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THE RED CROSS: INASMUCH AS--

WHAT IS THE RED CROSS

The conduct of war requires three sorts of human activity: the fighting, the supplying of the fighters with the thousands of materials they must have, and the relief of the want and suffering that follow in the wake of the fighting on the part both of the fighters and of the non-combatants. The first of these is done by the army and navy, the second by the various industries, and the third by the Red Cross.

The Red Cross is a corporation chartered by Congress "to volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war, to act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the military and naval authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States of America and their army and navy, and to continue and carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and to apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same."

The Red Cross is a society of mercy, healing, sympathy, tenderness, and love.

The Red Cross is an agency of reconstruction.

WHAT THE RED CROSS DOES

In No Man's Land it has its stretcher bearers going out under the hail of shot and shell to find and to bring in the wounded while there is yet time to save them.

In the trenches it has its first aid stations, great underground dugouts where skilled and tireless doctors administer at the first possible moment what is essential for the saving of life.

Back of the lines it has its immense base hospitals manned by expert surgeons and nurses working day and night to restore, to ease pain, to reconstruct broken bodies and shattered nerves.

Plying back and forth between the trenches and hospitals it maintains a vast ambulance service more exposed to destruction from the enemy's batteries than the men in the trenches themselves.

Along the lines of march to and from the front it has its refreshment stations—places of rest for tired men, places where the sick and exhausted receive comfort and cure.

Back of the invaded territory it has its headquarters for refugees fleeing before advancing armies, where the women and children and old men find warm clothing and good food and dry shelter.

In each of the countries of our allies it maintains a commission of efficient business men to study the needs at first hand and to organize the stupendous service in all its manifold branches. Under their direction are thousands of workers—doctors, nurses, orderlies, ambulance drivers, stretcher-bearers, supply agents, distributing agents, shipping agents, clerks, stenographers, and typewriters—each with exact and definite tasks to perform.

Back home, in every state, in every city, in every town, it has its chapters of patriotic men and women engaged in the manufacture of the vast quantities of supplies the doctors and nurses have such urgent need of—things that the factories cannot make fast enough, things that must be made by hand and that must be protected from dangers of disease—tens of thousands of surgical dressings, hospital garments, sheets, pillows, clothing.

RED CROSS ORGANIZATION

The President of the United States is the President of the Red Cross.

The Chairman of the Central Committee is an ex-President of the United States.

The tremendous business is attended to by a Vice-Chairman, a General Manager, and a Central Committee, with various officers to assist them, and is divided among a number of departments and bureaus, each with special lines of activity—the bureau of development, the bureau of publicity, the woman's bureau, the nursing bureau, the bureau of civilian relief, the bureau of supplies, the bureau of military relief, the bureau of accounting, the bureau of communication.

The United States is divided into five

regions, each with headquarters, officers, and bureaus corresponding to the officers and bureaus at Washington.

In each of these five divisions are organized the local chapters in every community where the people are willing to give their labor and to pay for the materials which their labor turns into finished articles.

Each chapter has its officers—a chairman, a vice-chairman, a treasurer, a secretary, an executive committee. Further, it has its bureaus, known as sections, according to the sorts of work it is able to perform—military relief, civilian relief, publicity, communication, etc.

RED CROSS FINANCES

The Red Cross is paid for by gifts from the people.

The ordinary sources of income are membership fees and a few scattered gifts from philanthropists.

When the United States entered the war, these ordinary sources were entirely inadequate to meet the sudden tremendous expansion of relief work. A great campaign was set in motion under a special committee appointed by the President to raise what is known as the War Fund. The people responded to the appeal with more than \$100,000,000. This sum is used to pay for the work of the commissions in Europe, the hospitals, the doctors, the nurses, the ambulances, the workers of a hundred kinds and the equipment for their work.

Each member of the Red Cross pays an annual fee of at least one dollar. One half of each dollar goes to the maintenance of the central organization in Washington and the divisional headquarters in the five regions of the country. The other half goes to the chapter which collected the dollar and is used to pay the costs of its own activities.

In addition to its half of the membership fees each chapter raises by whatever ways it can devise—by gifts, by subscriptions, by benefits,—sufficient money to buy the materials it manufactures into relief supplies and to pay for its running expenses.

Practically all of the money raised nationally or locally goes directly into the work of relief. There are very few salaries, and the few that are absolutely necessary are low. The society is an immense organization of volunteer workers. There is no organization in the world that equals in extent the Red Cross Society, and there is no large organization in the world that is run at so low a cost. This remarkable state of affairs is made possible by the fact that neither the commissions of business men in Europe, nor the chief officers at central headquarters, nor any of the officers or workers in the various local chapters take one cent for their services. They look upon their time and labor so expended as a gift to their country, as a service to humanity, as a privilege above price.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

In order to become a member of the Red Cross, one goes to the chapter headquarters in one's community, registers, and pays the membership fee.

