

For nearly three years now, the Canadian Red Cross has been escorting wives and children of Canadian service men from their homes in England, and later also from the Continent, to their Canadian destinations, including an escort service across the Atlantic. Approximately 61,200 persons, 41,400 brides and 19,800 children, were cared for by the Red Cross. In addition, about 9,000 Far East returned personnel, including 1,500 Canadian survivors of Hong Kong, were welcomed and helped *en route* to their homes in Canada or while crossing the Dominion bound for the United Kingdom.

**Peacetime Services.**—The aims of the Red Cross Society in peace are the same as in war—to improve health, prevent disease and mitigate suffering anywhere and everywhere in Canada to the full extent of its resources.

**Veterans Aid.**—This assistance is given, through Red Cross Lodges (recreational centres) adjacent to all large veterans hospitals in Canada; a summer Convalescent Hospital; residence Clubs for disabled war pensioners; regular visiting of all hospital patients who are supplied with extra comforts, library facilities, transportation, shopping service, instruction in handicraft, film service and other entertainment. Dental assistance, surgical supplies, clothing and other aid are provided for needy veterans and families.

**Outpost Hospital Service.**—At the end of 1946, a chain of 54 Red Cross Outpost Hospitals and Nursing Stations were in operation in the frontier districts of the Dominion, bringing medical science within reach of these isolated communities. A large number of new Outposts are planned to meet the needs of isolated regions and will be in operation during 1947.

**Blood Transfusion Service.**—Following an intensive survey, it was found that many hospitals in Canada are without the blood and facilities necessary for their transfusion needs. Every day, lives (mothers in childbirth, accident victims, operative cases) are being lost because of this deficiency. It is the aim of the Red Cross to supply sufficient blood so that everyone in Canada in need of a transfusion can have it, immediately, free of charge. The Society plans to operate its own Blood Depots and Sub-Depots across Canada (first Depot opened in Vancouver on Jan. 21, 1947) which will eventually provide blood to all Canadian hospitals. The blood will be provided by volunteer donors, as during the War.

**Junior Red Cross.**—This organization, devoted to the principles of health good citizenship and international friendliness, has helped over 25,000 crippled children since its inception. At the end of 1946, there were about 900,000 members in over 30,000 branches in schools in Canada and Newfoundland. These Juniors have given magnificent service in providing relief for child war victims throughout the world and have embarked upon an extensive peacetime service program which includes aid to handicapped children, assistance for disabled veterans in hospital, and many community projects.

**First Aid, Swimming and Water Safety.**—The Swimming and Water Safety Program was enthusiastically received from coast to coast throughout Canada in 1946. The Red Cross undertook this service in an endeavour to cut down the more than 1,000 drownings that take place in Canada each year. Through this nationwide service, the Red Cross joins with other agencies in this field. A wide First Aid Instruction Program also made good headway in 1946.