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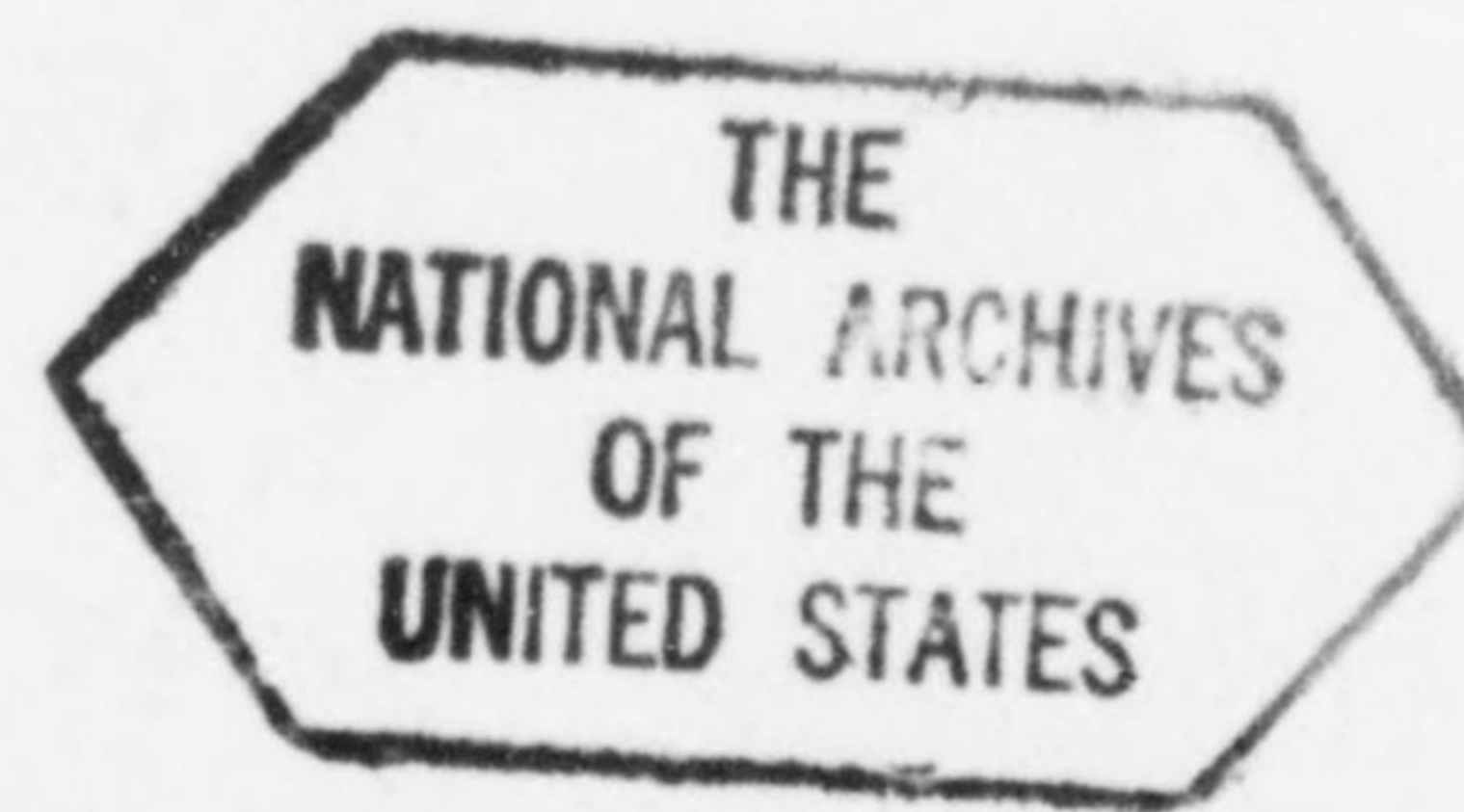
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NATIONAL WELFARE AGENCIES IN JAPAN

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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Note: The purpose of this bulletin is to provide brief information concerning a number of large national welfare agencies which operate in all parts of Japan. No attempt has been made to give a complete history of a full description of their operations. All of these agencies are under private management but they usually have a close relationship to the government. Although they are organized independently of the government with separate executive boards and policies, frequently their personnel work with the national and prefecture welfare departments.

