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REPORT
OF
THE RED CROSS
COMMISSION TO
FRANCE

JULY-DECEMBER
1918



THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
National Headquarters
Washington, D. C.

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REPORT
of the
RED CROSS COMMISSION TO FRANCE

July-December, 1918, inclusive

During the period covered by this report the organization and activities of the American Red Cross in France took on an entirely new aspect. Red Cross affairs were administered by Col. Harvey D. Gibson, who became Commissioner in July, succeeding Major James H. Perkins.

Arriving in France at a time of tremendous stress, with a small personnel hastily gathered together and hastily augmented as time went on; with little transportation; with no established system of warehousing and supply; and operating under the difficulties encountered in a country of which the only business was war, the factor that had controlled the operations of the American Red Cross Commission was expediency. There were definite things that must be done, must be accomplished. The main thing was the accomplishment. The method was relatively unimportant. The effort was, of course, to accomplish these things efficiently, economically and in an orderly way, and to a very great extent this aim was achieved.

When Colonel Gibson arrived in France late in June, 1918, the organization had grown from eighteen men, who composed the entire working force a

year before, to an organization of several thousand men and women, with millions of dollars' worth of supplies to be handled and some twenty odd separate activities to administer. The American Army was here. The time had come for the Red Cross to exert itself to the utmost in service to the American troops, whereas up to this time the emphasis had properly and necessarily been upon service to the French soldier and French civilian, giving at the same time such aid and comfort as our relatively small Army, not yet in active service at the front, required.

Colonel Gibson's term as Commissioner began at the time when it had become known that the rate at which American soldiers were coming to France was vastly greater than anyone had believed possible. Furthermore, these soldiers, arriving by hundreds of thousands monthly, were immediately to be thrown into the fighting—as indeed they were.

This made it imperative to reorganize the Red Cross so as to meet a new situation. There were 2,000,000 men to be served—not half a million.

Up to this time Paris had not only been Red Cross headquarters; it was practically the only source of supply and direction. Colonel Gibson's energies were first directed toward changing this condition.

Ignoring the possibility that certain things might be done immediately with greater speed under the old plan, he bent every energy toward the setting up of a decentralized system consisting of nine zones of which the headquarters were Paris, Boulogne, Brest, St. Nazaire, Bordeaux, Marseilles, Lyons, Tours and

Neufchateau. The managers of these zones instead of being dependent upon Paris for everything had supreme power within their territories, controlled, of course, by the policies laid down in Paris, to which they must apply for personnel and where supplies were allocated; there was no longer the concentration at Paris either of direction or supplies.

The following departments were organized with the bureaus as stated under each department head: *Department of Requirements*, including the Bureaus of Supplies, Transportation, Manufactures, Personnel, Permits and Passes, and Construction; *Medical and Surgical Department*, including the Bureaus of Hospital Administration, Tuberculosis and Public Health, Children's Bureau, Reconstruction and Reëducation, and Nurses; *Medical Research and Intelligence Department*, including the Bureaus of Research, Medical Information, Library, and Publication; *Department of Army and Navy Service*, including the Bureaus of Canteens, Home and Hospital Service, Outpost Service, and Army Field Service; *Department of French Hospitals*, including the Bureau of Requisitions and Supply and Bureau of Visiting; *Department of General Relief*, including the Bureaus of Refugees, Soldiers' Families, War Orphans, and Agriculture; *Department of Public Information*, including the Bureaus of News and Public Information, Reports and Pamphlets, Photography and Moving Pictures.

In each zone there were departments corresponding precisely to the headquarters departments, that is to say, there was a chief of each service represented at

headquarters unless conditions in a zone were such as to make this unnecessary. For instance, Outpost Service was only operated at the front and naturally there was not a chief of this service in the zones remote from the fighting areas.

The effect of this organization, in the planning of which Colonel Gibson was ably assisted by the Deputy Commissioner, Major George Murnane, was to bring American Red Cross representatives closer to those they were serving, to enable these representatives better to realize and meet the demands of the Army, and to make Paris the high administrative rather than the actual operating center of Red Cross activities. The chart that accompanies this report presents in graphic form the outlines of the relief organization which was devised to meet the situation.

While the results of this organization were not fully realized because of the signing of the armistice in November, the strain put upon the system was sufficiently great to prove not only that it was admirable, but that it was indispensable to the achievement of the mission of the Red Cross in France. When the armistice was signed the American Red Cross had a perfect functioning machine. It could act quickly anywhere in France in an emergency. Its workers and supplies were distributed at strategic points. Zone managers had sufficient liberty, authority and resources to meet emergencies without consultation with headquarters. The American Red Cross had been transformed from a loosely knit organization, in which the principal factor of efficiency was the enthusiasm and

devotion of its workers, into a scientifically organized body of some 6,000 men and women, each with a specific duty, under specific direction, and working under conditions which left no doubt as to responsibilities or method of accomplishment.

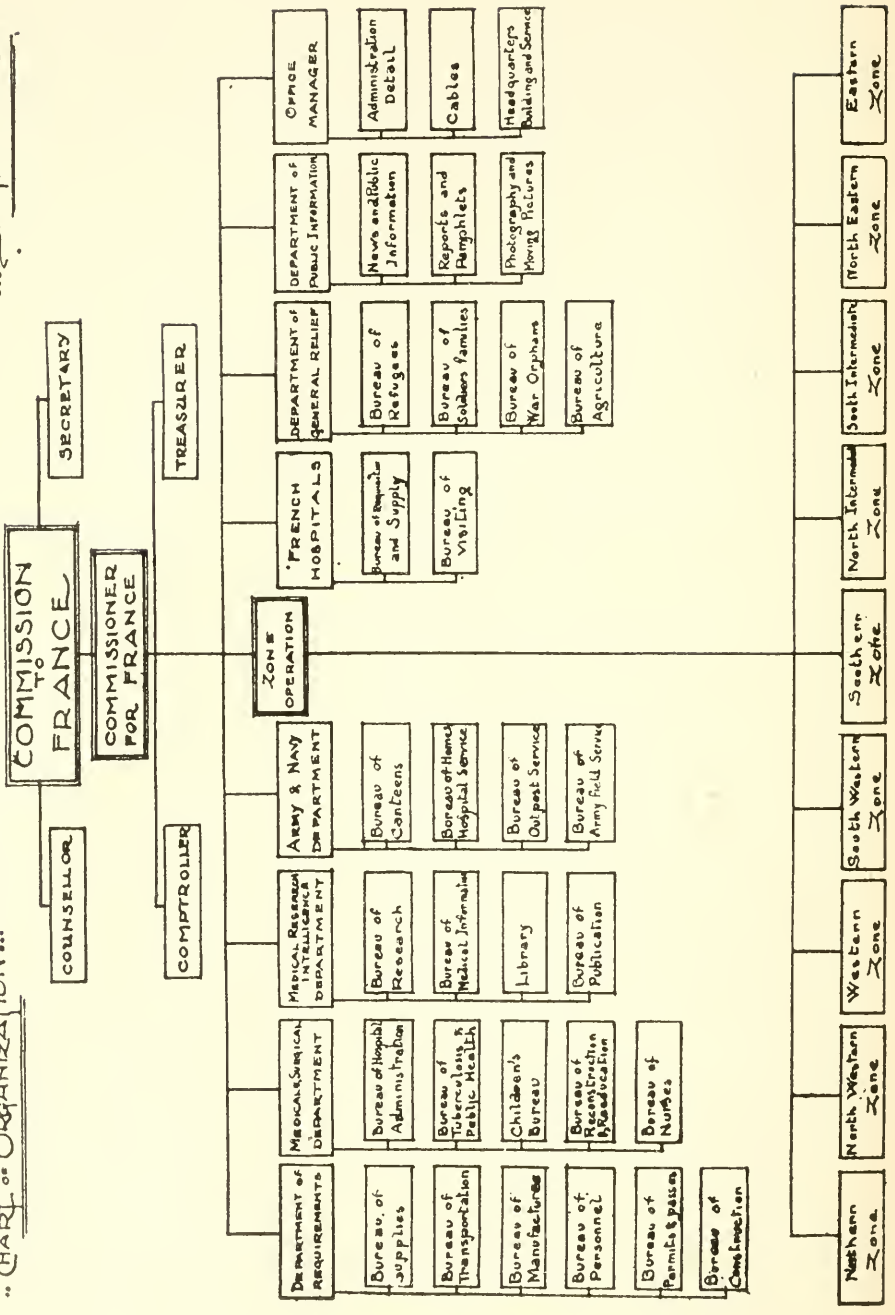
In the following pages are given in the order set up in the chart of organization accounts of the various services which together comprehend the work accomplished by the Red Cross in France in the last six months of 1918.

