisoners of War (1914-1919)* were published in 1921, and give details of a gigantic voluntary organization which proved of untold benefit in every theatre of war.

The moneys therein accounted for, with interest on deposits and investments, grants from India for specified objects, Government grants, payments for stores, etc., and miscellaneous receipts, amounted to £21,885,035 17s., and were controlled by the Joint War Finance Committee under the able chairmanship of Sir Robert Hudson.

After this necessary digression on the formation of the Joint War Committee in October, 1914, the account of the special activities of the British Red Cross Society must be resumed.

A consignment of medical and surgical stores was sent to Belgium on August 10th, 1914, and six days later a party (First Belgian Unit) consisting of 10 Surgeons, 10 Dressers, and 20 Trained

Nurses proceeded to Brussels and was in the city when it was captured.

Surgeon-General Sir Alfred Keogh (late Director General, Army Medical Service), having been appointed the Society's Chief Commissioner, left for Belgium on August 18th, accompanied by a small staff. He proceeded first to Brussels, then to Malines and Bruges, subsequently visiting Paris, Nantes, and Rouen, and until recalled for duty at the War Office on September 30th, performed services of outstanding value which laid the foundation of the Society's subsequent work in France.*

**Sir Alfred
Keogh.**

Sir Alfred Keogh was soon convinced of the pressing need for medical transport, and in the middle of September urged the necessity for 200 motor ambulances and a hospital train. This latter was immediately taken in hand and, under the supervision of Sir John Furley, an improvised train was put together at Rouen out of ordinary rolling-stock.

The need of motor ambulances urgently required to supplement those working under the Royal Army Medical Corps at once appealed to the public. *The Times* gave its powerful support on October 2nd, and such was the response that in three weeks sufficient funds to provide 512 motor ambulances were subscribed.

* Sir Alfred Keogh became for the second time Director General of the Army Medical Service in London, and served in that capacity during the greater part of the War. He was succeeded as Chief Commissioner for Red Cross services by Sir Arthur Sloggett, who was Director General of the Army Medical Service in France.

A Motor Ambulance Department was established at the Society's Headquarters in London, and a work was begun which till the end of hostilities was second to none in utility.

**Sick Trans-
port by
Land and
Sea.**

Nor was sea-transport forgotten, for in September generous offers were received from Lord Brassey and Lord Leith of Fyvie offering their yachts "Sunbeam" and "Miranda," which offers were gratefully accepted.

The Stores Department, now under Sir William Garstin's management, increased its output with surprising rapidity, and, besides dispatching large consignments to France, made grants of equipment, garments, and comforts to civil hospitals which had already wounded soldiers in their wards.

Stores.

As in peace time the British Red Cross Society kept up no establishment of Doctors or Trained Nurses, two important departments had to be improvised once war was declared.

The selection of Medical Officers was placed in the capable hands of Sir Frederick Treves, while Lady Gifford chose the Trained Nurses from the hosts of applicants who volunteered for service.

**Doctors
and
Trained
Nurses.**

Following on the retreat from Mons, Dr. Edward Stewart (now Sir Edward) was sent out by the Society with a small unit of ambulances and motor-cars to search for wounded in the neighbourhood of Cambrai and Péronne, a duty which occupied the party about three weeks.

At its conclusion Dr. Stewart was appointed

Medical Assessor for Voluntary Aid Services in France, a position he filled until the Armistice with conspicuous success.

Meanwhile several units composed of Surgeons, Dressers, Nurses and Orderlies, on the lines of the party originally sent to Brussels, were dispatched to various places in France and Belgium, thirteen such having gone abroad under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society during the first two months of the war, *i.e.* previous to the setting up of the Joint War Committee, and in almost every case the unit was furnished with a varied supply of stores for hospital use.

One of the Society's most successful efforts was the establishment of the British Red Cross Hospital at Netley.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on August 19th, 1914, the following resolution was passed on the motion of Sir Anthony Bowlby: "That it is desirable that the British Red Cross Society tender a Base Hospital of 500 beds to the War Office, fully equipped and staffed."

In accepting the proposal the Government recommended that the hospital be provisionally erected at Netley, as the bulk of the sick and wounded was expected to land at Southampton, and at the same time appointed Colonel Sir Warren Crooke-Lawless as Commandant, and directed that the new institution should be conducted as a section of the Royal Victoria Hospital.

As it might be necessary at a future date to move the hospital to France, it was decided to construct

**British
Red Cross
Hospital
at Netley.**

it of huts of the "Furley-Fieldhouse" pattern, portable and of timber throughout, and raised off the ground on foundation blocks. Each hut was arranged for 20 beds with a clear passage up the centre of the ward, and was heated by slow-combustion stoves and ventilated by double casement windows. An operating theatre and cook house, huts for Medical Officers, Nurses, Orderlies, recreation, etc., were added, as well as a mess room.

The equipment followed generally the lines laid down in Army Schedules.

The War Office agreed to supply diets and extras for the patients and rations for the Orderlies, an installation for electric lighting, and in addition fuel and laundry.

In order to provide for the capital cost and weekly upkeep of the hospital, a circular was issued to the Society's Branches, suggesting the endowment of huts or beds. The appeal brought in a most generous response, Australia being one of the largest benefactors, while several of the counties, as well as private individuals, endowed huts or beds.

The selection of the Physicians and Surgeons was proceeded with, several being drawn from the staff of the London hospitals.

As assistants to the Trained Nurses, certain selected members of Voluntary Aid Detachments were employed.

The work of construction progressed rapidly, and before the end of the year over 450 sick and wounded soldiers, Indian as well as British, were receiving treatment.

To increase the original size of the hospital, the Earl of Iveagh presented an annexe, with 200 additional beds (styled the Irish Hospital), and continued his financial support of about £10,000 a year until the establishment was handed over to the War Office in May, 1919.

**The Irish
Hospital.**

In January, 1915, an important addition to the personnel of the hospital was made by the arrival of two Medical Officers and 22 Nurses of the Japanese Red Cross Society.

**Japanese
Nurses.**

During their stay, extending to nearly twelve months, they proved of great service, and their departure was regretted by all ranks. The entire party were received by Her Majesty Queen Alexandra and entertained by the Lord Mayor of London prior to their leaving for home.

In March, 1915, a sub-committee was set up at Headquarters to conduct all matters connected with Netley, Mr. E. A. Ridsdale being Chairman.

The expenditure was classed under three heads :
(a) Such items as food for patients and staff, water, light, fuel, and laundry, supplied or paid for by the War Office. (b) Capital expenditure paid by the British Red Cross Society. (c) By an arrangement, July, 1915, if anything was required for upkeep beyond the amount specially contributed for huts and beds it was to be a charge on the Joint Committee.

Mainly by the generosity of friends the hospital grew apace, and eventually its accommodation reached 1,000 beds, of which 63 were reserved for officers. A reading-room, isolation huts, and a "continuous

bath system" (for cases suffering from extensive burns) were some of the additions. The X-ray installation, the whirlpool baths, the massage, electrical and gymnastic departments were all of the most up-to-date pattern, and were invaluable auxiliaries to the work of the surgeon. Orthopædic workshops and special open-air accommodation for tuberculous cases were subsequently added.

The hospital was an unqualified success, the professional work throughout being of the highest order.

The amusement and recreation of the patients were promoted by entertainments of various kinds, and yachting trips on the Solent were a popular feature.

A Hostel, too, was opened for the reception of the relatives of wounded officers and proved a boon to many persons coming from a distance.

Over 1,000 officers and more than 20,000 non-commissioned officers and men passed through the wards. Of these it may be noted that an unusual proportion were grave cases, owing to the proximity of the hospital to the port of disembarkation.

Their Majesties the King and Queen, Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, Their Royal Highnesses Princess Christian and the Duke of Connaught visited the hospital and were graciously pleased to express their approval.

In the year succeeding the War the buildings and the equipment were handed over to the military authorities in part, to the Pensions Ministry in part, and the remainder was sold by auction and the sum

obtained placed to the credit of the British Red Cross Society.

The Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers is another institution with which the Society has been closely connected.

**The Star
and Garter
Home.**

In 1915, the Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute, having purchased the well-known Star and Garter Hotel at Richmond, presented it to Her Majesty the Queen to serve as a permanent home for men disabled during the War, the need of suitable accommodation for the paralysed being a matter of urgency.

Her Majesty the Queen, in accepting this gift, handed it over to the British Red Cross Society, on the undertaking of the Executive Committee to equip and maintain it for the purpose indicated by the donors.

It was decided to pull down the main building, and as a temporary measure to utilize the annexe, transforming it into two large wards, with a total accommodation for 64 cases, the equipment and general arrangements being entrusted to Sir Frederick Treves. The Committee of the British Women's Hospital gave most generous assistance in raising the necessary funds for the new building, and subscriptions were received from all parts of the world to endow rooms or beds or for the purpose of some special memorial. The architect, Sir Edwin Cooper, gave his services free, an invaluable personal gift.

The increasing shortage of building labour and materials caused the Government to request, in 1916,

that the work should be suspended, and it was not until 1919 that the reconstruction could be resumed, when prices and wages were very high, necessitating the call for additional funds.

It now became necessary to move the patients in residence, and accommodation was found at Sandgate, where a property known as Enbrook was generously purchased by the British Red Cross Society, which, as well as supplying a present want, would serve in the future for the reception of men needing a change from Richmond to the seaside.

The expenses of the purchase of the Sandgate property, and of its reconstruction, together with the outlay necessitated by the main building—the new Star and Garter at Richmond—were very heavy, and besides the funds provided by the British Red Cross Society and a most generous public, the Joint War Committee was most liberal in its support, thus enabling the Home to be opened free of debt by Their Majesties the King and Queen on July 10th, 1924.

The accommodation provided was for 180 patients disabled by the War, a memorial worthy of its historic site, and equipped with every improvement in the treatment of the disabled which science can suggest and liberality supply.

In the early days of the War when, owing to the rush of recruits, new camps sprang up where accommodation for the sick was frequently inadequate, the Voluntary Aid Detachments did a most important work.

**Voluntary
Aid De-
tachments
and their
Work.**

In several counties they opened temporary hospitals, formed Rest Stations, organized Dressing Posts in the vicinity of camps, assisted the Territorial Medical Officers in the nursing, clerical and cooking departments, and afforded valuable help in the transport of sick. These varied duties were carried out in the spirit of their previous training, the organization already in existence being adapted to the new conditions, not as a new departure, but rather as an expansion of a carefully prepared plan.

And all this was done before the War Office had issued its orders regulating the procedure to be adopted in the unexpected circumstances which had arisen. On August 18th, 1914, these orders were issued for the Reception and Distribution of Sick and Wounded from Overseas, for the guidance and management of temporary hospitals prepared at private expense or by Voluntary Aid Detachments, and receiving cases, etc.

It was further announced that each temporary hospital should be worked as an annexe to a neighbouring military hospital, and should receive 2s. per case per diem (a figure which was subsequently raised to 3s., and in some instances to 3s. 6d. in hospitals specially selected).

**Temporary
Hospitals.**

The Government, too, circulated information as to the movements of ambulance trains, to enable the Detachments, when so disposed, to minister to the refreshment of the patients *en route*.

To regularize the employment of the personnel of Voluntary Aid Detachments, the Army Council

directed that no Detachment was to mobilize until its services were called for by the General Officer Commanding in Chief, and that no temporary hospitals should receive military patients until official sanction had been obtained.

So far the personnel which the Society had authorized to proceed overseas, and provided with the official Red Cross brassard and certificate of identity, had all been fully trained persons, Doctors, Nurses, Dressers, etc.

A new departure was made early in October, when a unit composed of 16 Voluntary Aid members drawn from two London Detachments with two Trained Nurses proceeded to France under War Office sanction.

**Voluntary
Aid
Members
in France.** Mrs. (now Dame Katharine) Furse was in charge of the party. On arrival at Boulogne it formed a Rest Station, taking over three wagons and two passenger carriages, and converting them into kitchen, dispensary, store, and quarters. Within twenty-four hours one thousand wounded had been fed, and numberless dressings readjusted.

From this small beginning, due to the organizing ability and energy of one lady, grew the varied developments of Red Cross work undertaken by members of Voluntary Aid Detachments which were of such value to the sick and wounded in almost every country where British troops were engaged.

