

WHAT COUNTRY MUST DO FOR DISABLE BOYS

Problems of Reconstruction Confront American Red Cross With New Tasks and New Responsibilities

During these Christmases, when men in the trenches and on mined seas sing carols; when our country glows to its uttermost boundaries with the symbol of the Red Cross; when the most earthbound look for awhile at the crosses and the stars—new understandings, new simplicities, new willingness for service come to very many men and women.

And as our soldiers and sailors who went out young and strong and singing the "Long, Long Trail" and "Over There" now come back crippled and disabled, Americans are seeing more and more their own part and responsibility in reconstruction. This work means teaching the blind to see, giving movement to the paralyzed, power to the remnants of arms and legs to do full duty, the chance of health to the tubercular, light to minds befogged by shell shock.

Our government, the Medical Department of the Army and the American Red Cross, from the time of our entrance in the war, have been working out the tasks preparatory to this reconstruction, which is the key-word to their usefulness and happiness. The work itself is already begun in the hospitals where our returned men have been brought.

This has meant the equipment of hospitals, the recruiting of the doctors and nurses and the formulation of plans for training for vocations, which means independence, replacing activity for inactivity.

For this physical reconstruction in our military hospitals at home, our government, through the office of the Surgeon-General, is asking for reconstruction aids. This hospital service is open to hundreds, indeed thousands, of women who as wives of men in the service have been technically barred from other military hospital service. They are needed at once and may learn full particulars regarding training, qualifications, pay and so forth by writing for information to the office of the Surgeon-General, Division of Reconstruction, Washington, D. C. They are civilian employees of the Medical Department of the Army, and their work comes under one of two classes—either the distinctly physical reconstruction which has to do with massage, electrotherapy, dydotherapy and mechanotherapy, or the occupational work which will prepare the men to take up the regular vocational training for which we often hear the word "re-education."

The Federal government has charge of this work. Other agencies working under government control will help. The American Red Cross, especially, will supplement it, and through its Home Service has assumed the obligation to assist every soldier or sailor and his family whenever they need aid or counsel from it.

When American soldiers, blinded in battle, recover from their immediate wounds at the base hospitals in France, special work for them is commenced. Later they are brought to the United States Military General Hospital No. 7, at Baltimore, for further medical and surgical treatment and special teaching. The ideal of the government will be to place every blinded man in a condition to take care of himself and those dependent on him. In many cases, it is hoped, the men will be able to command a larger salary after taking their training than before they lost their sight.

American Red Cross has supplemented the Army's plan by creating the Red Cross Institute for the Blind. One of its functions will be to provide certain financial aid to equip the blind man after his re-education is completed, as, for instance, furnishing typewriters to those who enter commercial life. It will be unearthing new occupations, helping to establish homes and arrange home work for those who cannot go into offices or factories.

But it will do something else that is,

again, a Christmas story. This Red Cross Institute will, in so far as is humanly possible, have the relative who will be responsible for the care of the blind man when he returns home, take the government training, side by side with him, as is now done by the British and French. With this full understanding at home of his difficulties and possibilities, many an ambition at first undreamed of may be fulfilled.

Through the gift of Jeremiah Milbank of New York the Red Cross was enabled to establish in New York its experimental Red Cross Institute for Crippled and Disabled Men. One of its principal objects is to assist in the general campaign of public education regarding the results which can be accomplished by systematically re-training disabled men for occupations in which they can successfully compete with able-bodied men.

"Thus equipped," writes W. Frank Persons, Director General of Civilian Relief of the American Red Cross, "they may confidently look forward to a future of normal human work and play."

MEN FROM OREGON OFFICIALLY HELD NATION'S CLEANEST

Surgeon-General Blue Wires Fact is Disclosed in First 1,000,000 Camp Reports.

Only Fifty-nine Hundredths of One Per Cent Found to Have Venereal Disease on Arrival at Cantonments.