DANIEL T. PIERCE,
Director, Department Public Information.

.. CARE OF ORGANIZATION ..

... SEPTEMBER 3, 1918 ...

AMERICAN RED CROSS FRANCE



THE "S. O. S." OF THE RED CROSS

Department of Requirements

The operations of the Department of Requirements of the Red Cross do not make an exciting story but they are nevertheless vital and necessarily precedent to performance by any other department. All warehousing, shipping and purchasing come under this heading, as well as transportation, personnel and construction.

Transportation

The transportation equipment in France consisted at the end of December of 496 touring cars, 399 camionettes, 279 camions, 171 ambulances and 29 motor cycles. In spite of the scarcity of labor and supplies and progressive deterioration of equipment under hard service, the transportation section made an enviable record under Major C. Glidden Osborne, who was from its beginning director of this department.

Whether in the prosaic business of moving freight, or the more exciting duty of evacuating wounded, rushing supplies to the front or to hospitals, aiding refugees to escape the invader, or answering air-raid emergency calls, the transportation men of the Red Cross, within the limits of the means at their disposal, responded to every call capably and often heroically.

The limited number of ambulance drivers remain-

ing in Red Cross service continued up to the end to maintain the best traditions of this branch. In the last allied drives on the British front, the American Red Cross ambulance men worked day and night with gas masks on and under constant shell fires. Holes shot through cars, their chassis rent by shell, and damage generally, gave evidence that the men were in the thick of it. In one instance a chauffeur found himself holding aloft the wheel of his steering apparatus. A shell had scattered the remainder of his car to the four winds.

Manufacturing

The manufacturing activities of the Red Cross, in addition to surgical dressings, included special foods for the wounded, splints, 200,000 cookies per day for hospitals and canteens, artificial limbs and nitrous oxide gas.

The American Army hospitals were entirely supplied by the Red Cross with splints, the orders for which in July and August totaled from 15,000 to 20,000 splints and accessories weekly. For the entire year the output was 294,583 splints, the factories often working 18 and 20 hours per day to keep up with the requisitions upon them.

The Red Cross also supplied all the nitrous oxide used by the A. E. F. and other military hospitals. The plant arrived in France in July, and, in spite of many difficulties in securing containers, achieved an output of 3,832,986 gallons of nitrous oxide and 368,110 gallons of oxygen. The value of this service is,

of course, impossible of over-estimation if viewed from the standpoint of the lives and suffering saved.

In November the manufacture of surgical dressings was centralized at one point and two other large workrooms were closed for the reason that the stocks on hand, made in Paris and received from America, were more than ample for all needs. At the height of their operations the surgical dressings workrooms in Paris employed 700 women and men.

Construction.

The Construction Bureau of the Red Cross was called upon to build anything from a "hut," 150 feet by 80 feet, to a rabbit hutch. It erected barracks and tents for hospitals, rest houses for nurses and canteen buildings. It installed plumbing, telephones, and, in one instance, a photographic laboratory. It drew its own plans, and either let contracts or, as was often the case, acted as builder as well as designing and supervising architect. While much of its work was done in the field, its accomplishments are in no small measure due to the efficient direction of the Chief of the Bureau, Major W. Emerson.

At the head of all the activities coming under the Department of Requirements was Major A. B. Jones who was recently made Deputy Commissioner and was succeeded by Major George T. Rice. Of their work it need only be said that it corresponded closely to that of the commanding general of the Service of Supplies of the Army.

A salvage bureau was added to the activities of this

department when, following the armistice, there arose the problem of economically disposing of the equipment and materials constituting the "plant" of the Red Cross in France.

Medical and Surgical Department

The Medical and Surgical Department, including the Bureaus of Hospital Administration, Tuberculosis, Reconstruction and Reëducation, and the Children's Bureau was headed by Col. Fred T. Murphy.

Hospital Administration

During the last six months of 1918 the American Red Cross furnished more than 1,110,000 days of hospital care to military patients and in the last month before the armistice was signed admitted 37,000 military cases. Hospitalization for American troops increased steadily up to the signing of the armistice. In September it was double that of August, and hospital care in October doubled that of September. The maximum of 303,000 days of hospital care was reached during October with more than 279,000 days of care devoted to men of the American Expeditionary Force.

Red Cross hospitalization has been primarily an emergency feature which is shown by the dropping of days of hospital care in December to less than 90,000. The closing of hospitals has progressed rapidly as this emergency need disappeared. The signing of the armistice found us operating 22 military hospitals

with 14,326 occupied beds. The American Red Cross Military Hospital No. 5, which was established in three weeks, was the first of our hospitals to close its career and had developed to 2,500 beds. Official records credit this hospital with 8,315 admissions and additional cases received and immediately evacuated bring the total number of American patients received to approximately 12,000 different cases.

American Red Cross Hospital No. 114, which was established as an emergency at Toul and later moved to Fleury, has 14,097 admissions to its credit. This did not finish the career of this formation, as it was taken over by the Army and continued.

American Red Cross Hospital No. 110, which was established in less than one week at Coincy, has a most remarkable record with 17,446 admissions to its credit. This hospital was built on the spur of the moment, around a pump found in the middle of a town almost entirely destroyed. Red Cross officials and the future Commanding Officer visited Coincy and on the spot decided an organization must be effected. With a burnt piece of wood the words "A. R. C. Hospital No. 110" were marked upon a piece of wall, and a representative left to guard the water supply. Materials were assembled from five different points and the formation was in operation in less than a week. This became one of the biggest contributions of the American Red Cross to the U. S. Army, serving first as the most advanced hospital in the Vesle sector, and then being moved, at the request of the Army, to assist as an advanced evacuation hos-

pital in the Argonne battles. This formation was distinctly an emergency proposition and was one of the first to be discontinued. The entire career of this hospital was one of the most spectacular of Red Cross activities.

American Red Cross Hospital No. 107, which was established at Jouy-sur Morin, and served during the second Battle of the Marne, became inactive after the line receded to the Vesle, but during its career it received 5,562 different battle casualties directly from the front line.

During the last six months the aid given to the Army in the nature of supplies continued to be on an enormously increased scale. For example, in a single month from one warehouse alone, the following shipments were made to formations operated entirely by the Army:

Surgical instruments	77,101
Beds and cots	2,820
Surgical dressings	24,733,126
Drugs	15,300 lbs.

This is entirely independent of equipment and materials issued to the 22 military formations supplied and operated by the Red Cross itself. The armistice did not mean the end of emergency work. When the Chief Surgeon called upon us for 600,000 epidemic masks for protection against Spanish "Flu," within two weeks the entire order had been completed.

Nine American Red Cross infirmaries were operated at ports and along lines of communications for

American troops. These served men taken sick on trains or casualties passing through. During the month of October a single infirmary treated 659 cases; while another in three weeks had 850. With the deportation of sick and wounded, work at base ports increased considerably. November saw 5,670 cases pass through Infirmary No. 7 at Brest, and 6,549 passed through Infirmary No. 8 at Bordeaux in the month of December.

In addition to infirmaries, seven military dispensaries were operated. Dispensary No. 2 at Brest cared for 1,751 cases in the first four months of its operation.

The efficiency of the Bureau of Hospital Administration was in large part due to the energy and wisdom of Dr. C. C. Burlingame, its chief, who has since received well-deserved promotion to a majority in the Medical Corps of the Army.

Bureau of Tuberculosis

The Bureau of Tuberculosis of the American Red Cross was created in August, 1917. It increased from a single member and his secretary to a personnel of 153. This Bureau has worked in cooperation with the Commission for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in France, which has a personnel of 96, making a total operating personnel of 249 in the coördinated tuberculosis activities.

All existing facilities in France in times of peace for the treatment of tuberculosis were requisitioned for the tuberculous soldier. The American Red Cross,

by taking over the responsibility for the following activities, hoped to help France to avoid a startling increase in the death rate for tuberculosis, and to prevent further increase of new and preventable cases among the 5,000,000 people of France who were displaced as refugees, scattered through the various departments, or as population in the invaded regions, later to be repatriated through Evian les Bains. The death rate in France had been alarmingly high before the war, and there was no doubt that under the stress of war conditions this rate would rise still higher, unless preventive measures were taken.

