



The Work of The Red Cross

By Clara Barton

"That Little Meeting at Geneva"—Red Cross Work in Foreign Countries—No Red Cross in Our Civil War—Flag a Compliment to Switzerland—No Religious Preferences Indicated—Not Connected with "Red Cross" Secret Societies—Japan an Advanced Red Cross Nation—How Interest in the Work Was Stimulated in America—Relief Rendered at Times of National Calamity—In Wartime.

(The name of Clara Barton is known throughout the world through her efforts to alleviate the horrors of war. She was president of the American National Red Cross from its organization in 1881 to 1904. During the American civil war she did relief work on the battlefields. During the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 and 1871 she was associated with the International Red Cross. She has represented the United States in many international conferences. During the Russian famine of 1892 and the Armenian massacres of 1896 she distributed relief. At the time of the Spanish-American war she carried relief to Cuba.)

It is probable that there are few terms in general use among us, or few subjects so frequently referred to of which so little is correctly known as the so-called Red Cross.

The causes for this obscurity are many. Among the great movements of civilization the Red Cross is comparatively new. It is of foreign birth, consequently its literature is in foreign languages and in many languages, while we are notably a one-language people. The subject with which it was born to deal—namely, human warfare, was, until the Spanish-American war, experimentally unknown to our present generation, and the desire for and the certainty of a perpetual peace for the future had begotten an indifference, not to say repulsion, in the minds of the public, which turned it instinctively—often impatiently—away from all topics bearing upon the subject of war.

The history of the world is largely a history of its wars and through the 4,000 years, until three and a half centuries ago, there is no official record of any movement to lessen the woes of those who fought them. At that date a medical service was attached to armies, and was thought to be sufficient for any emergency that could ever arise. Through all the terrible wars of Napoleon I. this service was never changed, increased or questioned. But when the doors of Scutaria opened for Florence Nightingale and her 40 nurses, the flood of light which followed them revealed serious defects. Still so slow is the march of improvement that the war of Lombardy in 1859 showed no amendment.

On June 24 of that same year the armies of Napoleon III., equipped with every facility then known to military medicine, stood face to face with the foe in northern Italy, 300,000 combatants in a line five leagues in length, and fought 15 hours without cessation or rest. The horrors of the field, through the suffering of its wounded from want of care—scarcely one surgeon for 50 men, bleeding, fainting and famishing—were witnessed by a humane Swiss gentleman, Henri Dunant, who stayed his traveling carriage in the vicinity of the battle and worked among the wounded. The memories of the suffering he had witnessed, haunted him, until at length he wrote and published them, and the "Souvenir de Solferino" in a few months had been translated into the leading languages of the world, and lay on the tables and on the hearts of the best of Europe.

The seed had been well sown, and in 1863 it took root in a conference at Geneva, Switzerland, which sought to find if some way could be devised to lessen the needless suffering of soldiers on the field, which seemed to be largely the result of customary military restrictions. It was proved that no army ever had been found equal to the needs of its wounded in a battle. It was equally decided that this never could be, as no army could move, march and fight, while burdened with sufficient medical material or personnel to meet the needs of its wounded in and after a battle. The remedy suggested struck a blow at one of the strongest, time-honored rules of war—namely, that no civilian be allowed upon a field, especially in time of battle; the proposition of the conference being that societies of civilians be

formed in the various countries, whose duty it should be to provide whatever might be lacking in the medical department of an army in the field, either of material or personnel, and whose privilege it should be, to go under proper restrictions, and use them.

The plan further proposed that each country should have one central society, that this society should have the power to form other societies, to provide surgeons and equip them, to establish hospitals, to train nurses; in short, to be a civil arm of war in the name of humanity, if wars must exist—or, rather, while they must exist—for no one saw any immediate way of preventing them. Further, it proposed that these societies should keep themselves prepared to accompany their respective armies, with the same readiness for emergencies as those in the pay of the state, and yet they would be no expense to the state nor to any but themselves. Singularly, of this conference of only 38 persons 13 were official delegates, representing 13 powerful governments. The historian has aptly said that "the eyes of all Europe were turned toward that little meeting at Geneva."

