

## DEPARTMENT OF RED CROSS NURSING

CLARA D. NOYES, R.N., DEPARTMENT EDITOR  
*Director, Department of Nursing, American Red Cross*  
*Washington, D. C.*

### NURSING EX-SERVICE MEN

Looming larger than any other public duty or patriotic privilege at the present moment in the world of nursing is the problem of the disabled ex-service man. With the passing over by the War Risk Insurance of the care of the disabled soldiers to the United States Public Health Service and the later extension of the use of the Army and Navy Hospitals for this purpose, there has resulted a shortage of personnel in the nursing corps of these three departments. Nurses are greatly needed at the present time. It is estimated that approximately 30,000 ex-service men are in hospitals and that many thousands more are in need of such care. The Nursing Service of the American Red Cross, up to July 1st, had been asked to fill 450 vacancies and in furtherance of this end, the Director of the National Red Cross Nursing Service is sending out a special appeal to every nurse enrolling in the Red Cross, with each appointment card and badge.

The letter quotes the regulation in the War Manual, defining the relation of the Red Cross Nursing Service to the Army, (the same ruling also applying to the Navy). In order that the purposes of enrollment in the Red Cross may be fully understood, an extract from this ruling is herewith inserted:

The enrolled nurses of the American Red Cross Nursing Service will constitute the reserve of the Army Nurse Corps, AND IN TIME OF WAR OR OTHER EMERGENCY MAY WITH THEIR OWN CONSENT BE ASSIGNED TO ACTIVE DUTY IN THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. When the emergency necessitating the employment of reserve nurses is imminent the Surgeon General will request the proper office of the Red Cross Society to nominate from among the enrolled nurses qualified for the work to be done as many as the Surgeon General may deem necessary to enable him to choose those for assignment to active duty.

(a) When called into active service they will be subject to all the established rules and regulations for the government of the Nurse Corps, and will receive the pay and allowances of nurses on the regular list.

(b) A reserve nurse will not be relieved from active service except by order or authority of the Surgeon-General. Except in case of misconduct she will, if she so desires, be furnished travel orders to her home before the order of relief shall take effect.

That the Surgeons General of the Army and Navy are thus permitted to call upon the American Red Cross for nurses in time of peace, for what they may consider sufficient reason, as well as in

time of war, is plainly indicated in this regulation as is also the fact that no nurse is required to serve except voluntarily.

A special communication is also being sent to the Division Directors of Nursing, suggesting ways of interesting enrolled nurses in this service. Red Cross Committees will also be urged to canvass the enrollments for volunteers.

The regular enrollment for the Army and Navy Nurse Corps is for three years. For this emergency, however, shorter periods ranging from six months to a year, according to the Department, will be acceptable. The United States Public Health Service desires that nurses remain eighteen months, although resignations will be considered and accepted during this period for what may be deemed sufficient reasons.

We believe that it would be a serious commentary upon the patriotism of the nurses of this country if they failed to meet this demand. It is easy to be patriotic during active hostilities, but the aftermath of the war is sometimes more tragic than war itself. We also believe that if this great need is known, the nurses will respond, and while it is not compulsory, and no nurse will be considered a slacker if she is not able to do so because of personal obligations or the importance of the position that she is filling, we venture to present to the nurses of America the facts as above outlined. Six months or a year dedicated to this most patriotic and sacred of obligations will never be regretted, while from the professional viewpoint, a year's service with a department of the United States Government should prove an asset to any nurse, particularly to the younger nurses. Such service offers an unusual opportunity to become familiar with governmental systems and also affords a training in military procedure which every Red Cross Nurse should possess.

Particulars will be furnished by the Red Cross Division Directors of Nursing or by National Headquarters. As the nurses of the United States met to the fullest measure their duty to the military forces during the war, we feel sure, now that the soldier—broken in body and in spirit—needs them more than ever before, they will respond to this call.

#### PUEBLO

Never, in time of peace, was the value of the nurse more graphically demonstrated than in the case of flood-stricken Pueblo. Though the public press and moving pictures have told to the outside world the story of the great disaster and the equally great response by the relief agencies of the country in helping the plucky little western city to rehabilitate itself, little has been said of how the nursing

profession marshalled the forces of science and sanitation to put to rout confusion, panic, disease, and the ills that follow when every modern convenience of a great city has broken down.