The Tuberculosis Bureau of the American Red Cross became responsible for the following activities:

Amelioration of conditions in existing tuberculosis hospitals.

A departmental survey of all tuberculosis activities—those operating; those in immediate prospect, and those in prospective.

Subvention of dispensary, hospital and sanatorium construction and operation.

Subvention of popular educational propaganda.

Operation of tuberculosis hospitals and sanatoria.

Assistance to special fields of work among Belgians, Serbians and Poles.

Cooperation with the American Expeditionary Forces.

In the development of the work of the Bureau in the latter half of the year 1918, more stress has been laid upon the development of French resources, and less upon American endeavor. The hospitals of the

Bureau will be closed on April 1, 1919. The encouragement of French interests in the activities established or assisted by the Bureau gives promise of permanency. The financial budget of the Bureau only provides for its existence until June, 1919.

Departmental survey and relief have been continued but with more care and deliberation than previously. Subventions for dispensary and sanatorium construction have been augmented. The hospitals of the Bureau have operated 675 beds. Propaganda against tuberculosis and technical assistance have been furnished to the United States Army. Barrack relief has been extended in Paris, and the tuberculosis demonstration in the Department of the Eure-et-Loir has been almost completed as far as hospital plans and finances are concerned. Provision for the construction of a departmental sanatorium has been placed in the budget. The work in the Eure-et-Loir has been done as previously planned in conjunction with the Commission for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in France.

Hôpitaux Sanitaires in France having a bed capacity of 1143 have received 17,396 francs for assistance. *Stations Sanitaires* have received 89,328 francs. The total number of beds assisted by the Bureau of Tuberculosis amounted to 24,185. They were aided to the extent of 3,287,417 francs. Relief was supplied to the extent of 794,447 francs.

An appropriation for a Serbian hospital near Paris has been made. The reconstruction of an existing hospital for the purpose has been completed. Of the five hospitals being operated by the Bureau, the

Trudeau Sanitarium and the hospital at Yerres will be presented to the Department of the Seine on April 1. Hospital Benevole will be closed and Champigny will be turned over to the city of Blois for operation. Saint-Genis Laval was closed on January 1.

The tuberculosis relief work in Paris will be continued by the Department of Hygiene of Paris. The Hospital Admission Bureau has placed 1,458 patients. This Bureau ceases to function on April 1.

It is reasonable to assume that the majority of the activities assisted by cash subventions would not have functioned for a long period of time if they had not been assisted by the Bureau.

Children of France

In June, 1918, the work of the Children's Bureau was approaching its point of largest usefulness, first, through its own institutions and activities, medical and non-medical; and second, through medical or other assistance given to various departments of the Red Cross, to American relief organizations other than the Red Cross, and to French institutions.

The following schedule shows approximately all institutions and activities of the Bureau, existing during this period, without regard to dates of opening and closing:

A. 14 HOSPITALS

- 1—BEAUVAIS—35 beds.
- 2—BORDEAUX—24 beds.
- 3—DIEPPE—14 beds.
- 4—EVIAN—200 beds.

- 5—FOUG—20 beds.
- 6—LIMOGES—60 beds.
- 7—LYONS: Holtzman—110 beds.
- 8—LYONS: Violet—75 beds.
- 9—MARSEILLES—35 beds.
- 10—NEUFCHATEAU—40 beds.
- 11—PARIS—40 beds. (Ran 1,000 tonsil and adenoid operations; 4,000 dental consultations.)
- 12—ROUEN—40 beds.
- 13—TOUL: Children's Hospital—160 beds.
- 14—TOUL: *Maternité*—66 beds.

B. 60 DISPENSARIES

- 1—BLOIS.
- 2-3—BORDEAUX.
- 4—CHÂLONS-SUR-MARNE (Vitry le François).
- 5—CHÂTEAU-THIERRY (Neuilly le Pont).
- 6-7-8—CORBEIL.
- 9—EVIAN.
- 10-11—LYONS.
- 12-15—MARSEILLES.
- 16-25—PARIS.
- 26-27—RENNES.
- 28—ROUEN.
- 29-30-31—SAINT-ÉTIENNE.
- 32—SAINTE-FOY (Montramont).
- 33-58—TOUL.*
- 59—VALENCE.
- 60—VIENNE.

C. 9 CONVALESCENT HOMES AND PLACEMENT CENTERS

- 1—BIDART—30 beds.
- 2—CHITENAY—22 beds.
- 3—DUN—5 beds.
- 4—LA CHAUX—600 beds.
- 5—MONTAUBAN—20 beds.
- 6—SAINT-CYR: "Mont d'Or"—35 beds.
- 7—SAINTE-FOY: "Château des Halles"—200 beds.
- 8—ST. MEME: "Château de Vinade"—40 beds.

* Run in cooperation with A. F. F. W.

9—TOUL: "Asile Caserne du Luxembourg"—500 beds.

also placed by the Children's Bureau in 7 French institutions.

D. 4 *CRÊCHES*

1-2—ÉPINAL.*

3—DIJON—"Camouflage Crèche" (in the American Camouflage Factory).

4—VIENNE.

E. 2 *POUPONNIÈRES*

1—PORCHEFONTAINE—200 beds.

2—VIENNE.

F. *EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.*

1—Child Welfare Expositions given at: (a) Saint-Étienne, Attendance 80,000, July 11-28; (b) Toulouse, Attendance 80,000, October 20 to November 10.

2—Traveling Educational Service visiting 10 departments of France: Allier, Cher, Côtes-du-Nord, Finistère, Haute-Garonne, Ille-et-Vilaine, Loire, Loire-Inférieure, Morbihan, Nièvre.

3—Distribution of nearly 100,000 pieces of educational literature presenting principles of care and of hygiene of childhood.

G. *SCHOOL CANTEEN SERVICE IN PARIS.*

This service was closed in July, 1918. At the close of its work it was serving supplementary food to over 32,000 children in the Paris schools.

H. *TRAINING OF VISITING NURSES*

Four courses, Paris and Lyons, graduating and placing 48 *Visiteuses d'Enfants*.

I. *"STARS AND STRIPES"*

Executive and investigation work of allotting about 500 war orphans to American soldiers.

* Run in cooperation with A. F. F. W.

- J. Intensive pre- and post-natal work in limited districts of:
- 1—Lyons.
 - 2—Paris.
 - 3—Rennes.

During the same period, June 1 to December 1, 1918, the Bureau also rendered assistance, medical, nursing and in relief materials to:

- A. 300 *French oeuvres* through the Section *Aide aux Oeuvres* and to the following:

B. *Hospitals and Infirmaries*

- 1—Angoulême—20 beds—Refugee Department.
- 2—Châlons-sur-Marne—99 beds—Friends.
- 3—Château-Thierry (emergency)—107 beds—A. E. F.
- 4—Dinard—12 beds—French Colony of Refugees.
- 5—La Rochelle—6 beds—Refugee Department.
- 6—Le Glandier—50 beds—Commission for Belgium.
- 7— Lourdes—60 beds—Refugee Department.
- 8—Saint-Lunaire—12 beds—French Colony of Refugees.
- 9—Sermaize—65 beds—Friends.

C. *Dispensaries*

- 1—Angoulême—Refugee Department.
- 2—Bobigny—French Communal Institution.
- 3—Caen—Refugee Department.
- 4-10—Chaumont-sur-Aire—A. F. F. W.
- 11—Compiègne—Bureau of War Zone.
- 12—Dijon—Refugee Department.
- 13—Dinard—French Colony of Refugees.
- 14—Houlgate—French Colony of Refugees.
- 15—Lacaune—French Colony of Refugees.
- 16—La Rochelle—Refugee Department.
- 17—Le Glandier—Commission for Belgium.
- 18—Limoges—Refugee Department.
- 19-20—Paris—Tuberculosis Department and Rockefeller Commission.
- 21—Quimper—Refugee Department.

- 22—Rouen—Refugee Department.
- 23—Saint-Étienne—Refugee Department.
- 24—Saint-Lunaire—French Colony of Refugees.
- 25—Saint-Maximin—French Colony of Refugees.
- 26-40—(15) Senlis—Bureau of War Zone.
- 41—Valence—Refugee Department.
- 42—Vannes—Refugee Department.

