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DEPARTMENT OF RED CROSS NURSING

CLARA D. NOYES, R.N., DEPARTMENT EDITOR

Director, Department of Nursing, American Red Cross

MOBILIZING FOR THE CARE OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN

Special efforts are being made to secure the additional nurses required by the Army, the Navy and the U. S. Public Health Service for the care of disabled ex-service men. All new enrollments are receiving personal letters from the chairman of the National Committee, calling their attention to the great need for nurses and asking for a reply stating whether or not they are available for temporary service.

A plan to circularize the entire enrollment through the Divisions and Committees has been developed. August first was set as the day on which to start this work. As there are now more than two hundred committees, a quota of three nurses to each Committee, which seems a very small percentage in view of the enrollment of over 37,000, would result in more than six hundred nurses for this purpose. Through these two methods it would appear possible to secure this number with little trouble.

Although the nation is at peace, 257 Red Cross nurses are still on duty with the United States Army, while 131 are still serving in the Navy,—the American Red Cross Nursing Service, in which more than 37,000 nurses are enrolled, being the official nursing reserve of the military establishment. In addition, 1,163 Red Cross nurses are on duty with the U. S. Public Health Service, largely in connection with the care of disabled veterans of the World War.

RED CROSS CONFERENCE

The Red Cross Conference to be held at Columbus, Ohio, October 3-8, in addition to its regular programme of speeches, will include sectional conferences and a pageant. It is hoped that a large number of Red Cross nurses will be present, especially the ex-service nurses, as reunions of nursing and other personnel of base hospitals are among the prominent features of this occasion. Communications have already been sent to medical directors of base hospitals and chief nurses bringing the conference to their attention and expressing the hope that as many of the personnel as possible will be present in full uniform on "Ex-Service Day." This event will be celebrated on October 6. The pageant will probably be given on October 8. It is expected that large numbers of nurses in out-door uniform as well as in the white uniform with the traditional cape will figure

conspicuously in the pageant, on which Mrs. Ruth M. Worrell of National Headquarters is now engaged.

The object of the convention is to bring together for inspiration and counsel, concerning the permanent activities of the Red Cross Organization, as many active workers as possible. Other features planned include mass sessions in the great Exposition Colliseum on the Ohio State Exposition Grounds where the convention is to be held, the sectional conferences on various phases of Red Cross service above referred to, and a Junior Red Cross spectacle. Among those to whom invitations to address the mass sessions of the Convention have been issued are Chief Justice William Howard Taft, General John J. Pershing, John W. Weeks, Secretary of War; Edwin Denby, Secretary of the Navy; Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, and General Allenby.

President Harding has already accepted an invitation to address the delegates, contingent upon public business permitting him to go to Columbus at that time, and other speakers of national and international prominence will be announced at a later date when plans have matured. Miss Noyes will preside at the reunion of ex-service nurses. Other officers of the National Organization expected to be present include Mabel T. Boardman, national secretary; Mrs. August Belmont, Dr. Livingston Farrand, and W. Frank Persons.

SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN FUNDS

The scholarship and loan funds which have been of such incalculable value not only to nurses, in preparing them for special lines of work, but to the communities which are benefitting by their services, have been continued for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1921, as follows: For the preparation of Public Health Nurses, \$30,000; for the preparation of instructors in schools of nursing, \$8,000; for the preparation of instructors in the course in Home Hygiene and care of the sick, \$3,000. A special fund for loans in each of these departments of nursing education is to be announced as soon as the respective appropriations are determined upon.

These sums are in addition to the Chapter Scholarships which have been very generously offered during the past year, the New York County Chapter having given for the students in the Army School of Nursing, \$40,000, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920; and \$60,000, during the past fiscal year, to provide a course of four months in public health nursing at Teachers College, New York, and the Henry Street Settlement. In compliance with a further request for the preparation of the remaining thirty pupils, the sum of \$25,000 has been requested. In order to provide for the students

in the Army School of Nursing at the Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco, about \$6,000 has been granted,—\$3,000 from National Headquarters and the remaining amount from the San Francisco Chapter. The St. Louis Chapter has also contributed money to provide car fares and lunches for twenty students from the Army School of Nursing.

FOREIGN ASSIGNMENTS

Red Cross nurses in the foreign field are making valuable contributions not only to the success of the Red Cross health programme but to the future educational and welfare standards of the communities which they have served.

