

cotton, 111,000 lb. of non-absorbent cotton, 150,000 yards of absorbent gauze, 50,000 yards of starched gauze, and 9,000 stretchers.

"It has remitted in cash \$155,000 to the European Red Cross Societies, to the Bureau of Prisoners at Geneva, to the Belgian Relief, to Ambassador Herrick's Emergency Committee in Paris, to the American hospitals in France, Germany, and England. Also, \$55,000 has been paid up to date for surgeons' and nurses' salaries, outfits and land transportation of *personnel* and supplies.

"The administrative expenses are paid entirely by the American Red Cross, and are not a charge against the relief funds. All funds forwarded for relief work in Europe are transmitted through the State Department or by a certain express company, without any charge against relief funds.

"Of the \$850,000 which has been contributed up to mid-November, a balance remains of \$415,000. Against this balance must be charged \$150,000 for the maintenance of the *personnel* of surgeons and nurses for six months, and their return, which is held in reserve, leaving a balance of \$265,000 to meet the future calls of this great war!"

But the work of the Red Cross, though one is apt to overlook the fact, does not concern itself exclusively with war-time.

"The magnitude of the work of the American Red Cross since 1905," says the official White Book, "can be suggested in a sentence:—There have been over seventy-five disasters caused by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, fires, floods, famines, mine explosions, as well as wars in this and foreign countries, for the relief of which the American Red Cross has received and expended about \$12,000,000, including donated supplies."

Its other phases of endeavour are likewise interesting.

"In order," for example, "to bring a knowledge of accident prevention and of first-aid within the reach of industrial workers and other classes of people throughout the country, the 'first-aid' department of the American Red Cross was established in 1910. The department is operated under the direction of an officer of the medical corps of the Army, and has a staff of physicians, who are available for detail as instructors in mines, lumber camps, telephone and electric concerns, railroads, and other large industrial corporations—also for Police and Fire Departments of cities, the Y.M.C.A., etc.

The department has recently broadened its scope to include water first-aid, by the organization of life-saving corps.

The instruction cars are maintained on the

railroads of the country, and instruction is given to railroad employees by the physicians in charge of each car. The annual death-rate due to accidents on railroads, in mines and other industries, is great, and it is hoped to materially reduce the number of preventable accidents and minimize the ill effects following accidents by the instruction given.

"Somehow or other, though, it is in its labours on the battlefields, or immediately after a conflict, that the Red Cross holds the greatest interest for the laity, and much though its surgeons may accomplish there, it is the errand of mercy of its gentle nurses that excites the sympathy of the world most of all."

For enrollment as a Red Cross nurse, at least a two years' course of training, given in a general hospital (which includes the care of men, and has a daily average of at least fifty patients) is required. In States where registration is provided by law, nurses must be registered. The endorsement of the training school from which the applicant graduated is required, as well as recommendation by a local committee of Red Cross Nursing Service and the like. About six hundred nurses are serving, without pay, on national State and local committees, the country over, and through their efforts over 4,500 trained nurses have been enrolled for service under the Red Cross.

Miss Jane A. Delano, R.N., one of the most able Superintendents of Nurses in America, is Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service.

Through this nursing service, the organization has also undertaken to carry into the homes of the people a better knowledge of the underlying principle of health; the prevention and care of illness, through the establishment of a town-and-country-nursing-service, which it is believed will eventually make nursing care available, even in the most remote regions of our country, and through the organization of classes of instruction for women in elementary hygiene and the home care of the sick.

All of which is drawing the Red Cross ever closer to the hearts of the American people. Charity at home and charity abroad seems its axiom—and what measure of good comes, directly or indirectly, from its endeavours, the world over, it were folly to attempt to estimate.

URGENT CASES HOSPITAL FOR FRANCE.

Miss E. L. C. Eden writes that gifts of shirts, bandages, and other comforts and dressings will be acceptable for use in the Urgent Cases Hospital in France. Consignments may be sent c/o Mrs. Graves, 18, Bina Gardens, Gloucester Road, S.W.

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