To this first Red Cross Rest Station a small party of Orderlies from East Lancashire was added. The men's Detachments throughout Great Britain, besides providing recruits for the combatant ranks, or the

Royal Army Medical Corps, furnished many parties for hospital or train service abroad (the County of London, East Lancashire, and Gloucestershire being particularly forward); others, when unfit for military duty or work abroad, were most valuable in home hospitals.

Special reference must be made to the transport arrangements instituted by several county Branches, columns of motor ambulances and cars being formed for the removal of patients from trains to hospitals, the vehicles being provided by private generosity.

**Voluntary
Aid Trans-
port.**

East Lancashire, Berkshire, and Norfolk, to mention only a few, performed services of great magnitude and importance all through the war. The City of London, however, in this particular, did a work which was remarkable for its extent, and for the perfection of its organization.

To it was entrusted the work of carrying the wounded to all hospitals in the London area.

The Ambulance Column had an average personnel of 600. The fleet of ambulances and cars was most generously placed at the disposal of the Branch by certain great business firms and commercial institutions, as the Baltic, Lloyds, the Stock Exchange, the Coal Exchange, the Rubber and Tea Exchange, etc., the value of the vehicles lent or given being estimated at £135,000, while many of the personnel were drawn from the Prudential, the Commercial Union, and the Pearl Assurance Companies as well as from Messrs. Selfridge's.

The Ambulance Column met a hospital train at Waterloo Station on August 13th, 1914, and at the end of the war had carried 736,722 cases.

Another of the activities of the City of London Branch was the formation of the Tilbury Column, which consisted of some 50 officers and men, and its duties were particularly concerned with the reception of returning prisoners of war.

The above transport duties were carried out in closest touch with the Military Authorities of the London District, and were beyond all praise, and, as the General Officer Commanding expressed it at the closing ceremony, "all the better done from the fact that it was performed by a voluntary organization."

For three years Mr. and Mrs. Lancelot Dent laboured incessantly in building up this magnificent Ambulance Column, and the work of Messrs. Symons and Crothers as Deputy Directors deserves most grateful acknowledgment.

The after-care of sick and wounded officers was a branch of work which owed much to Georgina, Countess of Dudley during the South African War, and she now commenced a similar organization on a far larger scale. The funds required were provided entirely by Lady Dudley through subscriptions from friends until June, 1915, when the British Red Cross Society rendered financial aid on a considerable scale. Still the work grew. Convalescent Homes and Auxiliary Hospitals in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and abroad were established for the accom-

**Convalescent
Hospitals
for Officers.**

modation of sick and wounded officers after leaving their primary hospitals, sea voyages were arranged for convalescents, small furnished houses were lent to married officers, special terms were procured at many hotels at home and abroad, a special branch of the work being in connexion with the care of consumptives in sanatoria and otherwise.

This gigantic work necessitated a very large expenditure, so in December, 1915, the financial responsibility was taken over by the Joint War Committee, and a small Committee set up to carry out the details.

It should be stated that in hospital and sanatorium cases the Government made a grant per patient treated, but as a rule this had to be largely supplemented from private funds.

This work has now been in progress for nearly twelve years, and still has the advantage of Lady Dudley's personal supervision; nearly 18,000 officers have received the benefits of home or institutional treatment, combined with a sympathetic consideration of inestimable value.

At the beginning of the War the convalescent treatment for the rank and file was a branch of the work of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society, but before long it became clear that no philanthropic organization could deal with the vast number of patients requiring attention. The War Office accordingly set up special Depôts with the object of expediting the recovery of convalescents, and enabling them to resume their places in the ranks.

Convalescent treatment for Rank and File.

While the Society was establishing the Red Cross Hospital at Netley, as previously described, the Branches commenced in their respective counties a work of great magnitude and immense importance. They carried into effect the plans they had originally formed for turning public buildings into auxiliary hospitals, and equipping them with material locally acquired.

To further this movement, a Department was set up at Headquarters, under the direction of **Auxiliary Home Hospitals.** Dr. (now Sir Robert) Fox-Symons. At first the patients were generally suffering from minor injuries, but before long many hospitals of the highest order were established with every modern improvement for diagnosis and treatment, and a professional staff of the highest attainments, and these received their cases direct from the port of disembarkation. The smaller hospitals were usually staffed and controlled by the Commandant and members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment, medical attendance and trained nursing being procured on the spot. Many of these were in the nature of convalescent homes, and in certain counties this method of management was universally in force and generally answered admirably.

To each Red Cross Detachment when mobilized by military order, the Society made a grant of £10 for immediate needs, and in many cases, when exceptional circumstances called for increased accommodation, a much larger sum was added.

The majority of the larger hospitals, and in some counties every hospital, was in the immediate control

of a medical man, utilizing the services of the members of Voluntary Aid Detachments for appropriate duties.

It must be remembered that in most cases the establishment of these hospitals was the result of local effort, and little difficulty was experienced in respect of funds, private subscriptions and collections of various kinds along with the Government grant for each patient treated sufficing to meet the current expenses.

In the matter of Trained Nurses, and the supply of medical stores, the auxiliary hospitals received valuable assistance from the Joint War Committee.

The position of the County Director as regards auxiliary hospitals, which at first was somewhat vague, was defined at a later date in an Army Council Instruction, as "the official head of the Voluntary Aid Organization in his county and is responsible for all V.A.D. personnel engaged on transport work or in the hospitals under his jurisdiction. He should also be recognized as an authorized honorary official of the military command."

**Status of
County
Director.**

In December, 1917, one of the County Directors, Captain (now Sir Francis) Colchester-Wemyss, was appointed Director of Food Economy, and in this capacity carried out a most useful service, ensuring sufficiency while checking extravagance, and standardizing food consumption in auxiliary hospitals, a task needing much organizing ability and attention to detail.

**Director of
Food
Economy.**

Besides the hospitals organized by the British Red Cross Society, the Order of St. John had also a

large number of similar institutions, and the Territorial Force Associations had a few, while others were established and supported by private generosity.

The following memorandum was issued by the War Office, after the conclusion of peace :
War Office Appreciation. “ Of the innumerable forms of voluntary and generous service rendered to the nation during the War, none was more valuable, and few were more unobtrusive, than the establishment and maintenance of private houses and other buildings as hospitals for the sick and wounded. During the four years of the nation’s emergency 3,244 such hospitals were open for the treatment of officers and men of the Army.”

The War Office issued an inscribed scroll to be hung in each building in a conspicuous place, as a permanent memorial of the patriotic purpose to which it had been devoted 1914–1919.

The Director-General of the Army Medical Service, Sir Alfred Keogh, thus expressed his appreciation of the professional work done :
The Director-General on Nursing in Auxiliary Hospitals. “ It would be idle to claim that there were no defects in the great system which the Joint Committee administered when the V.A. Detachments were utilized for the work in which they had been previously trained. There were defects, but these were of an administrative and not of a professional nature, for I do not suppose that sick and wounded were ever so well cared for as in the Auxiliary and Private Hospitals. The highest medical and surgical skill was available for them on all occasions, and the guidance of the necessarily

limited number of trained nurses enabled the 'probationers' and 'V.A.D.'s' to provide a standard of nursing as high as we could expect or desire."

It must be noted that the Red Cross Hospitals in France, Malta, Egypt, and elsewhere, though very largely staffed by members of the Society's Voluntary Aid Detachments, were under the administrative control of the Joint War Committee, so that, for an account of their valuable work, reference must be made to the *Reports by the Joint War Committee*, which also give the numbers of auxiliary hospitals by counties, the average length of a patient's stay and cost per case, the total amount of Government grant, voluntary contributions and other statistical information.

**Red Cross
Hospitals
Abroad.**

After this general sketch, and before leaving the work of the auxiliary hospitals, it may not be out of place to refer in greater detail to a few counties in which this phase of Red Cross activity was carried out to an extent and in a manner reflecting great credit on the local organization, and benefiting the sick and wounded beyond measure.

Before the outbreak of war every Women's Detachment in Gloucestershire was on emergency expected to be able to provide and temporarily staff a hospital of 50 beds. Each Detachment was desired to keep in a book a list of promised articles, linen, beds, kitchen requisites, furniture, and so on, which could be brought together at short notice. Provisional arrangements were also made with chemists and others for

**Red Cross
Activity in
Gloucester-
shire.**

the immediate supply of articles which could not be borrowed from some local source.

As no Voluntary Aid Hospital was called for in Gloucestershire during August and September, 1914, the arrangements were recast and perfected, certain Detachments being warned that they would probably be mobilized, others for various reasons were told that their locality would not be likely to be called upon to furnish an auxiliary hospital, but that their members might expect to be invited to undertake other duties.

By the end of the year thirteen well-equipped hospitals had been opened, totalling about 750 beds. Except for the first convoy, consisting of Belgians, all the patients up to that date were transfers from military hospitals.

During the year 1915, additional accommodation was placed at the disposal of the Branch, and by December twenty-seven auxiliary hospitals were occupied.

In May, 1915, it had been decided (on the initiative of the County Director, Captain F. Colchester-Wemyss), for administrative purposes, to consider the "Cheltenham group" as a single institution, an arrangement which met with the approval of the Army Medical Authorities. Here, then, train-loads of cases of any degree of severity were sent direct from the port of disembarkation, and this entailed no ordinary care in the Registrar's and Quartermaster's Departments, as all documents had to be completed and hospital clothing substituted for service dress. Thus the Cheltenham group represented a

first-grade hospital of nearly 1,500 beds, complete in every detail with its own stores and transport, run by voluntary effort, only subsidized by the Government grant towards the patients' dietary.

Besides the Cheltenham group, the Red Cross Hospital at Cirencester took cases direct from Southampton all through the War. The X-ray installations, the electrical and mechanical appliances, and, not least, the very efficient massage departments were most valuable adjuncts to treatment in the hospitals of Gloucestershire.

The members of the men's Detachments, if not of military age, served in hospitals either in England or abroad (and indeed one of the first parties to go overseas came from this county), and also formed a transport corps which met the trains and conveyed to the neighbouring auxiliary hospitals sick and wounded in the Motor Ambulances supplied through private generosity. In this latter sphere of work ladies took a prominent part.

It should be stated that at first all the members of the Detachments gave their services gratuitously, and the large majority continued to do so till the end of the War; there were, however, some who, in the year preceding the Armistice, were compelled to ask for a small grant owing to the increase in prices, and this they received.

The highly efficient and ceaseless help rendered by the Medical Officers and the Trained Nurses, the latter numbering 90 during the year 1918, with the assistance of the members of the local Red Cross Detachments in ways too numerous to mention in

detail, completed a most comprehensive organization, and left an example for the future as to how local voluntary effort can render most valuable service in times of national emergency, and how auxiliary hospitals of the first rank can be conducted with the greatest efficiency, the Commandant in each case being a lady, and the special departments being controlled by their own professional staff.

A word must be added about the central financial arrangements which prevailed in this county.

Elsewhere, with few exceptions, each auxiliary hospital sent its monthly claim and returns to the base hospital to which it was affiliated, and these accounts were dealt with separately.

In Gloucestershire, however, there was a central office, exercising control over all its hospitals, the military grants were pooled, authority having been received to draw the sum in bulk from the Army Paymasters. After examination at the central office, the bills were paid, the monthly scrutiny of accounts tending to standardize the management and to assist the places which for local reasons were in need of special aid.

The system of food control in the auxiliary hospitals in Gloucestershire was instituted nearly twelve months before it was universally adopted throughout England. It was organized by the County Director, and formed an excellent groundwork for the large developments which were found necessary before the end of the War, and which he carried out with the greatest success, as is referred to elsewhere.

Before the food problem became urgent, the

internal economy of the hospitals was largely benefited by the establishment of a central store. The County Red Cross Fund bought goods wholesale and sold them as required to the hospitals at a price just sufficient to show a profit rather than a loss; the consequence was that even in the times of stringency ample supplies were available, and were dispatched by motor vans driven by lady members of the Branch.

Ever since the auxiliary hospitals were opened in Gloucestershire in 1914, their upkeep depended to a large extent (exclusive of the Government grant) on gifts and offertories, and the results of sales and entertainments organized in the county. Large as were the sums thus obtained, the presents in kind were almost as valuable, while so-called luxuries sent by the public tended to relieve the monotony of the patients' dietary.

