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THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

COMMISSION TO GREECE

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
IN GREECE

BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL EDWARD CAPPS
COMMISSIONER

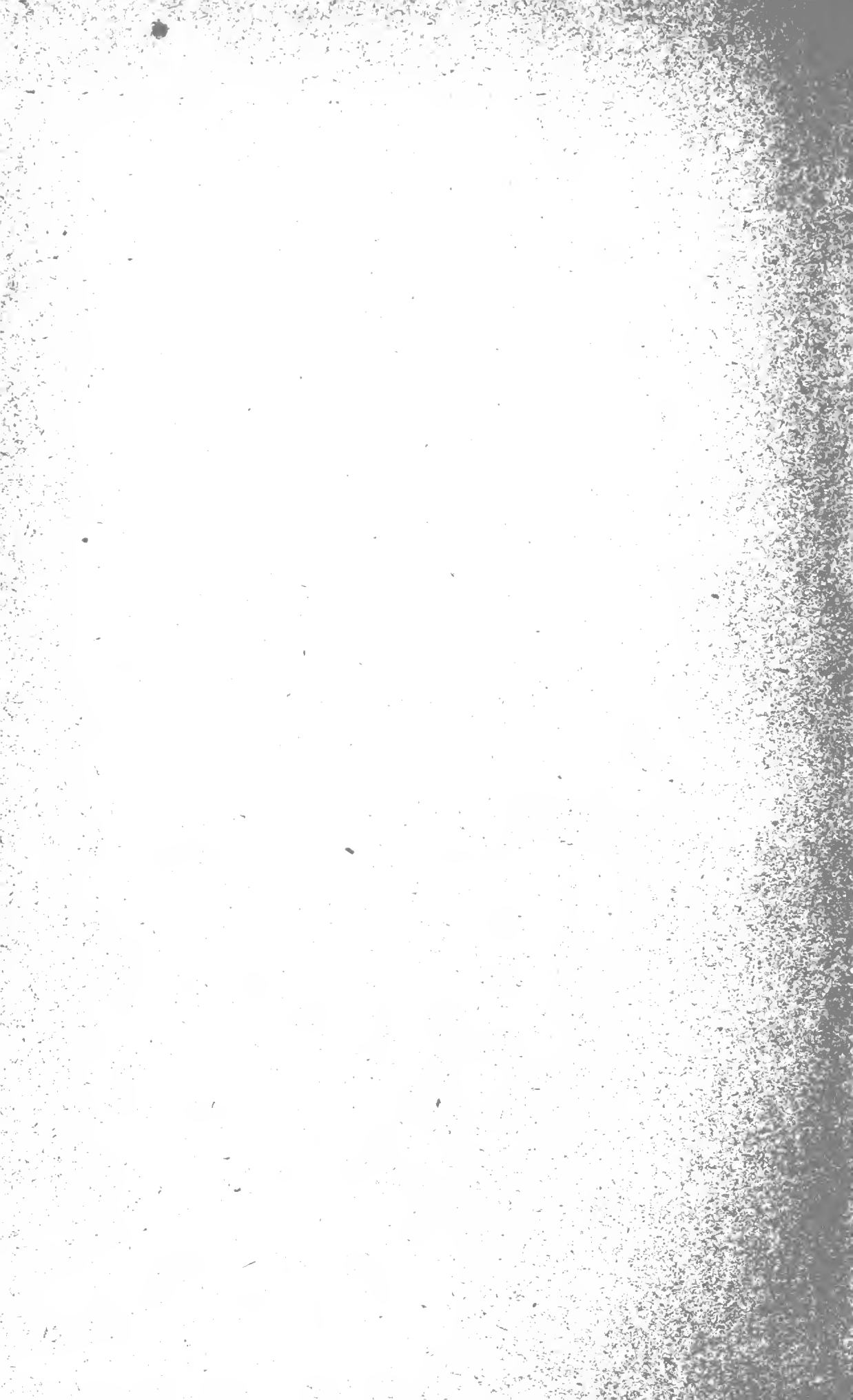
Athens

July 1, 1919

ATHENS

PRINTED BY P. D. SAKELLARIOS

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THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IN GREECE

