

RED CROSS DUTY TO AID VETERANS

Spends Nearly Four Millions in Year to Lessen Burdens of Disabled Soldiers.

SERVES 63,700 IN HOSPITALS

Every Case Is Given Individual Service—Assists Families of These Men Everywhere.

Washington.—The need of individual assistance by ex-service men and their families from the Red Cross is as pressing today as it was immediately after the end of the World War. For six years this work has been foremost of all Red Cross services, and in emphasizing the steady public support of this work the Red Cross National Headquarters urges the largest enrollment this year during the membership campaign opening on Armistice Day, November 11.

Nearly four million dollars of Red Cross funds spent for disabled veterans and their dependents during the year ended June 30 last presents some idea of the magnitude of this work. The current year, it is estimated, will call for still further disbursements of funds for the reason that the Red Cross, through more than 3,500 Chapters in as many communities in the United States, has been called upon to help the ex-service men in making out their applications for the adjusted compensation granted in the so-called bonus law.

58,767 Soldier Cases a Month.

The Red Cross work for the disabled soldier is designated "home service," for it gives individual attention to the man and his family approximating the interest and loving care of the home. Such service in the hospitals, camps, soldiers' homes and sanatoria, averaged 33,951 cases a month during the year. Assistance to ex-service men and their dependents averaged 58,767 cases a month. In addition, the Red Cross in the last twelve months provided 33,000 recreation and entertainment events in the hospitals and camps.

Thus the Red Cross, symbolized as the "Greatest Mother," still watches over these many thousands of men, comforts them, helps to lighten the tedium of their physical reconstruction, and in their homes lifts some of the burdens from their "own people."

Work in Communities Increases

The home service of the Red Cross was the most pressing duty of 2,609 Chapters, an increase of 182 communities where problems affected by the war veteran's condition required solution through immediate and intelligent assistance. The Chapters alone expended some \$2,000,000 in this work.

The transient disabled soldier, usually suffering from disability or tuberculosis, is almost everywhere a grave problem. From national funds the past year \$173,076.36 was expended in helping the Chapters to care for these wandering men.

According to government report there are 4,500 veterans in civilian institutions, and in the national homes for soldiers the complications are increasing. The large groups of patients whose claims have been disallowed, of veterans of foreign wars, and the great number of men permanently resident in these institutions call for Red Cross work which cannot be avoided nor denied.

Definite Service to 73,700

Of a total of 84,500 ex-service men in hospitals and other institutions 73,700 were rendered a definite and specialized service by the Red Cross. In a single month 4,155 new cases were presented and a total of 29,125 was acted upon—figures which serve to illustrate the magnitude of the information and claims service engaging the attention of Red Cross workers. New veteran legislation amending the War Risk Act which extends many additional rights to disabled ex-service men will reopen thousands of cases and require still greater Red Cross service.

When Congress granted a charter to the American Red Cross it charged the organization with the duty to act as "the medium of communication between the American people and their Army and Navy." This responsibility to the enlisted men and their families is met every year without restriction.

Serves Men on Active Service

The extent of this Red Cross activity during the last year embraced a total of 195,246 cases. There were 36,995 separate soldiers' and sailors' claims; 20,316 investigations of home conditions; 11,421 cases related to discharges, furloughs, etc. Assistance was given in 39,658 instances for personal, business or family problems; 744,220 visits were made to the sick or disabled, and nearly 40,000 letters and telegrams dispatched to the homes of enlisted men.

From June to September at the numerous military training camps the Red Cross provided information and home service to the trainees, also instruction in First Aid and Life-Saving. The entertainment and recreation events at the various Army and Navy hospitals reached nearly 3,500 during the year, and occupational therapy in nine Naval hospitals gave constructive and beneficial results and occupied the time of patients in the making of useful and ornamental things.

Community Building

Wrong to Think Small Town Not Up to Date

Many city people labor under the delusion that rural communities are not "up" on the latest styles, labor-saving appliances, novelties, etc. The truth of the matter is that the rural housewife now reads all about the latest styles in the fashion magazines; with true feminine instinct she notes the dress of visitors and parties of autoists passing through the town. Extending the franchise to women has made them full-fledged citizens. The community store has to keep abreast of the times. It can no longer pass off old dress models on the knowing woman. The same thing applies to other merchandise. Nowadays the farmer is too wary to have old stuff passed off on him; he wants the newest and the best.

The radio is a big factor in knitting the rural community and the city in closer bonds of friendship and mutual understanding and helpfulness. It places the country resident on a par with the most favored citizen in regard to recreation and general culture. These and other factors are helping eradicate once and for all the far-fetched notion which once maligned the country man. In effect, the country is one ingredient, the city another; each is indispensable and together they make a perfect combination.