Mention, too, must be made of the Red Cross Clothing Depôt, which rendered most valuable assistance, providing dressings as well as hospital garments.

As the hospitals closed, a large quantity of property had to be disposed of, and dilapidations made good. To this end a County Demobilization Committee was formed, and the following decisions were arrived at :

1. All buildings to be restored to the condition in which they were taken over, if required by the owners.
2. Equipment of various kinds to be offered as a gift to hospitals, etc.
3. Remaining property to be sold.

4. Balance of all hospital funds to be remitted to the Demobilization Committee, to be used thus :
 - (a) To pay the cost of dilapidations.
 - (b) To provide a post-war hospital for paralysed soldiers.
 - (c) To promote a scheme for the treatment of tuberculosis in the county.
 - (d) To further Voluntary Aid Work in Gloucestershire.

The above details of work in Gloucestershire may be valuable for future guidance, showing how a network of auxiliary hospitals can be raised, equipped, and controlled to the advantage of the State and the well-being of the sick.

During the War the county dealt with over 36,000 cases, and with remarkable success from a professional point of view. Experience proved the disadvantage of a multitude of small hospitals, so in 1918 the twenty-one hospitals for rank and file averaged 112 beds, thus economizing effort and expense.

The care of the wounded did not end with Peace, and the Branch made arrangements to continue its activities for the disabled, in special homes, in clinics where skilled electrical and massage treatment could be procured, and in other ways suggested by experience and sympathetic philanthropy.

The East Lancashire Branch of the British Red Cross Society was founded in April, 1910, "with the primary object of forming Voluntary Aid Detachments and of organizing and training the civil population during

**Red Cross
Activity in
East Lancashire.**

times of peace so as to enable them to assist the Military Authorities in time of war by rendering aid to the sick and wounded."

The scheme also included the selection of buildings which could readily be converted into suitable hospitals, and the obtaining of promises from the public to lend to such hospitals, if the need should arise, the necessary furniture and equipment.

Colonel Coates, who had for many years been associated with Voluntary Aid work in Manchester, was appointed County Director, and under his control the new organization rapidly increased in numbers and efficiency.

Detachments of men and of women were raised and instructed, practical demonstrations such as field days being a conspicuous feature. Prior to August, 1914, the Branch possessed 11 Detachments of men and 51 of women, and in each case the standard laid down by the Military Authorities had been reached.

On the outbreak of war, the County Red Cross Executive Committee met and subdivided its work under six departments, dealing with comforts, organization, clothing, finance, buildings, and transport, and a large central office was obtained where the various activities of the Branch could be combined. The Committee was singularly fortunate in being able to get hold of men of standing, experience, and enthusiasm as leaders in the different sections. In organizing Red Cross effort the work was largely decentralized. Each place had its own local Committee, which provided its auxiliary hospital, collected its own money to meet its own needs, and adminis-

tered its own funds. The result was that the hospital became the personal concern of those resident in the area in which it was situated, thus ensuring the maximum generosity on their part, and a spirit of friendly emulation with its immediate neighbours. The Headquarters of the Branch devoted special attention to rendering the maximum of help to the local Committees, providing them with necessary transport, enabling them to buy all food-stuffs under the most advantageous conditions, and keeping in close touch with them in regard to inquiries for wounded and missing. In a word, the organization was one of Committees, helping one another and not entrenching upon their neighbour's domain.

The County Director being called to take up an important administrative post in the Western Command, though still retaining his position as Chairman of the County Executive Committee, the Branch was fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Wheeler Hart as his successor. A notable pamphlet was issued by Colonel Coates (in 1915), with military authority, to serve as a guide to "officers in charge of Military, Territorial, and Auxiliary Hospitals."

The first auxiliary hospital in the county to receive War Office sanction was Worsley Hall, lent by the Countess of Ellesmere, President of the Branch, but the first to open and actually receive patients was The Woodlands, Wigan.

Worsley Hall, after being conducted for two years without a Government grant, eventually was devoted to the treatment of officers. It was opened on October 10th, 1914. Its management, as well as the

entire charge of upkeep, was vested in the East Lancashire Branch, and not under the control of a local committee, as was the general rule. It had 22 wards with accommodation for 132 patients, and had a resident medical officer as well as a visiting and consulting staff of the highest order.

At the close of the year 1914 there were 49 auxiliary hospitals in the county, a number which increased annually until 1918, when 70 hospitals were in active work with 6,638 beds. Of these 44 were Red Cross hospitals, 16 St. John hospitals, 7 run conjointly by the Society and the Order, and 3 others.

In East Lancashire five hospitals with a total of 571 beds were maintained by the County Fund, and were equipped with every modern appliance for the care and comfort of the sick.

It may be observed here that in this County every auxiliary hospital was directly controlled by its professional staff, from whom the members of Voluntary Aid Detachments therein employed took their instructions in all matters of duty and discipline.

During the War the number of the Society's Detachments rose to 31 of men and 94 of women, and their members gave unremitting service, whether in auxiliary hospitals or doing nursing or general duty in military hospitals at home and abroad.

The members of men's Detachments who were unable to join the fighting forces, owing to age or disability, performed a variety of most useful duties as hospital orderlies at home and abroad, or in staffing air-raid stations, or engaging in ambulance transport work.

East Lancashire was particularly successful in the administration of the large funds subscribed by a most generous public. Though it only accepted the lowest Government grant, the average cost per patient, per diem, was lower than in any other county, *i.e.* 3s. 3d. The number of beds, too, exceeded that anywhere else. The sum actually expended on the auxiliary hospitals in East Lancashire (including Government grant) was £777,846 3s. 9d.

The Branch was honoured by a visit from Her Majesty the Queen on May 16th, 1917, the Detachments of men and of women, as well as the Transport Column, were inspected, and were commended for the excellent service that was being done.

The Transport organization calls for very special notice. In October, 1914, there was a Convoy of 10 ambulances for the sick and wounded. This gradually increased to 100 ambulances and about 150 cars, which were available at any hour. The drivers were registered at the War Office as a Voluntary Aid Detachment. The capital outlay alone amounted to £120,000, and the whole of the transport was carried out without any expense to the Government, the closest co-operation being maintained with the similar service in Cheshire. Over 1,200 trains were met, and the total cases moved from trains or subsequently transferred exceeded 700,000.

Another of the activities undertaken by the Branch was the Inquiry Department with regard to men reported wounded or missing, and most valuable information was received through its instrumentality.

Work-rooms, too, were established where thousands

of articles for the sick and wounded were made according to approved patterns.

A School of Instruction for new members desirous of service under the Red Cross was carried out with great success, and a Hostel was opened for relatives visiting wounded men in Manchester.

The work of the hospitals was greatly assisted by the establishment at the Headquarters of the Branch of a Food-stuffs Board, and the opening of a central store for the supply of rationed and other articles.

The closure of the auxiliary hospitals took place for the most part during the months January to June, 1919. The distribution of their surplus funds was left to the discretion of the hospital committees, subject to confirmation by the General Purposes Committee at Headquarters, and compliance with the Red Cross and St. John Act, which had been passed in order to deal with similar situations all over the country. The sum of £25,000 was then divided between worthy philanthropic objects, civil as well as military, throughout East Lancashire.

The Transport Department continued its work for six months after the Armistice; the ambulances were then sold, and the proceeds distributed to local charities mainly connected with invalid soldiers and sailors.

At the conclusion of the War the large number of disabled men necessitated the temporary retention of certain hospitals, and for their maintenance the Branch made itself responsible.

Other useful activities were also set up, such as institutions for the limbless or maimed, for the tuberculous, and depôts where massage and electrical

treatment could be obtained, as well as centres for medical supplies.

When, in 1909, the War Office called upon the British Red Cross Society to form Voluntary Aid Detachments of men and of women to supplement the Medical Organization of the Territorial Force on home service, who would have thought that by 1918, the date of the Armistice, 3,094 Detachments would have been in being, with a membership of 90,923, and that the term "V.A.D." would have become a household word of honourable significance wherever British troops were engaged?

**Further
Work of
Voluntary
Aid De-
tachments
at Home
and Abroad.**

The value of their work can scarcely be overrated. In the Auxiliary Home Hospitals they gave their services gratuitously, with some few exceptions towards the end of the war, and under County organization maintained their prestige, whether employed in a Convalescent Home, or in a hospital equipped with every modern appliance which received surgical cases direct from the Front. And not only so, but they served abroad in every theatre of war, and in obedience to the increasing demand of the military authorities they undertook a variety of duties not originally contemplated.

As early as August 10th, 1914, the Harwich Detachments of the Essex Branch had been called out, and were actually engaged in nursing naval wounded.

On being mobilized by orders of the Military, each member received an arm-badge (brassard) and identity certificate, the latter signed by the County Director

as "competent issuing authority." These were only valid in this country, and if the member desired to proceed overseas, a special brassard, with a red border, stamped with the Army stamp as well as that of the British Red Cross Society, along with a certificate of identity on an Army form, bearing a photograph, was issued by a Medical Officer on the Headquarters Staff of the Society, specially appointed by the War Office for this duty.

**The
Brassard.**

This special brassard had been rendered absolutely necessary, as so many persons had succeeded in getting to France in the early months of the war with an arm-badge of local manufacture.

Early in 1915 important developments took place in the scope of the activities of the Voluntary Aid Detachments, and Devonshire House became the Headquarters of the Department which controlled the various phases of women's work, under the direction of Dame Katharine Furse, whose services in Boulogne have already been described.

**Devonshire
House.**

The excellent performance of their duties in hospital wards by members of Detachments was early recognized, and on February 1st, 1915, the War Office suggested their employment in Military Hospitals, thus releasing a number of Trained Nurses for service abroad.

The conditions of employment were that the members selected should hold certificates in Home Nursing and First Aid, and be specially recommended. They were to work under the Trained Nurses, to live in quarters,

**Members
Employed
in Military
Hospitals.**

to engage to serve for twelve months, to receive £20 a year in addition to their board and certain allowances for upkeep of uniform, laundry, etc.

Such was the success of this new venture that the demand to supply V.A.D. members for military hospitals grew apace.

The work was co-ordinated in this particular with that directed by the Order of St. John.

In order to secure a more strict supervision over all persons entering France, the Army Council issued an order in February, 1915, that "It has been decided that no Voluntary Aid Organization other than the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John will in future be recognized in France by the British Army."

Dame Katharine Furse, in April, 1916, was placed in charge of the "Joint Women's V.A.D. Department," and under her direction great progress was made in many new spheres of Red Cross activity.

Requisitions for V.A.D. members for military hospitals were received in increasing numbers, France, Malta, Egypt each asking for 200 members, who were speedily forthcoming. Prior to embarkation they were inoculated against enteric fever, and had to offer proof of having been vaccinated.

At a later date the Royal Naval Hospitals were supplied with nursing members and the New Zealand Hospitals were also aided in the same way, as were those of the Royal Air Force; and subsequently those opened for the reception of American troops, and those controlled by the Pensions Ministry, were likewise assisted.

**V.A.D.
Members
for Abroad.**

The Military Nursing Members received pay and allowances at rates fixed by the Army Council. They ranked with, but after, the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Much of the successful organization of this Military Branch is due to Dame Beryl Oliver and her assistants, who were indefatigable in the performance of their duties, which became all the more onerous as nursing members were now being sent to hospitals under different management, and in different countries.

A new and far-reaching departure was made by the War Office in September, 1915. The subject of the economy of male personnel having been under consideration, it was suggested that "By the adoption of a system of replacement by women of men now employed, it will be possible to transfer N.C.O.'s and men to other medical units at home and abroad."

The classes of workers sought were dispensers, clerks, cooks, and cleaners, and regulations as to pay, service, uniform, and discipline were issued at the same time.

Accordingly the V.A.D. organization was extended to embrace a "General Service Section."

At first its work was comparatively small, but when the Military Service Act came into operation the demand for General Service

**Formation
of "General
Service
Section."**

Members increased enormously, and by the spring of 1919 no fewer than 11,000 men had been released for active service. The women selected comprised shorthand typists, clerks, motor drivers, dispensers, laboratory and X-ray assistants, dental assistants, telephonists, cooks, wardmaids, laundresses, etc., General

Service Officers being appointed by a Selection Board at Devonshire House, and Dame Katharine Furse being styled Commandant-in-Chief of the Women's Voluntary Aid Detachments. Not only were the British hospitals supplied, but members were sent to American, Canadian, Australian, South African, and New Zealand hospitals as well.