INTRODUCTION

The American Red Cross has maintained a mission in Greece for a period of nine months. During that period the uniforms of the American Red Cross officer and of the American Red Cross trained nurse and social worker have become familiar to a large proportion of the Greek people; and the people of certain sections of the country have been able to observe with their own eyes the business upon which the American organization has been engaged. We need no introduction, for example, to the inhabitants of Eastern Macedonia and the larger Aegean islands; and the people in Athens, in a general way, know the purpose of the mission. But probably the Greek people as a whole have been somewhat at a loss to understand why the American Red Cross was here — what were the motives and objects of the mission; and, naturally, they have had little opportunity of learning what we have actually been doing in Greece — the nature and extent of our undertakings. It has, therefore, seemed to me, as head of the mission, proper to issue this statement about the American Red Cross Commission to Greece, and to review, briefly, the work upon which we have been engaged and which has now been brought to a conclusion. For the mission will have failed in one of its objects if, as a result of our sojourn in Greece, the Greek people and the American people are not drawn together in closer bonds of sympathy, understanding and friendship.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross is an organization, not of the government, but of the people, of America. It has, however, certain relations with the government, though these relations are formal and not organic. President Wilson is, by election, President of the Red Cross; but the directing head, its Vice-President, is not an officer of the government. The Treasurer of the United States is likewise, by election, Treasurer of the Red Cross, and its accounts are audited by the War Department; but the society receives no financial support from the government, and acts independently of the government in formulating and executing its financial policy. During the war the personnel of the American Red Cross was militarized, its officers wearing the regular army uniform, though with distinctive insignia, and receiving their commissions from the President of the United States and Secretary of War, countersigned by the Chairman of the War Council of the Red Cross. These commissions are «assimilated» commissions, thus being differentiated from those of the regular army, and the Red Cross officers are not under the control of the army except when they are detached for service in connection with a unit of the army.

I T S F U N D S

The funds of the American Red Cross are derived from two sources membership fees and popular subscriptions. The membership fee is one dollar a year. The membership fluctuates greatly in numbers, but, toward the end of the war, it reached a total of about 35,000,000, or approximately one-third of the population of the United States. Popular

subscriptions are only called for in times of emergency, as, for example, when some disaster falls upon some part of the world, such as the Messina earthquake, the floods in China, an epidemic, a famine, or a devastating war, like that through which Europe has just passed. During the war several appeals for subscriptions were made in order to enable the organization to carry out its plans for the relief of the peoples of Europe. The response of the American people was extraordinary, and clearly indicated that the nation was solidly behind the Allied cause in the life-and-death struggle with the Central Powers. One single appeal brought nearly \$200,000,000 into the treasury of the American Red Cross; and the total amount of subscriptions made during the whole period of the war was probably not less than \$500,000,000(*). This vast sum was contributed by millionaire and pauper, by men, women and children of every class of society throughout the whole extent of the country, in sums ranging from a few cents to hundreds of thousands of dollars. It was generally given for no specific purpose except the relief of those upon whom the war had brought suffering and privation. The management of the American Red Cross was free to use the money in its treasury for any purpose consistent with this general object.

ITS ORGANIZATION

The popular character of the American Red Cross is best illustrated by a description of its inner organization. The central directing body has its seat at the National Headquarters in Washington, but the country is divided into districts, or divisions, each with its divisional head-

(*) The exact figures, which doubtless have been published in America, are not available in Athens.

quarters, and the towns and cities within the divisions maintain, practically without exception, their local «chapters». There are some 3,500 such chapters, with over 15,000 «branches» and a great many smaller units called «auxiliaries», so that practically every community in the country, no matter how small, has its own local Red Cross organization. The chapters retain a certain portion of the membership fees and special subscriptions contributed by their own members, the balance going to the national treasury. Committees of citizens, both men and women, conduct the affairs of the chapters, and manage locally the campaigns for general subscriptions. Each chapter has a committee of women whose principal function is to prepare such articles as are urgently needed for the work of relief which is being conducted by the national organization. For example, during the war thousands of such committees held daily meetings in their workrooms, each woman undertaking some special task, such as preparing bandages, knitting socks, sewing garments, and the like, not only that our own soldiers at the front and those of our Allies might have better care and a degree of comfort in trenches, hospitals and barracks, but also that the suffering population might have their condition alleviated. A great deal of work of this sort was also done by the women in their own homes and the product, when finished, was delivered to the chapter headquarters. The labor involved in this immense amount of work was, of course, contributed free.