D. *Convalescent Homes or Refugee Colonies*

- 1—Avignon—French Institution.
- 2—Dammarié-les-Lys—French Refugee Colony.
- 3—Doulaç—French Institution.

E. *Service des Repatriés* (French Government)

Triage, i.e., Medical examination of incoming repatriés.

- 1—Evian.
- 2—Dieppe.

During the six months period between June 1 and December 1, 1918, 28 new institutions were started:

9 *Hospitals.*

- Bordeaux—24 beds.
- Dieppe—14 beds.
- Foug—20 beds.
- Holtzman, at Lyons—110 beds.
- Neufchateau—40 beds.
- Paris—40 beds.
- Rouen—40 beds.
- (2) Toul—160 beds—40 beds.

12 *Dispensaries*

- (1) Bordeaux.
- (1) Château-Thierry.
- (1) Lyons.
- (3) Marseilles.
- (2) Rennes.
- (3) Paris.
- (1) Rouen.

6 *Convalescent Homes and Placement Centers*

- Bidart—30 beds.
- Chitenay—22 beds.

Dun—5 beds.
 Montauban—20 beds.
 Saint-Cyr—35 beds.
 St. Meme—40 beds.

1 Crèche

Dijon—12 beds.

During the same six months' period, 39 institutions were closed as Children's Bureau institutions, in the larger number of cases for military reasons. These institutions were:

5 Hospitals

(2) Toul.
 (1) Evian.
 (1) Paris.
 (1) Neufchateau.

27 Dispensaries

(26) Toul.
 (1) Sainte-Foy.

5 Convalescent Homes and Placement Centers

(1) La Chauv.
 (1) Montauban.
 (1) Saint-Cyr.
 (1) Sainte-Foy.
 (1) Toul: "Asile."

2 Crèches.

(2) Épinal.

In August the reorganization of the American Red Cross brought about the separation from the Children's Bureau of:

The School Canteen Service.

The "Stars and Stripes" Service.

The *Aide aux Oeuvres* (the section which granted money and relief materials to French institutions).

December and January were months during which, in principle, the Children's Bureau work was terminated, i.e., institutions were closed entirely or turned over to other organizations for continuance.

18 Institutions were closed during these months

5 Hospitals

Dieppe—14 beds.

Evian—200 beds.

Foug—20 beds.

Holtzman, at Lyons—110 beds.

Violet, at Lyons—75 beds.

9 *Dispensaries*

Neuilly-le-Pont.

(2) Lyons.

Rouen.

(2) Saint-Étienne.

(3) Valence.

3 *Convalescent Homes*

Bidart—30 beds.

Chitenay—22 beds.

St. Meme—40.

1 *Crèche*

Dijon.

Although the greater part of the work of the Children's Bureau has thus been closed, local conditions or special provisions account for the fact that several of its institutions are still (February, 1919) in operation.

3 *Hospitals at*

Saint-Étienne—"Chantalouette"—100 beds.

Rouen—"Mont Aignan"—40 beds.

Limoges—"Hopital Américain"—60 beds.

24 *Dispensaries at*

(1) Blois.

(4) Marseilles.

(2) Saint-Étienne.

(2) Bordeaux.

(2) Rennes.

(1) Vienne.

(3) Corbeil.

(8) Paris.

(1) Rouen.

2 *Pouponnières*

Porchefontaine—200 beds.

Vienne.

The Educational Service is continuing in toto, and will probably not be terminated until April.

In addition, 24 institutions, which are not specifically under Children's Bureau jurisdiction are still being assisted by the Bureau. These are:

- (1) Hospital: Lourdes—60 beds—Department Civil Relief.
- (1) Convalescent Home—Avignon—40 beds—French.
- (17) Dispensaries
 - (1) Compiègne. (16) Senlis—Bureau of War Zone.
- (3). Dispensaries—Paris—Tuberculosis Bureau.
- (1) Dispensary—Paris—Rockefeller Commission.
- (1) Dispensary—Bobigny—French.

On December 30 a gift of \$100,000 from the Junior Red Cross of America to the Children of France was confirmed by cable from Washington. This money will be used to endow a health center for Paris children, and will be administered, if the plan is carried out as drafted, by a French committee composed of members of the Medical Faculty of Paris and of representatives of the child relief and child welfare organizations of France. The committee is in process of formation and the actual work will be put under way as soon as the agreements and policies can be determined upon.

All institutions now in operation, or now in view, are being administered or organized with two main purposes: (1) their immediate efficiency, and (2) their ultimate adjustment to French methods of management.

The termination of the Children's Bureau activities in the various centers of France has, in comparatively few cases, meant the termination of the work for the children. Of these cases the greater number repre-

sented the institutions which were closed before December and which were closed because of military exigencies. Several of them were turned into military hospitals under the control of the American Expeditionary Forces.

Of the institutions other than those in which the work for children stopped, most have been or are to be turned over to French administration. In some cases a private institution has assumed the control, as at La Chaux; in others the city, usually in the person of the Mayor, as at Corbeil; in the case of Rouen the Prefecture itself will take over the Children's Bureau activities, thus making them a national service in the Seine Inférieure. The method which has seemed most practicable in the greatest number of cases has, however, been as follows: A coördination of all child welfare organizations in the district has been effected, interest and cooperation on the part of the national and municipal authorities have been gained and a French governing committee representing all these various elements has been formed. This committee takes over control of the former Children's Bureau work and administers it.

A subvention or endowment by the American Red Cross has been given in several cases on condition that an equal sum of money be raised for the work by the French committee.

This committee method has been prominently successful at Lyons and is now being worked out at Marseilles.

The Bureau has been in existence some 16 months.

In this period it has given direct relief to 250,000 children, reckoning invariably with minimum figures, and has entirely administered some 70 institutions. It will leave four permanent hospitals for children and will leave something that cannot be measured or charted but that should be of inestimably greater importance—an increased sense of civic responsibility to the child.

The Bureau continued during the period of this report under the direction of Dr. William Palmer Lucas.

Reconstruction and Reëducation

The Bureau for Reconstruction and Reëducation was, from the date of its founding until September, 1918, known as the Bureau for the Reëducation of Mutilés and was operated under the Department of Civil Affairs. With the change of title it was transferred to the Medical and Surgical Division, Miss Grace S. Harper continuing as Chief.

The Bureau was established to give aid to the disabled soldiers of France and the work was divided into two classes:

1. That done directly and solely under the management of the American Red Cross;
2. That done in cooperation with existing French agencies and consisting largely of financial aid.

Under the first classification came the manufacture of portrait masks which was developed under the direction of Mrs. Anna Coleman Ladd. This consisted of making careful study of the cases of those men

whose facial disfigurement, as the result of wounds, was so great as to render them unfit for any normal existence, and the construction of masks so lifelike that the wearers were able to resume their regular places in the world once more.

The Training Farm for French Mutilés was established by the Red Cross near Tours, the courses opening in July, 1918, and continuing until the end of November. This work, which won the highest praise from many French officials, consisted of training men, unfitted through their wounds for the continuation of their pre-war occupation, in general farming, tractor operating, dairy work, poultry and rabbit raising, truck gardening and horticulture.

In the artificial limbs' workshops established in Paris, much study was devoted to the improvement of the types of artificial limbs manufactured, and, in consequence, a much better and lighter limb is now being supplied to mutilés.

As a result of the success of this workshop, a similar one was established recently in Athens under the direction of the American Red Cross for Greece.

Reëducational propaganda by means of lectures and cinema exhibits established by the Bureau was the means of inducing many unskilled cripples to take up trade training, thus preventing them from becoming dependent upon charity or seeking governmental sinecures. This work is being continued extensively by local French conferences.

Under the second heading of cooperative work of the Bureau comes the aid in the development of

courses in higher technical trades (such as electrical work and skilled watchmaking) at existing reëducation schools carried on through French institutes; activities for the mutilés which were subsidized by and cooperated with the American Red Cross; grants of cash, furniture, clothing and other material benefits and help given to individual mutilés.

Nurses' Bureau

During the period from July, 1918, to January, 1919, the Nurses' Bureau supplied all or a part of the Nursing Staffs of twenty different military hospitals. These were located in and about Paris, the Château-Thierry and Toul sectors.

Perhaps one of the most conspicuous pieces of work during the month of July was the opening and equipping of American Red Cross Military Hospital No. 6, at Bellevue, for patients who had been gassed; the staff consisted of about 40 nurses and 12 nurses' aids.

