

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The work of the British Red Cross Society, as recorded in the annual report for 1933, shows continued extension along all its lines of activity.

The first two Air Ambulance Detachments were registered in 1933.

There was a total of 94,256 attendances for treatment at the Society's Clinic for Rheumatism, as against 86,929 in 1932. The results of the treatment are excellent and increasing interest by medical and lay circles is taken in the work of the clinic.

The blood transfusion service received the record number of 3,017 calls in the London area, an increase of 575 over the previous year. The number of donors on the roll is now 1,536.

With a total membership of over 25,000 boys and girls the usefulness of this movement as an educational instrument is increasingly recognised, while the senior branch benefits by the accession of young people brought up in sympathy with the traditions and ideals of the Red Cross.

The county branches of the society have continued to develop their voluntary services to the public. They have provided 374 first-aid posts and patrols on the roads and sea beaches and 603 emergency first-aid stations at large gatherings.

RED CROSS DAY COLLECTION.

The total sum collected on Red Cross Day, May 12, in aid of the funds of the County of London Branch of the British Red Cross Society was £1,660 8s. 9d. The expenses amounted to £80 0s. 11d. The County of London branch proposes this year to establish holiday camps at Northwood Park, near Winchester, for blind London children and also for children suffering from heart disease. These camps will be in connection with the Children's Country Holiday Fund. Eleven dispensaries will be established in September in the hop gardens of Kent for the treatment of hop-pickers.

RED CROSS CONFERENCE IN JAPAN.

The XXth International Red Cross Conference is to be held at Tokyo in October; it is hoped that it will prove to be one of the most important meetings ever held. The International Red Cross Committee will be represented by its President, Professor Max Huber, and important people will attend from Europe and America.

The British Red Cross will be represented by a delegation headed by Lt.-General Sir Harold Fawcus, the new Director-General of the Society.

There are to be sessions for the discussion of Nursing, when it is hoped some eminent nurses will be present.

Miss Take Hagiwara, the President of the Nurses' Association of the Japanese Empire, recently admitted to membership of the I.C.N. has pleaded earnestly with our International President, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, to attend the Conference, but this has not been possible as such a visit means absence from duty for three months, but no doubt the I.C.N. President will convey greetings to our Japanese colleagues—whose gentle graces make them such charming and efficient nurses of the sick; indeed, an example to us all in these somewhat rough and ready times.

A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

The means of acquiring at Oxford a knowledge and love of the best in Art was an essential part of the sort of education which the University should give. They sought to train and enrich not only the mind but the spirit of their students, and appreciation of beauty was one of the most vital and valuable gifts of life.

—VISCOUNT HALIFAX, *Chancellor of Oxford.*

ORGANISING AN AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE IN FRANCE.

An interesting article communicated by the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies by M. Robert Charlet Assistant Secretary-General of the "*Amis de l'Aviation Sanitaire*" is entitled "Organising an Air Ambulance Service in France," in the course of which the writer says:—

"The growing utilisation of aircraft for the transport of sick and injured, and for carrying food to disaster-stricken or isolated populations, could not fail to interest the Red Cross Societies.

The idea of 'aerial relief' is by no means a new one. Some years before the war, Dr. Duchaussoy, president of the *Association des Dames Françaises*—inspired by the example of the Dutch General de Mooy and Senator Dr. Reymond—had foreshadowed the use of aircraft (aeroplanes, balloons or airships) for the rapid conveyance of injured persons.

Since the war aviation has made great strides, and air ambulances are now being used with marked success in all parts of the world.

Although military operations constitute at present the bulk of the air ambulance traffic, there can be no doubt that a vast field of action awaits the air ambulance in the Colonies, where means of communication and locomotion are rare and often lacking in comfort. Nothing can compare with the aeroplane for speed, safety and cleanliness.

In France, the leaders of the three constituent societies of the French Red Cross (the S.S.B.M., the U.F.F., and the A.D.F.) have worked out in collaboration a scheme of special training for future air ambulance nurses and woman pilots. A first series of theoretical courses has already been given at the Hospital-School of the A.D.F. These will shortly be followed by practical demonstrations at an aerodrome, arranged by the U.F.F.

At the Second International Air Ambulance Congress, held in Madrid in June, 1933, Mlle. Marie Marvingt (one of the pioneer woman aviators of France and a staunch advocate of the idea of air ambulances, having lectured on this subject before the war) proposed the following resolution:—

'That Red Cross or other nurses of all nations, if recognised as physiologically apt to do so and after having received training in air ambulance nursing, should be authorised to serve, if necessary, in military air ambulances in time of war or peace.'

The useful and instructive co-operation of the army air services should not be withheld from the initiators of this supplementary training for Red Cross nurses. Private flying clubs and air propaganda agencies possessing aircraft of their own may also be persuaded to lend their collaboration by organising practice flights. If facilities are made available for the nurse to accomplish a certain number of flights under varying atmospheric conditions, she will gain the confidence and assurance necessary to enable her to administer to the physical and psychological needs of the patients entrusted to her care."

WHAT TO READ,

- "An Unknown God," Alfred Noyes.
- "Prison Letters of Countess Marckievicz," Ester Roper.
- "The Balliols," Alec Waugh.
- "Victorian Wallflowers," Malcolm Elwin.
- "The Triumphant Beast," Marjorie Bowen.
- "The Postman Always Rings Twice," James M. Cain.
- "As it was in the Beginning," G. E. Trevelyan.
- "Cossack Girl," Marina Yurlova.
- "Falling Star," Vicki Baum.

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