Up to 1917 they were only employed in the United Kingdom, but eventually they were dispatched to France, Salonica, Italy, Constantinople, and to work with the British Army of the Rhine.

The wearing of uniform by unauthorized persons was the subject of an Army Council ruling, which laid down that the uniform in use by members of Voluntary Aid Detachments was to be considered official under the Defence of the Realm Regulations.

Uniform.

A communication had been received from the Secretary, War Office (January, 1916), to the effect that the Army Council approved, for the duration of the War, that the control of all Voluntary Aid Detachments should be vested in a Committee consisting of three representatives of the British Red Cross Society, three of the Order of St. John, and three of the Territorial Force Association. This body was known as the Central Joint V.A.D. Committee. It delegated the various developments of women's work to the Department already in existence at Devonshire House, and in November of the same year, with the approval of the War Office, it nominated Viscount Chilston as Chief County Director to super-

**Formation
of Central
Joint
V.A.D.
Committee.**

wise the whole of the Voluntary Aid Detachments throughout the Kingdom. Lord Chilston, besides dealing with all matters of doubt or difficulty, was the official channel of communication with the Military Authorities.

After two years of strenuous and highly successful work, Dame Katharine Furse resigned her post at Devonshire House in November, 1917, and was succeeded by Lady Amptill, the President of the Bedfordshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society, under whose administration the work extended in such a variety of ways that at the time of the Armistice the personnel at the Headquarters of this department reached 200, while its efficiency was the theme of universal praise.

Early in 1918, H.R.H. Princess Mary formed a Detachment, and three Imperial Detachments for members from Australia, Canada, and South Africa were started in London.

During the preceding year, on the invitation of the Joint Societies, Australia, Canada, and South Africa sent over valuable contingents of nursing members. They had been officially selected, and were a most useful addition to those already working under the auspices of Devonshire House. It is sad to have to add, that two of the above ladies on their way from South Africa lost their lives owing to their ship being torpedoed.

As a general rule, the personnel for auxiliary hospitals in the counties were obtained locally, but occasionally applications were sent to Devonshire House.

The age for nursing members at Naval and Military Hospitals was 21 to 48, so the auxiliary hospitals made use of those who were under or above that limit, as well as others who were unable to leave home.

The activities overseas cover so vast a field that an epitome is all that space will allow.

Beginning with October, 1914, when Dame Katharine Furse established a Rest Station in Boulogne, the work grew rapidly. On her return to England early in 1915, her place was taken by Dame Rachel Crowdy, who performed most valuable service till the termination of the War.

New fields of work opened out, and members of V.A. Detachments responded with alacrity. They were employed at the Headquarters Office of the Joint War Committee at Boulogne, at Rest Stations, in Motor Ambulance Convoys, in Hostels for the relatives of wounded, in the Joint War Committee Hospitals (*i.e.* Nos. 1, 2, 8, 9, and 10 Red Cross Hospitals), Recreation Huts, Convalescent Homes for Sisters and V.A.D.'s, etc., etc., and as they were working under the Joint War Committee and not under contract to the War Office they received no pay, as a general rule.

The motor ambulance work as directed from Devonshire House was a most valuable adjunct to the transport of the sick and wounded. It began in 1916, by the opening of a School of Instruction where, in addition to learning driving and the mechanism of cars, the members were taught First Aid, etc.

**Women
Motor
Drivers.**

The first convoy of 12 V.A.D. drivers for France took over a Men's Unit at Étretat in April, 1916. This was so successful that a second unit of larger size was posted to Le Tréport, and drivers were also sent to Paris to help the Canadian Red Cross. Eventually one unit expanded to 110 drivers. Others were also dispatched to Trouville, Étaples, St. Omer, and Boulogne. The work performed was highly satisfactory, in spite of its very arduous nature, its long hours, and its dangers from enemy's action.

For bravery during German Air Raids six members employed at St. Omer received the British Military Medal, a distinction awarded for very gallant service.

**Honours
and
Rewards.**

It may be added that the 1914 Star was awarded to approximately 20, and the 1915 Star to 800, while the Nursing Members who were mentioned in despatches numbered 886, and the Decorations awarded to them were 329.

The General Service Members also received honourable distinctions.

No fewer than 341 Voluntary Aid Members lost their lives on service or as the result of service.

Casualties.

The above statistics of honours do not include those ladies who have received Orders or Decorations for duties connected with the numerous auxiliary hospitals at home, which engaged their staff locally under County Management.

Various other activities at home must be briefly alluded to, as they tended to increase the general efficiency of the organization, viz. a canteen at

Devonshire House, a Hostel for V.A.D. members, a special anti-Air Raid Section, a Convalescent Home in the country, and for cases of graver illness a Nursing Home in London.

This sketch only attempts to draw attention to some of the more conspicuous services rendered to the State by the members of Voluntary Aid Detachments; their numbers were exceedingly large, and their efficiency in all the various duties in which they were engaged was the subject of the highest official commendation.

Equally valuable were the services performed by those who in their thousands engaged in the daily round of humble duty at auxiliary hospitals at home, without any of the glamour and excitement of life at the front. Whether at home or abroad, the Voluntary Aid Detachments were a striking example of Red Cross work at its best.

The above details refer exclusively to the work done by members of Women's Voluntary Aid Detachments.

On the men's Detachments an even sterner duty was incumbent, namely, to join the colours without delay, unless prevented by age or physical infirmity. Those unable to go to the front in the ranks, in many cases did good service in hospitals at home and abroad, and in some counties were employed in transport duties, meeting ambulance trains, and conveying sick and wounded to hospitals, a task for which their previous training had specially fitted them, and which is referred to elsewhere.

**Men's V.A.
Detach-
ments.**

SCOTLAND

The Scottish Branch, acting as an independent unit, but in cordial co-operation with the parent Society, collected separate funds and administered them separately, but not under the control of the Joint War Committee.

**Red Cross
Activity in
Scotland.**

Red Cross work was first established in Scotland in 1899, when the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association performed valuable service in the South African War, providing a hospital and furnishing personnel.

When the British Red Cross Society was reorganized, in 1905, with the view of combining all voluntary help to the sick and wounded in time of war, it received warm support from Scotland, the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association undertaking the necessary responsibilities. On the passing of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act, followed by the issue of the War Office Scheme for the Organization of Voluntary Aid, a separate Scottish Branch, governed by a Council, was set up (1910), and immediately began to form Detachments throughout the country, utilizing the services of the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association for the purposes of instruction.

So rapid was the progress made that at the outbreak of war the Scottish Branch had raised and registered 422 Detachments with a strength of 12,289.

Immediately a special meeting of the Council was called, and the Executive Committee was authorized to take action in the following matters (Sir George T. Beatson being Chairman both of the Council and of the War Executive) :

1. Provision of Medical and Surgical stores.
2. Provision of increased office staff and accommodation.
3. The creation of a Red Cross War Fund.
4. Establishment of a War Organization for Red Cross work in Scotland, and for this purpose dividing Scotland into four areas, to each of which a Commissioner was appointed to assist and co-ordinate the work in the counties, and to act as a connecting link with the Naval and Military Medical Services.

One of the first items of war work done by the Scottish Branch was the dispatch of trained orderlies to search for British wounded in the North of France subsequent to the retreat from Mons.

As the war progressed, the demand for personnel for medical purposes increased, and to this the members of Voluntary Aid Detachments, both men and women, responded with unceasing alacrity. While some did duty in local Red Cross Hospitals, many served in Naval and Military Hospitals both at home and abroad, in France, Malta, Egypt, and Macedonia, with great credit to themselves and to the Society.

Mention must be made of the speedy and valuable help rendered at Naval Bases, where Dressing-Stations were established and surgical supplies provided, the Naval Hospitals, as at Granton, also being aided by a trained personnel as well as by members of Voluntary Aid Detachments, cooks and clerks, while others helped to staff an improvised ambulance

train which made numerous journeys from the ports of disembarkation.

In the month of September, 1914, the need for improved transport for the wounded being urgently felt at the front, the Scottish Branch took immediate steps to render assistance, and before the conclusion of hostilities had provided no fewer than 626 motor ambulances, of which 134 were presented, the remainder being purchased from funds subscribed by the public. X-ray and dental cars were also added.

The first contingent of motor ambulances was dispatched to France in October, 1914. This was followed by a second in the month of December, for duty in and around Rouen. In February, 1915, a convoy composed of 62 vehicles was presented to the War Office for service in France, and throughout the campaign this convoy performed continuous and brilliant work. The Military Authorities eventually handed over the duties connected with the entire motor ambulance service for the hospitals at Rouen, to the Scottish Branch. This necessitated a further increase in the size of the convoy and ultimately it numbered 169 cars.

Some idea of the work accomplished at Rouen, its magnitude and its usefulness, is conveyed by the fact that during four years of service there it carried more than 1,200,000 cases.

In addition to attending to the transport of our own troops, aid was given to our Allies, and with the French there were two Convoys working at the Front, viz. Convoi de l'Écosse No. 1 and No. 2, ten cars were

provided for the Belgian wounded, and others were sent to Italy, Russia, and Macedonia.

The carriage of the wounded from trains to hospital in the larger Scottish cities was a work of great magnitude, over a million patients being conveyed by the motor ambulances and the personnel of the Scottish Red Cross.

Other valuable aids in sick transport were the provision of the hospital ship "St. Margaret of Scotland," which did good service in the Mediterranean, and of a number of motor launches originally sent to the Dardanelles and the Tigris.

Towards the end of 1914, the Scottish Branch furnished personnel and equipment for 50 beds in No. 11 Stationary Hospital at Rouen. From 50 the beds were increased to 300, and thus formed a large and integral part of a regular Military Hospital.

Also l'Hôpital de l'Écosse, consisting of 150 beds, was opened in Paris for the reception of French wounded; and a ward was provided by the Scottish Branch in the Anglo-Russian Hospital at Petrograd, and large financial aid given for its upkeep.

The Red Cross Auxiliary Hospitals in Scotland numbered 180, which, owing to generous local assistance, were largely self-supporting, a striking testimony to Voluntary Aid. Two, however, require special mention, being classed as First Line Red Cross General Hospitals:

(1) The first of these to be established was at the North British Locomotive Works, Springburn, Glasgow, and originally was equipped for 200 patients. Various additions were subsequently made, and with

a separate annexe the accommodation reached 850 beds. The surgical results gave testimony to the excellence of the Staff, and the up-to-date equipment comprised everything needed for diagnosis and after-care. During the war over 10,000 cases were treated.

(2) The other First Line Hospital was at Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, which, beginning with 700 patients, was eventually expanded to take in over 1,100. It was opened in October, 1915, and immediately began to receive convoys of wounded. Built on the block system, with a central corridor, it was found admirably suited for its purpose. A notable addition was the Orthopædic Department, which gave every facility for massage, electricity, and remedial exercises, and included curative workshops. At the end of the War this hospital was handed over to the Ministry of Pensions on loan, the total number of patients received having been upwards of 14,000.

The Scottish Branch has just reason for being satisfied with the success of these two hospitals, due to organizing ability and professional skill.

When dealing with these great central hospitals, "Ralston," near Paisley, must be referred to. It was established for paralysed Scottish soldiers and sailors, with accommodation for 62 cases.

The building was altered and equipped by private generosity, and handed over by the owner for a term of ten years (subsequently renewed), with every appliance needed by the patients suffering from this most distressing class of ailment.

Valuable auxiliary services must be alluded to, the provision of sphagnum moss and other dressings,

comforts and clothing for hospitals at home and overseas, assistance in regard to artificial limbs, and help to prisoners of war and discharged soldiers.

The War Fund raised by the Scottish Branch exceeded two millions sterling, not including the large local gifts to auxiliary hospitals, the presents of motor-cars, etc.

The above sketch of the activities of the Scottish Branch is of necessity a mere outline, but it may be sufficient to convey an idea of the extent of the great humanitarian work accomplished over a world-wide field.