Kindly keep in mind the date—1863, just the middle of our civil war. Three thousand miles away, we knew little of European movements; in war ourselves, we had little time to study them. Our sanitary commission was struggling into active life and Europe knew nothing of it. The Red Cross had not even a name. Please let this answer the mistaken, misleading and constantly recurring question of the "Red Cross in our civil war." There was none.

That conference of 1863 accomplished prodigies of successful labor within a year. It drew into its compact the concurrence of two-thirds of the important countries of Europe, which proceeded to establish aid or central societies for relief in war; as, for instance, Austria, Spain, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Prussia, six German states, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Portugal and Denmark. Although thorough advocates, these societies were merely single-handed and national, each ready to act with all humanity and generosity to friend and foe; but there was no bond between them; internationally they had no existence. The established laws of war held its impenetrable mantle over them and internationally there was no link between these civil aid societies and the military of even their own countries. The surgeons whom they would send could still be captured, their wounded could be left on the field to suffer and die, the material could become the spoil of the conqueror; hospitals could be robbed and their inmates either liberated or dragged off to prison, according to the caprice of the conqueror. International law sanctioned these things.

It was clearly, therefore, international law that must be remedied in this respect. This conference of 1863 bravely called for another to be held in 1864, which should take on the character of a convention, consisting exclusively of delegates from the crowned heads and rulers of the world—the makers of war—armed with treaty powers, regarding the conduct of armies in the field and the treatment of sick and wounded soldiers. This convention was held at Geneva in August, 1864.

A compound international treaty was entered into, known as the treaty of Geneva, for the aid of the sick and wounded of armies. The first clause of this remarkable document of ten articles strikes the keynote of all that was sought, by declaring neutral all persons disabled on a field, all persons properly authorized to care for them, as surgeons, chaplains, attendants, all materials sent or designed for the use of the wounded in hospitals and the hospitals themselves. Wounded prisoners were to be given up if desired; the sick and wounded were to be taken care of regardless of nationality, friend and foe receiving the same care from all belligerents. A sign was created by which all persons engaged in the relief of the wounded of either army might be known. All material, as food, clothing and vehicles, having this sign, should be sacred from capture. One flag bearing this sign was instituted for all military hospitals and all hospitals flying that flag should be held sacred from attack.

To return to the national societies. Strengthened by the convention of 1864, and the protection of the treaty, no time was lost by them. In 1866 Austria, Italy and Germany afforded opportunity for trial. The hard field of Sadova testified as to their need; Italy and Germany were in the treaty; Austria was not.

That made no difference in the treatment of Austria's wounded. Parviz fed and dressed the wounds of 600 to 800 a day for two months, regardless of friend or foe.

In 1870 under Napoleon III. France marched to its eastern borders, while Germany watched the Rhine. Both were leading Red Cross nations. The German Red Cross, like its army, was ready. Its central committee received and applied \$10,000,000 as an aid to the medical department of the army. The Red Cross of France, like its army, was not ready, and yet its alacrity surprised the world. In one month France raised and equipped 17 movable field hospitals, which were sent to the army and went with it to Sedan. During the siege and commune at Paris a vast number of sick and wounded soldiers had been massed together and the famine of the last days of the siege rendered their condition pitiable beyond description. The Red Cross, by full approval of the Prussian authorities, removed 10,000 of these and brought back 9,000 prisoners from Germany. I speak of these from personal observation and participation.

In July, 1876, Serbia and Montenegro entered Turkey. All were in the treaty. The Turkish officials, intelligent and educated, understood the origin of the Red Cross and respected it, but prudently feared to place a cross in the sight of their ignorant, fanatical soldiery, and the Red Crescent was substituted, which remains until to-day. In 1877 Russia came down and crossed the Danube. Plevna tells its terrible tale. The Serbian Red Cross, young and poor, established its wonderful hospital at Belgrade and Roumania killed 1,042 wounded Turks. Fifteen million dollars in Red Cross relief was spent by Russia alone.

