

Miss Clara D. Noyes, Director, Nursing Service, American Red Cross, in her monthly report in the *American Journal of Nursing*, writes that: "In no country in Europe does an enrolment of graduate nurses under the Red Cross as a reserve of the Army, similar to that of the United States, exist. The system is subject to great diversity, and for the most part Red Cross Nursing Services of the Continent are composed of amateurs prepared for military duty by short courses." This inefficient system is rampant in Great Britain, and is merely a "Society" Service. Our Territorial Army Nursing Service, composed of thoroughly trained nurses, approaches most nearly to the system of the American Red Cross, and is organised in times of peace for work in war.

In her article Miss Noyes also touches on "Japanese Relief":—

"The Japanese earthquake which startled the world with its unprecedented horror has added a great chapter to the history of the American people and the American Red Cross." Ten million dollars were immediately given in response to the appeal for funds.

"No personnel is being sent from the United States. The Philippine Islands' Chapter of the A.R.C., however, sent an emergency unit with all possible haste following the disaster. This unit contained a group of native Philippine nurses under the direction of Miss Alice Fitzgerald, who has for the two past years been serving as advisor on Nursing to Governor Wood of the Philippine Islands. Miss Fitzgerald (well known at International Headquarters in London) served during the Messina earthquake disaster some years ago. Doctors and this nursing unit now in Japan will begin operation of a hospital which soldiers are now erecting in the palace grounds of Prince Takamatsu, at the request of the Foreign Office, the nursing unit having rendered such exceptional service that it is remaining at the request of the Japanese authorities in Tokyo and the Japanese Ambassador to America."

Enormous shipments of supplies have been sent from the ports of San Francisco and Seattle, and a large portion of the fund will be transmitted to the Japanese Emergency Relief Bureau, which is the Governmental organisation for the administration of such relief.

Miss C. Reimann, Hon. Secretary, International Council of Nurses, has arrived for a month's stay at St. Thomas's Hospital to study teaching, and hospital administration. Miss Reimann then proceeds to New York to take a degree at Columbia University.

THE CRITICAL YEAR.

If one should be asked what is the most important year in a child's life one would unhesitatingly answer the earliest. The first five or seven years of a child's life are said to form the foundation upon which the whole of the later structure of its life will be built up, and one may say that each successive year loses a little in importance, until the second great period of the child's life commences, that of puberty, when a recapitulation begins, and the child again goes through a stage of physical and frequently mental disturbances, when very careful management is needed, if it is to emerge from the strain with the capacity for facing life's future difficulties unimpaired.

It is far more easy to attend to the physical welfare of a child than its psychological or mental well-being, and yet this is probably due to the fact that many of us have been trained to the former and not the latter; we know just what signs to look out for, and what steps to take to put right any small thing which has gone amiss. Our observation should stand us in just as good stead in watching over baby's other side, and if we are well acquainted with the little one in health, it will not be so difficult to know when something has gone wrong, although sometimes quite at the onset it is not so easy.

When we say that in all probability the baby's first year is the most important in his whole life we are not exaggerating. Let us consider what various and striking experiences meet him upon his introduction to this world. First, there is the act of birth itself, by no means a pleasant process for the infant, and which, in comparison with his former state of peaceful indolence, is uncomfortable, painful, and the beginning of a whole series of strange impressions, such as breathing, the action of the heart and intestines, and also of suckling, which is the first pleasurable sensation he derives. Physiologists tell us that at a very early stage the functions of our bodies, which afterwards become automatic, are accompanied by sensations that are afterwards completely forgotten; it may also be possible that the infant has some voluntary control over muscles and actions which later become entirely involuntary. As nurses, we know that co-ordination in the young infant is very far from being perfectly established, and that the action of heart or lungs is easily upset.

One finds when treating older children and adults by psycho-analysis that all these early impressions have left some memory trace behind; that the seven months' child, for instance, deprived of those last two months in

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