

KEEPING HOME FIRES BURNING UNTIL THE SOLDIER RETURNS

The Red Cross has for years been associated with hospitals, doctors, soldiers, sailors, battles, disasters; but it is only within the last few months that those who do not come under any of these classes have come to realize the importance of the assistance rendered by the Red Cross.

Soldiers and sailors must be encouraged to "carry on." Their morale must be upheld. The sailor or soldier who is worrying about the welfare of his family is not able to put his mind on the business before him. For this reason the Home Service Section of the American Red Cross has been organized, and to the folks at home it means neighborliness, counsel and aid—the nation's assurance to the enlisted man that his family shall suffer for no essential thing that is within its power to give.

In practically every large city of the United States there is already a class for training the workers of the Home Service section, so that they may be able to efficiently deal with the very real problems that are before them. It is not the policy of the section to force upon families the aid of the Red Cross nor to burden them with interference. No family should be approached unless some member of the family or some person capable of speaking for them has asked for the service. Because it is the desire of the Committee on Civilian Relief, under whose direction this work comes, to keep the service of the bureau strictly confidential, the wearing of any uniform by the Home Service workers has been discouraged. They call simply as friends and try to call immediately when requested.

In no instance is a visitor permitted to pry into the secrets of the family. Help is always ready, and the call usually comes from the man in the service himself. Through the workers in the camp or at the front he learns that his family may be assisted, and if he does not hear regularly or encouragingly he is quite apt to talk over with the Red Cross man or woman the affairs of his home when he learns of the friendly interest, and then send local workers to his family. The school teachers also are often the informants, for they know through the children of the needs at home and are glad to see the family's problems solved.

Living is more difficult for every one in war times, and the mothers are lonely and discouraged, and this brings hardship on the heads of the little children. Sometimes the wife and mother is worrying over financial problems, and here the Home Service bureau is always helpful, for it tactfully assists her in properly managing her affairs, in planning her income and, of course, seeing that she is receiving sufficient allotment, and this regularly, and then if it becomes necessary the Red Cross is always ready to supplement the income. Where medical care or operations for the welfare of the

children are necessary the Home Service is ready to assist, to secure proper care for the children needing it and to ease the mind of the mother.

Milk for Sick Babies.

Everywhere in the war zone there are sick babies and babies needing milk. The American Red Cross is establishing milk stations, and the babies of Italian soldiers are beginning to thrive already under the competent care of the nurses, some of whom were Infant Welfare nurses in our own country before going overseas. At

Children of the Crusade

By JEANNE JUDSON.

Frightened and pitiful, they walk apart,
Through the familiar village street, grown strange,
Hand clasped in hand, they hear weird echoes start
From ruined homes. Fear dumbs each small, child heart.

No tears rain down like dew to ease their woe;
Horror has dried the wells from which they sprang,
Like wee crusaders of the long ago,
Their phantom banners in the breezes blow.

If one should call out "Follow!" they would run,
Grime of the highway on their tiny feet,
Heedless alike of dust and blazing sun,
Forget, as dreams, the horrors that were done.

None calls; weary they rest within the shade,
The ruined church, where once they learned to pray,
Long years before the war had come, and laid
Their homes in ruins, made their hearts afraid.

Before the Holy Mother low they bow,
Perhaps she hears and soon will bring them aid,
It must be she whose voice is calling now,
For see the cross is shining on her brow!

The light around her head, a nimbus gleams,
A Red Cross worker, not from Heaven, they know,
Yet Mary heard and sent her here it seems,
To lead them home to shelter and to dreams.

WILL YOU BE WEARING YOUR RED CROSS BUTTON WHEN THE BOYS COME HOME?

- WHEN ALL YOU NEED TO
JOIN THE RED CROSS IS "A
HEART AND A DOLLAR" AND
YOU CAN WEAR THE BUTTON
ALONG WITH THE REST OF
THE CROWD—OH-H-H BOY!
AIN'T IT A GR-R-R-RAND
AND GLOR-R-IOUS FEELIN'?



By courtesy of Clare Briggs, New York Tribune.

THE HOLY LAND



THE GRAND MUFTI, HEAD OF THE MOHAMMEDAN CHURCH (A WHITE TURBAN), ARRIVES AT AMERICAN RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS TO TAKE PART IN THE FORMAL INAUGURATION OF THE WORK IN PALESTINE.

TO INCREASE RELIEF WORK IN PALESTINE

Red Cross Commissioner Reports Starvation and Suffering in Holy Land.

THE American Red Cross intends to administer relief work on a far greater scale in Palestine than heretofore in order that thousands of men, women and children in that part of the world may be rescued from their present suffering. Dr. John H. Finley, Red Cross Commissioner of Education for the State of New York, has cabled that this additional work is immediately necessary.

At least one-third of the population of Lebanon has died of starvation and disease, due to lack of nourishment. Many villages are virtually depopulated, and thousands of people are in need, owing to epidemics, lack of employment and the prohibitive prices of food.

Families formerly in the best of circumstances have been reduced to destitution. Every one is clamoring for an opportunity to rehabilitate himself. Owing to a lack of physicians the conditions in many hospitals are deplorable. More than ten thousand sick civilians have been cared for by the American Red Cross during a single month, and Red Cross automobiles are transporting hundreds of ill and wounded prisoners to hospitals every day. There are at least ten thousand refugees

Armenians in and about Damascus and more than three thousand in the Hausran district, the cable asserts.

Dr. Finley says the American Red Cross workers have been doing everything possible to relieve this distress, but adds that greatly increased help must come at once. He requires two additional hospital units immediately. General Allenby has cabled the British War office to approve this plan.

