

history must be familiar to many of you, there resulted the Geneva Convention for the relief of the sick and wounded of armies. A convention was called at Geneva, Switzerland, for the 4th of August, 1864, to be composed of delegates accredited by the heads of the governments of the world, who should discuss the practices of war and ascertain to what extent the restraints of the established military code in its dealing with the sick and wounded of armies were needful for the benefit of the service; and to what extent they were needless. The consideration, discussion, and concessions of two weeks produced a proposed agreement which took the form of a compound treaty—viz., a treaty of one government with many governments—the first ever made—a compact known as the Treaty of Geneva, for the relief of the sick and the wounded in war. Its basis was neutrality. It made neutral all sick, wounded, or disabled soldiers at a field; all persons, as surgeons, Nurses, and attendants, who cared for them; all supplies of medicine or food for their use; all field and military Hospitals, with their equipments; all gifts from neutral nations for the use of the sick and wounded of any army; all houses near a battlefield that would receive and nurse wounded men; none of these should be subject to capture.

It provided for the sending of wounded men to their homes rather than to prison; that friend and foe should be nursed together and alike in all military Hospitals; and most of all, that the people who had always been forcibly restrained from approaching any field of action for purposes of relief, however needed, should not only be allowed this privilege, but should arm and equip themselves with relief of all kinds, with the right to enter the lines for the helpless, thus relieving not alone the wounded and dying, but the armies of their care. It provided a universal sign by which all this relief, both of persons and material, should be designated and known. A Greek red cross on a field of white should tell to any soldier of any country within the treaty that the wearer was his friend and could be trusted; and to any officer of any army that he was legitimately there and not subject to capture.

Some forty nations are in that treaty, and from every military hospital in every one of these nations floats the same flag; and every active soldier in all their armies knows that he can neither capture nor harm the shelter beneath it, though it be but a little 'A' tent in the enemy's lines, and every disabled man knows it is his rescue and his home. As the foreign nations furnish the only illustrations of the value and material aid of the Red Cross in war, let us glance at what it has accomplished.

In the Franco-Prussian war, the German Red Cross performed admirable service, it having learned many valuable lessons in the German-Austrian conflict, and through their efforts an infinite amount of good was accomplished, and great suffering averted. Not only were the wounded and sick soldiers tenderly cared for, but the unprovided families of soldiers were also supplied. The French Red Cross at the breaking out of the war was poorly organised and penniless. Within one month, however, hospitals had been established, ambulances and a large amount of field supplies were at the front, with a considerable relief force to care for the sick and wounded. The French Association, not including the branches in the provinces,

spent over two million dollars and assisted 110,000 wounded. Many neutral Red Cross nations assisted in rendering aid and relief in this great war. England alone sent a million and a half dollars, besides twelve hundred cases of stores. Eighty-five thousand sick, wounded, and famishing French soldiers entered Switzerland in a body, and were cared for by the Central Committee at Berne. The International Committee at Geneva, in one instance, asked for and obtained 2,500 seriously wounded French soldiers, supplied their wants, and sent them to their own country.

In the recent war between Japan and China you undoubtedly read of the wonderful work performed by the Japanese Red Cross. This society followed the precedent of Germany, in tenderly caring for the wounded enemy, even though fighting against a nation not in the Treaty. Japan had a cruel, merciless enemy to fight, and yet her soldiers were instructed to have respect even for a dead enemy. It is needless to give further illustration; history records the wonderful achievements of this greatest of relief organizations, though it cannot record the untold suffering which has been averted by it.

But war, although the most tragic, is not the only evil that assails humanity. War has occurred in the United States four times in one hundred and twenty years. A machine, even a human machine, called into active service only once in thirty years, is liable to get out of working order; hence, to keep it in condition for use, no less than for the possible good it might do, the American Society of the Red Cross asked to have included in its Charter the privilege of rendering such aid as it could in great public calamities, as fires, floods, cyclones, famines, and pestilence.

We asked that under the Red Cross Constitution of the United States its national organisation should be permitted to act in the capacity of Red Cross relief agents, treating a national disaster like a field of battle—proceed to it at once with experienced help, equipped with all the needful supplies and means to commence relief; overlook and learn the needs of the field; make immediate statements of the true condition and wants to the people of the country.

To relieve the necessities in every way possible, keep the people at large in possession of reliable information, hold the field until relief had been given, and retire when all needed aid had been rendered. This privilege was graciously granted by the Ratifying Congress at Berne, and is known as the 'American Amendment' of the Red Cross. Nations, since that date, on becoming signatory to the Treaty, have included that amendment in their Charters.

There remains but one question more: To whom is this movement due? Who instituted it? In what minds did it originate? I wish I could say it was all woman's work, but the truth compels the fact that this great humane idea originated with men; the movement was instituted by them. They thought it out, and they wrought it out, and it was only meet and proper that they should, for the terrible evil that made it necessary was theirs as well. Women, as a rule, are not war-makers. For centuries the caprices of men have plunged the world in strife, covered the

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