

them to Tampa, where part of our Army is encamped, and where they are attending to the medical cases. In New York City also, the "Daughters" are engaging nurses to serve in the military hospitals, and several from the Presbyterian Hospital have been enrolled. The Red Cross Society have now vast quantities of relief stores, of all kinds, waiting to get into Cuba. The workers in this society receive no salary. The Navy Department has announced that no women nurses will be taken on board ships, but the floating hospitals, founded and paid for by voluntary offerings will, I think, be staffed with trained nurses.

The whole American Nation is offering service of one kind or another. The Women's Patriotic League are combining to provide the Navy with comfort bags, bandages, delicacies in food, and literature and books. Writing materials and stamps, are also being provided for the soldiers. Other Women's Organizations have opened depôts for needle-work, and have made shirts, pillow slips, and other necessaries—furnishing employment for the families of the enlisted men at the same time.

#### THE AMERICAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

THE American National Red Cross, incorporated under the laws of the United States for the District of Columbia, constitutes the sole legitimate and recognized local branch in the country of the great International Association, of which the International Committee of Berne is the head. Of its conspicuous peaceful services, in time of national suffering at home and abroad, it is superfluous to speak. Its relation to the military and naval hospital service, in time of war, is now under consideration. Under the terms of the Geneva Conventions, it may be powerfully given to the military and naval arms, with the added prestige which belongs to it as the American branch of the International Red Cross. By the terms of the Geneva Convention of 1864, the participation of its agents in the active ambulance and hospital service of the Army and Navy forces of the United States is effected through the express neutralization of its individual workers by the military and naval authorities, and the issuance to them of the stipulet armet, bearing the sign of the Red Cross. Its assistance, however, is not limited to this individual employment of its agents in the field; it stands ready to co-operate in the equipment and supply of ambulances and medical stores, drawing for its resources on the benevolence of the community and systematizing effort and aid throughout the country by the various local committees it has organized.

There is pending in Congress, at the present time, an act to legitimize the National status of the American Red Cross, and to protect its exclusive use of its insignia for the work it was organized to perform, and its early passage is expected. Indeed, it would probably have become a law before now but for a need of a slight amendment, which this department has advised. The purpose of the act has the President's cordial approval.

#### RED GIRL GRADUATES.

"I NEVER feel the least bit uneasy when I leave my case in the hands of one of these Indian nurses," was the tribute just paid by a leading physician of Philadelphia to the young Indian women who have entered the field of trained nursing.

While the public, as a general rule, would hardly stop to consider that the profession of trained nursing, requiring all the delicate attributes of womanhood, would be adapted to the daughters of wild and savage ancestry, the fact remains that Oneida, Ottawa, Wyandotte and even Sioux girls, educated and trained are showing most remarkable aptitude for the profession.

Captain R. H. Pratt, the superintendent of the Indian Industrial School, at Carlisle, Penn., declares, indeed, that the time is not far distant when Indian girls will be regarded by the medical profession at large as the most successful trained nurses in the country. Their first introduction into the hospital training schools, after they had passed through a careful course of instruction at Carlisle, is due to the efforts of Captain Pratt, who believes the Indians have a future, and is firmly of the opinion, that as a class, they are quite capable of entering the occupations of the white man or woman, and that their dwelling should no longer be in the woods or on the prairie exclusively, but also in the hives of industry of the whites, the cities, the offices, the mills, the hospitals, and on the farms.

All the training at the Carlisle School is carried on with such an ultimate object in view, and with great success. The first instruction which the Indian girls, who have since graduated as trained nurses, received in their profession was in the Indian School Hospital, where, during this preliminary training, they showed such marked ability that they were sent to complete their training in the hospitals of Philadelphia.

At present Miss Nancy Seneca, a young Indian maiden, is studying at the Medico-Chirurgical Hospital in that city.

Miss Kate Grindrod, a Wyandotte Indian, who was educated at Carlisle, is one of the most successful professional nurses. During the epidemic at Carlisle, in 1890 and 1891, she volunteered her services as a nurse, and succeeded so well that, acting upon the advice of physicians, she entered the Woman's Hospital at Philadelphia. Her services are eagerly sought by many of the leading families in that city.

Including Miss Nancy Seneca, who will soon complete her course, eight Indian girls who first graduated at Carlisle School, have, during the last few years, become trained nurses, and are now profitably employed in independent practice.

The first Indian woman in the world to complete a course in trained nursing was Miss Nancy Cornelius, an Oneida. She arrived at the Carlisle school from the reservation in 1895, and entered the second grade. Being of a delicate constitution, she was obliged to pass much of her time in the school hospital for treatment, and, desiring some occupation, she soon became a competent assistant to the nurse in charge. In October, 1888, Miss Cornelius left Carlisle, and went to the training-school for nurses at Hartford, Conn., where she graduated two years later. Since then she has lived in Hartford.

Commenting on Indian women as trained nurses, a physician who had had much experience with them in his practice, said: "Indian girls seem to possess every requisite to make an ideal trained nurse. They are remarkably intelligent, and have nerve and great courage; they never become flurried or excited, but keep their heads perfectly at the most trying and critical moments. They also, as a rule, possess considerable physical strength and great endurance; withal they are kind and attentive, and follow out the doctor's directions to the letter."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)