No account of the Red Cross assistance furnished by Scotland during the War would be complete without a reference to the splendid achievements and heroic actions of the Scottish Women's Hospital Units. They proceeded to Serbia, and did most valuable service not only in the wards, but during the great retreat. They were mainly attached for duty to the Serbian army, to which they supplied two Transport Columns for the sick and wounded, but they also afforded aid to the French and Greek troops. Their professional efficiency was noteworthy ; and in the midst of the greatest hardships they did more than their duty, in some cases sacrificing their lives in splendid effort. These units were not financed by the Scottish Branch, but, in accordance with the agreements made with the heads of the Allied Armies on the Balkan Front, they received the brassard and certificate of the British Red Cross Society.

IRELAND

As the Territorial Forces Act did not apply to Ireland, before the War there were no official Voluntary Aid Detachments strictly speaking, though several districts had raised and trained bodies of men and women in ambulance duties.

**Red Cross
Activity in
Ireland.**

From the outbreak of war until the Armistice, Ireland's contributions by gift and by personal service were very large, and the Red Cross movement extended rapidly all over the country both North and South.

The following are some of the activities which were maintained by voluntary effort :

- (a) Large recruiting for the Home Hospitals Reserve.
- (b) Increase in number of trained Detachments, both of men and of women.
- (c) Selection of candidates for nursing and general service duties for military and auxiliary hospitals.
- (d) The establishment of an Inquiry Bureau for wounded and missing soldiers and for prisoners of war, and of central workrooms for the provision of hospital garments, etc.
- (e) The equipping or assisting of various important hospitals of the highest class, one of the principal being in Dublin Castle.
- (f) The provision of motor transport.
- (g) The opening of Convalescent Homes.

These varied and extensive activities were carried

out under the auspices of Joint Committees of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, while, owing to very thorough local organization, the moneys contributed to various War Funds were on a scale of surprising generosity.

Our great Dominions, our Colonies and Depend-
Red Cross cies, contributed vast sums to the Red Cross
Work of movement organized in the Home territory.
the In a brief sketch it would be impossible to
Dominions, attempt to do justice to the magnificent
Colonies, work done by the Red Cross organizations
and Allies. overseas, which, in addition to a profuse liberality,
displayed an organizing ability of the highest order,
in following their armies with voluntary hospitals,
with trained personnel, and with every attention
which sympathy could suggest.

Australia, Canada, and Cape Colony for some years possessed Red Cross Societies efficient in every particular, so when the war note was sounded in August 1914, an admirable foundation had already been laid which rendered the subsequent steps all the more easy.

The American Red Cross contributed with the greatest generosity from the outset, supplementing the funds raised in England.

When the United States came into the War, the British Societies offered to undertake the purchasing, warehousing, and shipping of their Red Cross supplies, while America in turn was able to provide many classes of goods which it was impossible to obtain here. Through all this anxious period the work was carried

on in the most perfect harmony. When the Armistice intervened, a hospital of 500 beds was in course of erection in Richmond Park on a site selected by the King, a gift from the Joint Societies to their colleagues from the States.

The relations between the British and the French Red Cross Societies were of the most cordial character.

The London Headquarters of the latter organization were established at Knightsbridge, and to them the Joint Societies made large grants in money and in kind, as well as supporting an annual public appeal termed "France's Day" in aid of the funds of the French Red Cross; while by a special committee at Headquarters an effort was made to co-ordinate the many offers of British help, both as regards the establishment of Anglo-French hospitals and the supply of a suitable personnel.

In France, too, the motor ambulances of the Joint Societies, as well as their stores department, were in the closest touch with the French Red Cross.

The Belgian Red Cross was assisted in the early days of the War (as already mentioned) by the dispatch of parties of Doctors and Trained Nurses, while at a later date the Joint Societies organized and maintained the "Anglo-Belge" Hospital at Calais,* and assisted the excellent establishment at La Panne in a variety of ways, not the least being the supply of Trained Nurses.

The visit of the Japanese mission to the British Red

* For enteric cases.

Cross Hospital at Netley in 1914-15 has been previously alluded to, and also its remarkable success. Large monetary contributions and gifts of stores were also presented to the Joint Societies.

At the commencement of the War, Russia had a powerful Red Cross Society of tried efficiency and possessed of ample funds.

To supplement its efforts, a most influential Anglo-Russian Hospital Committee was formed in London which invoked the aid of the British Red Cross. The Joint Societies therefore selected a Commissioner, who proceeded to Petrograd and procured suitable premises. Here a hospital was opened with distinct success, and, while financed by the London Committee, was controlled by the Russian Society. Eventually the political situation compelled the abandonment of the scheme.

Soon after war was declared by Italy, the British Societies dispatched a Commissioner to Rome to ascertain in what particulars supplementary aid would be most acceptable.

Transport for the wounded was speedily on its way, and from the autumn of 1915, the Italian Red Cross and the British Motor Ambulance Units were in close touch, their cars very often working side by side.

Reference must be made to the help rendered by the Joint Societies to the Servian Red Cross, in the matter of motor ambulance transport as well as in

medical stores and surgical equipment, and to the assistance afforded to Roumania in the matter of personnel and hospital supplies.

Thanks are especially due to the Swiss Red Cross for its invaluable aid in connexion with the Allied prisoners of war; also to the Red Cross of the Netherlands, for assistance under similar conditions, and to the Danish Society, which not only during the War, but after the Armistice, showed much practical sympathy.

The International Red Cross Committee at Geneva was a most helpful agent in the discussion of problems bearing on the interpretation or the infringement of certain Articles of the Geneva Convention of 1906, and of the Hague Conference of 1907. It assisted in matters connected with prisoners of war and in inquiries for the wounded and missing.

**Inter-
national
Committee
at Geneva.**

Reference must be made to some other activities undertaken by members of the British Red Cross Society or assisted by its funds.

Towards the close of 1914 a committee was formed in London to organize a scheme of relief for prisoners of war (the "Help Committee"). Similar work was already in progress at the Depôts of certain regiments of the Expeditionary Force, while some counties were arranging for the needs of men coming from their area.

**Prisoners
of War.**

The British Red Cross Society, too, had commenced

the dispatch of parcels of food, and from its own funds, supplemented by private generosity, by April, 1916, more than a hundred prisoners' camps were receiving supplies.

The increasing demand required a combination of effort, and to this end the War Office, after consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Societies, decided that for the future the work should form part of the Red Cross organization and should be directed by the Central Prisoners of War Committee (September 1916).

The vastness of the work done may be gauged by the fact that up to the date of the Armistice the total expenditure on supplies to prisoners of war, including the operations of all the Care Committees and Local Associations throughout the country, but excluding the Dominion Forces, amounted to about six and a half millions sterling. Of this outlay, about one-third was provided by the Joint Societies of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, and two-thirds were directly contributed by the British public in aid of prisoners of war. Close on 9,000,000 food parcels and 800,000 clothing parcels had been dispatched.

The details of this most successful organization, which owed much to its Managing Director, Sir Patrick Agnew, are contained at length in the *Reports by the Joint War Committee*.

The Red Cross War Library was commenced privately in August, 1914, its object being to supply books and papers of all sorts to the sick and wounded in naval and military

**War
Library.**

hospitals. The demand soon exceeded the supply, and a special organization was formed, the financial liability being taken over by the Joint Committee of the two Societies. The public contributed largely and so did the publishers, but purchases on an extensive scale became unavoidable.

Bales were made up for home, for overseas, and for hospital ships, also parcels composed mainly of newspapers or magazines. The volumes were on almost every subject, and in several languages, and of every variety from grave to gay. Scrap-books too were issued, and were a boon to many too weak to read an ordinary book.

Thus a great work was carried out, relieving the tedium of many weary hours and productive of lasting benefit, and such was its success, that after the termination of the War it was continued by the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John, and its scope extended to hospitals civil as well as military, both at home and abroad.

The Central Work-rooms were opened in 1915, in Burlington House, with the object of co-ordinating existing sources of certain supplies, by issuing standard patterns of hospital garments and surgical requisites, and by providing materials, at cost price, to registered work parties in all parts of the world. The County Branches of the Society took up the work warmly, and performed most valuable service, while the initial expenses were borne by the Joint War Committee. In all, nearly 3,000 centres were established and the output was correspondingly large.

**Central
Work-
rooms.**

H.R.H. Princess Christian set up an auxiliary hospital at Englefield Green in September, 1915. To the expenses the British Red Cross Society made a grant of over £11,000, the remainder being collected by Her Royal Highness.

The hospital was composed of pavilions of wood, lined with asbestos panels. Each of the six wards contained 20 beds, was lighted by electricity, and heated by gas radiators and slow-combustion stoves.

The institution fulfilled a most useful purpose, and was administered by an excellent professional staff.

The Department dealing with Inquiries for Wounded and Missing was one which in the early days of the War was started in France by Lord Robert Cecil, as a branch of Red Cross effort, and was conducted from offices in Paris and Boulogne by a few zealous workers.

Before the end of 1914, it became clear that London was the best centre, and after commencing its operations at 20, Arlington Street, it was eventually moved to 18, Carlton House Terrace, where it remained to the end of the War, when its staff comprised about 150 voluntary workers, latterly aided by a small number of paid assistants.

The Joint War Committee, as well as meeting all necessary expenses, employed certain gentlemen termed "Searchers" who visited hospitals and camps in large military centres at home and abroad, and by personal inquiry endeavoured to obtain particulars of those reported "missing."

This Department was perhaps one of the most appreciated branches of voluntary work, not only for its efficiency, but for the unvarying kindness, patience, and sympathy shown to all inquirers.

In October, 1918, Mr. Frank Hastings, the Secretary of the British Red Cross Society, resigned, and was succeeded by Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Earle.

**Lieut.-Col.
F. A. Earle
appointed
Secretary
of the
Society.**

The Council of the British Red Cross Society authorized the issue of a medal in recognition of voluntary services rendered by members of the Society and its Voluntary Aid Detachments during the period August 4th, 1914, to December 31st, 1919, who had not received any British title or Order, nor were eligible for any existing British military medal for services rendered in respect of Red Cross war-work.

**British
Red Cross
Society's
Medal.**

Engraved on the obverse is the Emblem, with the words "For War Service 1914-1918," while the reverse bears the Red Cross motto, "Inter arma caritas."

Quite early in the War, it was realized that a difficulty might arise in dealing with any effects or balances which might remain should there be a surplus whenever the appeals to the public ceased.

To meet this difficulty an Act of Parliament entitled the Red Cross and St. John Act, 1918, was passed. This gave the Joint War Committee power to apply surplus moneys or other assets, originally given for limited purposes, in accordance with the wider latitude expressed in the following clause :

**Red Cross
and St.
John Act,
1918.**

- Clause 2 (1) (a) " In relieving sickness, suffering, or distress caused by the present war in the British Empire or in any of the countries which now are or have been during the present war in alliance with His Majesty the King, whether by subscriptions or gifts to persons or to Societies, or to the Governments of those countries for the purpose of such relief. Or
- (b) In relieving sickness and suffering within the British Empire, whether by subscriptions or gifts to persons or to societies or to local authorities, or to the Government of any British possession for the purpose of such relief."

How these directions were carried out is detailed in the *Reports by the Joint War Committee*.

At the conclusion of the War, an important duty, therefore, had to be undertaken by all authorities dealing with Funds raised for the benefit of the sick and wounded.

Under the auspices of the Joint War Committee a Central Demobilization Board was established to devise the best means of winding up its organization at home and abroad, as soon as the military and political situation should permit.

Accordingly, County Demobilization Committees were set up throughout England and Wales. The principle adopted was to make the Commissions abroad, the County Organizations at home, and the various Departments at Headquarters responsible for

**Central
Demobiliza-
tion
Board.**

the demobilization of their own work, subject to the general control of the Board.

Both at home and abroad the main idea governing such schemes was that stores and equipment should be given away for the relief of sickness and suffering in accordance with the provisions of the Act of Parliament. Any County Surplus was also utilized for philanthropic objects in the neighbourhood, while in order to continue the war-time activities regarding disabled soldiers and sailors, and for kindred humanitarian purposes, the unexpended balance from *The Times* Fund, after very large benefactions to deserving charities both at home and abroad, was invested, to be primarily employed in making grants to objects falling within the scope of the Societies, utilizing the income and capital in that form of relief which promised to be of the greatest benefit for the war-injured ex-Service man. (Vide *Reports by the Joint War Committee, 1914-1919.*)

As distinct from the above, the British Red Cross Society, at the termination of the War, was possessed of certain financial assets, either of pre-war date, or from the public subscriptions in the first two months of the War (as previously detailed), or from donations and legacies specially ear-marked for the Society. This sum was therefore divided thus: General Fund A was administered in accordance with the original Charter (1908), and was disposed of as follows:

1. Aid to Sick and Wounded in War.
2. Salaries, Pensions, and Gratuities.
3. Any other acts incidental or conducive to the purposes of the Society.

