

Section 3.—The Victorian Order of Nurses.

The Victorian Order of Nurses was created in 1897 for the definite purpose of establishing trained nurses in localities such as villages and townships remote from hospital centres. With the growth of the Order, the field of activity was broadened to meet the demands of health and social agencies in the large centres of population, but the main work of the Order is still carried out in the villages and rural areas of population.

The primary function of the Victorian Order is bedside nursing and teaching of health in the homes visited. Three types of care are given by the nurses, *viz.*, maternal and infant welfare, general nursing and health education. During 1935, the Order had 318 trained nurses in the field with 79 branches, distributed as follows: Nova Scotia, 14; New Brunswick, 5; Quebec, 6; Ontario, 43; Manitoba, 1; Saskatchewan, 2; Alberta, 2; and British Columbia, 6. During 1935, 751,350 visits were made to 85,374 patients, which was an increase of 25,972 visits and 6,100 patients over the figures for 1934. The average number of visits per case was 8.8. Of the total visits paid, 439,540 or 58.5 p.c. were free, while fully-paid visits constituted 27.3 p.c. (of which 17.6 p.c. were insurance cases) and part-paid visits 14.2 p.c. Maternal and welfare cases constituted 54.9 p.c. of the total visits paid.

The maternal death rate per 1,000 living births attended by Victorian Order nurses for the past five years was 2.0. Total receipts of the local associations amounted to \$657,302 and total expenditures to \$617,978.

Section 4.—The Canadian Red Cross Society.*

Closely allied with the Dominion and Provincial Governments in activities to promote the health of the people is the Canadian Red Cross Society. Founded in 1896, its purposes are (1) to furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war, and (2) in time of peace to carry on and assist in work for the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering.

The more important phases of the peace-time work carried on by the Society are (a) the continuing care of sick and disabled ex-service men, (b) the operation of Red Cross outpost hospitals, (c) the promotion of Junior Red Cross and the treatment of crippled or otherwise disabled children, (d) the maintenance of a disaster relief organization fully prepared for immediate action in any emergency, (e) the organization of classes for the study of home nursing and nutrition, (f) the care of immigrant women and children at the Port of Halifax, (g) the training and supplying of visiting housekeepers for families when the homemaker is ill, (h) co-operation with government departments and other voluntary organizations in the combating of disease, the promotion of child welfare, and the care of the physically defective, (i) in general, provision for the needs of the distressed and destitute.

Since the inception of the peace-time program in 1920, the Red Cross Society has established outpost hospital service in 66 centres in Canada's northland. Twenty-four of these have been handed over to their communities, four have been found no longer necessary, and in 1936 there were thirty-eight outpost hospitals operating under the emblem of the Red Cross. In 1936, Red Cross outposts cared for 33,009 patients, of which number 6,148 were in-patients with a total of 63,966 hospital days'

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