

SANITARY COMMISSION.

NO. 44.

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS
OF THE
CINCINNATI BRANCH
OF THE
UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION,
To March 1, 1862.

CINCINNATI, March 1, 1862.

DR. JOHN S. NEWBERRY,

Western Secretary U. S. Sanitary Commission:

DEAR SIR: The members of the Cincinnati Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission desire to submit for your consideration, a report of their proceedings to the 28th day of February inclusive.

Appointments were made at Washington of members here as early as May, June, and July, 1861, but no notice was given to the gentlemen selected thus to co-operate with the Sanitary Commission until November last, when you visited this city.

Our first meeting was held at the residence of Dr. W. H. Mussey, November 27, 1861, and steps were then taken to complete a working organization and system, to obtain a depot and office, to organize a Central Ladies' Soldiers Aid Society for this city and vicinity, to issue a circular to the people of Southern Ohio and Indiana and Northern Kentucky, and to inspect and supply the wants of the camps and hospitals in and near Cincinnati. A

small quantity of supplies which had been received by Dr. Mussey, in consequence of the reference to him in the Sanitary Commission's address to the Loyal Women of America, was put into our hands.

Within a few days, a Central Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society was established, composed of delegates from each of twenty-four societies in this city and county. This society dates from a public meeting of ladies, (members of sewing circles and others interested,) called by a committee from our number on December 6th, and completed an efficient organization on the 18th, and received its first supplies on the 24th of the same month. This society has held weekly meetings, increasing in interest, usefulness and numbers, until now it is composed of delegates from forty working societies, and through these constituent members manufactures weekly into hospital garments, raw material to the amount of from three to five hundred dollars. Its funds have been in part supplied by us, and in part are the proceeds of a most successful public reading, generously given by Mr. James R. Murdock of a poem, "The Wild Wagoner of the Alleghenies," written by Mr. T. Buchanan Read, and for the first time laid before the public on this occasion. Other generous donors have also contributed in various ways to the treasury of this Society. It proves a patriotic and useful auxiliary, providing large quantities of supplies of all kinds, which are given to us to distribute as the necessities of the army require.

On the 13th of December we issued an edition of 5,000 copies of a circular to the public, stating in detail the needs of the army, and the plans proposed whereby the liberal and patriotic, especially among the women of our country, might cooperate with the Government. On the 1st day of February, we issued another edition of 5,000 copies of the same circular, making such changes as experience had proved advisable. And again, on the 13th of February, we made another appeal to the public by issuing an address, of which we published 5,000 copies,

and which was copied into, and thus largely circulated by, the newspapers of the city. We are especially under obligations to the publishers of the *Western Christian Advocate*, who gave us the benefit of their circulation among 25,000 subscribers, by printing in full our first circular. You have been furnished with these documents, from which you will perceive that in preparing our statement of the wants of the army, and how to organize for its relief, we took advantage of the experience of other and older auxiliaries of your Commission.

On the 19th of December, through the generosity of the Board of Trustees and Visitors of Schools of this city and of the Volunteer Aid Committee, (an organization under which large quantities of supplies were collected and distributed among the regiments from this city and vicinity in the autumn before our first meeting,) we were provided with an office and depot in the first story of the Mechanics' Institute, corner of Vine and Sixth streets, a central location for our meetings and those of the Ladies Society, with ample and convenient accommodations for storing, packing and shipping. Our regular meetings are held there every Thursday evening, and those of the Ladies every Tuesday forenoon. Our store-keeper, Mr. John B. Reich, is in constant attendance, and a committee for the week, of three of our number, spend a portion of each day in receiving, packing and forwarding supplies. Our business has now so largely increased that we are obliged to have the entire time, and therefore pay, for the service of an assistant to Mr. Reich, as well as two porters. Our own services have been, of course, wholly gratuitous, except in the case of the two Inspectors hereafter alluded to, who are paid a small compensation.