That is all. Membership implies no obligation to give either labor or money beyond the membership fee. The Red Cross is entirely and consistently a volunteer society.

There are several sorts of membership: annual membership, fee \$1.00; subscribing membership, fee \$2; contributing membership, fee \$5; sustaining membership, fee \$10; life membership, fee \$25; and patron membership, fee \$100. All forms except the first include subscription to the Red Cross Magazine.

If one does not happen to live in a community where a chapter is located, one may secure membership by sending the fee by letter to any nearby chapter or to divisional headquarters (for the Southern Division, to Mr. Guy E. Snavely, Healey Building, Atlanta, Ga.)

Or, better still, one may secure membership by organizing a chapter to receive one's membership.

STORY OF THE RED CROSS

The Red Cross owes its first inspiration to a wealthy English girl by the name of

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

Bishop William Lawrence

To the wounded soldier lifted from the ambulance to the Base Hospital the immediate thought is of the personal touch of nurse, surgeon, and clean sheet. The great organization of the Red Cross with its hundreds of millions of dollars, its tens of thousands of bandage makers, are in the background, out of his sight and mind. It is all right. None the less the great organization, the money, and the workers, make the ambulance, the hospital, the surgeon and nurse effective. The Red Cross is the body through which the spirit of patriotism and sympathy flow, and its best and finest work is in carrying that spirit through to the soldier by personal touch.

Amidst the whirl of the machinery of offices, of work rooms and bandage making, let every worker keep this in mind, "Everything that I do, every fold that I make, is to be caught up for the moment by the great organization of the Red Cross in order that it may be the means whereby the personal touch of nurse or surgeon, the strengthening word of Chaplain or comrade, may heal and comfort the body and soul of the soldier or sailor who has poured out his life blood for me and my Country."

Florence Nightingale. She made the reform of hospitals and the care of the wounded in the Crimean War her life work. In London she established a school, which still bears her name, for the specialized training of hospital nurses. She lifted nursing to the rank and dignity of an independent profession and succeeded in making it remunerative enough to attract the finest type of young womanhood.

A Swiss by the name of Henri Dunant, following the path pointed out by Florence Nightingale, proposed an international organization of mercy whose ideals should be humanity and neutrality. Through his efforts in 1864 a council of representatives from fourteen nations met in Geneva and adopted a treaty which led to the establishment of the Red Cross as a relief agency in time of war.

The crying need for such service had been recognized and met, as far as possible, in our own country at the time of the Civil War by the activities of such women as Dorothea Dix and Clara Barton, but it was not until a score of years later that the Red Cross was established on this side of the Atlantic. Clara Barton was in Europe during the War of 1870 and saw the wonderful results of the treaty of Geneva in operation—doctors and nurses from the opposing armies working side by side to succor and to save. On her return she devoted her energies unceasingly to persuading Congress to become a party to the treaty of Geneva. At last in 1882 success crowned her efforts, and somewhat later Congress granted the charter under which the Society is now operating.

Clara Barton was influential also in extending the work of the Red Cross to the relief of emergency suffering in time of peace as well as in time of war.

Just a short time before we entered the present war a magnificent building was opened in Washington as a home for the American Red Cross Society. It bears this inscription: "A Memorial built by the Government of the United States and Patriotic Citizens to the Women of the North and the Women of the South held in Loving Memory by a now United Country."

GROWTH OF THE RED CROSS

In February of last year the total membership of the Red Cross was 400,000, and the slogan was "one million members by the end of the year." By December it had increased to 6,000,000. The Christmas campaign added 16,000,000, making a grand total for the United States of 22,000,000—a fifth of our entire population.

The Southern division alone—embracing North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Florida—added through the Christmas campaign as many members as the total enrollment for the country was last February.

Before we entered the war last April,

there were only about a dozen chapters in the Southern Division. Now almost every county in each of the five States of the division has its chapter. The chapters and members on January 25 by States are:

Southern Division	Chapters	Members
Georgia	163	145,097
North Carolina	119	114,348
Tennessee	81	124,768
Florida	63	82,294
South Carolina	58	74,374

Does a membership of 22,000,000 seem large? Why should it not number 100,000,000? The Red Cross offers the one way in which every single citizen, man, woman, and child can serve.

ORGANIZING A CHAPTER

The first step is a mass meeting of citizens to arouse the interest of the community in the work of the Red Cross, to give information as to the character of its activities, to adopt the preliminary measures necessary to forming an organization. The outcome of such a meeting should be the pledging of as large a number as possible to become members and to support the proposed chapter with labor and money. The formation of a chapter requires a minimum membership of 200. There is no requirement as to the amount of money the community must supply. The business of organizing should be entrusted by this meeting to reliable citizens.

The second step is to write to the manager of the Division in which the community is located—for the Southern Division, Mr. W. L. Peel, Healey Building, Atlanta, Ga.—applying for an application form for the establishment of a chapter.