RED CROSS SUPPLIES

These «chapter» articles, which, as a rule, consisted chiefly of hospital supplies and civilian clothing, were then put into cases and shipped to national Red Cross warehouses in New York and other ports. In addition to this

source of supplies, however, which represented in material and labor the contribution of the American women, the national organization maintains a large department for the purchase of supplies of every conceivable kind, such as might be demanded for emergency relief. It buys in large quantities staple foods, drugs, cloth and manufactured articles of every description. These also are assembled in warehouses at the principal ports ready for shipment, or else are purchased and shipped as need arises.

DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF

When an emergency arises in some part of the world, and the American Red Cross desires to extend help to the sufferers, it can proceed in one of two ways, roughly speaking, to get the needed supplies to those who are in distress: It can donate the supplies to the government of the people affected or to a native organization such as that country's Red Cross, and thus throw the responsibility for the distribution upon such agencies; or else it can send out a commission, composed of American citizens, as its direct representative in the field. In times of peace the former method has sometimes been found the most prompt and effective, but, in times of war, when the governments and peoples involved in it find themselves overwhelmed by the manifold and pressing burdens of the war itself, the American people generally prefer the second method. It has several advantages, from our point of view: It transfers to the scene of distress a group of workers who have no other concern than to administer the relief in the quickest and most effective way; and, above all, it enables the American people to convey to the stricken people a direct message of sympathy and friendship. There are doubtless certain disadvantages also from the point of

view of the people who are being assisted. Strangers have not only a strange language but strange ways of doing things, and these ways sometimes give offence, or at least interfere with the complete transfer by the one people to the other of the message of spiritual sympathy which accompanies the gift of material relief. But the American people have a strong preference for the direct and personal method, by which alone they are enabled to satisfy their desire to foster the sentiments of friendship between themselves and other peoples.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IN THE WAR

After the United States of America entered the war against the Central Powers, the purpose of the American Red Cross underwent a temporary change. It is essentially a peace organization, whose purpose is to minister to all suffering peoples alike, regardless of political affiliations. Before our participation in the war, we extended certain relief to the nations opposed to the Entente Allies, as well as to those of the Entente itself, although the sympathies of the American people were predominantly pro-Ally, and such aid as was given to the enemies of the Allies was bestowed rather grudgingly and chiefly for the sake of the principle. Once we ourselves were belligerents, however, our benevolence was confined to the people of our friends and allies, and the purpose of the American Red Cross was widened. It attempted not only to alleviate the sufferings of our friends, but also by so doing to help them win the war. The moral effect upon the allied peoples of the presence in their midst of an American Red Cross mission, binding the wounds of the soldiers at the front, and ministering to the needs of their afflicted families at home, would, we believed, hasten the day of victory. For

the American people never for a moment contemplated any other outcome of the war than the victory of the allied armies and, earnestly as it desired peace, wanted no peace except by the overthrow of the enemies of liberty and democracy. And such a victory could be more speedily obtained if the allied peoples could be knit closely together by the bonds of a fraternal feeling.