New American Homes Show Better Designs

It is indeed gratifying to note the tendency of architects and builders to get away from the uninteresting, box-like houses, giving us instead homes that at least have some semblance of architectural merit. While the public has not yet entirely signified its full appreciation of good architecture, the newer houses in both the cities and suburban communities give evidence of a leaning toward better design.

American small house architecture is steadily mounting to higher levels, which marks a distinct achievement, not only in the cultural life of the people but in the finest qualities of citizenship.

Good architecture, like good examples of any other art, is eternally good. It is in no way dependent upon changing fancies. The surface currents of public disapproval cannot long persist against the truth that is inherent in good architecture. There were periods when types of Colonial architecture, if not in public disfavor, were at least disregarded, but because they measured up to the best standard of the art they have always commanded the approval of the discerning and have never been more strongly entrenched in public favor than today.

Beauty Spot Appealed

Years ago a way-station agent of a railroad traversing the plains of the Canadian Northwest, sent back home for a few packages of flower seed and with such time as he could spare transformed the surroundings of his mean little one-room station. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, president of the road, was making a tour of inspection and when he reached this little garden spot in the then uncultivated wastes, he asked to see the boy and learned from him the story of his garden. As a result, the next year all the agents of this road—which stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific—received packages of seeds and instructions to plant flowers around every station. The custom then begun has ever since continued.

Plant More Trees

Most cities and even some small towns, especially new towns, are apt to be pathetically treeless, and towns do need trees more and more as their population increases. Jane Leslie Kift writes in the Detroit Free Press.

Have you ever thought about the walls of the factories of your town? They looked rather well in the Penell war posters, but some hot June day as you walk down a street skirted on both sides by monotonous brick walls, don't they seem oppressive? Don't you think that if the same walls were blanketed with green they would be more restful and more beautiful?

Beauty Easily Attained

It is remarkable the comparatively short period necessary to convert bare grounds into splendid settings of foliage and blooms when good judgment is used in the selection of plants. Many houses built only a few years ago that lack the beauty the modern community demands can at little cost be given the atmosphere of privacy and the mark of individuality that can come only from the completion of the house setting.

Never Stint on Paint

Exposed wood quickly deteriorates. Prolonged neglect will mean a repair bill. Paint is by far cheaper than repairs.

Paint has a curious effect. Many an architectural eyesore has been entirely changed within the space of a few days and has become an asset instead of a liability to the community and its owner. On the other hand many an architectural masterpiece has been ruined beyond hope of repair by lack of paint used at the right time.

The Pertness of Lucy

By JANE OSBORN

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"YOU'RE a pretty girl, Lucy," grandmother said, regarding her granddaughter narrowly, "and you ought to have more beaux."

"Why, grandmother," protested Lucy, "I have as many men friends as the other girls."

"Not enough, and not the sort you want," replied her grandmother. "The trouble with you, Lucy, is that you aren't pert enough. I know your mother would be shocked at me for saying that. She's so proud to think that you aren't one of these modern flappers—smoking cigarettes and carrying a flask and the rest—that she is perfectly content with you the way you are."

"Maybe you don't know," Lucy interrupted proudly, "that I've had three proposals this summer."

"Pooh," said the grandmother. "Wasn't one of them worth considering; besides it's not a good plan to count your acorns. But, as I was trying to say, there's a big difference between the brazen flapper and a girl that is as meek as a primrose. Men like pertness—did when I was young, and I guess they do yet."

"Why, grandmother?"

"Take it or leave it," said Grandmother Mills, as she bent her iron-gray head over her colorful embroidery stretched before her.

"I'll probably take it," laughed Lucy, as she rose and drew on her coat. "I generally do take your advice—and profit by it. Now I'm off to the Red Cross headquarters. We've been getting some boxes ready to send West. I've got to go and help pack."

Lucy walked slowly down the street and did a deal of thinking as she walked. She concluded that her grandmother was right. Probably she—Lucy—was pretty, but the men she knew didn't always seem to find her so. There was Radnor Jackson—Radnor was not one of the men friends of whom she had boasted to her grandmother. There was no reason why Radnor shouldn't admire her; they were together often enough and Lucy was always very pleasant. But undoubtedly she wasn't pert enough.

The only other person at headquarters was a meek little high school girl who had come that afternoon to help her. A pale young man came into the room, peered around through his spectacles, and asked Lucy if the boxes had been sent West yet. Lucy recognized him as the new minister of a nearby country congregation. He had some contributions to make in the way of garments made by his Ladies' Aid society.

