

and international disaster; craft training and recreational centres are operated for hospitalized war veterans and a national inquiry bureau traces persons for the purpose of reuniting families and friends.

In 1947 a national blood transfusion service was initiated in British Columbia and Alberta with the aim of supplying all hospitals with free blood and plasma so that immediate transfusions may be available to patients everywhere without charge. During 1948 this service was extended to cover Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and part of Quebec.

Four additions during 1948 brought to a total of 75 the number of outpost hospitals and nursing stations operated by the Red Cross as a service to settlers in isolated areas.

A nutrition study designed to measure the scientific effect of supervised school lunches on the health of children was in its final phase in 1948. More than 30 branches provide homemaker service to families when the mother is ill. Loan cupboards of sick room supplies have been established in order that families with sickness in the home may borrow nursing equipment free of charge. In 1948, 290 classes provided instruction in home nursing.

Relief in time of disaster is an important branch of Red Cross work; during 1948 a \$2,500,000 rehabilitation fund for the distressed was administered. During the severe spring floods in British Columbia, Red Cross House in Vancouver served as headquarters for combined relief operations and Red Cross volunteers assisted the Armed Forces in providing aid to the homeless.

Immigrants are met by Red Cross workers at reception centres and Red Cross nurseries are operated at ports. Clothing, hospital supplies and surgical dressings, made by voluntary workers, are provided for use in Canada and for shipment overseas. The Society shipped supplies valued at more than \$2,000,000 to war-devastated countries on behalf of Red Cross and other voluntary agencies.

Hospitalized veterans participate in Red Cross arts and crafts programs under the instruction of a staff of 37 Red Cross supervisors and 125 voluntary workers. The Society also operates recreation centres and next-of-kin hostels in connection with Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals. Other services include films and entertainment, regular visits, transportation and welfare services for needy veterans and families.

In an effort to reduce Canada's annual drowning toll, swimming and water safety are taught as part of a first-aid program by some 1,000 Red Cross instructors.

The Canadian Junior Red Cross with a membership of more than 850,000 promotes health and good citizenship in 29,715 school-room branches across Canada. Since the beginning of its program, more than 30,000 handicapped children have received treatment through the Junior Red Cross Crippled Children's Fund, including 2,628 children treated in 1948.

Funds to carry on Red Cross work are voluntarily subscribed and in 1948 approximately \$4,000,000 was obtained through the annual campaign of the Society.