Immediately after our organization, we sent two of our members, (Dr. Mead and E. Y. Robbins), clothing them for the time with the authority of Inspectors, to examine the several camps at Hamilton, Xenia, Lockland, and Camp Dennison, in Ohio, and near Newport, in Kentucky, and the hospitals in this city,

and to supply all wants. Their reports are on file, and subject to your examination. Since that time we have repeatedly had the pleasure of seeing your Inspectors, Doctors Read and Prentice, at our rooms, and of meeting their requisitions. Both our Secretaries and several other members have visited and distributed supplies to the hospitals in Louisville, Bacon Creek and Munfordville. We have also forwarded supplies, in considerable quantities, to Garfield's brigade on the Sandy, to several points in Western Virginia, and to the Society called Uncle Sam's Daughters, for the use of sick soldiers at Palmyra, Missouri. One of our members, Dr. W. H. Mussey, now Medical Director of Gen. Wood's division of the army under Gen. Buell, left this city for service in the field a few days after our first meeting, and has kept us constantly advised of the wants of the army within his sphere of observation, and we have met several requisitions from him.

After the battle of Mill Spring, we desired to do something for the sufferers at Somerset, and telegraphed to the Medical Director of General Thomas' division to know what was most wanted. His reply called for a class of supplies with which we are not furnished by the public, viz: spoons, knives and forks, plates, spit-pans, chamber-pans, etc. We should have purchased a supply and forwarded them to him, but the condition of the roads prevented our procuring transportation. We were glad to hear afterwards that through the interposition of Dr. Murray, Medical Director on Gen. Buell's staff, Dr. Read, your indefatigable Inspector, was enabled to get through, in a Government train, to Somerset, with five cases of your supplies, and thereby to aid in relieving much suffering.

Before this, we had purchased and sent to Dr. Mussey, at Nelson's Furnace, in Kentucky, a considerable invoice of goods of the same general character. It should be added, also, that our committee found a similar want at Fort Donelson; and purchased at Evansville and sent to the Fort, a quan-

tity of hardware and queensware, of which special mention must be made of candlesticks, for there was not one on the floating hospitals, steamers City of Memphis and Fanny McBurnie. at the Fort.

On Sunday, the 16th of February, news of the severe fighting at Fort Donelson reached Cincinnati. A number of liberal citizens at once set on foot a movement to raise money for the charter of a steamer to go with nurses and supplies to the relief of the sick and wounded. During that day and the next, \$2,795 were subscribed and put into our hands for that purpose. It was found, however, that every steamboat in port was chartered by the Government. We at once made known our wishes by telegraph to General Buell at Louisville, and he promptly authorized the Quartermaster here to transfer to us, upon the same terms the Government had held it, the charter of the Allen Collier, a small boat, upon which, about midnight of February 17, several members of our body, to wit, Dr. David Judkins, as chief of the corps of medical men and nurses, and Messrs. Eli C. Baldwin, Henry Pearce and C. F. Wilstach, Committee in charge of the property, with a corps of ten volunteer surgeons and thirty-six nurses, from among our best citizens, and a large stock of supplies and medicines, embarked for Fort Donelson. Mr. B. P. Baker was sent in advance to Louisville, where he procured the necessary permits to go up the Cumberland, from General Buell, and thus avoided all delay on that account. As you joined this expedition in person, at Louisville, and made the trip to the Fort, and as far as Evansville, on the return, it is deemed unnecessary to enter into a detailed statement of its history. Suffice it to say, that with one marked exception, our Committee met with nothing but ample facilities and the kindest treatment from the officers they met, and it is believed that notwithstanding many discouragements, and the bad conduct of one prominent medical officer, they were enabled to prosecute their errand of mercy successfully, and to relieve

much distress. They found a sad and very disgraceful condition of affairs at the Fort, so far as relates to medical and other supplies. There was great want of the ordinary medicines, which might and should have been provided by the proper authorities. They were called upon for chloroform by the acting medical director, and for chloroform and morphia by regimental surgeons, who informed them that neither article was there. They were shown by the surgeon of the floating hospital, Fanny Bullitt, with three hundred wounded in his charge, his stock of cerate, amounting to less than two ounces. There was no meat with which to make soup; no wood to cook it with when supplied by our Committee; no bread, except hard bread; not a spoon or candlestick, on the floating hospital. The want of candlesticks nearly led to the loss of the City of Memphis by fire.

