

of-war food parcels. Distribution of supplies was made, not only to Canadian Armed Forces but to all the Allied Nations. Jam and honey were provided to over 1,000,000 civilian war sufferers in Britain, particularly children in war nurseries and orphanages, Women's Institutes and other organizations.

*Canadian Work.*—The packing of food parcels for prisoners of war, begun in 1941, reached a total of 100,000 a week in the five packing depots at Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor and Winnipeg. By the end of 1942 over 3,000,000 parcels had been packed, of which 2,000,000 were shipped, the balance awaiting shipment early in the new year.

Through the Red Cross Volunteer blood-donor clinics, opened in January, 1940, 220,397 blood donations were received and processed into serum up to the end of December, 1942. The 37 clinics and 2 mobile units in operation at that time reached an objective of 6,000 transfusions a week; this has been raised to a minimum of 15,000 donations a week. The serum has been used in bombed areas and battlefields on fighting fronts.

Since the beginning of the War, 2,707,808 comforts and supplies have been given to the Armed Forces in training or stationed in Canada as well as to hospital patients.

Disaster relief organizations for ship-wrecked seamen and casualties have been set up at seaboard and other vulnerable points in Canada; they include 47 emergency hospital units, 19 mobile surgical units and vast quantities of hospital supplies and relief clothing.

**Financing of Red Cross Activities.**—From the outbreak of war to Dec. 31, 1942, voluntary contributions from all sources to the Society amounted to \$31,285,818. With the 1943 campaign returns added, this total increased to approximately \$42,000,000. The two major items of expenditures were for hospital supplies, comforts for the Armed Forces and hospital patients, and clothing for civilian war sufferers (43 p.c.) and for prisoners-of-war food parcels (32 p.c.).

## Section 5.—The St. John Ambulance Association

The origin of the St. John Ambulance Association goes back to the Crusades and the Knights of St. John and of Malta. His Majesty the King is supreme head of the Order which has headquarters at London and units in all parts of the British Empire. In Canada, the Governor General is the Knight Commander and meetings of the Order are held at Government House. At the head of the Canadian Branch is the Commandery of the Grand Priory of the British Realm of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, usually referred to as the Order of St. John.

The Canadian Branch has its headquarters and national offices in St. John House, Ottawa, with branches in every province, and local centres in hundreds of cities and towns throughout Canada. There are two distinct branches: the Association whose members train instructors, conduct classes and issue various certificates; and the Brigade, members of which are in uniform under a form of military discipline, receive constant supplementary training, and are available for call whenever the need arises. The Brigade strength is approximately 10,000 persons, about equally divided between the Ambulance Division (men) and the Nursing Division (women), and organized into about 250 divisions from coast to coast.