1. Japanese National Red Cross (Nippon Sekijūji Honsha).

a. The Japanese Red Cross originated in a voluntary relief service, the "Society of Benevolence" (Hakuaisha), organized in 1877 to provide care for the sick and wounded and assist the Army Medical Corps in the Southwest provinces uprisings of that year. In 1886 the Government ratified the International Red Cross Convention and in 1887 the Society of Benevolence took the name of the Japanese Red Cross and was recognized by the International Red Cross in Geneva. In 1901, the Japanese Red Cross was incorporated under the Civil Code and implemented as to organization and function by Imperial Ordinance. In 1919, the Japanese Red Cross was one of five national Red Cross Societies sponsoring the founding of the International League of Red Cross Societies. By Imperial Ordinance of 1933, the Japanese Red Cross was placed under the direct influence of the Japanese Army and Navy and during the war was a virtual part of the Army's Sanitary Corps. A revised constitution adopted in December, 1947 divorces the Society from government control and provides a democratic basis on which the Society is reorganizing its services in accordance with recognized International Red Cross principles.

b. MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the Society is on an individual basis. There are approximately 10,162,891 adult members. Junior membership numbers approximately 1,925,736 children in 5,229 schools.

c. Program: The Society carries out a National and International program of health and welfare services characteristic of Red Cross Societies adhering to International Red Cross principles. At present the Society operates 41 General Hospitals, 4 maternal hospitals, 11 tuberculosis sanatoria and 34 clinics and dispensaries providing both in and out-patient care. Medical and hospital services are on a reduced fee basis with some free services being given. The Society operates 32 schools of nursing in which at present approximately 25% of all nurses-in-training in Japan are enrolled. Programs of public health and school nursing, health education

and special health programs are developed in cooperation with responsible public health authorities. An expanded program of Red Cross disaster services is being developed including the coordination of all voluntary private welfare and relief agencies participating in disaster relief operations as set forth in the new National Disaster Law. Other Red Cross programs being developed or expanded include Home Nursing, First Aid, Accident Prevention, Water Safety, and Volunteer Services. Great importance is placed on the early reorganization of its Junior Red Cross, an in-school program to be geared into the new school curricula. The Society maintains in Tokyo the largest and most complete Public Health Museum in Japan.

d. Prefectural Organization: The Society is organized with chapters and branches in each prefecture. At this time the Governors of the prefectures are presidents of the prefectural chapters and the mayors and village chiefs are presidents of the branches.

e. Library and Publications: The Society maintains a small library of professional literature in Tokyo accessible to the public. It currently publishes pamphlets on health subjects and a monthly magazine, "Hakui".

f. National Headquarters: 5 Shiba Park, Tokyo.

2. National Relief Association: (Onshi Zeidan Doho Engo Kai)

Note: Doho Engo Kai is translated in several ways. Doho or Dobo means brethren, fellow-countrymen or compatriots; Engo - relief, aid or assistance; Kai - association or society. Confusion sometimes occurs when different translations are made such as Compatriots Relief Society or Fellow-Countrymen's Aid Association. National Relief Association is not a literal translation but is used by the national office of the association as the English name.

a. The National Relief Association was established in March 1946 as a result of the reorganization and expansion of the former War Sufferers Relief Association (Sensai Engo Kai). The War Sufferers Association had been created during the war to assist persons in need as a result of the war bombings. There was previously in existence a Veterans Relief Association (Gunjin Engo Kai - also translated as Soldiers Assistance Society) which was dissolved in January 1946. When Doho Engo Kai was founded the assets of the Veterans Association were transferred to the new association. Although the facilities of the Veterans Association were taken over, the special programs for Veterans and families of deceased soldiers had been discontinued. The Veterans Relief Association in 1939 had absorbed the Greater Japan Servicemen's Relief Society (Dai-Nippon Gunjin Engo Kai).

b. Membership: Persons who make donations to the Association become members.

c. Prefecture Organization: In each prefecture there is a local organization of the National Relief Association. Usually the prefecture governor is the honorary president and other public officials are officers. Some prefecture branches have been reorganized and persons other than government officials have been selected as officers. Employees of the Association

are usually assigned to work with the prefecture department of public welfare.

d. Program: The Association's activities are devoted primarily to aid repatriates and other persons who are in need as a result of the war. About 300 lodging facilities or "mass Homes" are maintained, housing about 66,000 persons. Frequently former Japanese army barracks have been utilized for these repatriate and war sufferers housing projects. A total of 347 work shops assisting about 16,000 persons are operated by the association. Other facilities are: day nurseries, baby homes, consultation offices, information bureaus, homes for mothers and children, clinics, homes for the aged and vocational guidance institutions. The association also operates institutions and facilities which are owned by the prefectural governments, cities and towns. The total number of facilities operated or supported by the association is approximately 1,600. It is estimated that about twenty-five percent (25%) of the persons aided by the association receive benefits under the Daily Life Security Law.

e. Library and publications: None

f. National headquarters: Japan Industrial Club (Nihon Kogyo Kurabu). 1 - Chome Marunouchi Chyoda-Ky, Tokyo.