THE COMMISSION TO GREECE

The mission to Greece was organized in June and July, 1918. An appeal for help had at that time come to the American Red Cross from the Greek Red Cross, and the National War Council of the former, after ascertaining the sentiments of the Greek Government, decided to send a special commission. The reasons for this decision have already been foreshadowed, but may be briefly stated here. The American Red Cross already had in the field special commissions to England, France, Belgium and Italy in the west, and had, in like manner, done what it could for Serbia and Roumania. Greece was now united under its splendid leader, and her armies were standing valiantly by the side of the other allied armies on the Salonica front. The Greek people at large had suffered immense privations during the régime of Constantine, and during the whole war had carried the crushing burden of supporting hundreds of thousands of refugees of the Greek race who had sought asylum within her borders from the barbarities of Turk and Bulgar. During the period of internal dissension, when the pro-German policies of Constantine had seemed to have many adherents among the people, the sympathies of the American people, while always enthusiastically outspoken in favor of Venizelos and his brave supporters, were not cordial toward the

Greek people as a whole. But now the time had come when, in the opinion of the American Red Cross, America was called upon to demonstrate in the most forcible manner its wholehearted approval of the Greek national policy, as represented by Venizelos, by sending to Greece a Red Cross commission. We should thus be able to cheer, comfort and sustain the brave soldiers of Greece in their deadly struggle with the enemy, and also to extend a helping hand to the civilian population behind the lines.

A R R I V A L I N G R E E C E

The mission was so delayed by the shortage of ships and the congestion of the lines of travel in Europe that it was not until October 23, 1918, that the first party of the American Red Cross arrived in Athens, and the personnel of the commission was not complete until the following winter. The shipment of supplies occasioned even greater difficulty. The United States was sending to France some 300,000 men a month, and maintaining in Europe an army of nearly 2,000,000. Every available ship was required for this stupendous operation, and, naturally, the American Red Cross must take second place. Our supplies had to be shipped to French ports, transhipped across France to Marseilles, and brought thence to Piraeus in Greek bottoms. Large quantities of much-needed materials were, in consequence, temporarily or permanently lost in transit. Goods which were sorely needed last winter were still arriving in May and June. But, by one means or another, our workers in the field were kept supplied, though not so generously as we had planned or hoped.

P E R S O N N E L

There came from America to do the work 103 persons (60 men and 43 women), and several others were recruited in Europe. They enlisted in the service of the American Red Cross from all parts of the United States, and represented all manner of occupations and professions. There were business men, lawyers, bankers, physicians, preachers, teachers, farmers and mechanics, and, among the women, trained nurses, stenographers and social workers. The authority of the Commission was vested in the Commissioner, who held the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and seven Deputy Commissioners with the rank of Major. These Deputy Commissioners were as follows:

Clifford W. Barnes, Chicago, Illinois. Minister
Carl E. Black, Jacksonville, Illinois. Surgeon
Cyril G. Hopkins, Urbana, Illinois. Professor
Alfred F. James, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Business man
Horace S. Oakley, Chicago, Illinois. Lawyer
Samuel J. Walker, Chicago, Illinois. Physician
A. Winsor Weld, Boston, Massachusetts. Business man

The General Secretary of the Commission and the Treasurer were:

Major Henry B. Dewing, Princeton, New Jersey. Professor
Captain George P. Jones, Findlay, Ohio. Banker.

T H E A R M I S T I C E

The cessation of hostilities on the Salonica front and the signing of the armistice with Bulgaria on September 30 radically altered the plans which had been previously formulated for the relief of Greece by the American Red Cross. Instead of assisting her soldiers as they courage-

ously fought the common enemy, which was to have constituted our chief work and to have been our highest privilege, we were obliged to turn our attention almost wholly toward the civilian population. As soon as possible after the arrival of the mission, parties of investigation and parties of relief were sent out to various portions of Greece where the burden of the war had borne most heavily, and Red Cross stations were soon in operation.

THE WORK OF THE MISSION

REPORTS

The work of the Greek Commission has, of course, been fully reported to the National Headquarters in Washington, but, in order that the people in Greece might also know what our activities have been while we have been their guests, a number of these reports have been published in Athens. These reports are of two classes: (1) Those which describe the work of emergency relief undertaken by the Commission, and (2) those which embody the results of special studies with a view to the permanent improvement of special conditions. They have been sent to the officials of the Greek Government and to a number of private citizens. Copies may be obtained by application to «The American Red Cross», Athens. The list of these reports is as follows:

1. Final Report of the Department of Civilian Relief.
By Major A. Winsor Weld.
2. Relief Work in Eastern Macedonia:
Organization; the Stations in Bulgaria.
By Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Capps.
The Period of Full Activity.
By Major Horace S. Oakley.

