

The practical result of nursing care and health education given to maternity patients is seen in the low maternal death rate among those under care. The rate per 1,000 live births attended by the Order during the years 1936-40 (inclusive) was 1.9, compared with a rate of 4.6 for Canada as a whole in the same period.

During 1941 the 384 nurses in the field gave nursing care to 90,201 patients. Health teaching is an important function of the visiting nurse, and this entry into so many homes provided an unparalleled opportunity to make a worth-while contribution toward the upbuilding of the health of the Canadian people.

The Victorian Order provides skilled nursing care to a large group of people who would otherwise be neglected. The budget of the average man makes very little allowance for the cost of illness. The patient is expected to pay the cost of the visit but the fee is adjusted to suit the family income and service is never refused because of inability to pay. Of the 727,161 visits made in 1941, 54 p.c. were free, 28 p.c. were paid and 17 p.c. were partly paid. The cost of the service to those unable to pay is taken care of by municipal grants and funds collected by means of campaigns.

In smaller centres where the Victorian Order nurse is the only public health nurse the program of work is usually enlarged to include a school nursing service, child hygiene and other public-health nursing services.

While the nurses are doing their 'bit' in caring for soldiers' families and helping to keep up the morale of the people, the program has not been changed because of the War. The Victorian Order was instituted and has been maintained for over forty years with one definite purpose—home nursing service—for times of war no less than for times of peace.

Section 4.—The Canadian Red Cross Society*

Closely allied with the Dominion and Provincial Governments, both in the prosecution of the War and in the promotion of the health of the people, is the Canadian Red Cross Society. Founded in 1896, its purpose is to furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war and, in time of peace, to carry on and assist in work for the improvement of public-health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering.

Peace-Time Services of the Red Cross.—Since the inception of its peace-time program in 1920, the Canadian Red Cross Society has established an outpost hospital service that provides medical and public health services in isolated communities. In the 54 hospitals operating throughout Canada during 1941, at a cost of \$472,082, 41,984 patients were treated, 5,689 operations were performed and 2,027 babies were born. In Ontario and Quebec, travelling medical and dental clinics treated a total of 42,012 patients and Red Cross nurses examined 21,820 children on visits to outlying districts. The Red Cross also provided aid to ex-service men, nutritional and visiting housekeeper services, highway first-aid posts, etc., and conducted home-nursing and first-aid courses.

The Junior Red Cross, an organization for the pupils of elementary schools and the students of secondary schools, is devoted to the promotion of the principles

* Revised by Dr. F. W. Routley, National Commissioner, Canadian Red Cross Society.