

COMITÉ AMÉRICAIN POUR LES RÉGIONS DEVASTÉES DE LA FRANCE.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICE.

December came with all its work expected and unexpected. There were, however, fewer cases of acute illness requiring bedside care.

The examinations for school children, both in Soissons and the villages, were started with excellent attendance by the children and a fine spirit of co-operation on the part of the school teachers. The report on the follow-up work has not been made, but will appear after the physical examinations have been completed.

Through the kind interest of Monsieur le Maire at Marizelles, who gave us a baraque, we were able to open a local for our nourrissons in this village, in November. For the present, however, the reunions are only being held twice a month. The attendance and interest of the mothers at the three reunions since the opening is such that we hope to have regular consultations with a doctor in attendance.

The consultation de nourrissons at Belleu, interrupted for months, faute de local, was reopened in a baraque given by the Commune. The first attendance was very promising, 11 babies being present.

On December 5th we sent a convoy of 34 children to Switzerland; they met as usual at the Soissons centre in the morning; they were weighed, head, eyes, nose, and ears were examined, and a hot luncheon served. They were as thrilled and happy as ever at the opportunity of a vacation in Switzerland. On the 8th, 14 children returned—six from our villages in the Aisne, and eight for Reims, much improved in health and an appreciable gain in weight.

Christmas gave us some extra work. We had a special lunch at Reims for the nurses. The Reims children, through the kindness of the Committee, attended the movies, and received candy, clothes; toys and candy were given in all our villages to the babies, pre-school children and school children. Some extra food supplies were given to the familles nombreuses, and in many of our villages we had Christmas trees.

At the Soissons centre we had a Christmas dinner and tree on the 25th. The next day we took the tree to the Saint Medard Institute for the blind and deaf-mutes and distributed toys, food and some clothing. We went to give some joy to this unfortunate family and did not expect to be given such a pleasant afternoon. They had quite a programme: songs and tunes had been composed especially for us. It was most pathetic to hear the blind boys singing, playing the piano and violin; the deaf-mutes read some words of appreciation for all the Committee has done and continues to do for the Institute. The Director of the Institute reminded us that five years ago on the same date the Committee helped them generously. During the night a shell fell on the building and very early in the morning a

member of the Committee arrived and inquired what had happened, and for three months they were given food and helped in many ways.

On the 27th, the hospital at Soissons gave an entertainment, and an invitation was sent to all the members of the Centre. This is the first time since the war that the hospital has been able to provide a real fête with a Christmas tree—songs, recitations and comedies, the whole programme being done by the children and staff of the hospital.

Miss Evelyn Walker reports that the sub-committee on nursing held its first meeting on December 4th in New York. Doctor Winslow presided and there was a good attendance of members. The question of the future training school in Paris was very freely discussed, and Doctor Winslow appointed a special sub-committee to formulate a tentative plan and budget for the school, to be presented at the conference on the annual meeting on December 13th. This special committee worked very hard and presented a tentative plan and budget, which was heartily approved by all who heard it. But as it has not been acted upon by the sub-committee on nursing it cannot yet be published. The conference held at the Hotel Pennsylvania on December 13th was well attended, both by members of the A.C.D.F. and others interested in nursing questions. This conference will be fully reported both by the *American Journal of Nursing* and the *Public Health Nurse*. The result has been, however, increased enthusiasm for our nursing department, and offers of help in all directions.

Miss Walker also reports that our students at Columbia are well and very interested in their work. Mlle. de Joannis has been received with open arms by all those who could help her for the future organisation of the Training School in Paris, and she is tremendously pleased with her visit to America.

Miss Walker also visited the five from France at Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, and finds that they are doing well, and, although there are many things which they do not like about a nurse's training none of them would think of giving up. It was exceedingly interesting to see them in their trim nurse's uniform instead of the more or less trim uniform of the chauffeuses in France. They had many interesting stories to tell of their work and many funny incidents which Miss Walker promises to tell us when she returns to France.

HOMES FOR FAMILIES.

We hope other large landowners will follow the example of the Duke of Westminster, who has offered to give a site in Pimlico Road to the Westminster City Council for the erection of buildings for families with children. The site is large enough for a block of about forty working class tenements. If the scheme is carried through, and a provisional agreement has been entered into for conveying the site to the Council, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health, no families without children living with them need apply.

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