In the Château-Thierry sector the work of the nurses was rendered extraordinarily difficult, not only on account of repeatedly being under shell fire, but on account of the necessity of moving stations from time to time. The hospital known as American Red Cross Hospital No. 107, located at Jouy, became very active. The main operation of the organization proceeded to Château-Thierry in August, where the hospital was opened in the Hôtel Dieu, known as American Red Cross Hospital No. 111. This was chiefly a tent hospital and for many weeks was filled to the limit of its capacity.

American Red Cross Hospital No. 104, in Beauvais, was located in a large school building. This has been a very active hospital with a number of beds reserved for French patients. About 60 nurses and aids were assigned to duty there. This organization underwent many changes as the line of the front advanced and many surgical teams were sent out from this center to assist in the surgical work nearer the front.

Other conspicuous organizations were American Red Cross Evacuation Hospital No. 114, American Red Cross Evacuation No. 110 and an organization which later became U. S. Base 82. These were operated during a season of great stress and the personnel of the nursing staffs was made up entirely of Red Cross nurses and nurses' aids and Army nurses who had been assigned to the Red Cross by the Chief Surgeon.

The supplying of nurses and nurses' aids to the *Service de Santé* reached its height during the summer months. This has been an active and irregular service; irregular in that the nurses were assigned to these French hospitals for such time as American men were patients in them. The service was one which required extreme adaptability on the part of the nurses, as in every instance they served under the direction of French physicians and surgeons who were not accustomed to the kind of nursing service rendered by English and American nurses. It is to be hoped that our nurses have been able to demonstrate the value of the trained nurse sufficiently to stimulate the desire of the French medical profession to have a similar body of women in its own country. If this result

should come, it will prove to many the most satisfactory result of the relations of the nursing service to the French people.

During all the time of the military emergency the nursing work of the Children's Bureau and of the Tuberculosis Bureau has been carried on with unabated energy, but with decreased staffs, it being necessary to call upon many of the nurses for military service.

The signing of the armistice brought its own peculiar problems and readjustments. During the first six weeks following the armistice, nurses and nurses' aids were released from military hospitals at a rapid rate. Many of the aids have been transferred to other branches of Red Cross service. Many new fields for trained women were opened in other European countries. About ninety nurses have been assigned to duty under the Balkan Commission; twenty with the Palestine Commission; ten nurses have been sent into Italy for tuberculosis work; and a specially selected group has been prepared for Poland. In many instances in order to secure the best nurses possible for these special services, it has been necessary to obtain the release of a number of nurses from the Army Nurse Corps.

The Nurses' Bureau has also assigned twelve dietitians to duty in France and other countries. It has been instrumental in securing diet-kitchen equipment for American Army, American Red Cross and French hospitals. It has concerned itself with Recreation Huts for nurses in Base Hospitals and has assisted

in the care of Army, Navy and Red Cross nurses during convalescence.

In December the maximum number of personnel in the Bureau was reached, the total being 1,734. This number includes not only nurses and aids of American Red Cross enrollment, but also a number of volunteers and many French and English employees.

The work of the nurses and nurses' aids in the field has been courageous, unselfish and well-sustained. On a number of occasions groups of nurses have been sent to Army camp hospitals at the request of the Chief Surgeon, previous to the arrival of Army nurses. These nurses have won high commendation from the commanding officers of such organizations. In October, when the epidemic of influenza was at its height, our nurses showed great spirit and self-abnegation in caring for personnel crossing on the ships from America.

Upon the retirement of Miss Julia Stimson in November to enter Army service as Chief Nurse of the A. E. F., Miss Carrie M. Hall became Chief of the Red Cross Nurses' Bureau.

Medical Research and Intelligence

In July, 1918, under a reorganization of Red Cross methods, a new department was created known as the Department of Medical Research and Intelligence, which was a necessary extension and development of already existing activities. American Red Cross Laboratory No. 1, at 6 rue Piccini, was reassigned to the

department; the Medical Library was separated and established at No. 12 Place Vendôme; and the Bureaus of Medical Research, Publications and Intelligence were organized with quarters at No. 9 rue du Mont Thabor. Later the Bureau of Animal Production was added. Major Alexander Lambert was appointed Director.

Regular monthly meetings of the Medical Research Committee continued up to and including the month of November. These meetings were organized primarily for the purpose of disseminating new information that might be used by the medical services in lessening the wastage of man power in the Allied Armies from wounds and disease. During the period covered by this report the important volume on *Trench Fever* appeared in print, constituting one of the most valuable of the Committee's activities. Research work was carried on in methods of field sanitation, transportation of the wounded, treatment of fractures of the femur, wastage of men, shock, typhus, respiratory diseases, etc. Dr. Blake's admirable work on *Gun-shot Fractures of the Extremities* was also published by the Department during this period.

On August 1, 1918, the Bureau of Medical Intelligence was organized under the direction of Major T. H. Halsted, for the purpose of sending out to the medical men in the various active fields textbooks of medicine and surgery and the latest news of their profession in regard to war work. This entailed an increasing amount of office work in the line of collecting and abstracting material from all the leading

medical publications received from America, England, France and Germany, as well as research work in the medical libraries of Paris. As the work developed it was found advisable for Dr. Halsted to make trips to the various evacuation, mobile and field hospitals to ascertain and supply the needs of the medical men. During the autumn months he made four or five different trips, upon one of which, as an example, he visited 17 hospitals in which were about 520 surgeons, distributing to them 236 medical books.

The publication of *War Medicine* continued regularly each month under the able editorship of Lt. Col. Seale Harris, as the official organ of the Research Society. It contained usually about 144 printed pages, with illustrations, and every effort has been made to bring the journal to a high standard of technical excellence and to make it of the maximum usefulness to the medical officers as well as a permanent professional record of this great war. The Publication Department has also put forth a *Manual of Splints and Appliances*, *Report on the Transfusion of Blood*, *Manual of Urology*, *Water Analysis*, *Bulletins on Transmissible Diseases*, *Report of the Trench Fever Committee*, and other valuable bulletins, pamphlets, charts, posters, etc.

The Medical Library under the direction of Capt. Charles E. Estes has continued to extend its privileges to the many members of the profession who have been in Paris separated from other means of special reading. The Library records show: 1,150 reference books on the shelves, with over 4,307 medi-

cal journals and over 6,808 medical textbooks distributed.

In July, 1918, the Bureau of Animal Production was transferred to ampler accommodations at Croissy (Seine). The cost of carrying on this particular industry is defrayed from a special donation made by Mr. Cleveland H. Dodge, of New York. During November the Bureau was placed under the direction of Lieut. N. Shaw and many improvements were made.

In December Colonel Lambert left France and his office as Director was filled by Col. R. P. Strong.

Army and Navy Service

Canteens, the first Red Cross service to the soldier in France, were continued, increased and improved up to the last day of the year—and beyond that. On the day the armistice was signed there were 392 American Red Cross women in the service in France; on December 31 the number had actually increased to 484.

To the canteens of the character hereinafter described were added many other types as the war wore on. There were canteens at evacuation hospitals and aviation camps; canteens established at cross-roads below the Vesle; canteens in occupied Germany; canteens in the concentration areas where men were gathered for return home; hotels and canteens for Paris leave men; and canteens at the ports of embarkation where first the streams of convalescent wounded came through and then the men who had finished their part

in the war and whose slogan had changed from "Lead us to it!" to "Next stop, Hoboken!"

