

Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission.

Individual and desultory labor accomplishes but little, compared with that which is systematized and concentrated. One earnest woman, whose heart responds to the appeals made in behalf of our sick and wounded Soldiers, can do more for them by enlisting the active sympathy and co-operation of her friends and neighbors than by days and nights of unassisted toil.

Let her call together three or four of the most patriotic and energetic women of the village, and consult with them as to the feasibility of forming a SOLDIER'S AID SOCIETY. Let them determine upon a day and place for a public meeting, to which all the women and young girls of the neighborhood shall be invited. The Pastors of every church should be requested to give this invitation from their pulpits on the ensuing Sunday, a short notice should be put up at the Post-Office, and, if possible, inserted in the county paper.

It may be well to ask a gentleman, conversant with the ordinary rules of conducting meetings, to preside on this occasion. His advice in regard to the forms by which the Officers of the Society should be elected, order of business, &c., will be valuable to those who are unaccustomed to it. This formality, which may appear unnecessary to some, is, in reality, important to any efficient action on the part of a Society. Every Soldier's Aid Society, however small, should have its regular "order of business," and go through with it at every meeting.

The following is suggested as a

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION FOR COUNTRY SOCIETIES.

The name of this Society shall be the SOLDIER'S AID SOCIETY OF.....

Its object is to provide supplies for the aid and comfort of the sick and wounded Soldiers of the United States Army.

Its officers shall consist of a

- President,
- Five Vice-Presidents,
- Secretary and Treasurer (the same person),
- Committee on Cutting (five members),
- Committee on Packing (five members).

There shall be an annual election for Officers. All vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled by the *President*.

The *President* shall preside at the meetings and have the general interests of the Society in charge. She shall purchase all materials, and at every monthly meeting, after consultations with the Vice-Presidents and the Treasurer, present a plan of work for the ensuing month.

The *Vice-Presidents* shall (one of them) preside in the absence of the President. They, in connection with the President and Secretary, shall devise ways and means for improving and increasing the usefulness and efficiency of the Society. At the meetings the Vice-Presidents shall distribute the work, have the general supervision of it, and collect it again. It shall be the duty of the Vice-Presidents to canvass the village and neighborhood for the purpose of obtaining as many members as possible. A division into districts will facilitate the work. They should explain the object of the Society and endeavor to enlist the sympathies of all in its behalf. The names and Post-Office address of all members are to be recorded in a book kept for that purpose by the Secretary. No membership fee shall be required.

The *Secretary and Treasurer* shall keep all the books of the Society, conduct the correspondence with that Branch of the Sanitary Commission to which the Supplies may be sent, and attend to any other writing which may be necessary, such as serving notices, etc. She shall write to the Commission for any information which may be desired by any one member of the Society. She shall give a receipt, keep an account, and be responsible for all moneys received by her; shall pay all bills marked "correct," and signed by the President or any one of the Vice-Presidents; make a statement, at every monthly meeting, of the condition of the Treasury, and, at the end of every three months, present a Quarterly Report, giving in detail the amount of work accomplished and where sent, money received and expended, number of members, average attendance, and any other information which may be desirable and interesting. At every meeting the Secretary shall record the names of those members present.

The *Cutting Committee* shall cut out all material according to approved patterns, and shall have a sufficient quantity of work prepared for every meeting.

The *Packing Committee* shall elect its own Chairman, who is to make a detailed and accurate list of the contents of each box while it is being packed. The list should have the name of the Society written upon it, with the name and Post-Office address of the Secretary, and should be placed just under the cover of the box or barrel. A duplicate of this invoice must be sent without delay to the Secretary, who will notify the Sanitary Commission, by letter, of every consignment, inclosing a list of the contents of each package. Every box or package should be clearly directed and marked on the outside with the name of the town or village from which it is sent. Directions in regard to packing may be found in the Circulars of all the Branches of the Sanitary Commission. (When sending to New York, the freight charges will be paid upon delivery at No. 10 Cooper Union.)

Meetings shall be held once a fortnight or once a week, at the option of the Society. It is better, when practicable, to have them held in some regular place of assembling—the Town Hall, Court-House, Public School-House, the Vestry of a Church, &c.