Great allowance may be required for the conduct of a man who, for days and nights, without rest, had been trying to serve the brave men wounded in that battle; but it is difficult to make any for the medical chiefs who failed to take the proper forethought to provide a sufficient stock of such articles as our Committee found wanting. Our whole people knew that a battle would be fought at Donelson, and at this stage of the war there can be no excuse for such deficiencies. The country has provided the men and the money, and a neglect now to furnish such articles as the army regulations require cannot be overlooked.

The Allen Collier, bearing in addition to those already named, Mr. F. C. Sessions, of the Columbus, and Mr. James Blake, of the Indianapolis branch Commission, with a further stock of supplies from the latter city, put on board at Louisville, and Dr. G. C. Blackman, of this city, and a few others, who embarked at Smithland, reached Donelson on Thursday, February 20. The next day, eighty-one of the sick and wounded were put on board, and she started on her return trip. A large portion of the stores and supplies were distributed at the Fort, and the surgeons and nurses devoted themselves while there with kind and

unremitting care to those for whose benefit they went. The gratitude of the soldier was freely expressed, and it is hoped that this expedition not only relieved suffering, but by giving confidence to the army that the people were alive to their wants, did something to strengthen the hands of the Government in this great crisis.

During the day before the departure of the *Allen Collier*, we had telegraphed to Gen. Halleck, expressing the desire of the people of Cincinnati to take charge of some of the sufferers at Fort Donelson. The next morning a reply was received, that five hundred sick and wounded would be sent, and requiring us to treat friend and foe with equal humanity, which, without that suggestion, would have been done. Preparations were at once made by us, under the direction of Dr. John Moore, of the regular army, Post Surgeon at this point. Anticipating possibilities, a committee had been appointed as early as January, who had examined every building in the city at all adapted to hospital purposes, which could be had. A five-story building, conveniently located on Fourth street, between Main and Sycamore, which promised greater advantages in many respects than any other house that could be got, was rented and fitted up. It was supposed that this hospital, with the two other military hospitals previously established by the Government, and such accommodations as could be had in the St. John's and Commercial Hospitals, (the former a private hospital under the control of the Sisters of Charity, and the latter a public institution owned by the city), would be sufficient. At the date of this report, a large number of sick and wounded have been received at these hospitals, and we shall be called upon, in all probability, in a few days, to open another hospital.

In the organization of the Fourth Street Hospital, and in the reception of the sick and wounded, have been presented occasions, which large numbers of the people have eagerly embraced, to render substantial aid to the brave soldiers who have

suffered disease or wounds in their country's cause. And it is due to Dr. Moore, under whose direction we have acted in this part of the service, to say, that we have found him not only accomplished in his profession, but also a clear-headed and efficient man of business. It was at first supposed that the cost of establishing this new hospital would have to be paid out of our treasury, and we were ready to have honored the draft, but the authority given by the Government to Dr. Moore has proved ample so far as most of the expenses are concerned. This is only alluded to, because it is proper that our views and proposed course should be fully made known to those whose agents we are—a most generous people, who have been and are ready to sustain any enterprise that promises aid to the suffering, or support to the Government.

We submit herewith a statement, carefully prepared by Mr Heich, of the receipt and distribution of supplies, including articles purchased. Our receipts and disbursements have constantly increased, and we confidently anticipate that the next month's business will more than equal all we have done up to this time. The names of the donors have been published weekly. They reside mostly in Southern Ohio and Indiana. From Kentucky, Northern Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan, we have also been in receipt of donations. Our cash receipts to the 23th February inclusive, have been:—

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| | \$7,199 08 |
| Expenses to the same date, - - - | \$4,259 80 |
| Cash on hand, - - - - - | 2,939 28 |
| | \$7,199 08 |

With the exception of \$250, contributed by seven gentlemen of Zanesville, the receipts have been mainly donations by citizens of Cincinnati. The names of the donors have been from time to time published in the Cincinnati papers. Without now entering into a detailed statement of the items of expenditure, we may say in general, that \$1,500 paid for the hire of the Allen

Collier; \$500 contributed to the Commission at Washington in consideration of its large expenditure in the West; \$200 paid for service of Inspectors; nearly \$1,500, paid at different dates, for goods to be manufactured into hospital clothing; and over \$400 paid for medicines, wine, slippers, queensware, and other necessary articles not contributed by the public, or not in sufficient quantities, constitute the leading items of our disbursements. Among our principal benefactors have been the Express and Railroad Companies, and lines of transportation. They have carried our members and agents, and transported donations to, and supplies from us, without charge, saving us hundreds of dollars. At the same time, they have been most bountiful in their supply of passes for furloughed wounded soldiers to their homes.