3. Mutual Assistance Association for Disabled (Kyojo Kai)

a. The Mutual Assistance Association for disabled (Kyojo Kai) was organized on 27 March 1946. The Japan Association for Disabled Veterans (Dai-Nippon Shoi Gunjin Kai) had been dissolved on 20 February 1946 and the assets of the dissolved society were donated to Kyojo Kai. The program of the Disabled Veterans Association had been limited to aiding former soldiers but the new organization "aims to give relief to disabled persons in general who are needy, without discrimination or preferential treatment as to cause of disability".

b. Membership: All disabled persons in Japan are eligible for membership in the association. Most of the members, however, are disabled war veterans with only a small percentage of other disabled persons.

c. Prefectural organization: There is a branch of the association in each prefecture and an employee of the association is frequently assigned to work as a member of the staff of the prefecture department of welfare. Most of the work of the association is carried out by the prefectural branches rather than by the national office.

d. Program: The activities of the association for the aid of disabled persons includes vocational guidance and training, maintenance of work shops, manufacture and repair of artificial appliances, and assistance for needy disabled persons. Over one hundred work shops and vocational centers are operated by the association. A hotel service with a capacity of twenty (20) persons is maintained by the national office. The association expends about 1,500,000 yen annually for the manufacture and repair of artificial appliances.

- e. Library and publications: None
- f. National headquarters: Kawada-Cho Ichigaya Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo.

4. All Japan Minsei-iin Federation (Zen-Nihon Minsei-iin Renmei)

a. The Minsei-iin Federation is a national organization of all Minsei-iin in Japan, coordinating the work of individual members, exchanging of ideas, and stimulating interest in social welfare work.

b. Membership: Approximately 130,000 Minsei-iin.

c. Prefecture organization: There is a federation of Minsei-iin in each prefecture of Japan usually known as the _____ ken Minsei-iin Renmei. The office is usually located in the prefecture building (Kencho).

d. Program: The national federation by means of publications, meetings and conferences provides Minsei-iin and the general public with information concerning welfare programs in Japan. (Reference: TB-PH-WEL 7, November 1947).

e. Library and publications: The national federation publishes the Welfare Times Report (Minsei Jiho) which is sent to each Minsei-iin. Each Minsei-iin is also provided with a handbook (Minsei-iin Techo) which usually contains national welfare laws. Some of the prefecture federations also issue a local magazine or newspaper for the Minsei-iin within the prefecture.

f. National headquarters: Salvation Army Building, 17, 2 Chome, Jimbo-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.

5. Japan Social Work Association. (Nippon Shakai Jigyo Kyokai)

a. The Japan Social Work Association was organized in 1908 and was known prior to 1947 as the Central Social Work Association (Chuo Shakai Jigyo Kyokai). It assumed an important place in social welfare in Japan under the provisions of the Social Work Law of 1938 which provided government subsidies to approved welfare agencies.

b. Membership: About five thousand (5,000) welfare agencies and institutions in Japan are members of the association and pay annual fees. Six of the largest welfare agencies are affiliated: Japan Red Cross Society; Saiseikai; National Relief Association (Doho Engo Kai); Minsei-iin Federation; Blind Persons Welfare Association; and the Mothers and Children Welfare Society.

c. Program: The association is the most important organization which attempts to coordinate the work of all other existing welfare agencies, both national and local. Activities include research and investigation, publication of books and magazines on welfare subjects, welfare training and education programs, and sponsorship of prefecture and national social work conferences. (Reference: TB-PH-WEL 2, August 1947)

d. Prefecture organization: In each of the prefectures of Japan there is a local association usually known as the _____ ken Shakai Jigyo Kyokai.

e. Library and publications: The association maintains a large library at their headquarters in Tokyo which contains social work publications in Japanese, English and other languages. The association also publishes a monthly magazine called Social Work (Shakai Jigyo).

f. National Headquarters: 1 Sannen-cho, Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.