MEETINGS.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- I. After the work has been distributed, the President shall call the meeting to order, and open it by calling the roll of all the members of the Society, made out alphabetically—those present answering to their names.
- II. The President shall read the names of those members present at the previous meeting.
- III. Report of Secretary and Treasurer.
- IV. Report of Cutting Committee (number of garments cut).
- V. Report of Packing Committee.
- VI. The President, or any member deputed by her, shall read any letters or printed matter lately received from the Sanitary Commission.
- VII. At monthly meetings the President shall present a plan of work for the ensuing month.
- VIII. Miscellaneous Business.

HOW IS THE TREASURY TO BE SUPPLIED?

The following plan for supplying the Treasury of Village Societies has been in successful operation for the past two years, in parts of the State of New York and elsewhere:

It depends for its efficiency upon the zeal and activity of the *young people*, who form themselves into an association having for its object the *collection of funds*. We want the little girls, and older ones, too, who so often ask us, "if there is anything *they* can do for the Soldiers," to feel that we are now answering their question and speaking directly to them.

As the "Alert Club," composed of the little girls and young people of Norwalk, Ohio, has been one of the most active and successful of these associations—collecting \$560.12 in seven months from a little village of only about two thousand inhabitants, and no really wealthy men among them—it is proposed that their name should be adopted for all similar organizations.

The following plan is taken almost entirely from a newspaper article, published by the Soldier's Aid Society of Northern Ohio, Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.



ALERT CLUB.

The object of the Alert Club is to furnish the Soldier's Aid Society with funds to carry on its operations, and all moneys collected for this purpose are to be unconditionally paid into the Treasury of the Parent Society.

The Club should have a President, Secretary, two Treasurers and forty Collectors.

The Club appoints its own Collectors, who hold their office for one year, unless re-elected. There is also an annual election for President, Secretary, and Treasurers. The President shall fill all vacancies which may occur during the year.

The President shall preside at the meetings, call the roll of the Members—those present answering to their names—and shall read aloud the names of those members present at the previous meeting. She shall also read any letters or printed matter which may have been received from the Secretary of the Parent Society.

The Secretary of the Club shall record the names and address of all members, and at every meeting register the names of those present. The Secretary shall make an Annual Report to the President of the Soldier's Aid Society at the annual meeting of the Society.

The President is to divide the village and neighborhood into ten districts. Four Collectors are then appointed for each district—two for the "ladies' monthly" and two for the "gentlemen's monthly." They are to obtain subscriptions of twenty cents per month among the ladies, and from the gentlemen a monthly subscription of as much as each subscriber is willing to place against his name. The collectors are to call at every house in their respective districts. Every two Collectors will be furnished with a little book, in which the names of their Subscribers and the sums collected will be entered. The President of the Club will receive books and pencils for this purpose from the Treasurer of the Soldier's Aid Society, who will gladly give the Club any assistance it may need, and whose interest, aid, and encouragement may always be relied upon.

The Collectors are to go with their books to every Subscriber immediately after the first Monday of every month, and on the following Saturday render the accounts to the Treasurers of the Club, who shall examine them, record the result in each case in a book kept for that purpose, and pay over the sums collected to the Treasurer of the Parent Society,—not later than the following Monday.

The Alert Club shall hold its monthly meetings on those Saturdays when the Collectors make their returns. If desired, meetings may be held every fortnight. At their meetings they may make slippers, piece quilts and quilt them, and perform such other services as their Officers or the Parent Society may suggest. But the main object of the Association being *the collection of funds*, they are not expected to burthen themselves by other labor.

When clubs have been particularly "on the alert," they have interested themselves in getting up entertainments, concerts, tableaux, strawberry parties, etc., beside the monthly subscriptions, and have materially increased the funds of the Society in this way.

Women's Pennsylvania Branch, 1307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

Reports having been persistently circulated that Dr. Bellows received a large salary for his unwaried services in behalf of the United States Sanitary Commission, we at length submitted to Dr. Bellows a letter received at this office, containing information of such a rumor and its source, with the request that he would prepare something for publication in reply.

We do not avail ourselves without hesitation, of the permission given to us by him, to make use in any way that we please, of the following statement, for we well know "the humiliation it is to be obliged to descend to such explanations:" but we feel that justice to the United States Sanitary Commission, as well as to Dr. Bellows, requires that the truth be made known.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The Board, consisting of twenty-one persons, constituting the United States Sanitary Commission, is an entirely unsalaried body; the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Standing Committee, receiving not a penny for their services,—which are daily services, occupying for nearly three years past the largest portion of their mental and physical strength.

