

her return home may request the services of a Victorian Order nurse to demonstrate the baby's bath and help to establish a plan for the infant's care. The nurse will continue to visit as long as health teaching and supervision is indicated.

During 1946 approximately 475 nurses in the field gave nursing care to 116,361 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 up-building 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 without skilled care. 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 852,873 visits made in 1946, 51 p.c. were free, 22 p.c. were paid, 16 p.c. were paid in part and 11 p.c. were paid for by insurance companies for care to patients. 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 centres, assistance at immunization clinics and other public-health services.

An increasing number of Victorian Order branches are giving part-time nursing service to industrial plants where the number of employees is not large enough to require the full-time services of a nurse.

Section 4.—The Canadian Red Cross Society

The Canadian Red Cross Society in both its wartime and peacetime work is closely allied in a voluntary capacity with the Dominion and Provincial Governments. 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.* Organization includes National and Overseas Offices, Provincial Divisions and 2,500 Branches. The Society has a senior and junior membership of over 2,500,000 in Canada.

While the year 1946 was devoted in large part to the development and expansion of an extensive peacetime program in Canada, the needs of liberated peoples in Europe and Asia were by no means forgotten. During 1945 and 1946 some \$18,000,000 worth of relief goods was poured into these countries both direct from Canada and from the Society's warehouses in the United Kingdom.

Assistance to Service Personnel and Dependents Returning to Canada.—This work was exceptionally heavy during 1946, the Government having entrusted to the Red Cross the task of meeting returning men and their dependents at ports of entry and conducting them on trains to their destinations. Red Cross conducting officers on all trains looked after the distribution of supplies, attended to the despatch of telegrams to relatives, organized reception centres and mobile canteens, and performed many other services.