6. Saiseikai, an Imperial Gift Foundation (Onshi Zeidan Saiseikai).

Note: Saiseikai, being a proper name, is usually not translated.

a. Saiseikai was founded on 30 May 1911 with an Imperial grant from Emperor Meiji and contributions from the general public for the purpose of providing free medical care for needy persons. It is the largest national medical relief organization in Japan. In 1924 the program of the foundation was expanded somewhat and low-cost medical care was made available to persons with limited incomes. At the present time free medical care is provided for the indigent and for a nominal fee to persons with small incomes.

b. Membership: Anyone who donates any amount to the foundation automatically becomes a member. At the present time about 120,000 persons are members.

c. Program: The foundation operates a general hospital, a maternity hospital and a nursery in Tokyo under the direct management of the National headquarters. This hospital has a staff of visiting nurses, visiting doctors and a social service department. Throughout Japan the foundation maintains thirty-four (34) general hospitals, two maternity hospitals and fifty-nine (59) clinics which are under the control of the prefecture associations.

d. Prefecture organization: There is a local Saiseikai in each prefecture. Frequently an employee of the foundation works as a member of the staff of the prefecture department of welfare. At the present time there is an organization in each of the prefectures of Japan.

e. Publications: A monthly magazine called Saisei was previously published. At present, due to the shortage of paper, it is possible to publish only a small monthly paper which provides some information about the activities of Saiseikai and new laws and other developments in the field of medical care.

f. National headquarters: 1 Akabane-cho, Shiba, Minato-ku, Tokyo.

7. Mothers and Children Welfare Society. (Onshi Zeidan Boshi Ai-iku Kai)

a. Ai-iku Kai, an Imperial Gift Foundation, now called Boshi Ai-iku Kai, was founded on 13 March 1934 when the present Emperor made a grant of

funds to commemorate the birth of the Crown Prince. The purpose of the foundation is to promote the welfare of children and mothers in Japan. On the birthday of the Crown Prince in 1942, Ai-iku Kai, the Japan Society for the Protection of Mothers (Nihon Bosei Hogo Kai) and the Japan Patriotic Society for Promotion of Children's Health (Nihon Shoni Kenko Hokoku Kai) were combined to form the present organization (Onshi Zaiden Boshi Ai-iku Kai).

b. Membership: A total of 1139 villages, especially selected by the prefecture associations and called Ai-iku villages (mura), are members of the national association. No membership fees are collected.

c. Program: The main functions of the association are research, providing information to the public concerning the welfare of mothers and children and coordination of the work of the prefecture societies. In the national headquarters of the association in Tokyo there is a research institution and a bureau of general affairs. In order to carry out the necessary research work the institute is equipped with a pediatric hospital, a pediatric out-patient department, a nursery and kindergarten and a health consultation clinic. The bureau of general affairs of the national office is responsible for the public information program, coordination of the activities of the prefecture associations and the organization of a group of pediatricians and obstetricians to make special studies concerning maternal and child health programs. In cooperation with the association a maternal and child health research program is being carried out by six of the medical colleges with higher standards.

d. Prefecture organization: There is a local society in each prefecture in Japan, which is usually affiliated with the public health section of the prefecture government. Each prefecture association selects two villages to conduct specific studies about the problems of mothers and children. The villages with poor medical facilities, or with no facilities or with high infant mortality rates are given special attention by the local societies. In these villages the society assumes responsibility for educating the women concerning maternity hygiene and child care. These are called Ai-iku villages.

e. Publications: A magazine called Ai-iku is published monthly and sent to each village which is a member of the association.

f. National headquarters: 5-1 Chome Morioka-Cho, Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo.

8. Salvation Army (Kyusei Gun)

a. The Salvation Army was introduced in Japan and commenced evangelical and welfare work in 1895. The main activity in the field of welfare has been programs to rehabilitate prostitutes and to eliminate licensed prostitution. The first "rescue home" in Japan for prostitutes was established by the Salvation Army. It has exerted a considerable influence in bringing about the abolition of licensed prostitution.

b. Membership: There is no separate membership for the welfare program of the Salvation Army.

c. Program: Although the welfare activities of the Salvation Army

are centered in Tokyo, a few institutions are located in other sections of the country. The national headquarters supervises and controls these activities. The following institutions are maintained by the national headquarters: children's home - 1; homes for working men and repatriates - 3; day nursery - 1; homes for street girls - 3; homes for girls committed by the Juvenile court - 1; home for boys committed by Juvenile court - 1; sanatoria - 2. A considerable number of institutions including two general hospitals were destroyed during the war.

d. Prefecture associations: There are no local organizations of the Salvation Army for welfare purposes other than the institutions. At present there are three institutions in Osaka, one in Kure and one in Yokohama.

e. Publications: A monthly paper, "War Cry" (Tokino Koe) is published by the Army.

f. National Headquarters: 17, 2 Chome, Jimbo Cho, Kanda, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo.