- The Last Phase. By Major Henry B. Dewing.
 Statistical Summary. By Major Henry B. Dewing.
3. Relief Work among the Villages of Mt. Pangaeon.
 By First Lieutenant Grosvenor C. Barry.
 4. Relief Work on the Aegean Islands.
 By Major A. Winsor Weld.
 5. The Typhus Epidemic in Eastern Macedonia.
 By Major Samuel J. Walker.
 6. The Hospitals of Greece (a critique).
 By Major Carl E. Black.
 7. A Survey of the Hospitals of Greece.
 By Major Carl E. Black.
 8. Πῶς ἡ Ἑλλάς μπορεῖ νὰ παράγῃ περισσότερη τροφή (How
 Greece Can Produce More Food).
 By Major Cyril G. Hopkins.

In view of the fact that full accounts, accompanied by complete statistics, of the major part of the work accomplished by the Commission to Greece are accessible to the Greek people in these publications, I will here confine myself to a brief description of each type of work undertaken, referring the reader to the printed reports for details. I will treat at greater length, however, the special undertakings not covered by the printed reports.

WORK WITH THE REFUGEES

The Aegean Islands.—Throughout the war sporadic reports had come to us in America that vast numbers of Greeks, resident in enemy countries, had been driven from their homes in Asia Minor, the Black Sea region and Thrace, and had been given shelter and protection within the borders of Greece. We knew that the larger number

of these refugees were assembled in the Aegean islands lying nearest the mainland of Asia. Our attention was therefore turned toward these. On November 6, 1918, an expedition accompanied by a shipload of supplies was accordingly dispatched to Mitylene, where a station was maintained until May, 1919. From Mitylene as a center relief was distributed to the villages of Lesbos, to the islands of Tenedos, Imbros and Samothrace, and also to the city of Aivali on the mainland of Asia. Other stations were established at Chios and Samos; and the island of Icaria was also visited by a relief party.

The work of the American Red Cross in the Aegean islands is fully described in the printed report of Major Weld (No. 4 above).

Aigion.—A group of refugees from Thrace and Macedonia was concentrated at Aigion, whither they had been brought by the Greek Government from Fiume. Such were the hardships which they had undergone throughout the war, during which time they had been held in Bulgaria, and, after the armistice, on their long journey across Bulgaria and Serbia to Fiume, that we thought it advisable to do something to alleviate their condition. A station was established at Aigion and the needed relief administered. Our work at Aigion is covered in Major Weld's Final Report on the Department of Civilian Relief (No. 1 above).

Salonica and Piraeus.—The Greek Government had established in Salonica and Piraeus large camps for the Greek refugees who had been driven from their homes in South Russia and other regions on the coast of the Black Sea. It was not thought necessary to supplement the work of the Greek Ministry of Relief by establishing regular American Red Cross stations at these points, but our

agents visited all the camps, studied the needs of the sufferers, and extended such help as was necessary. This work is also covered in Major Weld's report just referred to (No. 1 above).

Eastern Macedonia.—The situation in Eastern Macedonia, after the signing of the armistice, was serious in the extreme. The Balkan Wars had swept over the country in 1912 and 1913; for two years the territory had been occupied by the Bulgarians, who had deliberately set to work to eliminate the Greek population; and the operations of opposing armies had laid waste large districts. In addition to all this the Bulgarians, following the example of Germany in Northern France and Belgium, had deported as many as possible of the Greek population—men, women and children—into Bulgaria, where they had been subjected to the rigors of enforced labor, starvation fare, and such cruelties as have become all too familiar throughout this war of German ruthlessness.