Although the organization of our board was deferred until November, it must not be supposed that the citizens of Cincinnati have looked idly upon the great struggle of the country for national existence and the integrity of its territory and institutions. Soon after the war began, Dr. W. H. Mussey procured from the Secretary of the Treasury, the use of the U. S. Marine Hospital in this city, a building erected a few years since for the use of western boatmen, and organized a Board of ladies and gentlemen for its management. The Hospital was unfurnished, having never been occupied, and was in some respects out of order. The donations of our citizens enabled the Board of Managers to furnish the Hospital, and open it for the reception of sick and wounded soldiers, in the month of May. In this hospital, were rendered the gratuitous services, not only of Dr. Mussey and his associates in the Board of Managers, but of a large number of benevolent men and women, as nurses and otherwise, until August, when the success of the enterprise induced the authorities to adopt the hospital as a regular Government hospital, and it was taken charge of by the medical director of this department. Upon surrendering its care, a sale was

made by the managers, of the furniture, &c., to the Government. The fund thus obtained has since been expended in part in paying the expenses of furloughed wounded and disabled soldiers, in proper cases, to their homes, and in part by Dr. Mussey, in providing for the wants of the sick in his division of the army of Kentucky.

During the summer and autumn, the complaints which reached our city from the camps in Western Virginia, led to an active effort to supply the wants of the ten thousand volunteers who had gone from homes in Cincinnati and vicinity. The Volunteer Aid Committee, before referred to, were put in possession of a very large stock of supplies of all kinds, and of money; and two of their members, Messrs. C. F. Wilstach and Eli C. Baldwin, visited the various camps on the Kanawha, at Cheat Mountain and Romney, where a large number of Ohio troops were then stationed. This Committee is still in active operation; it has a large but diminishing stock; is working in perfect harmony with us; has relieved much suffering, and no doubt saved many lives. Several of the active members of the Board of Managers of the Military Hospital, and the Volunteer Aid Committee, are members of our Commission, and thus bring to our enterprise the experience gained in their earlier service.

In addition to these organized efforts to relieve the sick and wounded, and to prevent suffering, there has been much individual labor, time and money spent in this vicinity, in the same cause. The troops at Camp Dennison, and the sick in the several hospitals in Cincinnati, have received large quantities of supplies from individual donors, and much pains-taking labor has been gratuitously rendered, in which the Sisters of Charity, among others, have been active, to avert and to relieve distress. When the ladies were called together for the purpose of organizing their Central Society, and systematizing their labors, it was found that twenty sewing circles were meeting weekly in this city and vicinity, contributing great but disconnected efforts to

the relief of the army. The importance of organization and system, is shown by the fact that since the establishment of that Society, this number has doubled within the limits of this county alone. Surely if the loyal States do not achieve success in this war, it will not be the fault of the people.

In making this report, we have entered into detail, which we trust will not be found tedious, in the hope that the experience of Cincinnati may be of use in the wiser ordering of the zeal and patriotism of other portions of the country.

Respectfully,

R. W. BURNET, *President.*

Members of the Cincinnati Branch of the United States
Sanitary Commission.

R. W. BURNET, President.
GEO. HOADLY, Vice President.
B. P. BAKER, Recording Secretary.
CHAS. R. FOSDICK, Corresponding Secretary.
HENRY PEARCE, Treasurer.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Larz Anderson, | Samuel L'Hommedieu, M.D. |
| A. Aub, | Edward Mead, M.D. |
| Micajah Bailey, | George Mendenhall, M.D. |
| Eli C. Baldwin, | O. M. Mitchell. |
| Joshua H. Bates, | W. H. Mussey, M.D. |
| S. J. Broadwell, | Thomas G. Odiorne, |
| E. S. Brooks, | Mark E. Reeves, |
| A. G. Burt, | E. Y. Robbins, |
| Charles E. Cist, | W. W. Scarborough, |
| C. G. Comegys, M.D. | Thomas C. Shipley, |
| Rev. E. T. Collins, | George K. Shoenberger, |
| John Davis, M.D. | Rev. W. A. Snively, |
| F. C. Griggs, | J. B. Stallo, |
| Robert Hosea, | Bellamy Storer, |
| James M. Johnston, | Rev. M. L. P. Thompson. |
| David Judkins, M.D. | Charles F. Wilstach. |

(All of Cincinnati.)