As enemies of the Commission—may God forgive them!—have industriously circulated the false report that the President received a large salary, it has become necessary for him to make this formal and absolute denial of the statement. He trusts that it will not be deemed obtrusive, nor as an appeal for praise or sympathy, since he has always found his labors in the Sanitary Commission overpaid by his work of love, and needing no return of silver or of gold, or even of public recognition. It is simply in deference to the earnest request of friends devoted to the interests of the Commission, that he allows himself to say aught upon so low a plane in connection with the exalted subject of mercy to our sick and wounded soldiers.

HENRY W. BELLOWS,
President of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION AND THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

We have taken from the outset all possible pains to prevent any misapprehension as to the relations existing between ourselves and the Christian Commission. What these relations are and ought to be, is clearly pointed out in the following letter of instructions to our Inspectors, issued December, 1862.

Central Office, Sanitary Commission, Washington, December 16th, 1862.

To Each Inspector of the Sanitary Commission:

The Christian Commission is a body designed to supplement and assist the chaplain service of the Army and Navy, as the Sanitary Commission does the medical service. Its accredited agents in the field are termed "Delegates of the Christian Commission;" they distribute books and tracts, and also give spiritual counsel verbally. The Secretary of the Christian Commission has expressed the wish that their attention should not be distracted from this, their ordinary duty, by undertaking personally the distribution of supplies. It is not considered best that they should attempt to perform their ordinary duty, however, during the tumult resulting from battles, and it is desired that they should be employed in giving such assistance as they can in the measures taken for the saving of life and mitigation of the suffering of the wounded on these occasions. It is proposed that they should, for this purpose, act at such times under the advice of the Medical Officers of the Commission.

You are therefore instructed, whenever the delegates of the Christian Commission offer to give you their aid for battle-field relief operations, or in other emergencies, to accept it gratefully; and, for the time being, you will deal with them, as far as possible, in the same manner as you would if each individual had been sent to you for special battle-field duty by officers of the Commission.

You are also instructed at all times to give special attention to the representations of the accredited agents of the Christian Commission with regard to the wants of the hospitals, and will meet those wants to the extent of the means at your control as far as possible, consistently with a just prospective regard for the wants of others.

FRED. LAW OLMSTEAD,
General Secretary.

We know of nothing calculated to create an impression that the course here traced out has since been departed from by our agents; nor do we know of anything that ought to lead any body to suppose that two such organizations cannot work usefully side by side; more usefully, in fact, side by side than singly or apart. It is not always necessary, however, that false impressions should have foundation in fact in order to obtain currency. We heard the other day that the salaries paid to the agents of the Sanitary Commission in California, alone amounted to \$40,000 annually; the fact being that we have never had an agent in California, and consequently no salaries have ever been drawn, though we have received immense donations from that State with little or no solicitation. Reports equally baseless are frequently put in circulation as to a conflict of interests and of aims between us and the Christian Commission, and we shall probably be compelled to recur to the subject occasionally for the purpose of correcting them.

The following letter shows the nature of the feeling existing between the two bodies in the West:

U. S. Christian Commission, Branch Office, Nashville, July 23, 1863.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

Secretary Western Department U. S. Sanitary Commission, Louisville:

MY DEAR SIR—I desire, on behalf of the Christian Commission, to render grateful acknowledgment for the uniform, generous and cordial co-operation of yourself and the agents of your Commission in our work of bringing spiritual comforts and blessings to the soldiers. But for your assistance at the first, and its continuance all along, our work would have been greatly impeded in the Army of the Cumberland.

Also in my recent trip to Vicksburg, in the service of the Christian Commission, I was at all points kindly received and materially aided by the Sanitary Commission. My own feelings—that the work of both Commissions, though wrought in different departments, should be entirely co-operative—were fully reciprocated by your agents at Cairo, Memphis, and on the barge on Yazoo River.