With what speed we could the Greek Commission entered this devastated country. We took as our first task the assistance of the deportees who were making their way back to their homes over the railway which enters Eastern Macedonia at Oxilar. On November 17 was established our first station at Xanthi. We then pushed on into the interior, establishing stations at Tyrnovo-Siemen and Dedeagatch. We also visited the concentration camps and, in addition to administering relief to the refugees in transit, we did what we could to correct abuses and to hasten the process of repatriation. The three stations in Bulgaria were operated until January 21, at which time most of the deportees had got back to their homes.

This phase of our work has been reported in detail by the Commissioner in the first part of the report entitled «Relief Work in Eastern Macedonia» (No. 2 above).

Villages of Mt. Pangaeon.—On the slopes of Mt. Pangaeon are fifty-seven once prosperous villages. These have suffered heavily during the war, and in November their inhabitants, such as had not been deported to Bulgaria, were without food and clothing and often even without shelter. It was an unusually difficult task to get relief to them in midwinter, when the highways from Kavalla were almost impassable and the roads leading from one village to another could be traversed only by pack-animals. But the American Red Cross was, at the time, the only organization which was in a position to undertake the relief of this district, and we believed that, if we should shrink from the task, many thousands would perish. The work there was undertaken in November and continued until June 1, when the population was again capable of supporting itself. Stations were established at Rodolivos, Pravi and Musthenie, and the villages divided into groups according to their accessibility to one of these stations. To each village was assigned a certain day of the week, and on that day the inhabitants walked over the mountain paths to the designated stations in order to receive clothing, medical attention if required, and a week's rations.

The complete story of our work on Mt. Pangaeon has been given by Lieutenant (now Captain) Barry (No. 3 above) and by Majors Oakley and Dewing (No. 2 above).

The Cities of Eastern Macedonia.—The work of the greatest magnitude in Eastern Macedonia was in connection with the large cities, Kavalla, Drama and Serres, and the villages tributary to them. Bread-lines and soup-kitchens were operated on a large scale during the severest months of the winter. Ouvroirs were established for the manufacture of clothing and to give employment to poor women. Dispensaries were opened and donations

made to local hospitals and orphanages. Relief in the form of food and clothing was also taken to the numerous villages adjacent to these three centers of population.

This work has been reported by Majors Oakley and Dewing (No. 2 above).

The Anti-typhus Campaign.—One of the most serious problems which arose in connection with the work of the American Red Cross in Eastern Macedonia was occasioned by the severe outbreak of exanthematic typhus fever in Kavalla in February. A shipload of infected refugees was brought to Kavalla from Varna. These refugees, sick and well alike, were at first confined in tobacco warehouses and then, before the disease disappeared among them, were allowed to go to their homes. The disease spread rapidly. Hundreds of cases appeared in Kavalla, Drama, Serres and Demir-Hissar. An epidemic threatened which would lay waste stricken Macedonia once more and shut her off by rigid quarantine regulations from the outside world at a time when only the outside world could save her still prostrate inhabitants.

The Commission to Greece offered its services to the Greek Government at this juncture and the offer was promptly accepted. An American medical unit was hurried to Kavalla and all the resources of the Commission, including this medical unit, were placed at the disposal of the sanitary officers of the Greek Army. By the friendly co-operation of the two forces, each vying with the other to formulate and put into operation a thorough-going system of inspection, disinfection and quarantine in the principal cities, the typhus menace was promptly disposed of. This achievement reflects great credit upon the sanitary officers of the Greek Army; the American Red Cross, on its part, congratulates itself that it was in a position to render an important service in an alarming crisis.

Major Walker's report on the subject (No. 5 above) tells the story.

GENERAL CIVILIAN RELIEF

Apart from its work among the refugees in the Aegean Islands, Aigion, Salonica and Athens-Piraeus, and its efforts to bring help to the inhabitants of Eastern Macedonia, the Department of Civilian Relief attempted no general relief work in other parts of Greece; and indeed, so far as we could learn, there was no general distress among the settled population of any section of the country. But, in the larger cities, there were groups of people whose special condition, chiefly due to the war, called for Red Cross aid, and there were many charitable institutions upon which the war had thrown exceptionally heavy burdens. These we endeavored to help. There were also certain social conditions which we believed could be improved by work of an educational nature. Major Weld's report on the work of the Department as a whole (No. 1 above) gives detailed information on these topics, which may therefore be briefly passed in review here.