Surgeon-General's Official Telegram
Oregon Social Hygiene Society, 720 Seaside Bldg., Portland.
A tabulation of one million reports first received from camp surgeons throughout the country shows that Oregon leads the country with a rate of fifty-nine hundredths of one per cent found to have a venereal disease on arriving in camp. It is hoped that Oregon can continue vigorous measures in combating venereal diseases during the period of demobilization and thereafter.

RUPERT BLUE.
Oregon men, called to the colors during the greatest of all wars, were physically the cleanest in the entire United States Army.

Such is not the mere boast of any citizen of this state, backed only by a high sense of local pride, but it is the established record of the United States Army, communicated to the Oregon Social Hygiene Society by Rupert Blue, Surgeon-General, thus giving it the greatest possible weight.

As will be seen by perusal of the foregoing telegram from Surgeon-General Blue, a tabulation of 1,000,000 of the first reports received from camp surgeons places Oregon in the lead with a rate of fifty-nine hundredths of one per cent (which means less than six men to the thousand), or, compared with another wire from him, this state's standing is but a fraction lower than 18 times ahead of the state with the highest per cent of infection, which was eight and nine-tenths per cent (eighty-nine men to the thousand).

This constitutes one of the grandest and proudest records of the whole war period and, great as has been this state's part in all patriotic endeavors, nothing could fill the hearts of its people with a higher degree of pride than the official acknowledgment from the National Capital that Oregon's men stood far and away above all others in clean manhood.

"That the work of the Oregon Social Hygiene Society, carried forward for but seven years, should produce such magnificent results, is a subject of the most gratifying kind to the entire Board," said Executive Secretary Cummins. "Every one of the men who have worked so hard to bring about the result regard this official notification from the Surgeon-General as a complete vindication of the program sought to be carried forward in this state. That the public will respond to sane, clear facts, rightly presented, is also demonstrated beyond doubt. Educators, who have assisted greatly in the work, may well feel that young men under their tutelage will absorb the benefit to be derived from information along physiological lines, rightly administered. Parents must now see plainly that their children should have the truth as to their physical beings and that, having this, untold good will result."

"Future generations, following, are bound to demonstrate the benefits of Oregon's clean manhood, as set forth officially," commented A. F. Fiegel, president of the Society. "This record cannot be overestimated. It is a glorious achievement."

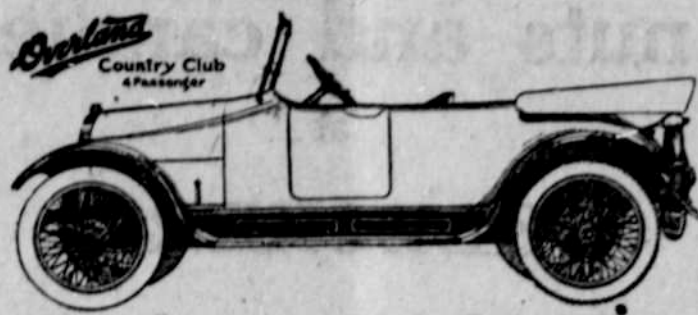
"The full significance of the official announcement from Dr. Blue is difficult to grasp," said Adolphe Wolfe, treasurer of the Society. "Dealing as it does with human life and morals, it is, in a larger sense, more important than many other achievements, not to detract one whit from any of them. At the outset, many good people doubted the ability of the Oregon Social Hygiene Society to accomplish worthwhile results. I think now, however, no further comment need be had. Surgeon-General Blue's telegram is sufficient."

Lieutenant-Colonel P. C. Field, division surgeon of the 91st Division at Camp Lewis, has officially credited the splendid record made by Oregon men to the educational work that has been and is being done by the Oregon Social Hygiene Society.

PEACE MAKES GREATER NEED

Peace will not end the need of Red Cross relief work. On the contrary, the proclaiming of peace opens new fields of service for the Red Cross, and now, more than ever, the American people will be called upon to obey their generous impulses to bind up the world's wounds. Membership in the Red Cross affords the noblest outlet for such impulses. Every American should answer "Here" to the Red Cross Christmas Roll Call.

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