At the end of December these line-of-communication canteens were in active operation (exclusive of Paris) at:

Châlons-sur-Marne (Marne)	Canteen
Épernay (Marne)	Canteen
Orry-la-Ville (Oise)	Canteen
St-Germain-des-Fosses (Allier)	Canteen
Survilliers (Seine-et-Oise)	Canteen
Bourges (Cher)	Dormitories and baths, Canteen
Nantes (Maine-et-Loire)	Dormitories and baths, Canteen
Angers (Maine-et-Loire)	Canteen—Dormitories and baths
Neufchateau (Vosges)	Canteen—Dormitories and baths
Limoges (Haute-Vienne)	Canteen—Dormitories and baths
St-Pierre-des-Corps (Indre-et-Loire)	Canteen—Dormitories (Men)
Tours (Indre-et-Loire)	Canteen—Dormitories (Men)
Bordeaux (Gironde)	Canteen—Dormitories and baths
Nevers (Nièvre)	Canteen—Dormitories and baths
Châteauroux (Indre)	Canteen—Dormitories and baths
Dijon-Porte-Neuve Station (Côte-d'Or)	Canteen—Dormitories and baths
Dijon-Ville (Côte-d'Or)	Canteen—Officers' Hotel
Langres (Haute-Marne)	Canteen
Toul (Meurthe-et-Moselle) ..	Canteen—Dormitories and baths
Nancy (Meurthe-et-Moselle)	Officers' Hotel
Strassburg (Alsace)	Canteen
Souilly (Meuse)	Officers' Club
Coblentz (Rhenish Prussia)	Officers' Club
Treves (Rhenish Prussia)	Canteen—Restaurant and dormitories for men
	—Officers' Club and Hotel
Saint-Aignan-Noyers (Cher)	Canteen
Le Mans, Station (Sarthe) ..	Canteen—Dormitories and baths
Le Mans, Maroc (Sarthe)	Coffee Station
Issoudun (Indre-et-Loire)	Canteen and dormitories
Vierzon (Cher)	Canteen—Dormitories and baths

Saint-Nazaire (Loire-Inférieure)	Canteen
Lorient (Morbihan)	Canteen
Brest (Finistère)	Canteen
Saint-Brieuc (Côtes-du-Nord)	Canteen
Marseilles (Bouches-du-Rhône)	Officers' Club—Canteen
Is-sur-Tille (Côte-d'Or)	Canteen—Officers' Hotel

Canteening in Paris

When the soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces began coming to Paris by thousands a new canteen problem was presented. The city was already overcrowded and the men could not afford to pay Paris prices even if accommodations had been available. The Red Cross, therefore, opened ten hotels and canteens at or near railroad stations where beds were free and where a full meal could be obtained for 14 cents—the same meal that cost \$2.00 in a restaurant. Frequently these canteens fed 30,000 men a day.

For officers there was opened a club at 4 Avenue Gabriel, a handsome residence which had been one of the Red Cross office buildings before all offices were concentrated (in September) in the Hotel Regina. In addition to offering all the comforts of a club for officers on leave, this house provided sleeping accommodations for about 100 nightly. A little later the Red Cross leased for the Army the Hotel du Louvre, known after that as the American Officers' Hotel. Its original capacity was 250 rooms. By rearrangement it was made to house 500 guests nightly. The meals were American meals, with ice cream and chocolate cake, and the charge was about one-fourth that of restaurants of corresponding quality. In his room

each guest found pyjamas, soap, tooth paste and tooth-brush; shoe shines were free, and there was the familiar cigar stand and theater ticket office of home hotels; also an information desk for officers visiting Paris for the first time and a shopping-aid service.

Canteening for the Air Men

Another development of canteen service was represented by installations at aviation and balloon camps. These were undertaken at the request of the Army, largely because of the success at the Red Cross establishment at Issoudun. A grill for meals at odd hours, a mess for regular meals, and comfortable lounging rooms formed these installations, expanding at some points to include a mending and pressing shop, laundry, baths and library. More important than equipment was the companionship of the American girls who formed the staffs of these establishments. Even more isolated than the fliers were some of the balloon men who were hidden away in the most forsaken spots. The Red Cross carried to them comforts, tents, food, newspapers, to make their lives more bearable. In order to facilitate the distribution of material to front aviation and balloon centers the camp service section opened a branch depot in the advanced eastern zone.

When the Americans entered Germany as a part of the Army of Occupation the Red Cross, of course, accompanied them. By the end of December there were 40 workers in occupied territory and 40 carloads of foodstuffs, medical supplies, underwear, socks and sweaters had been shipped for the men guarding the

Rhine. Canteens and clubs were promptly opened in Treves and Coblenz. Another activity in this connection, though it was more in the nature of hospitalization than canteening; was the sending of six mobile medical units from Paris to Germany with food and medical supplies, first for American prisoners and then for the soldiers of the Army of Occupation.

Outpost Service

There is nothing in the record of Red Cross effort in France so romantic as the story of its outpost service. Unfortunately its story cannot be told in a report. An outpost was anything from a tent (as at Varenne in the Argonne) to a dugout (as at Ansonville) or a former German moving picture house (as in the Nonsard woods near St. Mihiel). Before a drive these outposts were usually located at advanced points where large numbers of men were passing to and fro from the trenches or artillery positions, or they might be at a divisional headquarters. When an advance was made the outpost moved forward. Its equipment was a stove or rolling kitchen, thermos containers for hot chocolate, tobacco, perhaps some hard chocolates and crackers, toothbrushes, shoe strings, writing paper. The whole stock in trade could easily be loaded on a small truck. During the day, unless a battle was going on and hot chocolate was needed at dressing stations, the outpost was comparatively quiet. At night and all night it was a busy place. Long lines of spent men, usually soaked with rain, filed through to have their cups filled with steaming chocolate and

to smoke a cigarette under the cover of the outpost roof (if it had one) for no smoking was permitted in exposed places. The outpost at Roulecourt was in plain sight of Mont Sac. The outposts at St. Benoit and Bouillonville were always under shell fire, and in the Argonne they were in the midst of the battle. They gave "first aid" to scores of thousands of men who had not eaten for many hours, or perhaps dry underwear and socks to men who had been wet for days. Another outpost quickly established in Sedan supplied the inhabitants with the first food they had for several days after the Germans were driven out. Other outpost men in the British front carried food to the civilians caught in the battle lines in October and shelled by both armies. The outpost man had to think for himself and get supplies as best he could. Depots were far away and as likely as not he had no transportation of his own. If he had made a sudden move headquarters probably did not know where he was until he jumped from the Army truck on which he had begged a lift to the rear, to get supplies. There were old and young men in the service; it broke the health of many, but there were always plenty of volunteers for it, and the record contains no case where any man flinched from duty which was as dangerous and arduous as any excepting only a dash over the top or the taking of a machine-gun nest.

Army Field Service

With all of the Divisions of the American Expeditionary Forces in the battle area the Red Cross had

a "Division Representative" whose duty it was to keep closely in touch with medical officers in order promptly to supply all requisitions for hospital needs, to handle comforts and newspapers for the men and in general to be the liaison officer between the Red Cross and each divisional organization and to command all other Red Cross personnel attached thereto. The equipment and staff of a division representative varied greatly. At its best the equipment included a large camion, a camionette, a Ford touring car and two rolling kitchens. As helpers, the representative might have from one to five Red Cross men and details of soldiers. The duties of division representatives were clearly defined, but in practice they "made themselves useful" to the Army in whatever way circumstances demanded. This might be in the supplying of ambulances for an unforeseen emergency, ether, hot chocolate, "flu" masks, food, blankets or what not. In the Argonne fighting the division representatives had the advantage of a large "dump" established at Varennes, where Bessoneau tents sheltered some 150 tons of supplies that could be quickly drawn upon. At this time and place the division men had no headquarters; they lived in their Fords and camions, making frequent trips to the "dump" to replenish their stores of newspapers, tobacco, food, underclothes and other material.

In the St. Mihiel drive the division men, often taking the outpost men with them, moved forward with the rapidly advancing doughboys. In some cases field hospitals were on the move the first day of the attack; Red Cross supplies were hastily loaded on trucks, with

kitchen trailers coupled up, and were steaming along the roads of the advance. From there came to the Red Cross warehouses in the advance zone rush orders for supplies to the forward points. Sometimes they were accompanied by brief pencilled reports mentioning such incidents as the serving of a hundred gallons of hot chocolate between daylight and nine o'clock at a certain point. At another place 120 gallons of hot chocolate and six big sacks of bread were served to the men who had reached their objectives hours ahead of the schedule and were feeling hungry after ten hours of victorious fighting.

This in outline is what was done by the division men, and forms the report of the Bureau of Army Field Service. Of tributes to these men from Army officers there is no lack. One, from which the name is deleted simply because it is impossible to print the commendations that have come to many, reads as follows—it is signed by the division adjutant of the 42d Division:

“I cannot say too much of the work that Captain _____ has done while attached to this Division. Under the most difficult circumstances he has carried supplies and newspapers to the men in the front line trenches, working day and night, traveling heavily shelled roads and exposing himself to constant danger to bring articles of comfort to the men up forward. I have seen his work both from the front when I was attached to the brigade, and from the viewpoint at Division Headquarters. Through his work alone he has made the efficiency of the American Red Cross

felt more than that of any other society attached to this Division administering to the comfort of the soldiers."

