

within them remain unmolested. Surgeons, Nurses, chaplains, attendants, and all non-combatants at a field, wearing the accredited insignia of the Red Cross, are protected from capture. Badly wounded prisoners lying upon a captured field are delivered up to their own army, if desired. All supplies designed for the use of the sick or wounded of either army, and bearing the sign of the Red Cross, are protected and held sacred to their use. All convoys of wounded or prisoners in exchange are safely protected in transit, and, if attacked from ambush or otherwise harmed, an international treaty is broken. All persons residing in the vicinity of a battle about to take place shall be notified by the generals commanding both armies, and full protection, with a guard, assured each house which shall open its doors to the care of the wounded from either army; thus each house becomes a furnished field-hospital and its inmates Nurses.

Each nation, upon its accession to the treaty, establishes a national society, or committee, through which it will act internationally in its various relations.

This body corporate adopts a constitution, in the formation of which it seeks the best methods for serving humanity in general, together with the interests of its own people, in the direction of its legitimate efforts.

With the exception of our own, no national constitution has covered more than the direct ground of the treaty—viz., the prevention and relief of suffering from war. The formers of the National Constitution of the Red Cross of America foresaw that the great woes of its people would not be confined to human warfare; that the elements raging, unchained, would wage us wars and face us in battles; that as our vast territory became populated, and people, in the place of prairies and forests, should lie in their track, these natural agents might prove scarcely less destructive and more relentless than human enemies; that fire, flood, famine, pestilence, drought, earthquake, and tornado would call for the prompt help of the people no less than war, and while organising for the latter they also included the former. The ratifying congress at Berne accepted us with that digression from the original purport of the treaty, and what we term the "civil branch" of the Red Cross is known abroad as the "American Amendment."

With these explanations, it remains only to name some of the things accomplished and the changes which have taken place in consequence of this treaty during its life of a short quarter of a century.

Previous to the war of the Crimea civil help for military necessities was unknown. Florence

Nightingale trod a pathless field. In the wars which followed, till 1866, even this example was not heeded, and the wars of Napoleon III. in Northern Italy were types of military cruelty, medical insufficiency, and needless suffering, which shocked the world. Out of the smouldering ashes of these memories rose the clear, steady flame of the Red Cross; so bright and beautiful that it drew the gaze of all mankind; so broad that it reached the farthest bound of the horizon; so peaceful, wise, harmless, and fraternal that all nations and sects, the Christian and the Jew, the Protestant and the Catholic, the soldier and the philanthropist, the war-maker and the peace-maker, could meet in its softened rays, and, by its calm, holy light, reveal to each other their difficulties, compare their views, study methods of humanity, and, from time to time, learn from and teach to each other things better than they had known.

Our own terrible war, which freed 4,000,000 slaves and gave to us the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," had no ray of this fraternal light. We "read the righteous sentence by dim and flaring lamps," and in darkness and inhumanity, sorrow and doubt, "our souls went marching on."

The great Commissions rose, and performed a work of relief hitherto unknown, but from lack of military recognition their best efforts comparatively failed; and from lack of permanent organisation their future possibilities were lost to the world.

With the Franco-German war of 1870-71 commenced the opportunities for the practical application of the principles of the treaty. Both nations were in the compact. There was perfect accord between the military and the Red Cross Relief. There was neither Medical nor Hospital work save through and under the Treaty of Geneva. The Red Cross brassard flashed on the arm of every agent of relief, from the medical director at the headquarters of the king to the little boy carrying water to his wounded lieutenant; from the noble Empress Augusta and her court, and poor Eugenia while she had one, to the patient, tired Nurse in the lowest Hospital or tent by the wayside.

No record of needless inhumanity or cruelty to wounded or sick stains the annals of that war.

I walked its Hospitals day and night. I served in its camps, and I marched with its men, and I know whereof I speak. The German, the Frenchman, the Italian, the Arab, the Turco, and the Zouave were gathered tenderly alike, and lay side by side in the Red Cross Palace Hospitals of Germany. The royal women, who to-day mourn their own dead, mourned then the dead of friend and foe.

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