The third step is to fill out this form with the names of ten applicants and return it to the Division headquarters together with a check for \$10, being the total of the membership fees of the ten applicants. The form should be signed by an acting Chairman and an acting Secretary.

The fourth step, following the granting of the charter from headquarters, is the effecting the permanent organization of the chapter in accordance with the instructions which come from headquarters. This means the election at a second meeting of the annual officers of the chapter—a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, and an executive committee consisting of these officers and the chairmen of the several sections of the chapter, such as membership, finance, woman's work, instruction in first aid and in the making of surgical dressings, etc.

The fifth step is the organization of the workroom. Here the main war-time activities of the chapter will take place—the making of surgical dressings, of hospital supplies, of hospital and refugee garments, etc. It is necessary that the workroom be put in charge of a woman who has had training in the making of such articles. If there is no woman in the community who can meet this requirement, the new chapter can secure from neighboring chapters an instructor at small cost to form a class and teach the essentials. Classes should also be organized in first aid, in dietetics, in home nursing.

The sixth step is to get to work and to keep working.

ACTIVITIES OF A CHAPTER

1. The manufacture of hospital supplies and garments of various sorts. The materials used for these articles are to be purchased from the divisional headquarters.

2. Civilian relief—care of the families of absent soldiers, when there is need.

3. Giving instruction to the people of the community in matters of health, home nursing, first aid etc.

4. Keeping in touch with the soldiers who have gone from the community to to serve their country.

THE WORKROOM

At the head of a workroom is a woman trained in making hospital supplies. It is her business to organize an efficient system for turning out work, to determine what products the workers shall be engaged in making, and to keep a general supervision over all activities of the room.

The director of woman's work is assisted by chairmen of the various branches of work done in the workroom. The chairmen are appointed either by the director or by the executive committee of

the chapter, of which she is herself a member. There is usually a chairman of surgical dressings, a chairman of hospital garments, a chairman of knitted goods, a chairman of supplies, a chairman of packing and shipping.

Under these chairmen are the supervisors of tables, each responsible for the correct making of the particular article manufactured at her table. The duty of a supervisor is to give out to the workers the material she receives from her chairman, to inspect it and to count it after it has been made up into the finished product, and to turn it in to the chairman to be delivered to the packing room. She keeps a record of the workers at her table each day and of the work done by each.

This is the organization in force in the larger workrooms. There is no absolute requirement, however, enforcing this organization, and often in small chapters such division of labor is neither necessary nor beneficial. But in every case careful supervision is essential to the maintaining of standard products and to the protection that must hedge about articles destined to surgical uses.

A RED CROSS BRANCH

A Branch is a subdivision of a chapter.

Often the territorial jurisdiction granted a chapter covers a large city or includes a number of separate towns. In rural districts where the county is taken as the basis of a chapter this is usually the case. In such circumstances it is impossible for all members of a chapter to have easy access to the chapter workrooms. Therefore, in order to afford opportunity for work to people in communities apart from the headquarters of a chapter, branches are organized with their own officers and their own workroom.

The organization of a branch is patterned after that of the parent chapter. It is brought into being by the chapter and not by the divisional headquarters. It usually finances its own activities independently, but it may receive assistance from the chapter. It differs from a chapter mainly in reporting its accounts to the chapter, in purchasing its materials from the chapter, and in shipping its products through the chapter, instead of dealing directly with the divisional headquarters. A branch may engage in any or all the activities of a chapter. Its affairs are subject to the general supervision of the parent chapter.

On the other hand, the parent chapter undertakes to assist its branches financially as far as possible, to do all the buying of materials for the branches and to handle all the shipping of the finished product of the branch workrooms. The chapter receives and enters in its books financial reports of all branches.

THE JUNIOR RED CROSS

The Junior Red Cross, now in process of development, is a nation-wide organization of the school children for work of a sort similar to that of a chapter. There are many things greatly needed by the Red Cross which can be done admirably by children—the making of certain supplies by the sewing classes and by the classes in manual training, invaluable assistance in public campaigns of an informational nature and in the collecting of funds. One of the chief purposes of the organization is to keep the children of the nation, and through them the grown-ups, informed as to the ideals for which we are striving and to lay a solid foundation of intelligent patriotism.

The children of a school are organized into a Junior auxiliary, and the auxiliary is governed by the chapter through a special committee appointed for the purpose. The fee for annual membership in a Junior auxiliary is twenty-five cents.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

You can become a member of the Red Cross.

You can give a little of your labor in a Red Cross workroom.

You can aid in defraying the expenses of your chapter by gifts and contributions.

You can be one of a group of citizens to stir up your community to a spirit of helpfulness and of service.

You can take the initial step in forming a chapter or a branch.

You can spread information about the purposes and the ideals and the work of the Red Cross.

You can contradict the thousands of false reports about the Red Cross which the enemy within our gates is constantly seeking to give currency.

You can help win the war.