

Beyond the general purposes of all local societies, each association should plan to do some special work. A registry for nurses may be conducted; a club room or club house may be opened; a bed may be endowed in a hospital; a benefit fund for sick relief may be established, a nurse may be provided for district or settlement work.

What has been accomplished on these lines is but an indication of what may result as we increase in numbers, strength, breadth, harmony, and unanimity of purpose.

The American Red Cross Society.

THE *Official Report* submitted by Dr. A. Monce Lesser (executive Surgeon of the American National Red Cross) to the President of the Red Cross Society, is interesting reading.

It is divided into two parts, the first dealing with the work of the Red Cross from the time of the declaration of war until the day of the beginning of active service in the field, and the second part with the service in the field from the time of arrival until the day of departure from Cuba. The diseases met in Cuba and their treatment will be embodied in a special medical report and presented to the staff of the Red Cross Hospital. In presenting the present report Dr. Lesser writes: "I beg to state that no remark herein should be construed as unfavourable criticism on my part, for I shall simply endeavour to detail the facts of the situations as they existed in connection with Red Cross work."

In the first part of the report Dr. Lesser describes how, immediately after the declaration of war, he was directed by the president of the American National Red Cross to secure a staff of competent physicians, male and female nurses, and practical assistants for active service.

Dr. Lesser then tells how, after the War Department had given its approval and acceptance of the Red Cross in case of need, he called, in the capacity of surgeon-in-chief of the organization, on Surgeon-General Sternberg, accompanied by the sister-in-chief. "We asked him for information in regard to field service," proceeds Dr. Lesser, "and were answered that no field service preparations on our part would be necessary. The Surgeon-General repeated a statement previously made that in his opinion a hospital ship would be the only service that we might render. He, however, referred us to Colonel Greenleaf, Assistant Surgeon-General, who, he said, would have charge of the field."

"Before our departure," the report continues, "we again officially announced to the Surgeon-General that we would be ready for service with a

number of American and Cuban physicians and nurses, some of them immune, and also with other material aids to assist in the war. We were then directed by an attendant to Colonel Greenleaf, whom we informed of our mission in regard to land service. After a short interview the Colonel said that he felt that there would be land service, and that it was always wise to be prepared.

Prepared with physicians, trained nurses and assistants, with whom he had become personally acquainted, he then reported ready to his superior officers, and advised that twelve trained nurses and three assistants selected by the sister-in-chief, and examined by him, should be sent on the *State of Texas*, in addition to the four sisters of the Red Cross Hospital who had returned from Havana and were waiting in the South. He also requested that ambulances, wagons and outfits, with large and small tents, together with instruments and other utensils and articles, should be forwarded at once. He acted on the principle, Dr. Lesser says, that it was better to be ready and not be needed than to be needed and not be ready. "Why these nurses and assistants were not sent," he adds "is well known to you."

WORK IN THE FIELD.

The report then tells of Dr. Lesser's trip to Key West, where he and Mrs. Lesser joined Miss Barton and her staff on the *State of Texas*, and on the following morning, June 20th, started for Cuba. On June 26th, the *State of Texas* was directed to Guantanamo by Admiral Sampson, and there on the 27th a reporter of a New York paper informed Miss Barton that a battle had been fought at the front, and that there was a number of sick and wounded at Siboney. The ship returned immediately to Siboney, arriving at 9.20 p.m. on that day, and the work of the Red Cross in the field began. The report proceeds substantially as follows:—

Upon arriving at Siboney, although it was late in the evening, I was directed by Miss Barton to go ashore to inquire into the needs of the hospital, and if there were any to present her compliments and to make the following offer: "Although the *State of Texas* was sent to feed the refugees and starving Cubans, it carried some persons and articles that might serve for hospital purposes, and that the Red Cross considers its first duty to be to help those who are nearest."

On landing we found ourselves in a large camp at the foot of a chain of mountains by the sea. The little dog tents were pitched on the beach and extended far inland, and soldiers were sleeping in them on ponchos. In the background was a large barn, to which I was directed when I asked for the hospital. I introduced myself and staff to the physicians, extending the compliments of the President of the Red Cross, and offering

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