9. Central Blind Persons Welfare Association (Chuo Mojin Fukushi Kyokai)

a. As the result of the request from the people interested in the welfare of blind persons in Japan the Central Blind Persons Welfare Association was established. The association aims to coordinate and promote the welfare programs intended to prevent blindness; improve the condition of the blind; and to conduct research and investigation concerning the blind. It is estimated that there are now about 70,000 blind persons in Japan.

b. Membership: There are seven honorary members, 27 special members and 193 patron members, and 48 regular members. Honorary members are those who have done outstanding work for the association. Special members are those who have made special donations. Patron members are chiefly eye doctors who pay the annual membership fees. Regular members are the blind schools and institutions in every prefecture of Japan.

c. Program: The activities of the association include programs for the prevention of blindness, welfare work for the blind, coordination of programs for the blind, research and education concerning blindness and the blind. The first national conference concerning prevention of blindness and welfare work for the blind was sponsored by the association in July 1931. A National Eye Protection Day was established and observed on 18 September 1838 to emphasize activities concerned with the preservation of eye sight and prevention of blindness. The first study of blind persons in Japan was undertaken in 1931. A committee was selected to define a "blind person" and statistics concerning blind persons were secured by the Home Ministry upon the request of the association.

The association has been urging the enactment of a law for the protection of the blind persons, establishment of compulsory education for blind children, study of children with poor eye sight and development of sight saving classes, and research concerning welfare services needed for blind persons. The association has established the Tokyo Blind Persons Hall (Tokyo Mojin Kaiken) in commemoration of Miss Helen Keller's visit to Japan in July 1939.

The association has been issuing talking-book machines and records since 1938.

d. Prefecture association: There is an association in each prefecture known as the Blind Persons Association (Mojin Fukushi Kyokai).

e. Library and publications: The association does not maintain a library but a library is a part of the Tokyo Blind Persons Hall in Tokyo. A directory of Welfare Work for Blind Persons in Japan is published annually. The Central Blind Persons Welfare Association Magazine is published monthly. The publication of a braille magazine was discontinued during the war. There are available publications, books and pamphlets, about welfare work for blind persons.

f. National Headquarters: 170, 4 Chome Nishi, Okubo, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo.

10. Keifuku Foundation (Onshi Zeidan Keifuku Kai)

a. The Keifuku Foundation was created on 11 February 1924 when an Imperial grant was made in commemoration of the wedding of the present Emperor. Subsequently additional funds were donated by the general public. The association provides financial assistance to various private social work agencies, but does not carry on any welfare programs of its own. At present the funds of the association amount to a little over 3,200,000 yen.

b. Program: From the time of its establishment until the end of May 1947, a period of 25 years, the association has granted about 4,750,000 yen to assist 6,690 private social work agencies. At the present time private social welfare agencies are confronted with financial difficulties, since contributions from the general public are difficult to obtain, government subsidies are no longer possible and operational expenses are increasing. The association, therefore, intends to increase the grants to private agencies by securing funds in various ways. Plans are being made to sponsor benefit performances and to use the profits for the grants made by the association. The association also provides pensions for social workers in private welfare agencies who are over sixty years of age, have been engaged in social work for more than thirty years and have done outstanding work.

c. The Foundation has no members, maintains no prefecture societies and does not issue any publications.

d. Address: Ministry of Welfare, 1-2 Chome, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo.

11. Mitsui Foundation (Mitsui Ho-on Kai)

a. The Mitsui Foundation was established in March 1934 by the Mitsui Gomei Kaisha with a grant of thirty million yen. At that time most of the towns and villages in Japan were suffering from the economic depression and the foundation was created to meet some of the current problems.

b. Program: The object of the Foundation is to give financial aid to or participate in such undertakings as may contribute to the promotion of

social welfare as well as the cultural advancement of Japan. Programs of the Foundation are of three types: (1) aid and operation of social work activities; (2) assistance of useful scientific research and experiments which will contribute to the advancement of agriculture, manufacturing and other industries; (3) research and studies. From 1934 to 1947 the Foundation expended a total of twenty-one million yen for social welfare and cultural projects with about sixty percent of the total going to social welfare activities. The Foundation has been particularly interested in aiding social welfare projects concerned with tuberculosis and leprosy. Funds have also been granted to: (1) aid in the establishment of clinics, (2) purchase of radium to treat cancer, (3) child welfare programs, and (4) aid to welfare institutions.