Next to cigarettes, the doughboy demanded newspapers. To meet this demand the Recreation and Welfare Bureau of the Army and Navy Departments arranged a system of distribution which made it possible to deliver in November 2,500,000 daily newspapers, 450,000 magazines and 270,000 weekly papers. These magazines and newspapers were delivered to more than 400 different points in France and reached virtually every branch of the Army, including all of the hospitals.

Games and other recreational material and a film service for hospitals were also supplied by this Bureau.

Major J. B. Fosburgh was Director of the Army and Navy Department, assisted by Major Frederick Osborn and Major Hugh Scott.

Home and Hospital Service

Without duplicating information as to organization details contained in previous reports, it seems desirable to cover here, at least, the development of such services as became more and more important in the last six months of 1918. In this category falls the hospital hut work.

(a) Hospital Huts

The first American Red Cross hospital hut opened July 1, 1918, in American Red Cross Hospital No. 5 at Auteuil and before the end of that month six others

were in operation at Bazeilles Hospital Center, Châteaureux Base Hospital No. 9, Châtelguyon Base Hospital No. 20, Peugues-les Eaux Base Hospital No. 44, Royat Base Hospital No. 30 and Vichy Hospital Center.

In August seven more huts were opened and with the increasing roll of wounded the need grew. By the end of the year 94 huts were in operation with a personnel assigned of 304 workers. These huts were usually built by the Army but furnished and decorated by the Red Cross.

Different huts were characterized by individual features, as, for instance, at Vichy, the largest hut in France, with an average daily attendance of 5,500 men, a theater was established under the direction of a professional dramatic coach. Four shows were given daily with an average attendance of 750 men at each performance.

In this hut also was a pressing room for the men's uniforms and a sewing and refitting room for their convenience.

At Savenay, Base Hospital No. 8 had a registration book where the men signed up and from which State clubs were formed.

Also at this hospital an Army rolling kitchen was operated to meet incoming hospital trains and supply hot chocolate to the wounded on their arrival.

The Nantes hut had an ice cream room constructed by the boys themselves where quantities of ice cream was made each day for the very sick in the hospitals and distributed by the searchers through the wards.

The hut at Base Hospital No. 20 had a diet kitchen where broths, wine jellies, chicken, junket, etc., were prepared for an average of ninety patients a day.

At the time of the heavy drives when the wounded were pouring in day and night, many of the huts were used as wards and the workers gave up all recreation activities in order to distribute supplies, write letters, and in some instances to help the nurses. This emergency service continued in some instances for as long as six weeks.

(b) Home Communication

The Home Communication Section of the Home and Hospital Bureau was formed that there might be a central source to which families and friends of the men in the United States Army and Navy could apply for news of them.

No aid offered by the Red Cross in the United States was more eagerly sought, especially as the casualty lists grew longer, nor has any branch of the work received greater appreciation and gratitude. The inquiries might apply to the well man, the sick man, the dead, the missing or the prisoners—any man regarding whose whereabouts or condition there was a doubt. The work was carried on through the searchers placed by War Department authority in each statistical section of the Adjutant General's Department throughout the American Expeditionary Forces and by the women searchers in the hospitals. Their reports were forwarded to the Paris office, from there to the

National Red Cross Headquarters in Washington and thence to those seeking the information.

Some idea of the scope of the task may be gained from the fact that during the six months from July to December, 1918, 3,000 obituary letters were written, giving not the bare facts of the death, but telling as well all possible details of the soldier's last hours, the circumstances of his death and anything that might be gleaned from official reports or comrades.

During the same period 27,000 reports were sent to families of wounded men too ill or disabled to write for themselves; 22,000 inquiries were answered and 10,500 reports on prisoners and missing men were made.

These letters were written in each instance with especial care that the information they contained might bring as much joy or carry as tenderly as possible the word of bereavement.

The women searchers, of whom there were at the end of December 170 in France, did Home Service work in addition to their searching. Welfare work took much time also, and under this heading came the investigation of the minor personal needs of the men and the distribution of socks, sweaters, Red Cross comfort bags, tobacco, chocolate and also shopping for those unable to do it for themselves.

After the signing of the armistice the workers in this department did notable service among the returning American prisoners, going even beyond the German frontier to meet the men, providing them with food and clothing, sending immediate messages telling

of their safety to their families or friends in the United States, and caring for those wounded who were still in some of the German prison hospitals under the most deplorable conditions.

(c) *At the Hospital Centers*

The foregoing is written from the viewpoint of Paris headquarters. In the field, that is, at the hospital centers, great and small, the actual contact of the Red Cross workers with the soldiers was established. The following summary gives an outline of the workings of Red Cross Home and Hospital Service *at the hospitals*:

1. Personnel: At a hospital center of 15,000 beds there are usually about seven base hospital units. At such a center the Red Cross will have approximately the following personnel:

1. A hospital representative.
2. Two or three assistants.
3. Eight women searchers.
4. About thirty recreation hut workers.
5. Two or three stenographers.

In addition to this personnel there are usually a number of corps men or convalescent patients assigned to the various departments.

2. Duties of the Personnel: The Hospital Representative is the representative of the Red Cross at that hospital center, and the connecting link between the Army authorities and the other Red Cross personnel and Red Cross activities. His assistants aid him in

carrying out the Red Cross service for the patients, nurses, enlisted personnel and officers at the hospital center.

The searchers attend to the Home Communication and Home Service work of the Red Cross.

The Home Communication work consists of searching at the hospital center for men inquired about on the Red Cross inquiry list or on the Red Cross missing list, and when information is secured sending it home to their families, via American Red Cross Headquarters, Paris.

They also write mortality letters to the families of the men when they die. This work takes them into the wards and there they help other men in writing their letters and in doing little errands for them.

They also do Home Service work, reporting on any troubles or worries the men may have regarding family conditions at home. This is done through the Red Cross Home Service Department and the organization in America which looks into the difficulty, helps the family in the way that is needed, and reports on the conditions discovered and on the relief given to the soldier as soon as possible.

The Hut Workers have charge of the Recreation Huts, in which there are stages for movie shows and plays; also the "dry canteen" at which quartermaster supplies are sold *at cost*, and the "wet canteen" at which from time to time hot chocolate, ice cream, cake and other delicacies are made and given away.

3. The Character of Service: In order to carry on the Red Cross activities at a hospital center, a

large number of daily papers and magazines are sent out and distributed through the wards and in the huts. Playing cards, games of various kinds and letter paper are also supplied. In addition to keeping the men supplied with these things in the wards and in the huts there is free distribution of tobacco, fruit, candy and other delicacies from time to time.

The women try to decorate the huts and have them as cheerful and attractive as possible, and the men are encouraged to congregate there whenever they are allowed out of the wards, to get together in groups for singing, and other entertainments, and, if possible, to get up their own plays.

In the huts are also libraries in charge of the hut workers in which the men can read and write, or they may take the books to the wards. The books are also taken to the bed-ridden patients.

We have found that these huts are a very popular feature of hospital life, the moving picture shows, plays, concerts, etc., being invariably crowded, and any dances given are always largely attended.

In addition to the large recreation huts, we either construct or furnish rooms for the use of the nurses and officers. These rooms generally contain a piano and phonograph, desks and comfortable chairs. Where possible, we always try to have an open fireplace in the huts and in these rooms.

It is impossible in a short resumé such as this to give a full idea of all that is done by the men and women of the Red Cross at these hospital centers. The underlying idea is that they should take the place

of a man's family, and do for him in the hospital what his family would do for him if he were ill in a hospital at home. We try to do this, and in reality, so far as amusements and equipment are concerned, do much more.

In addition to the indoor games provided in the huts and wards, baseball, football, basket-ball equipment, tennis, quoits, etc., are provided for outdoor amusement of the convalescent patients and corps men. At some of the hospitals the Red Cross has hired the ground and laid out golf links which are enjoyed by the officers, men and nurses.

4. Farms and Gardens: At some large hospital points farms and gardens have been provided which not only supply vegetables, eggs, pigs, chickens, etc., to the hospital center, but provide good, healthy outdoor work for convalescing patients.

5. Baths and Laundries: In many cases where laundry conditions and bathing facilities were difficult to arrange, the Red Cross has provided laundry machinery and shower baths.

The above may be considered to cover the principal activities of the Red Cross at a 15,000 bed hospital center. It is impossible to tell it all, so much is done by both the men and women personnel in their personal contact with the men that cannot be described and yet brings great relief and comfort to them.