"You were a perfect lamb," Lucy said, clapping her hands, "to bring those things all the way in." And then putting out two imploring arms: "There are some things up on that closet shelf that we want to put in the boxes, and I just can't reach them. Would you hop up on that chair and lift them down?"

"Would I though?" said the young man, forgetting for the instant that he was a clergyman in a clerical collar. He lingered with Lucy for ten unnecessary minutes, and left casting back smiles of happy admiration.

So far pertness had worked very nicely.

In the course of another hour the three boxes were packed and Lucy and her meek little assistant faced each other wondering.

"How can we get them fastened shut?" asked the girl. "We ought to have a man."

"I'll get one," said Lucy. "Wait—"

Lucy went to the door and, glancing out, espied an immaculately dressed man of about sixty passing. "If you can hammer a box shut," she said, looking pertly at him, "I wish to goodness you would."

Somewhat confused, the immaculate stranger came into the headquarters, and under Lucy's directions and amidst many ill-hidden chuckles he got the boxes ready for shipment. Then he went, asking Lucy for her name, but not giving his own.

Pertness had worked so well thus far that Lucy determined to keep it up at least for the remainder of the day. Just before dinner time she telephoned to Radnor Jackson.

"Say, this is Lucy," she said. "I've been working like a little busy bee all day, Rad, and I just feel like doing something thrilling. They dance out at the Country club tonight. Won't you take me out?"

Two weeks later Lucy burst in upon her grandmother, working diligently over her embroidery frame. "I've the most wonderful news," she said. "Radnor Jackson has asked me to marry him and—so we're engaged. Isn't that wonderful?"

"It's at least very satisfactory," said the grandmother, beaming her approval. "Yes, I should say Radnor Jackson was well worth your while. Radnor's father and I have always been friends. He's president of my bank, you know. May I speak of the matter to him?"

Lucy said she might, and Grandmother Mills found excuse to go to the bank that very day.

"So Lucy Mills is your grandchild?" he said. "Extraordinarily charming girl," he said, and laughed softly to himself. "I met her a few days ago at the Red Cross. Most amusing incident. But excuse me, Mrs. Mills, if I say that no girl of your generation would have been quite so pert."

And Grandmother Mills shook her head and said: "Of course not."

SOCIETY

The Review club met on Thursday afternoon with Mrs. G. C. Cabiness. The business of the club was dispensed with and then the meeting was given over to Mesdames Edwin Eberman and Lillian who presented splendid papers on the "Life and Works of Edgar Allan Poe." Selections from his works were read by the leaders and Mrs. Cabiness served delightful refreshments to Mesdames B. C. Thompson, T. C. Thompson, T. C. Bradsher, A. R. Warren, E. E. Bradsher, H. L. Crowell, T. W. Pass, Edwin Eberman, Lillian Foreman, E. E. Thomas, I. O. Wilkerson and K. L. Street.

Mrs. J. Y. Blanks was hostess to the Study club on Thursday afternoon. The subject is North Carolina History, and the first paper presented was "Virginia Settlers" read by Mrs. Tom Clay, the second, "North Carolina Colonies," by Mrs. J. M. Pass, the last being presented by Mrs. J. A. Bean. Concluding the lesson was a delightful social hour with the hostess, assisted by Miss Janie Blalock, in typical Halloween costume, serving a salad course with tea and nuts. The season's motifs were carried out in decorations and effects for the afternoon. The members present were Mesdames Moe Goodman, Tom Clay, G. E. Moore, R. N. Featherstone, A. B. Stalvey, S. G. Winstead, R. G. Cole, R. H. Gates, J. M. Pass, Misses Julia Yancy, Mary Cheek, and Lizzie Timberlake.

The Research club met on Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. R. L. Wilburn. The topic for the study hour was Two Social Plays. The first paper and discussion was on "A Bill of Divorcement" presented by Mrs. W. T. Pass, followed by Mrs. B. B. Newell, who discussed "The Circle." The hostess assisted by Mrs. A. S. DeValaming and Miss Collins served a salad course to the members.

Mrs. J. W. Noell was hostess to the Friday Afternoon Pleasure Club on the 31st. Many bright autumn flowers and leaves with Hallowed suggestions were used in the rooms where tables were placed for the games. Halloween score cards were used. After many progressions the hostess, assisted by her daughters, Mrs. W. S. Clary, Jr., and Miss Elizabeth Noell served a salad course, coffee and pumpkin tarts with whipped cream.

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