The Japanese are one of the most advanced Red Cross nations, the emperor being the active head of the central society. Their work for the relief of suffering during the late war with Russia aroused the wonder and admiration of the world.

Of civil wars there has been no end. Italy had its Garibaldian and papal war. Spain had its Carlist war. Russia led its armies to the region of Persia and its Red Cross sent 117 persons after them, who followed the advanced guard, six being wounded and 12 killed.

The Dutch established its Red Cross in the Malay war in 1878. Bolivia and Peru entered the treaty during their civil wars of 1879 to 1881.

In the early Transvaal war the Boers, without being in the treaty, lived up to its highest precepts. Civil wars are usually considered the most cruel and yet, singularly, the Carlist war in Spain was said to have been exempt from cruelties; doctors and nurses were respected, prisoners were well treated and even the wounded insurgents were set at liberty at Pampeluna. Spain has always regarded its Red Cross and even in the height of the Spanish-American war sent its official testimonial of regard to the president of the Red Cross of America.

It will be recalled that although officially invited to every conference the United States was too sadly occupied to give attention to anything outside itself, until the close of our civil war. Then it was too worn, tired and glad of the end of war to ever want to hear of it again. Thus it happened that when Dr. Henry W. Bellows, the great apostle of war relief, and president of our sanitary commission, having come in contact with the Red Cross at the Paris exposition in 1868, and perceiving its great utility, undertook to interest the American people and induce the government to unite with the treaty and actually formed a society, failed both with government and people. He was compelled to abandon his society and relinquish his efforts. Foreign nations regretted this and continued their efforts to interest America. At length, in 1877, a second effort was made, during the administration of President Hayes, and continued successively through a term of five years. In 1882, during the administration of President Arthur, following out the expressed desires of his lamented predecessor, Garfield, and the advice of his cabinet, the treaty was adopted by our government.

We had no wars, no battlefields to attract their sympathy and help, but we had great disasters constantly occurring, as pitiable oftentimes as a battle, and then it was our custom to call upon the government to give relief through appropriations from the treasury. Here was a legitimate opportunity to apply the first great principles of the Red Cross, namely, "people's help for national need." To this opportunity the perplexed committee turned and on presenting the treaty for acceptance it prayed the ratifying powers at Bern to accept the United States, with the privilege of relieving in great national calamities, other than war, confining its operations to disasters beyond local relief and requiring governmental aid. The committee frankly gave its reasons, admitting that it was an innovation. Still, the request was kindly considered and granted. Thus in 1882 America stood alone among the Red Cross treaty nations with the official privilege of rendering aid in great calamities in civil life.

America has a double responsibility. Its Red Cross is twofold—civil and military; both alike legitimate, both of the same origin, imposing the same duties. A few years ago the war victims of Manila were pouring into San Francisco in thousands, wounded, sick, poor and friendless. The Red Cross of California received every one, nursed, fed and helped them on. This was the Red Cross war relief. At the same time the elements had devastated a great seaboard city, literally sweeping it into the ocean, drowned 10,000 of its people and left 20,000 homeless, ruined and desolate. The Red Cross entered there and by request took charge of its relief, working for months among the distressed victims, distributing the charities of the people, braving an atmosphere nearly fatal to health and life, and only left when the survivors could help themselves. This was civil Red Cross relief—the same organization, the same officers, the same society, the same work. Again, when San Francisco had been destroyed by earthquake and fire, the Red Cross helped to bear relief to it.

WILLING TO LET HIM DIE.

Stinging Message Sent by Farmer Worsted in Business Deal.