Dr. Finley journeyed on foot from Beersheba to Dan in the wake of the advancing British forces, and at the time of sending the cable had just completed a tour of the Palestine and lower Syria, passing through Nazareth, Tiberias, Tyre, Sidon, Haifa and Beirut, reaching the latter place two days after its occupation by the British forces.

"America should be the first to help in the rehabilitation of the Holy Land, which Great Britain and our Allies have redeemed," declares Dr. Finley. "The first medium of help should be the American Red Cross, which makes no distinction as to race, creed or color. Under the trusteeship of those who recovered this sacred land, which is the cradle of three great religions, the civilized world is now given the opportunity of illustrating its highest ideals for humanity."

CANTEEN AT FRONT FOR AMERICAN "BIRD MEN"

American flying men in France are to receive special attention from the American Red Cross as the result of a request for such service that has been received from General Patrick, Chief of the Air Service. Because of the necessity of keeping aviators overseas in the very best mental and physical condition for their hazardous work officials of the aviation branch of the service have long felt they should have more comforts and opportunities for relaxation than are provided by the ordinary canteen.

In compliance with the request the Red Cross is establishing special combination mess and recreation canteens at all points in France where our aviators, either students or officers, are stationed. Extra comforts and attention will be provided for our "bird men" at these canteens. They will be presided over by American women of intelligence and cheerful personality, whose chief duty will be to create as much home atmosphere as possible in the circumstances.

The American Red Cross is to have sole charge of these aviation canteens.

ASK THE SOLDIERS.

That the soldiers, sailors and marines are deeply appreciative of the canteen service of the American Red Cross is given ample evidence many times every day. The keynote of their appreciation is perhaps best expressed on the post cards which they send to the "folks back home" when en route to points of embarkation. From a dozen picked up at random the following sentiments were taken and "speak for themselves":

"Red Cross are sure treating us great en route."

"Red Cross are sure making it happy for us."

"Support Red Cross in everything."

"For God's sake never say 'No' to the Red Cross. They're wonderful."

"Long live the Red Cross."

"The Red Cross are angels to us the way they treat us."

"Canteen service 100 per cent. In Toledo; fifteen carloads of us well taken care of."

"Red Cross serving coffee. Oh, they do so much for us!"

"Do all you can for Red Cross—they do so much for us."

WHERE WOUNDED MEN YIELD TO DAY DREAMS

Restored to Health and Vigor in
Red Cross Convalescent
Homes.

The surgeon has extracted the impartially distributed bits of shrapnel from your works. The wounds have healed. The wheels go round again, and the clock ticks.

But it doesn't keep correct time. This business of calling "Time!" on the Boche means so many broken clocks nowadays that the master-menders can't keep them on their tables after they're mended. So the question where they shall sit around while they're being regulated looms large.

The Red Cross answers that question with its convalescent homes. It has six of these in operation. A suitable place is found—sometimes donated—and management and equipment are provided by the Red Cross, while the Army has furnished discipline and a never-failing supply of convalescents.

These homes mean that men who are scarcely hospital subjects, yet who can by no means go back to their duties, have a place that does what "home" does for the French or English soldier, what "home" does for any one, in fact, when the doctor gets through.

You know. He says: "You're all right now. It's only a matter of aura-ing and food."

But you know he's only looking at the works he's tinkered, and that the soul within you is grousing as it never did when the body was down and out. It wants something, and it doesn't know what it is. But if it doesn't get it pretty quick the works are going to get gummed again. You know your mother could find out what that dog-gone thing is right away and hand it to you on a plate. But General Pershing won't let you go to her. . . . And the War Department won't let her come to you.

Then you're taken to a Red Cross convalescent home—and there is the very thing you wanted! But you couldn't describe it even then to save your life.

It is a bit of coddling, and pretty surroundings, and women's faces, and light laughter and time to play and all that sort of thing. It is forgetting the crash of war and remembering that there are pleasant, soft voices. It's even such things as gaily-colored sofa pillows to jam into a corner and make a nice looking place while you read and smoke and talk. It's slippers instead of trench boots, or day-dreams in place of the nightmare of killing.

NO SEALS SOLD THIS YEAR.

The customary sale of Red Cross Christmas seals will not be held this year. It seemed best to both the American Red Cross and the National Tuberculosis Association to unite in the Red Cross Christmas Roll Call to reduce the number of appeals to the public for contributions. There will be no lessening of activities by the National Tuberculosis Association through this arrangement, as the Red Cross War Council has appropriated \$2,500,000 for anti-tuberculosis work in 1919 in lieu of the money that ordinarily would be raised by a Christmas Seal Campaign. However, every person joining the Red Cross during the Red Cross Christmas Roll Call will be awarded ten seals to be used as heretofore.

THE RED CROSS GORDON.

An American Red Cross worker who was among those volunteering to help in the hospitals and at the station where the hospital trains arrived, overheard some of the wounded talking about the American Red Cross.

"Gee! We'd a starved if it hadn't been for the Red Cross!" said one boy, and then, laughing at his own exaggeration, he went on to explain the circumstances under which the Red Cross representative with his division had done some timely service. The Germans, of course, were to blame, for they retreated so rapidly that it was practically impossible for the supplies to keep up with the pursuing Americans.

"We cleaned up seven kilometers in less than two hours," another reclining figure explained, "and they were still going when I was knocked out. For three days I had had nothing to eat but hard tack, and for some days before the food had been monotonous—to put it mildly. So you can imagine what it meant to us boys to have the Red Cross Gordon come up with a supply of chocolate, canned peaches and other good things. It was a life-saver."

1918 RED CROSS CHRISTMAS SEAL