A second Fund, called General Fund B, specially dealt with the improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world as proposed in the Covenant of the League of Nations and provided for in the Society's Supplemental Charter.

The termination of the War found the Joint Societies engaged on many useful activities in England which of necessity must continue for some time. To mention only a few, the care of the paralysed, the convalescent homes for officers, the re-education in orthopædic workshops, the relief of pressing distress among the rank and file ("Emergency Help"), and the supply of additional comforts to hospitals are matters of supreme importance which must for a considerable period engage the attention of the Joint Societies.

**Work
which
must be
continued.**

Some hundreds of motor ambulances which had proved so invaluable in France were now brought over to England, and soon large numbers were scattered over the country doing most useful service to the civil population and supplying a pressing need, more especially in rural districts.

Such is a sketch of the work in the Great War, undertaken by the British Red Cross Society either separately or along with the Order of St. John, a work which in its magnitude was unique, in its efficiency the occasion of gratitude to countless sick and wounded, and a most valuable assistance to the State.

Sir Alfred Keogh, whose visit to France in August, 1914, has already been described, thus sums up the rôle of the Red Cross Society in War, a subject which was then not thoroughly understood by all in authority :

**The Rôle
of the
Red Cross
Society in
War.**

“ These experiences, and the developments which proceeded from them, teach valuable lessons, which it is hoped will be applied in any future organization for war.

“ The chief of these is that the Red Cross Society forms an intimate, integral part of the Royal Army Medical Corps for the performance of certain well-defined duties in war, and that throughout the whole of a campaign, and in every area, its representatives should have a well-defined sphere of duties auxiliary and supplementary to those of the regular Medical Corps.”

V. RED CROSS WORK IN PEACE TIME. THE FUTURE

THE War had no sooner ended, than the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva addressed a communication to the national Red Cross societies (November 27, 1918) to the effect that it was now their duty to turn their attention towards works of peace for the general interests of humanity. From all sides the suggestion was welcomed, and several of the most prominent promised their cordial co-operation.

The Armistice found the British Red Cross Society occupied in so many directions, that it was evident a considerable time must elapse before its commitments could be brought to an end.

The Commissions abroad, which were under the control of the Joint War Committee, were wound up as soon as possible. In some instances valuable help was given to returning prisoners of war, and in all, the bulk of the surplus stores and equipment was presented to some local charitable object, or otherwise disposed of in accordance with the Red Cross and St. John Act of Parliament, 1918.

The auxiliary hospitals in Great Britain and Ireland were gradually closed, and this valuable example of voluntary effort came to an end.

The personnel found the change from war conditions to the everyday duties of home life occasionally irk-

some, and as a matter of course a period of quietude set in, the natural sequence of the strain of the past four years.

The Voluntary Aid Detachments were kept together, but in a state of latent activity, many of the members, however, undertaking various peace-time duties for which their recent experiences had specially fitted them: some gave their services to civil hospitals, others engaged in work at Curative Posts established for ex-Service men needing massage or electrical treatment. The subject of child-welfare, of tuberculosis clinics, or other activities controlled by the Ministry of Health appealed to not a few.

In order to show its appreciation of the work done by members of Voluntary Aid Detachments during the War, the Central Joint V.A.D. Committee founded various scholarships. **Scholarships for V.A.D. Members.**

Of these, a limited number, sufficing to cover the fee for training, as well as the cost of living, were awarded to those who passed the qualifying examinations with special proficiency, while in other cases very substantial assistance was given to members desirous of devoting themselves to a definite professional career.

The following are some of the types of work for which Scholarships might be granted, viz. Medicine, Massage, Midwifery, Nursing, Health Visitors, School Matrons, Pharmacy, X-ray Assistants, etc. The number ultimately awarded was 557, and a great boon was thus conferred on a large number of well-qualified and deserving ladies.

Previous reference has been made to certain war-

time activities of the Joint Committee of the two Societies which it would be to the public advantage to maintain or perhaps to extend.

The Auxiliary Hospitals for Officers Department performs a service of the highest usefulness. **Auxiliary Hospitals for Officers.** It conducts a hospital in Brighton, which receives both medical and surgical patients. It also subsidizes cases of tuberculosis in sanatoria at home and abroad (as not infrequently the necessary expenses exceed the Government grant), and thus performs a work of the highest Christian charity.

A kindred work is undertaken at Scio House on Putney Heath, where a Home has been opened for advanced cases of consumption occurring in ex-officers. Scio House, now completely equipped and structurally altered, with its garden and grounds, has met a very real need, and is much appreciated by all the inmates.

The above agencies being purely for the assistance of sick or disabled officers, reference must now be made to one far more extensive, entitled Emergency Help, which aims at assisting the rank and file. **Emergency Help for Rank and File.**

The main object of the scheme is the temporary relief, in emergencies, of ex-Service men suffering from sickness or disablement considered to be attributable to or aggravated by their war service; similar aid is also given to their widows and dependents.

The scheme is administered through the agency of County and Borough Directors and their Committees. It provides a measure of relief, which is not

forthcoming from any other source, to many thousands of cases.

Another war activity is being still continued, and largely extended to the benefit of the sick in civil hospitals, namely, the War Library, the first claim being for the ex-soldier. Hospitals, Sanatoria, Convalescent Homes, Infirmaries and Mental Hospitals in Great Britain are supplied, and large parcels of books and magazines are sent to British hospitals abroad as well as to Hospital Ships.

**Library
for
Hospitals.**

In addition to the grant made by the Joint Committee, and the generosity of publishers and booksellers, the Library owes much to the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, who in many counties make regular house-to-house collections.

The Home Ambulance Service was set up in 1919, in order to provide a better means of transport for the sick or injured, more especially in country districts.

**Home
Ambulance
Service.**

At the time of the Armistice a large number of the motor ambulances which had worked abroad under the Joint War Committee were still effective. As the older heavy class of vehicles became worn out, a lighter form of ambulance more suited to English roads took its place.

The scheme was an immediate success, its usefulness being greatly enhanced by the skill of the personnel, members of the Order of St. John or of the British Red Cross Society. Already 351 ambulance stations have been established, and during the past six years

over 370,000 patients have been moved with a comfort and rapidity unknown before.

The Home Ambulance Service Committee lends the motors at the request of the county, but is not responsible for maintenance and upkeep, which are matters of local arrangement and are provided for in various ways. In the majority of cases a charge is made calculated to cover the actual running expenses, with a small margin sufficient to allow for the carriage of those who by reason of their necessitous circumstances are unable to pay a fee.

The Committee, however, reserves the right to inspect the vehicles, and to withdraw them if they are not serving a useful purpose, or if they are required to meet a national emergency.

An X-ray car has recently been placed at Headquarters, available for dispatch to country districts as required.

It is hoped to equip each ambulance with a Thomas's splint, so valuable in cases of fracture, and to promote special instruction as to its use.

In the above ways the work of the Joint Societies is accommodating itself to peace conditions, and, while aiding the civil population by various means, always regards the needs of the ex-Service man as its first claim.

The War had proved the immense value of co-ordinated voluntary aid in the cause of philanthropy, and the idea occurred to many thoughtful men that as "peace hath her victories no less renown'd than war," the Red Cross

**League of
Red Cross
Societies.**

movement should be extended so as to embrace a wider sphere of usefulness.

The idea was crystallized into a working scheme by Mr. Henry P. Davison, Chairman of the War Council of the American Red Cross, his proposal being that the National Societies should group themselves together in a League bearing some analogy to the League of Nations, for the purpose of developing the humanitarian activities of the Red Cross in peace time. It was speedily recognized that the plan thus formulated would assist in meeting a pressing need.

On February 1st, 1919, representatives of the American, British, French, Italian, and Japanese Red Cross Societies formed themselves into a Committee for the furtherance of the project, at the same time receiving promises of co-operation from Le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge at Geneva, which for upwards of fifty years had been the arbiter on all questions of auxiliary aid.

The extension of the usefulness of the Red Cross was a matter which commended itself to the framers of the Covenant of the League of Nations, the 25th Article reading: "The members of the League agree to encourage and promote the establishment and co-operation of duly authorized voluntary national Red Cross organizations having as purposes the improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world" (February 14th, 1919).

The first act of the Committee of Red Cross Societies was to summon a medical congress at Cannes in April, 1919, to discuss the practical means to be adopted to

secure the carrying out of its humanitarian ideals. A representative gathering of the profession from various countries met, and affirmed that the Red Cross was particularly fitted to combat the everyday evils and sufferings of humanity alike in war and peace.

On May 5th, 1919, therefore, the League of Red Cross Societies was formed in Paris, and comprised the national societies of five countries. The membership of the League has now grown to fifty-four.

The purposes of the League may be summarized as under :

1. To encourage and promote in every country the establishment and development of a duly authorized voluntary national Red Cross organization working in accord with the principles of the Geneva Convention.
2. To collaborate with these organizations in the improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering.
3. To place within the reach of all peoples the benefits to be derived from present known facts and new contributions to science and medical knowledge and their application.
4. To furnish a medium for co-operating with national Red Cross Societies in promoting, stimulating, and co-ordinating relief work in cases of national or international calamities.

For carrying out its programme, the League was dependent on the voluntary contributions of its Societies.

Some forty years before, the idea now uppermost in the minds of the framers of the League had been expressed by M. Gustave Moynier, the wise master-builder of the Red Cross organization. He proposed "a closer union of the national societies, and the collective affirmation of their solidarity. . . ." "In thus combining they would urge each other to do better, and would at the same time receive an irresistible impulse from the feeling of engagements undertaken, without losing to any degree their autonomy. . . ." "It is strange that Associations which have the same origin and have need of each other, and between which there is a real confraternity, have not yet taken measures to strengthen the family link that unites them, by the acknowledgment of reciprocal duties" (*La Croix-Rouge, son passé et son avenir*).

To carry this idea of mutual co-operation into practice, it required the experience gained in a World War.

In order to participate in the philanthropic efforts about to be undertaken under the auspices of the League, the British Red Cross Society found it necessary to apply for a Supplemental Charter.

**Supple-
mental
Charter.**

It will be remembered that the original Charter of 1908 laid it down that the Society had been incorporated "for the primary object of furnishing aid to the sick and wounded in time of war." And this injunction had been rigidly adhered to.

The Supplemental Charter, dated December 12th, 1919, declares as follows :

“ In addition to the primary object, as defined in the said Charter, the objects and purposes of the said Society shall include the improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world.”

Though the peace activities such as the Supplemental Charter now permits were a new departure for the British Red Cross Society, many other national societies, and those some of the strongest, had for years made a practice of devoting their energies to various schemes of humanitarian effort. They combated malaria, tuberculosis, typhus, and yellow fever. They aided sufferers from inundations, earthquakes, and fires, as well as making themselves efficient to assist the Army Medical Service in time of war.

It is interesting to sketch the growth of the idea and the progress of its practical development.

Reference has been already made to M. Dunant's suggestion, in *Un Souvenir de Solferino* (1863), that Societies such as he had in view could render great services during times of epidemic or in disasters such as inundations and fires.

This idea was soon carried into practice, as M. Gustave Moynier, writing a few years later, mentions that some Societies had found interests outside the limits of military philanthropy, and had turned their attention to great public calamities, and names the Societies of Russia, Germany, Greece, and Turkey as having shown particular activity in this respect.

No Peace Programme was referred to at the First

**Use of the
Red Cross
Emblem
in Peace
Time.**

International Conference of 1863, nor in the Articles of the Geneva Convention of 1864 (which omitted all reference to Voluntary Aid).

But the subject was one of general interest, and was discussed at the Conferences of Red Cross Societies held in 1884, 1892, 1897, and 1902.

In 1906, the revision of the Geneva Convention took place and Article 23 reads as follows :

“ The emblem of the red cross on a white ground and the words ‘ Red Cross ’ or ‘ Geneva Cross ’ shall not be used either in time of peace or in time of war except to protect or indicate the medical units and establishments and the personnel and material protected by the Convention.”

This Article is worded in such formal terms that it is not surprising it was brought up and discussed at the International Conference of the Red Cross held in London in the following year, 1907.