Our nurses filled a need that could not have been supplied by any other type of personnel,

writes Ethel G. Pinder, Director of Nursing Service for the Southwestern Division of the American Red Cross, under date of June 23rd.

their spirit was splendid. Through the War Department, Colonel Hamrock, of the State Constabulary, authorized an adjacent Army Post to hold itself in readiness to meet any call.

The commanding officer of Fitzsimmons Hospital recruited a unit of twelve doctors and twenty-six nurses and sent them to Pueblo. This unit was the first to arrive. They established at once 250 beds to meet the existing flood problems; their equipment consisting of field kitchen, cots and tents obtained from the State Troops. The Red Cross, which had been officially authorized to take command of the relief work, was requested to cooperate with the United States Public Service by organizing a unit of Public Health Nurses, of whom ten had arrived in Pueblo at the same time as the Fitzsimmons Hospital Unit.

The American Red Cross prepared tent accommodations for between 2,000 and 2,500 people, but only about 1,500 of these accommodations had been used up to the time of Miss Pinder's writing. However, as fast as the United States Public Health Service doctors condemned homes, the people would register with the Red Cross, leaving their crowded temporary quarters with friends.

For one full week every nurse who had volunteered under Miss Pinder served without pay. No service was too onerous, no task too menial, no responsibility too overwhelming for them. That they cooperated to their fullest capacity with the health officers of Pueblo in making the city sanitary is clearly indicated in Miss Pinder's detailed reports of their labors. Obviously one of the first precautions consisted in ridding the city as quickly as possible of decaying organic matter and in warning the people against consuming tainted food and water. These nurses, therefore, served cheerfully as scavengers, wading through mud and filth above their high leather top boots and even climbing trees and ruined houses in the process of locating and reporting dead animals and salvaging venturesome children. This latter service was doubtless one of the most valuable contributions to public safety, for before the advent of the nurses, these juvenile looters from all sections of the city, particularly from the unflooded areas, had roamed blissfully through mud and debris, delving elbow deep in filth in search of submerged candy and decaying fruit. Two of the nurses, who had been especially zealous in rescuing these little explorers from the menace of pestilence were instrumental in getting

the health officers to issue proclamations restricting all children, whether alone or accompanied by adults, from the flooded areas.

"Such work," concludes Miss Pinder, "added to the teaching of sanitary principles, as the boiling of all water, draining of premises, taking care of the general sanitation, reporting of stagnant pools and dead animals to the proper authorities, but above all, the kindly teaching of these poor stricken people, was the privilege of our public health nurses."

#### ITEMS

Under the auspices of the *International Review of the Red Cross*, published in Geneva, Switzerland, the speech on nursing conditions in Europe, recently delivered by Miss Noyes in Kansas City, Mo., at the annual convention of the National League of Nursing Education, has been translated into French. "Nursing in Europe" is the title which has been given to this translation, which will be widely circulated in this country and abroad.

Katrina Hertzner, Chief Nurse of the United States Navy Nurse Corps, severed her official connection with the American Red Cross on July 1st, 1921, having been withdrawn by the Navy. For the time being she will be stationed in Washington. The work performed so painstakingly by Miss Hertzner for more than four years in connection with the enrollment of nurses for the Navy will be carried on by the Red Cross through the regular channels of the Nursing Service.

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THE NEW ENGLAND INDUSTRIAL NURSES' ASSOCIATION was organized in November, 1915, with eleven nurses present. Today the association has a membership of over two hundred. This membership includes not only nurses in the New England States, but New York, Tennessee, Colorado and the Province of New Brunswick. Four months after organization, the Constitution and By-laws were adopted. Since that time there have been a few amendments. In 1920, it was voted to allow nurses, doing part time industrial nursing or supervisors of such nurses, also those of the active members who marry and still wish to retain an interest in the association, to join as associate members. In 1921, it was voted to occasionally include as an honorary member a lay woman who is signally interested in industrial nursing. Florence Swift Wright was an honorary member of the association. The New England Industrial Nurses' Association has the distinction of being the first organization of its kind, and has helped to organize three industrial nurses' associations in various parts of the country. The objects of the association are to discuss industrial problems; to exchange ideas; work toward standardization and to stimulate through the work of the association, not only the enthusiasm of its members, but also the interest of the general public, and particularly of employers, to a fuller understanding, that the activities of the nurses should constitute an important department in an up-to-date industrial organization, to develop through discussion efficient and practical standards for use by the nurse in industry, including the methods of furthering the prevention of illness and accidents; and the personal and professional qualifications of the nurse.