

Health and Other Activities.—Improvement of the health of the Canadian people is one of the primary aims of the Society. Instruction in nutrition, home nursing, first aid, swimming and water safety are among the services already under way for which considerable expansion is planned in the post-war period.

Wartime Services.—A number of the wartime services were still in operation at the end of 1945. These included Workroom and Relief Departments, Hospital Services, operation of four Maple Leaf Clubs, warehousing and shipping of large quantities of relief goods to Europe and Asia, assistance to returning service personnel and dependents, and the service of Canadian Red Cross Corps in Great Britain and Europe.

Canadian Red Cross Corps.—At the end of 1945, the Corps had 4,918 members in Canada and the Overseas Detachment 292 members serving in Great Britain and Europe as welfare workers, ambulance drivers, office and canteen workers, handicraft workers in military hospitals, V.A.D.'s in civilian hospitals in England, and Escort Officers on ships carrying service men's dependents to Canada. In Canada they served in all departments of Red Cross work.

Assistance to Service Personnel and Dependents Returning to Canada.—Organized work in this connection was exceptionally heavy during the year, the Government having entrusted to the Red Cross the task of meeting returning men and their dependents at port of entry and conducting them on trains to their destinations. This service included Red Cross conducting officers on all trains, distribution of supplies, despatch of telegrams to relatives, organization of reception centres and mobile canteens, and many other services.

Prisoner of War Food Parcels.—By the end of July, 1945, all six Red Cross food-packing plants were closed after this service had been in operation for four and one-half years, having packed during that period over 16,000,000 food parcels for prisoners of war.

Blood Donor Service.—Aug. 31, 1945, marked the conclusion of this service for the preparation and drying of human blood serum for use in the treatment of war casualties. The number of blood donations reported from 662 regular and sub-clinics throughout Canada since the inception of the service on Jan. 29, 1940, was 2,338,533.

Jam and Honey.—In co-operation with Women's Institutes and other organizations, the Red Cross shipped overseas 2,250,000 lb. of jam and honey for distribution to war nurseries, hospitals, etc.

Comforts, Supplies and Relief Clothing.—Since the beginning of the War, Red Cross women war workers in Canada made more than 45,000,000 articles for the Armed Forces and civilian war sufferers overseas.

Section 5.—The Order of St. John*

The origin of the Order of St. John goes back to the Crusades and the Knights of St. John and Malta. His Majesty the King is supreme head of the Order which has headquarters at London, England, 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.

* Including the St. John Ambulance Association and the St. John Ambulance Brigade.