

certificates, and without taking the six months' course mentioned; but it should be understood that at the close of the service in question their relation with the Red Cross ceases, until they can be graduated in the regular way. In this connection, however, credit will be given for character of work done during the enlistment. The certificates above mentioned are: A certificate of health and character, certificate (or true copy thereof) of graduation from training school, and the inclosed blank properly filled out.

Candidates must have no idea that there is any romantic or sentimental attractiveness in the stern demands of war, pestilence or famine. The emergencies of the service are often most trying, sometimes involving privation and danger, and only those ready for such work can be of real use. The Sisters are required to be within call at all times, ready to respond to any order authorized by the president of the American National Red Cross. The institution is absolutely neutral and non-sectarian, not in the sense of ignoring, but of respecting every nationality and all religions. The Red Cross is a volunteer institution, guided by and practicing regular military tactics. The Sisters are required to devote their entire attention during the period of their service to the work to which they are assigned, and must cheerfully obey the instructions of their directors.

No salary is paid, but during actual service the best available provision is made for the support and requirements of the Sisters. Information when and where examinations for ranks may be made will be sent upon receipt of signed application. Should at any time one be found unfit for service in the field, changes will be made as found proper.

These regulations are made by order of the Right Hon. Clara Barton, president of the American National Red Cross, and Bettina A. Hofker Lesser, sister-in-chief, Red Cross Hospital, for the purpose of rendering best aid to the sufferer, best assistance to the physicians and surgeons, and to those who devote themselves to attend the sick and wounded.

On the afternoon of April 14th a large number of nurses assembled at the hospital to listen to a lecture on Military Surgery by the superintendent, Dr. M. Lesser.

"In Red Cross nursing," said Dr. Lesser, "we find no difference from the nursing in general life. Surgery is surgery all over the world, and so is medical nursing, but we must be thoroughly prepared for emergency cases in event of war, so that Red Cross service is military service. We recognise in the Red Cross but one superior officer, the Right Honorable Clara Barton. In addressing her we have only to say 'the Right Honorable;' others are to be called simply sister-in-chief, sister-in-charge, sisters and associate

sisters. 'Going to the field' in Red Cross work does not always mean going to war, but includes any great calamity which affects large multitudes of people. This last paragraph was introduced by the Right Honorable Clara Barton when America joined the Red Cross Society, and has now been accepted by all other nations."

There are two kinds of military service, the army and navy; but only France and America belong to the Navy Red Cross Service, though Japan has begun, and England is ready to sign the treaty. Regarding the work in the field Dr. Lesser said: "As soon as you see a wounded soldier out of the immediate range of bullets, it is your duty to go forward and bandage his wounds, if bleeding, and protect him as well as you can from death. One point a Red Cross nurse should fully understand. It is not easy to feel that the man who has shot your brother should be as carefully cared for as your brother, but a true Red Cross sister must know no difference. If a soldier of your own nation and a Span—(I beg pardon; war is not declared, and I hope it won't be)—and one of any other nation both lie wounded, you must give your first attention to which ever one lies nearer. If you fail to do this, and it becomes known, your resignation will be asked for. The Red Cross does not recognise nationality, creed, or sex." Dr. Lesser then laid special stress upon a nurse's duty to protect herself, surrounded as she will of necessity be by infectious disease, induced by loss of hygienic surroundings. Smallpox and yellow fever exist in Cuba, besides all the diseases of famine. "Never sit down by a patient who has an infectious disease," was the warning, "as the relaxation of the system tends to the absorption of the disease. Never go into a place where infection is without having eaten proper meals, and never wear the clothes worn in the sick room longer than you can possibly help. The drinking water in the south and in Cuba is extremely poor, and is usually the medium of infection. Have all water boiled, then filtered before using. Wash the hands frequently."

The Red Cross uniform, which all the nurses will be expected to wear, consists of a dark blue gown, full white apron, with wide belt, soft white kerchief about the neck, and becoming cap, made mitre-shape, from one of the kerchiefs. The baggage to be carried includes three dresses, several aprons, a good supply of underclothing, three caps and stout English walking boots, in place of the usual low nurses' shoes. The latter were found almost useless by the nurses who are now in Tampa, owing to the hard, gravelly soil of Cuba.

Questioned as to where the nurses were to go, Dr. Lesser said: "Time alone will tell. If war comes, we remain in our own country to care for our own; but if war should be averted, we go to Cuba for the relief work."

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