Among the overseas personnel recently assigned to new posts are the following: Lyda Anderson, formerly assistant to Miss Hay, to the position of Superintendent of the American Hospital at Constantinople. Ruth Bridge, of Youngstown, Ohio, has been selected as Miss Anderson's assistant, while Mrs. Elsbeth Vaughan, of Detroit, who was associated with National Red Cross Headquarters during the war, will be Miss Hay's assistant in Paris.

Assignments of nurses to foreign service between the dates of May 28 and July 9 include the following: Olive Sewell, Ada B. Coffey, Ella McGovern, and Elizabeth Hollenbeck, to Serbia; Anna Edison, Stella Grogan, Lulu McMorris, Ruth Murray, Jean C. Waldron, Clara Skornia, Ada T. Graham and Aurelia S. George, probable assignment to Czecho-Slovakia; Agnes Paulsen, Baltic States, as Director of Nursing Service; Mary E. L. Thrasher, unassigned; Margaret McGregor, Baltic States; Adele Ronecker, Poland; Inez Baker and Delfont Moreland, Greece; Mary E. Stebbins, Devastated France; Sophie C. Nelson, formerly superintendent of the Public Health Nursing Association, Louisville, Ky., probable assignment to Albania and Montenegro as Director of Nursing Services.

Mary S. Gardner, who is making a survey of the child welfare units, has visited Prague with Miss Hay, where a conference was held between Marion G. Parsons, in charge of the school, and her assistants, including Miss Besom, who is the supervising public health nurse. Helen Bridge, who has organized the school of nursing in Warsaw and Stella Mathews, Director of Red Cross Nursing for Poland, were also present. The principal topics of the consultation were the organization of the nursing service of the child welfare units, the relationship of the nurses to the social workers and the child welfare units, and the practicality of a short course for the preparation of native workers as a temporary means to meet nursing needs until such time as a sufficient number of graduates are available from the

school. Miss Gardner stated that the plan to give the hospital training to this group of workers has been omitted, as it was felt it might interfere with securing students for the Prague School of Nursing, and training will be entirely confined to the hospital.

Miss Gardner's next visit will be to the Baltic States, after which she will return to Paris for a conference and then make a trip to Serbia, where twenty-one Red Cross nurses are now working with the Child Welfare Association of America in the development of its programme.

NEWS SERVICE BUREAU

The editor of the Department of Red Cross Nursing will be very glad to provide the Alumnae Journals and Hospital Bulletins with news items regarding their meetings if the full address of such publications, together with the name and title of editor or press chairman is sent in to National Headquarters. She will also be grateful for the opportunity to publish through such channels any regulations, announcements, or appeals which the Red Cross may desire to make, of interest to the nursing personnel.

HONORS FOR CANADIAN PIONEERS

At the recent conventions of the Canadian Association of Nursing Education and of the Canadian Association of Trained Nurses, held in Quebec, early in June, honorary membership in both associations was conferred on three of the pioneer workers: Mary A. Snively, Margaret Stanley, and Nora Livingstone. Miss Snively is well known in this country, having been a member of our League of Nursing Education for many years.

CARE OF DISABLED SOLDIERS

"Glad as the U. S. Public Health Service has been," says Surgeon General H. S. Cumming, "to do its part in the hospitalization and care of the ill and disabled soldiers with whom its officers had become so well acquainted while serving in the Army Hospitals in France and elsewhere, this duty did not constitute a part of the Public Health functions of the Service but was undertaken through patriotism and because the Service was the only Government agency that had an organization and hospitals available when the need came. Later its assignment to this duty was made a matter of law.

From March 3, 1919, when this law went into effect, to May, 1921, when the hospitalization and care of nearly half of these patients was transferred to the War Risk Bureau, the number of former military patients in the charge of the Service increased from 990 to 25,000, with indications of still further increase. From the first the number had increased much faster than the total capacity of the the Government hospitals could be extended; and almost from the first the Service was compelled to place about two-thirds of its patients (10,500 on May 1, 1921) in private hospitals under contract.

"Responsibility for these 10,500 patients has already been restored to the War Risk Bureau, and, if bills pending before Congress become law, the hospitalization of the patients cared for in Government hospitals, as well as in "contract" hospitals, will rest with the War Risk; and the Public Health Service will merely render hospital care to those whom the War Risk assigns to it."