A German delegate drew attention to the effect that the literal interpretation of Article 23 would have on the various activities on which Voluntary Aid Societies had been engaged for some forty years.

M. Odier, who had presided over the assembly which drew up the Geneva Convention of 1906, replied :

“ It must be noted that in the new Convention, and for the first time, Societies for Voluntary Aid have been officially recognized, that henceforward their co-operation is to be admitted, solicited, and considered as an adjunct to the Medical Corps in the Field.

- “ But by reason of the rights conferred upon these Societies, it has been found necessary to regulate the conditions under which such rights were to be granted : it was necessary to avoid certain abuses which might be committed, as indeed they have been committed, that is to say, in the creation of Societies which had not previously complied with the formalities required by the Convention, which had not obtained the assent of the countries to which they belonged, which had not sought the authorization of the countries where they were to carry on their work, and this gave rise to difficulties and troubles.
- “ It had to be specified that those Societies alone which answered to the conditions laid down by the Convention were to be entitled to work and be given the benefit of the rights granted by the Geneva Convention.
- “ Such is the real meaning of Article 23, the object of which never was to limit the activities of Societies regularly constituted, inasmuch as they are indeed provided for in the Article in question. When any Red Cross Society has been regularly organized, there is no reason to admit that its work should be limited in its scope.”

This opinion of the President is borne out by M. Renault (Rapporteur). “ What has been intended,” he says, “ is that Societies other than duly authorized Societies should not be permitted to use the insignia in question.” “ On the part of the Convention

there is no intention to interfere with the work peculiar to each Society."

M. de Martens, the eminent jurist, also a member of the Conference, adds his testimony: "I am of opinion that all those who took part in the Geneva Conference last year . . . consider that the new Geneva Convention never intended to limit the field of operations of the Red Cross Societies. The contrary is the case."

Such are the opinions of three of the most important framers of the Geneva Convention as to the interpretation of Article 23.

When the Red Cross Societies held their next Conference, in Washington, 1912, the subject of Peace activities was again to the fore.

The important pronouncement of Article 25 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, already quoted, is an emphatic declaration that National Aid Societies should undertake duties of a far-reaching character.

When, therefore, the Tenth International Conference met, in 1921, it passed a recommendation that steps should be taken to conclude a new Geneva Convention, dealing with a more extended recognition of the Red Cross, of its rôle in peace, and especially of its functions regarding succour to populations overtaken by public calamities.

In the meantime, it unanimously resolved "to invite all Red Cross Societies to undertake to develop at home and abroad their activities in time of peace, attacking everywhere the scourges and ills of all kinds and in working for the protection of childhood."

M. des Gouttes, Vice-President of the Comité

International de la Croix Rouge, writing the same year, gives the weight of his authority to the use of the name and the emblem of the Red Cross by National Societies in the pursuit of their peace-time programme.

The General Council of the newly-formed League of Red Cross Societies is most insistent on the extended use of the emblem, and resolved that it "recognizes that the peace-time activities of national Red Cross Societies must continue to be developed along the lines consistent with the fulfilment of their basic purpose, viz. the care of the sick and wounded and prisoners of armies and navies in time of war" (1922).

And again, the Eleventh International Conference in 1923 drew up proposals for the alteration of certain Articles of the Geneva Convention of 1906, and suggested the following addition to Article 23 :

"D'autre part les Sociétés de secours volontaires visées à l'art. 10 sont autorisées à faire usage d'emblème de la Croix Rouge pour l'activité charitable qu'elles déploient en temps de paix."

It is an unfortunate anomaly that two bodies so eminent, and so representative of the World Powers as the framers of the Geneva Convention and those of the Covenant of the League of Nations, should, even in appearance, differ in their views as to the scope of Red Cross work.

It is hoped, therefore, that in the near future the practice now almost universal throughout the civilized world may receive the official sanction which experience seems to have justified.

The stimulus given to the larger idea of Red Cross

activities by the pronouncement of the Covenant of the League of Nations was widely felt, and the National Societies increased their efforts in conformity with this broader view of their duties towards the public.

The Canadian Red Cross, following the example of the parent Society, asked for and obtained official sanction "in time of peace or war to carry on and assist in work for the improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world" (The Canadian Red Cross Society Act, 1922).

**Action of
Canadian
Red Cross.**

The variety of the objects aimed at in the Peace programme which different national Societies have undertaken, is a wonderful tribute to the need felt for such an expansion of Red Cross effort.

**Various
Peace-time
Efforts of
Red Cross
Societies.**

Sufferers from such calamities as earthquakes, inundations, and fires have been assisted, leprosy, tuberculosis, malaria, typhus, yellow fever, etc. have been combated. Refugees have received help, child welfare has been taken up in some countries, while others have paid particular attention to transport of the sick by aeroplane, nurses have been taught, the needs of merchant seamen have been studied, and public hygiene has been advanced in a multitude of ways.

The General Council of the League of Red Cross Societies (composed of representatives of the National Societies belonging to the League), meeting for the first time in 1920, was attended by delegates from thirty such organizations. Among the resolutions passed one is particularly noteworthy :

IV. "That a national Red Cross Society should organize the youth of its country for Red Cross service."

Though this is a new injunction, a Red Cross movement among Juniors had been carried on for some years in Canada, the United States, and Australia, with extraordinary success. In May 1926, thirty-seven countries were engaged in this work, with a membership of over eight million junior adherents. Their aims may be broadly defined as being those of the parent Societies reached by methods appropriate to the young, and pursued by different countries in different ways, but all inculcating the spirit of service, the mainspring of the Red Cross movement.

In Great Britain the Junior Branch is now an integral part of the Red Cross Society's organization, with a Director of its own, a magazine, and special text books, etc., and is steadily increasing in numbers and efficiency. Training in First Aid and in the Laws of Health is provided, interest in sick or crippled children is encouraged, and correspondence with Juniors in other lands is arranged. All these are useful, and tend to fit those who so desire to become valuable members of the British Red Cross Society in a few years.

Popular Health Instruction was a subject on which great stress was laid by the League of Red Cross Societies. To further this end, the British Red Cross Society organized a series

of lectures by lady doctors or specially selected trained nurses. They are given by women to women, with the object of inculcating the laws of health in the home, the health of the mother, the health of the child, the care of the teeth, etc.

The tours are undertaken in groups of villages, the lecturer making her headquarters at the most convenient centre, the arrangements being made from London in consultation with the County Branch.

The experiment has been a great success, and it is believed that real practical benefit has resulted, the subjects of the lectures and their treatment appealing to village audiences, as evinced by the attendances and the interest shown.

The growth of the movement is curtailed by the expense, which is necessarily heavy, the Society's grant having to be supplemented by local funds and subscriptions. It is hoped that the Dental Board of the United Kingdom may arrange to co-operate in the scheme, and that thus new areas may be visited and instruction disseminated on a wider scale.

The League of Red Cross Societies for the past six years had arranged that a course of instruction in Public Health Nursing should be carried out at Bedford College for Women, nurses from nearly every country being selected by their respective Red Cross Societies to come to London for the scholastic year, September to July, to take the training fitting them for various activities in the domain of Preventive Medicine in their own countries.

**Public
Health
Nursing.**

In 1924 it was decided that a permanent Home

should be established for these ladies; the British Red Cross Society therefore provided a building in Manchester Square, the League being responsible for the organization and upkeep of the establishment, which comprises 21 bedrooms, besides sitting-rooms, etc.

The success resulting from this course of instruction is shown by the excellent positions obtained by nurses who have completed the curriculum.

Brigadier-General Champain, who had succeeded Lieut.-Colonel Earle as Secretary of the British Red Cross Society in June, 1921, left London in October, 1922, at the request of the Joint Societies, to inquire into and report on the best way in which assistance could be rendered to the military authorities in the Near East in connexion with the strained relations which still existed between Turkey and the Allies. After visiting Athens, and making personal investigation as to the condition of the refugees, he proceeded to Constantinople and immediately got into communication with the British Commander-in-Chief and the Director of Medical Services.

A large motor launch was purchased and adapted for the carriage of stretcher cases, the chief need, and on the departure of General Champain, Sir Matthew Fell, the Director of Medical Services, kindly undertook to act as Representative of the Joint Societies.

On his return to London, General Champain reported the appalling condition of the refugees, and read to the Council a letter which had been received

Visit of
Gen.
Champain
to Greece
and
Turkey.

from the Foreign Office drawing attention to the need of assistance in the Near East, and expressing the hope that the British Red Cross Society would issue a public appeal for help to alleviate the present distress.

At the same time, he pointed out that the national societies of other countries, such as the United States, Sweden, Holland, and France, were already at work.

As a result of the above, and in consideration of the fact that the refugees included some thousands of British subjects, the Council of the Society authorized a grant of £10,000 out of its War Fund, a sum which was afterwards increased, and also appealed to the public at the same time, placing the control of the expenditure in the hands of Mr. Algernon Maudslay.

**Red Cross
Action
regarding
Refugees
in Greece.**

With the money raised a relief train was purchased, and loaded with tents, clothing, food, and medicines, while four ambulance coaches were lent by H.R.H. Princess Christian.

A Commissioner, Major-General Sir James Stewart, was appointed to represent the Society, and in the first instance to work in conjunction with the British Minister at Athens. He was accompanied by Major-General Sir Patrick Hehir as medical adviser.

On the recommendation of these gentlemen, the Society took over the administration of certain hospitals and camps in the vicinity of Athens, where cases of typhus, small-pox, and pneumonia were being treated. It also assumed charge of Lady Rumbold's hospital of 200 beds in Western Thrace, and opened a

hospital for 100 beds at Drama, in a district where malaria was always prevalent. Besides maintaining the above hospitals, the Society supplied medical requirements to other centres, where infectious diseases were prevalent, also dispatching numbers of tents.

It soon became evident to the Commissioner that with the funds likely to be available it would be impossible to undertake the feeding of large refugee camps, and that the Society's efforts must be confined to medical relief.

Early in March, 1923, a medical officer arrived from England with three trained nurses and three experienced V.A.D. members. In April the staff was still further augmented from home, while Russian, Swiss, and Greek nurses were locally engaged, and a number of Russian doctors.

The work was as satisfactory as could be expected considering the existing conditions, and it was a matter of regret when the shortage of funds necessitated the closing down of the effort. Arrangements were made for the transfer of the hospitals to the Greek Government, and at the same time valuable gifts of quinine, dressings, and equipment were handed over.

There is no doubt that the assistance given by the British Red Cross Society was of the greatest value, and helped the Greek Government and the refugees to tide over a most difficult period.

The Great War had no sooner ended, than many of the Society's County Branches commenced philanthropic work in a variety of forms, primarily for the

assistance of the ex-Service man and in a lesser degree for the sick poor among the civil population.

Certain counties have performed most valuable service, unostentatiously rendered for several years, and still proving of great value. Reference will now be made to a few, to show the nature of the duties undertaken and the success which crowned their efforts.

Soon after the conclusion of the War, at the request of the Ministry of Pensions, the County of London Branch established out-patient Orthopædic Clinics in various parts of London, for the treatment of ex-soldiers, and also for welfare work among the men and their families. Seven of these Clinics were established in 1919, and proved an immediate success.

**Work of
the County
of London
Branch.**

As regards finance, the Ministry made a capitation grant, and this was largely supplemented by generous aid from the Headquarters of the Society and from the funds of the Branch.

In addition to the above, Tropical Disease Clinics were opened in 1920, in five districts, the Branch providing accommodation, clerical staff, lighting, heating, etc., while the Ministry of Pensions made themselves responsible for the appointment and payment of doctors.

In January, 1925, five Orthopædic Clinics were still open. One of these was the Broad Street Clinic, which, during its six years of active existence, conducted upwards of 350,000 treatments, a work of great magnitude and of the utmost value. It had been opened in December, 1919, in the buildings formerly used by the Endell Street Hospital. A

Surgeon from the Ministry of Health was the Medical Officer in charge.

The Staff consisted of a Commandant (a lady), two fully trained Nurses, one of whom was always on duty, eleven full-time and three part-time Masseuses. In addition, many members of V.A. Detachments gave most useful help. The Clinic was open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. five days a week, and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. A detailed report on every man attending was kept, entailing much clerical labour. It was closed in November, 1925.