Also—James McDaniel, J. D. Phillips, R. W. Steele,
(Of Dayton.)

Receipts and Shipments of the Cincinnati Branch N. S. Sanitary Commission, FROM DECEMBER 13th 1861, TO FEBRUARY 28th, 1862.

| ARTICLES | Total Rec ^d p ^s . | Totl Shipm ^s . | Bal. on hand. | ARTICLES | Total Rec ^d p ^s . | Totl Shipm ^s . | Bal. on hand. |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Comforts,..... | 2,021 | 1,551 | 470 | <i>Brought Forward,</i> | 36,277 | 26,961 | 9,316 |
| Blankets,..... | 1,094 | 871 | 223 | Barley,..... | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Pillows,..... | 1,917 | 1,268 | 649 | Tumblers,..... | 144 | 144 | 0 |
| Sheets,..... | 2,407 | 1,454 | 953 | Spoons,..... | 402 | 372 | 30 |
| Socks,..... | 4,444 | 4,170 | 274 | Claves,..... | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| Drawers,..... | 2,122 | 1,938 | 184 | Tea,..... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Shirts,..... | 4,728 | 4,086 | 642 | Soap,..... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Pillow Cases,..... | 1,793 | 3,158 | 1,431 | Crackers,..... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mittens,..... | 1,793 | 1,734 | 59 | Boots,..... | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Bed Ticks,..... | 1,999 | 1,277 | 722 | Sugar,..... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Towels,..... | 2,762 | 1,654 | 1,108 | Yests,..... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Cushions,..... | 750 | 475 | 275 | Cups and Saucers,..... | 216 | 216 | 0 |
| Slippers,..... | 677 | 548 | 129 | Urinals,..... | 24 | 24 | 0 |
| Fruits,..... | 2,073 | 1,176 | 897 | Bed Pans,..... | 36 | 36 | 0 |
| Dressing Gowns,..... | 264 | 195 | 69 | Bowls,..... | 144 | 144 | 0 |
| Handkerchiefs,..... | 1,827 | 1,031 | 796 | Plates,..... | 144 | 144 | 0 |
| Bed Gowns,..... | 220 | 82 | 138 | Pitchers,..... | 36 | 36 | 0 |
| Cravats,..... | 3 | 3 | 0 | Wines,..... | 370 | 292 | 78 |
| Brushes,..... | 9 | 9 | 0 | Pants,..... | 44 | 27 | 17 |
| Napkins,..... | 117 | 1 | 116 | Cots,..... | 42 | 39 | 3 |
| Neckties,..... | 8 | 3 | 5 | Bedsteads,..... | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Housewives,..... | 193 | 86 | 107 | Small Bags,..... | 128 | 0 | 128 |
| Combs,..... | 16 | 16 | 0 | Knives & Forks,..... | 72 | 72 | 0 |
| Eyeshades,..... | 149 | 90 | 59 | Chambers,..... | 36 | 36 | 0 |
| Cap ^s ,..... | 85 | 85 | 0 | Pin Cushions,..... | 886 | 226 | 660 |
| Sago,..... | 10 | 0 | 10 | Tin Cups,..... | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Totals,..... | 36,277 | 26,961 | 9,316 | Totals,..... | 39,059 | 28,793 | 10,266 |

The above statement does not include Bandages, Lint, Old Linen, Chickens, Butter, Eggs, Fish, Meats, small Sundries, Pencils, Envelopes, Paper, Pens, and Holders, and a large amount of Miscellaneous Articles, too numerous in their variety to specify or enumerate in detail, of which a very considerable amount have been received and distributed.

JOHN B. HEICH, Branch T. S. San. Com.