My observations of your work on that barge were very pleasant. I saw stores dispensed to needy applicants most freely, and in surprising quantity and variety; and when I got back to the Bluffs, where the sick and wounded were coming into the division hospitals, I found bedding with your mark, dried and canned fruit, and lemons and chickens, which could have been furnished from no other source. I knew that without the timely help of the Sanitary Commission, there would have been destitution, and consequent suffering in many of those hospitals.

I want to bear testimony to the noble Christian philanthropy of the men in charge of your Commission in that department. I

am persuaded they could not do that work from unworthy motives. Money could not procure such services as you are receiving, for instance, from Dr. Warriner at Vicksburg.

Every week's experience in my army work, bringing me among the camps and through the hospitals, and giving an opportunity, which I always improve, to look in at the different quarters of your Commission, leads me to a continually higher estimate of the work you have on hand. *I am satisfied that your system of distributing hospital supplies is the correct one. Such large contributions as the people are making cannot be handed over to the army on any volunteer system, unless it be for a few days amid the emergencies of a severe battle.* A business involving such expenditure would be entrusted by a business man only to permanent and responsible agents.

That among all your employees there should be no unworthy man, is more than a reasonable mind can ask. The Christian Commission and the Christian Church would go down under that test.

Let me close this letter of thanks, my dear brother, with my daily prayer—a prayer which I learned in your Soldiers' Home in Louisville, and have often repeated since in the Soldiers' Rest at Memphis, on the barge in Yazoo River, in the division hospitals under the guns of Vicksburg, in the Nashville Home and Store-room, and in the camps and hospitals at Murfreesboro'; a prayer fresh on my lips, as I have just come from seeing wounded and typhoid patients at Tullahoma and Winchester lifted from rough blankets and undressed from the soiled clothes of march and battle, and laid in your clean sheets and shirts, upon your comfortable quilts and pillows—a prayer in which every Christian heart in the land will yet join—God bless the Sanitary Commission.

Most cordially yours,

EDW. P. SMITH,
Field Agent, U. S. Christian Commission.

SUPPLIES WANTED FOR THE HOSPITALS.

Woolen Shirts and Drawers of ordinary make and size.
Dressing-gowns of double calico.
Carpet Slippers, with stiff soles.
Woolen Socks.
Bed Sacking, of ticking or burlap, 7 feet long and 3 feet wide; slit $\frac{1}{2}$ yard long in the middle, with strings.
Sheets, 4 feet wide and 8 feet long.
Blankets and Quilts.
Towels and handkerchiefs.
India-rubber Cloth.
Oiled Silk.
Second-hand Coats, Pantaloons, Boots and Shoes.
Needle-books.

EDIBLES.

Arrowroot; Farina; Sago; Tapioca; Corn Starch; Tea; Coffee; Cocoa; Sugar; Oatmeal; Crackers; Whiskey; Brandy; White Wine—for wine whey, etc.; Pure Lemon Syrup; Condensed Milk; Pickles; Jellies; Dried Fruit of all kinds.

Boxes should be directed—

WOMEN'S PENNA. BRANCH,

1307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia,

From Aid Society.

Send two copies of invoice—one enclosed in the box, and the other by *Mail*.

Wines, syrups, etc., should be packed in separate small boxes, which may be put within large cases of clothing, if more convenient and economical. Bottles should have the cork tied or sealed over. They should be packed in sawdust as firmly as possible. When packed with clothing they are often broken and upset. *Every* bottle should be labelled.

The freight charges upon all hospital supplies will be paid upon delivery. The Pennsylvania, Reading, Camden & Amboy Railroads carry supplies marked U. S. Sanitary Commission, free of charge.

MATERIALS.

Country societies desiring to purchase any specified material *by the piece* can be supplied at the cheapest market prices by forwarding the money in advance, directed to Miss E. Hawley, Treasurer, 1307 Chestnut St., Philadelphia. Express charges must be paid by the parties for whom the goods are purchased.

For information concerning soldiers' pensions or back pay, address M. W. Nashman.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Mrs. M. B. GRIER, *Chairman.*

Mrs. B. H. MOORE, *Cor. Sec.*

Mrs. GEORGE PLITT, *Rec. Sec.*

Mrs. PHOEBE M. CLAPP, *Ass't Sec.*

} Ex-Officio.

Mrs. W. H. FURNESS.

Mrs. LATHROP.

Miss M. M. DUANE.