At the end of the year 1925 three Clinics still remained open, under the administration of the County of London Branch, and the total number of treatments given since 1919 reached nearly one million and a half.

Work for Civil Hospitals is also carried on, garments are knitted, swabs and bandages are made and distributed. Assistance is given by members to the blind at St. Dunstan's, and collections of books for the British Red Cross and Order of St. John Hospital Library are carried out.

Two Treatment Centres are run on behalf of the London County Council for children attending their elementary schools. Dental and eye troubles, as well as minor ailments, receive attention. The London County Council makes a capitation grant for each child, and also pays the salary of the doctor and nurse attached to the Centre, the Branch being responsible for all other expenses and the administrative arrangements. During the year 1925 nearly 10,000 children received attention.

Since 1922, a Physical Treatment Centre for Civilians has been open in Kensington, where massage and electricity can be had by patients unable to pay the customary fees, and this performs an invaluable service.

Streatham has a Red Cross Medical and Surgical Nursing Home for people of limited means. Westminster supports a Day Nursery which does excellent work in a densely crowded area. Hackney and Poplar continue most useful work in Orthopædic Clinics, now largely used by civilians.

The Branch manages 15 Medical Supply Depôts, where every requisite for the sick-room can be procured on loan at a nominal charge, and supplies First Aid boxes to certain workshops and places of business (required by the Workmen's Compensation Act).

In addition, Camp Dispensaries for Hop-pickers are established in the season, and are greatly valued.

Large numbers of members gave their services at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, rendering aid in cases of accident, and caring for young children, thus performing a work of very wide usefulness, while others attended certain of the large public gatherings in the metropolis.

The Branch is actively engaged in the training and registering of Voluntary Aid Detachments under the War Office Scheme, and has been particularly successful, while the work among Juniors is progressing steadily, and a considerable number of officers and members of Detachments train and examine Girl Guides and Boy Scouts.

**Work of
the Derby-
shire
Branch.**

The Derbyshire Branch places its local organization under officials termed Township Leaders, who are appointed as Red Cross representatives in every village.

There are about 120 local Nursing Associations in the county, and free grants are made to them every six months of all the dressings, etc. which they require. In addition, such supplies as blankets, sheets, and clothing are given to any new organization of a similar character. The Branch makes loans to suitable cases without any charge, of such articles as water and air beds, bath chairs, spinal carriages, etc.

Attention is given to patients leaving hospital, and needing assistance during convalescence, and home treatment is provided whenever recommended.

To assist the Ministry of Health in the campaign against tuberculosis, close touch is kept with the medical officers in charge of that department, and patients are aided in many ways in which the County Council scheme is unable to assist.

Books and magazines are collected, and garments are made and dispatched for the use of patients in local hospitals.

The Emergency Help Scheme organized from the London Headquarters is worked with care and on a large scale, while in much the same way aid in money and in kind is also afforded to specially deserving cases of illness among the civil population.

The British Empire Cancer Campaign is also helped financially, a county collection having been made for that purpose.

Nine motor ambulances are employed in the trans-

port of the sick and injured to hospitals, and are instrumental in much good.

Chief among the peace-time activities of the Surrey Branch are five Curative Posts, which were originally started for ex-Service men. To two of these, namely, those at Kingston and Woking, Orthopædic Clinics, mainly for crippled children, are now attached, and under eminent professional advice are proving of immense benefit.

**Work of
the County
of Surrey
Branch.**

The Surrey County Council gives a grant per case for every child sent for treatment on the authority of the Medical Officer of Health. Massage, electricity, and remedial exercises are employed under trained supervision. The necessary expenses are heavy, and make a constant demand on the funds of the Branch. The officers-in-charge all give their services gratuitously. The magnitude of the work can be judged by the fact that at the Kingston Post alone there were over 20,000 attendances during the year 1925.

The progress of the new scheme for Voluntary Aid Detachments is most satisfactory, and has been taken up warmly throughout the county.

Many local hospitals receive regular support from the Detachments, as well as extra assistance in times of stress.

V.A.D.'s, too, do most useful work in School Clinics, Welfare Centres, Curative Posts, etc.

The Red Cross movement among Juniors is progressing.

Health Lectures on "How to Keep Well" are a

popular feature of the work of the Branch. Emergency help for ex-Service men and their families, the Home Ambulance Service (seven stations) for country districts, and Hospital Libraries are other phases of the peace-time activities of the County of Surrey, and are carried out with characteristic thoroughness.

The future of the Voluntary Aid Detachments has been ever since the termination of the War a subject of concern to the Army Council as well as to the Society.

A Committee was set up by the War Office (containing representatives of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society) "to consider whether and in what respects the existing scheme of the Voluntary Aid Detachment requires modifying in the light of the experience of the War, and the enlarged responsibilities of the Territorial Force," and made a report recommending that the existing regulations should be completely rewritten.

The entire composition of the Territorial Force, as well as its sphere of military activity, was undergoing revision, and it was but natural that decisions as to its voluntary Reserves should have to wait until the details of the new organization had been completed.

When the Territorial Army replaced the Territorial Force, and liability to Foreign Service took the place of Home Defence, it followed that the Voluntary Aid Detachments, as part of the Technical Reserve of the Forces of the Crown, should undertake correspondingly increased responsibilities.

**The
Voluntary
Aid De-
tachments :
their
future
responsi-
bilities.**

The Army Council therefore proposed that Voluntary Aid Detachments should in future be liable to be called upon to assist the Medical Services not only of the Territorial Army, but of the Royal Navy, the Regular Army, and the Royal Air Force.

It set up the Central Joint Voluntary Aid Detachment Council, which was to be com-
 posed as follows :

**The Central
Joint V.A.D.
Council.**

Admiralty	1 representative
War Office	3 representatives
Air Ministry	2 "
Territorial Army Association	6 "
Order of St. John	5 "
British Red Cross Society	5 "
St. Andrew's Ambulance Association	1 representative

(This body bears a remarkable resemblance to the Central British Red Cross Council, which did such excellent service during the South African War.)

The War Office was to provide the Secretary, and the Council was to elect its own Chairman, who need not be one of the above representative members, and was to make its reports to the War Office.

The first meeting was held on February 21st, 1923, the members being received by Lord Derby, the Secretary of State for War.

Sir Humphry Rolleston, the President of the College of Physicians, was chosen as Chairman.

The Council was instructed to prepare a scheme to enable it to carry out its duties, and then within the

limits of this scheme, when approved, it was to have full administrative and executive powers.

The scheme, as issued in December, 1923, differs in many important particulars from that "The new Scheme" originally evolved by the War Office in for V.A.D.'s, 1910. 1923.

Paragraph 17 of the "General Regulations" (July, 1925) marks the difference between the old order and the new. It reads :

" Voluntary Aid Service will be of two kinds :

" *First*, that in which members may be moved from place to place, at home or abroad (Mobile). Mobile members undertake more responsible obligations, and arrangements must be made so that these will be fulfilled on the outbreak of war.

" *Second*, that which may be rendered from the homes of members (Immobile)."

(The instruction on the subject in the scheme of 1910 is as follows : " Although members of Voluntary Aid Detachments undertake no responsibility and are under no obligation to leave their homes or even join their units, if called upon to do so, yet it is believed that in the event of their being requested, volunteers in sufficient numbers to meet all requirements would be forthcoming," para. 32. The membership of the British Red Cross Society at the conclusion of the Great War numbering 90,000, and their employment in every country and in almost every capacity which could serve the sick and wounded, furnish a conclusive proof of the success of the voluntary system.)

The following are some of the most important

features of the new scheme, and are worthy of attention :

“ The Detachments shall be provided locally by the Association, or by the Order or by the Society, or where agreed through Joint County Committees, or other recognized bodies (No. 21).

“ Territorial Army Associations will be responsible for the enrolment and efficiency of Voluntary Aid Detachments * in close co-operation with the Joint County Committees, or the body or bodies which train the personnel in their respective areas ” (No. 12).

“ The County Controller † shall be the Chief Executive Officer for Voluntary Aid Detachments in the area. The County Controller shall be appointed by the Associations in agreement with the body or bodies which provide detachments in that area, and in agreement with the Council ” (No. 15).

“ The duties of the County Controller shall be :

- (a) To organize and maintain local Voluntary Aid Detachments through the body or bodies which provide detachments in the area.
- (b) To be responsible to the Association of the County and to the Council for the efficiency of members of each Voluntary Aid Detachment.
- (c) To arrange for periodical inspection and for preparations for mobilization as indicated by the Military Authorities.

* The title is now confined to those Detachments which have undertaken the Government obligation as to Service.

† The name now employed, instead of “ County Director ” in the original scheme.

(d) To render all returns, as and when due, to the appropriate office ” (No. 17).

“ A Voluntary Aid Detachment may consist either of men or of women ” (No. 20).

“ A Detachment shall consist of at least 2 and not more than 4 sections of 12 members each, but may be registered when it has reached a strength of 16 members ” (No. 28).

“ Members of Men’s Detachments will be divided into two classes :

(a) Mobile.

(b) Immobile ” (No. 30).

“ The mobile members, who shall be between the ages of 19 and 40, must be prepared to undertake service with any portion of His Majesty’s Forces on mobilization, either at home or abroad.

“ The immobile members will undertake service within reach of their own homes, and must not be under the age of 18 ” (No. 31).

“ Women’s Detachments. Members of Women’s Detachments will be divided into two classes :

(a) Mobile.

(b) Immobile ” (No. 39).

“ The mobile members, who shall be between the ages of 21 and 40, must be prepared to undertake service with any portion of His Majesty’s Forces on mobilization, either at home or abroad.

“ The immobile members will undertake service within reach of their own homes, and must not be under the age of 18 ” (No. 40).

“ Voluntary Aid Detachments form part of the Technical Reserve of the Forces of the Crown ” (No. 50).*

The General Regulations convey further information supplementary to what is contained in the articles of the Scheme, for example :

“ Mobile members are expected to serve three years.

“ Mobile men on enrolment must undertake to enlist when called upon to do so into the Medical Services of the Crown in the event of and for the period of the embodiment of the Territorial Army or for such lesser period as their services may be required.”

Instructions as to qualifying certificates for candidates for admission to V.A. Detachments, the status and duties of officers, the Training Manuals recommended, the categories of members required for men's and women's Detachments respectively, the subjects of uniform, of pay on employment, discipline, and training, etc., are issued in General and Training Regulations.

The new Scheme was discussed and approved by the Council of the Society, having been in the first instance submitted to the County Branches.

It was decided to further the organization of Voluntary Aid Detachments, mobile and immobile, as now proposed.

* This paragraph is now worded (1925) : “ Voluntary Aid Detachments form part of the Voluntary Reserve to the Medical Services of the Crown ” (No. 50).

In addition, “in order to foster the work of the British Red Cross Society in its varied activities and to provide an educated personnel for enrolment in the *Voluntary Aid Detachments* now in process of formation under the auspices of the Central Joint V.A.D. Council, the Society has authorized the County Branches to raise and train bodies of men and of women henceforth to be known as *British Red Cross Detachments*.”

“These detachments, while containing members who have undertaken one or other of the official obligations, viz. as mobile or immobile, may also include others either undergoing the courses of preliminary instruction or those who at the moment are unable to assume liability for service under Government.”

In order therefore,

- (a) to provide and replenish the personnel of the Voluntary Aid Detachments undertaking a Government obligation (a Scheme to which the Society is pledged),
- (b) to supply a reserve, if required, in time of emergency, and
- (c) to carry out the varied duties incumbent on a National Red Cross Society,

it has been decided to continue and extend the work now in progress in the County Branches under the auspices of the County Director.

The Society has no desire to set up anything of the nature of rival Detachments. Its first object is to

raise Voluntary Aid Detachments that comply in every way with the official Scheme, and at the same time to utilize the services of those persons who for various reasons are unable to undertake the Government obligation.

By so doing, it hopes to take its full share in the Voluntary Reserve to the Medical Services of the Crown, and to educate and train persons qualified to serve the needs of the Society at home or abroad, in peace or in war.

The history of the Red Cross movement has been a history of advance and progressive development during the past sixty years, and now that its aims have been enlarged and its opportunities multiplied, its influence for good in the future will, it is hoped, surpass the dreams of its founders, and to an increasing degree prove a blessing to the wounded and the sick, wherever found.

**The Red
Cross Idea
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