

Section 4.—The Canadian Red Cross Society*

The Canadian Red Cross Society is closely allied with the Dominion and Provincial Governments in both its extensive war and peace-time undertakings. The Society was founded in 1896 and incorporated in 1909, its purpose being to furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war, and, in time of peace or war, to carry on and assist in work for the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world. The total membership is 2,096,608—1,239,303 seniors and 857,305 juniors.

The Canadian Red Cross Corps of uniformed, volunteer, trained women numbered 4,840 members in 97 detachments throughout Canada, at Dec. 31, 1942, with reserves reported of about 17,000. A number of Corps members are on duty with the Society overseas.

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 51 hospitals and nursing stations operating throughout Canada during 1942, 37,000 patients were treated, 4,900 operations were performed and 2,100 children born. There were 819 clinics held and the Red Cross nurses examined 19,902 children. The Red Cross has also provided aid to ex-service men; nutritional and visiting housekeepers' services; highway first-aid posts, etc.; and conducted home-nursing and first-aid courses.

The Junior Red Cross, an organization devoted to the promotion of the principles of health, good citizenship and international friendliness, has helped 22,348 crippled children since its inception. At the end of 1942, it had a membership of 857,305 pupils in 29,192 branches in Canada and Newfoundland. Contributions to the Junior Red Cross Fund have financed 14 mobile kitchens, 6 ambulances, 5 utilicons, 2 station wagons, 1 mobile canteen and 6 carrier canteens, and 14 war nurseries in Britain.

War Services of the Red Cross.—The work accomplished by the Red Cross up to the end of December, 1942, is summarized in the following paragraphs.

Overseas Work.—A 600-bed military hospital has been built in England, furnished and fully equipped at a cost of \$755,000 and turned over to the Canadian Department of National Defence. This hospital is considered to be one of the finest military hospitals in Britain and is giving the best of medical treatment to Canada's sick and wounded. Thirty-eight mobile kitchen units, each equipped to feed 250 workers at a time, have been presented to Britain's fire fighters. A vast organization of Canadian Red Cross "hospital visitors" has been built up around hospitals, to be ready on call to act as "friends from home" and to provide special diets, extra comforts and personal services to Canadian patients; the Maple Leaf Clubs have become exceptionally popular with the Forces and provide excellent accommodation, recreation and entertainment; and inquiry bureaus have been organized in Britain and Canada to obtain information regarding relatives and friends who are missing, wounded, or prisoners of war.

Overseas Shipments.—Shipments up to Dec. 31, 1942, consisted of: 300 ambulances and other motor-vehicles; 375,000 cases containing over 21,000,000 articles of hospital supplies, comforts for the troops and relief clothing; 2,000,000 prisoners-

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