The Red Cross personnel has striven at all times to keep a cheerful atmosphere and to maintain the morale of the patients and others at the hospital centers. This is just as important now since the fighting has stopped

as it was before when men were being treated with the idea of sending them back to the front to fight.

Department of French Hospitals

The Department of French Hospitals was the successor of the French Hospital Supply Service founded early in the war by Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss and taken over by the Red Cross when it arrived in France in 1917.

It gave to French hospitals a great variety of supplies, not only dressings and drugs, but rubber sheeting, splints, crutches, baths, clothes, dishes, underclothes, cigarettes, wheel chairs, instruments—nearly everything, in fact, needed by a hospital.

This department supplied at one time or another 4,000 hospitals. In a typical month (September) its shipments to 1,658 sanitary formations totaled 157,770 pounds in weight, the number of articles distributed, exclusive of drugs, being 221,375.

Major Russell Greeley was Director of the Department.

Department of General Relief

In the reorganization of the Red Cross in France all medical activities were taken out of the Civil Affairs Department, including the work of the Children's Bureau. This left the work for refugees, the Bureau of War Orphans and the Bureau of Agriculture. While some very useful work was done by the latter organization it was not in full swing before

the armistice came to end its activities. The same thing may be said of the Bureau of Soldiers' Families.

On the other hand, the Bureau of War Orphans expanded greatly. Under its supervision more than 3,400 French orphans and needy children "adopted" by units and members of the American Expeditionary Forces were cared for. In the first instance, the child was recommended for adoption by the Red Cross, reports were made to the foster parents and care was taken to see that the child received the full benefit of the sums devoted to its use by American soldiers. There has been no one thing that has more clearly shown the desire of these soldiers to aid the country in which they were fighting than their eagerness to contribute to the support of French children. The money paid for each child (500 francs) was followed by continued interest in the "mascot's" welfare—an interest the effects of which will long outlive the war.

Bureau of Refugees

With the first German invasion of northern France came the recognition by the American Red Cross of the need of caring for the unhappy people forced to flee from their devastated homes. This relief work went on under various designations as a section of the Department of Civil Affairs, but with the reorganization of the Red Cross in August, 1918, it was finally christened the Bureau of Refugees.

When, during the summer, the tide of German advance became retreat, the emergency work among the refugees and the repatriated lessened, but the condi-

tions became again acute as the people began to return to their former homes in the North.

New problems arose constantly during those months and new demands were made. The housing question, at all times during the war a perplexing one, became freshly so in the reoccupied regions. Clothing was supplied in quantities, food was always an emergency requirement, as well as a constant need.

Some idea of the scope of the aid given may be gained from records showing that in one department alone among the articles distributed were 2,699 sheets, 600 blankets, 807 kitchen utensils, 1,223 pieces of furniture, garden tools, sewing machines, a tailor's outfit, a bicycle, and so on.

As a more stable military situation made it possible, regular headquarters were established by the Bureau for the distribution of materials. As examples of the work done during these months 50 mowing machines and 1,200 scythes were sent to the Department of the Aisne to be used in the harvest; traveling grocery stores were sent out to sell food to the recently returned inhabitants of the Oise where shops were not yet reopened and gardens had been destroyed; blankets were supplied at Amiens as well as other materials for temporary shelter; canteens were set up in a half a dozen places to feed not only the stream of refugees returning to their old homes but the counter current of those from the newly-liberated regions, such as Cambrai.

In the Marne distribution of clothing, tools and household articles in great quantities was made.

In Paris the work was divided into four general districts, Bureaus Nos. 1, 2, 3 and the *banlieus*. From these food, furniture, clothing and other necessities were distributed, and an employment agency and several dispensaries were conducted, either entirely by the American Red Cross or in cooperation with other organizations.

At the Monastery of St. Sulpice, Paris, many transient refugees were accommodated until it passed again into the hands of the French authorities in November. During the month of September 6,190 persons were sheltered there, of whom 5,350 continued northward; in October 9,100 transients were housed and fed there.

It is estimated that the grand total of persons cared for by the Bureau of Refugees in France from September to January amounted to a little less than 600,000.

It became apparent after the signing of the armistice that the gradual demobilization of the French Army and the approach of peace had released so many resources of the French people that outside aid was no longer a vital necessity and the Bureau was discontinued at the end of December, 1918.

In the Devastated Regions

But its work did not stop. It only took on another form. Warehouses were established in the devastated regions at Lille, Amiens, Laon, Châlons, Mézières and Verdun, from which through recognized French societies—and direct to individuals in many cases—

were distributed clothing, blankets, bedding, beds, food, tools and other supplies most needed by the people returning to their wrecked homes. Nor were the refugees still remaining in the central and southern departments abandoned, so far as the Red Cross was concerned. When our delegates were withdrawn from these departments all the supplies on hand and the installments remaining due on furniture and other purchases were turned over to local French societies for the benefit of those who could not yet return to their former homes.

In acknowledging the announcement from Colonel Gibson of the plan for continuing Red Cross aid to the people of the devastated and liberated regions the official in charge of the Bureau of Franco-American Relations of the French Government said:

“Permit me to express to you our gratitude for the generous assistance that you propose to give to the people who have suffered so much from the war. You will thus add to the great work of the American Red Cross a new page. No initiative will be more appreciated by our population, and I wish above all to express to you here my deep gratitude.”

Upon the assignment of Major Homer Folks, Director of the Department of General Relief, to make a European survey of after-war conditions and needs, Lt. Col. E. P. Bicknell, until then Commissioner for Belgium, was appointed Director and under him was carried out the planning and execution of the efforts of the Red Cross in the devastated regions.

Department of Public Information

To this department was assigned the duty of recording and interpreting the work of the Red Cross in France for the information of those for whom and with whom it was working and for those who had contributed to its support.

The most important section of the Department was engaged in the preparation of news, stories and articles of which an average of 150 per month were sent to the United States by mail; cable stories and reports numbered about 25 per month.

Another section prepared and distributed articles to the French newspapers and magazines. All reports and pamphlets passed through this Department, which also prepared posters. It issued a weekly Bulletin in English which had a circulation of 6,000 copies and was the official organ of the Red Cross Commission, and a French monthly publication which was circulated among newspapers, officials and other interested persons. All direction and other signs for the hundreds of Red Cross activities in France were also prepared by the Department. These have totaled as many as 4,000 painted signs per month.

The Bureau of Photography made about 1,200 feet of motion picture film and 7,000 still prints per month, all of them intended to satisfy the demand for information as to what the Red Cross was doing.

This also was the fundamental purpose of the news

and descriptive articles prepared and the information supplied to writers outside of the organization.

The Director of the Department was Major Daniel T. Pierce.

Preparing For the End

In December Colonel Gibson addressed himself to the problem of bringing the work of the Red Cross to a fitting close. Many civilian activities could be handed over to French organizations for continuation; others could be ended without injury to those who no longer needed aid; hospitalization quickly decreased, work for the soldiers lessened in general but became intensified at the ports and in Paris.

To leave a Red Cross organization in France after the Commission had done its work, a Paris District Chapter was formed in November to carry on those works which it was wise to continue.

On November 14 the City of Paris, in the magnificent state apartments of the Hotel de Ville, tendered an official reception to Henry P. Davison, Chairman of the War Council, and to the organization as a whole. Speeches were made by many distinguished Frenchmen. The Vice-President of the Municipal Council, Mr. Chassaing-Goyon, said:

“Thanks to your power of work and your gift of organization, thanks to the devotion which moves all your supporters and the great outburst of love which has permeated the whole of America, you have accomplished wonders. Nothing is sweeter at this time than

to express in the joy of triumph the support that you have offered us.”

In responding to this and other tributes Mr. Davison used these words, which may well conclude the report of the Red Cross for the last and strenuous six months of 1918:

“Throughout, whatever the Red Cross has been able to accomplish has been due to the cooperation of France. I like to believe that in this cooperation in a common undertaking there has been forged one more link of understanding and sympathy between the two great nations. They have held council and fought and suffered together. Side by side they have waged the war for freedom during the lapse of a century and a half. Now with their combined Armies and the Armies of their glorious Allies they have won the greatest victory over the strongest foe in the history of all war. Side by side they fight the battle of peace, for the upbuilding of a new and better world on the ruins of the old world, for the extension to all the nations of the earth of the principle of their own treasured liberty, for self government and the rights of man in all lands and all times.”

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