In the old colony town of Scituate, Mass., once lived Deacon J., who had a yoke of oxen he desired to sell. The news reached the ears of Farmer T., who lived in another portion of the town, who was in want of a pair. So he visited the deacon, who met him with a gracious smile and led him to the oxen, which were chewing their cud and to all appearances ready for any amount of toll.

After some bargaining a difference of five dollars remained. Finally the deacon said: "I am old and feeble, and shall not live long, and five dollars will be of no account," so the bargain was made. Farmer T. took the oxen home.

They proved worthless, could not work, and had been heated. He felt provoked at being sold, and, sealing a provision the next day who was going to the part of the town where the deacon lived, said: "You tell Deacon J.—he need not live another 3—minute longer on my account."

THREE BOYS HAD ECZEMA.

Were Treated at Dispensary—Did Not Improve—Suffered Five Months—Perfect Cure by Cuticura.

"My three children had eczema for five months. A little sore would appear on the head and seemed very itchy, increasing day after day. The baby had had it about a week when the second boy took the disease and a few sores developed, then the third boy took it. For the first three months I took them to the N— Dispensary, but they did not seem to improve. Then I used Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment and in a few weeks they had improved, and when their heads were well you could see nothing of the sores. Mrs. Kate Keim, 513 West 29th St., New York, N. Y., Nov. 1, 5 and 7, 1906."

Secret of Japan's Success.

Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton of the British army wrote the evening after one of the great battles which he had witnessed between Russians and Japanese in the recent war in Manchuria: "To bed! Although it is with reluctance that I prepare to lose my grip of the exciting consciousness that I have to-day seen the most stupendous spectacle that it is possible for mortal brain to conceive—Asia advancing, Europe falling back; the wall of mist and the writing thereon." Then as to the meaning of this retreat of Europe before advancing Asia: "The more I think the more certain I am that it was not strategy or tactics, or armament or information, which won the battle of Liaoyang or Oyama, but that it was rather the souls of the Japanese troops which triumphed over the less developed, less awakened, less stimulated qualities of the Russians."

TACK THIS UP.

Simple Advice Which May Prove of Untold Value.

At the first sign of Backache or pain in the region of the Kidneys, or weakness and Urinary trouble, the following simple prescription should be used:

Fluid Extract Dandelion, one-half ounce; Compound Kanker, one ounce; Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla, three ounces. Take a teaspoonful after each meal and at bedtime.

Any good prescription pharmacy will supply these three ingredients at small cost, which can easily be mixed by shaking well in a bottle. This is said to force the Kidneys to filter the sour acids and poisons from the blood, overcoming the worst cases of Rheumatism.

Year's Cigarette Output.

The cigarette output of 4,268,729,015 in the calendar year of 1906 must have come as a surprise to the bulk of the trade, but more stunning yet its increase in one year of 842,240,425, an increase by nearly 300,000,000 larger than the increase of our cigar industry during the same year. This jump is the more remarkable in the face of the pronounced and unrelenting hostility of a half dozen state legislatures which have ostracized not only the manufacture but also the handling and consumption of cigarettes within the confines of their respective territories.—United States Tobacco Journal.

Stood the Test.

Alcock's Plasters have successfully stood the test of sixty years' use by the public; their virtues have never been equaled by the unscrupulous imitators who have sought to trade upon their reputation by making plasters with holes in them, and claiming them to be "just as good as Alcock's." Alcock's plasters stand to-day endorsed by not only the highest medical authorities, but by millions of grateful patients who have proved their efficacy as a household remedy.

Purely Experimental.

"Why in the world did you order a Welsh rabbit in this French place?" they asked her. "Of course, the cheese is about the same as you get everywhere, but how can you tell what a French Welsh rabbit will do to you afterward?" "I'm not afraid," she informed them, placidly. "I just want to see what sort of ragtime nightmare French it will speak."

The Secret.

Of abundant hair lies not in strong lungs or large muscles but in a well-nourished scalp. Barry's Tricopherous rebuilds and nourishes scalps. Established in 1801.

