

Registered nurses are employed by the Order and have, in addition, post-graduate training in public-health nursing. All appointments are approved by Headquarters at Ottawa, which also assumes responsibility for the supervision of the nurses' work in the field, thus ensuring a uniform standard of service.

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 1939-43, inclusive, was 1.45 compared with a rate of 3.3 for Canada as a whole in the same period.

During 1943 approximately 400 nurses in the field gave nursing care to 92,945 patients. Health teaching is an important function of the visiting nurse, and her entry into so many homes provides an unparalleled opportunity to make a worthwhile contribution toward the upbuilding of the health of the Canadian people.

The Order provides a community service, available to everyone in the area served, regardless of race, creed or economic status. The nurses give care on a visit basis to medical, surgical and maternity patients under medical direction and thus care for 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 714,764 visits made in 1943, 52 p.c. were free, 19 p.c. were paid and 17 p.c. were partly paid. The cost of the service to those unable to pay is provided for 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 school nursing service, child hygiene and other public health nursing services.

The nurses also care for soldiers' families and help keep up the morale of the people. The Victorian Order was instituted and has been maintained for over forty years with one definite purpose—home nursing service—in time of war no less than in time of peace.

#### 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 wartime and peacetime 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 2,727,130—1,853,000 seniors and 874,130 juniors.

The Canadian Red Cross Corps of uniformed, volunteer, trained women numbered 5,676 members in 84 detachments throughout Canada, at Dec. 31, 1943, with reserves reported of about 20,680. Some 500 Corps members are on duty with the Society overseas.

**Peacetime Services.**—Since the inception of its peacetime 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 46 hospitals and nursing stations operating throughout Canada during 1943, 29,321 patients were treated, 5,005 operations were performed and 2,016 children