City's Death Rate Reduced.

The London death rate is now nearly 30 per cent. lower than it was at the coming into operation of the public health act in 1891. In that year the death rate was 17.1; in 1905 it was 15.1 a thousand.

One trial will convince you of the peculiar fitness of Nature's remedy, Garfield Tea, for liver, kidneys, stomach and bowels, for impure blood, rheumatism and chronic ailments.

English Municipal Employees.

In London there are 70,000 municipal employees; in England generally there are close to 2,000,000.

You can do your dyeing a half an hour with PUTNAM FADELESS DYES. Ask your druggist.

We are ourselves served best by serving others.—C. G. Ames.

PILES CURED IN 6 TO 14 DAYS. PATZ OINTMENT is guaranteed to cure any case of hemorrhoids, itching, bleeding or protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days or money refunded. 50c.

True dignity is never gained by place, and never lost when honors are withdrawn.—Massinger.

Take Garfield Tea, the herb remedy that has for its object Good Health! It purifies the blood, cleanses the system, makes people well. Guaranteed under the Pure Food Law.

Advancement in Siberia. Agricultural schools have been established in several places in Siberia, and a certain number of steam plows, reapers and the like are now in use.

FITS, St. Vitus Dance and all Nervous Diseases permanently cured by Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for Free \$2.00 trial bottle and treatise. Dr. R. H. Kline, Ld., 931 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Missionary's Large District. The Rev. W. Arthur Noble, of Korea, has one of the largest districts in Methodism. Recently he walked 300 miles, the churches in one section of his district being near enough for him to do this.

It Cures While You Walk. Allen's Foot-Ease is a certain cure for hot, sweating, callous, and swollen, aching feet. Sold by all druggists. Price 25c. Don't accept any substitute. Trial package FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

Pine 200 Years Old. Charles H. Lord of Dunbarton, N. H., recently cut a large pine tree on his farm which, from the rings, was 200 years old. The tree was 134 feet tall, measured five feet four inches on the stump, and at the height of 60 feet measured three feet in diameter.

WANTED—For U. S. Army, able-bodied, unmarried men, between ages of 21 and 35; citizens of United States, of good character and temperate habits, who can speak, read and write English; for information apply to recruiting officer, 123 N. Court, Memphis, Tenn.; 236 Main, Jonesboro, Ark.; Tupelo, Miss., or Humboldt, Tenn.

Valuable Rubber Plant.

A German maid with a knowledge of English just sufficient to get things mixed was much interested in the house plants of her mistress, who possessed, among others, a rubber plant. One day while sweeping the room she had occasion to move this particular plant, when she remarked that she had read in the paper that a rubber plant worth \$200,000 burned in Woonsocket, and she thought it must have been a beautiful plant to have cost so much money.

Oats—Heads 2 Foot Long. The John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., are bringing out a new oats this year with heads 2 foot long! That's a wonder. Their catalog tells! That's a Speck—the greatest cereal hay food America ever saw! Catalog tells!

TRIUMPH OF AMERICAN DUCHESS.

Heleen, duchess of Manchester, is now lady-in-waiting to Queen Alexandra, and the first American to receive that honor. So much for marrying the only son of the most popular duchess at the court of Edward VII. Other American duchesses may shrug and say they wouldn't be a lady in waiting on any account; but don't you believe them. It is a royal distinction tremendously valued by English nobility, and the next step is the political plum to be made mistress of the robes.—Boston Herald.

Our mammoth 148-page Seed and Tool Catalog is mailed free to all intending buyers, or send 6c in stamps and receive free samples of new Two Foot Long Oats and other cereals and big catalog free.

John A. Salzer Seed Co., Box W, La Crosse, Wis.

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Known Quality, Known Excellence and Known Component Parts and has won the valuable patronage of millions of the Well Informed of the world, who know of their own personal knowledge and from actual use that it is the first and best of family laxatives, for which no extravagant or unreasonable claims are made.

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