Ouvroirs. — Sewing-rooms were established in connection with our relief stations — five in Eastern Macedonia, three in the islands, and one, the largest, in Athens. Several hundred sewing machines were brought from America and were finally given to the needy women employed in the workshops when these were closed. These *ouvroirs* not only turned out garments to be issued by our distributing stations, and sheets, pillows, slippers, etc., for hospitals and other institutions, but also gave much-needed employment to many hundreds of poor women.

Jewish Sufferers. — The great conflagration which

destroyed a large section of Salonica in 1917 rendered homeless many hundreds of Jewish families, and the overcrowding of that city by the allied armies made the problem of providing temporary shelter for these people almost insuperable. Furthermore, they were not only homeless but, in many cases, absolutely destitute, and in the conditions of living to which they were condemned after the fire they suffered, during the winters of 1917-1918 and 1918-1919, hardships only less terrible than those borne by the inhabitants of regions devastated by the contending armies. In order that their suffering might be, in some degree, alleviated and that provision might be made for their prompt shelter, the Greek Commission brought over from America as one of its personnel a special representative of the great Jewish philanthropic organization known as the Joint Distribution Committee for the Relief of Jewish Sufferers. As a result of a thorough study of the situation, and by the effective cooperation of the Governor-General of Thessalonica, a group of suitable buildings has been purchased by the local Jewish community, with the assistance of the American Joint Committee, and many hundreds of families thus provided with homes. Assistance was also given by the Red Cross to destitute Jewish families and donations made to the Jewish maternity hospital. Jewish sufferers in other cities also received help, not only through the efforts of our special agent, but also from the regular Red Cross relief stations. In fact, the Commission to Greece has always refused to recognize racial or religious lines in administering relief, and, by adhering strictly to this policy has, we hope, helped to make better citizens of many who, though legally Greeks, are not of Hellenic blood.

Relief to Charitable Institutions.— In both Salonica and Athens-Piraeus the American Red Cross has

found special satisfaction in assisting, by such gifts of food, clothing and drugs as it was able to make, institutions supported by general charity for the care of the poor and afflicted. The Greek people have always themselves dealt most generously with their unfortunates, and by private benefactions have established and are maintaining a multitude of beneficent institutions. During the war these institutions have naturally suffered, the distress being greater than ever, and the means, both money and supplies, less abundant than in normal times. I may mention, in illustration merely, schools for the blind, evening schools for servant girls, poorhouses, detention homes for delinquents, crèches and schools for the children of poor women, and particularly the orphanages, as falling within the scope of the interest of the American Red Cross.

Orphanages.—In every country the problem of the support and education of orphan children is one of the most serious that organized society has to deal with, but in Greece the problem is acute. It is also a familiar problem here, of long standing, and has always received the solicitous attention of the Greek people. In addition to the orphans produced by the normal processes of society, the greater number of whom are naturally absorbed into the families of near relatives or readily provided for by the state or by charity, Greece has for generations cared for large numbers of orphans from the Greek-speaking communities which have been under alien domination. Turkey, for example, has made a business of producing orphans by murdering Christian parents, and Greece has done her best to provide homes for such of these as are of the Greek race and religion, maintaining orphanages not only within the borders of the Greek Kingdom, but also in Thrace, Asia Minor and along the north and south shores of the Black Sea—in short, wherever there has

been need. Furthermore, the late war has added enormously to the number of orphan Greek children, not only in Greece proper, but also throughout the Orient, and to-day the care of her orphans is perhaps the most serious social problem that confronts the Greek people.

The task of the American Red Cross in Greece during the past nine months has been predominantly emergency relief, and under this head we have done what we could for orphans wherever the opportunity was afforded. But emergency relief is, at best, only a temporary help and does not go to the root of the problem itself. Arrangements have therefore been made, as the special Commission finishes the work for which it was sent out, to leave a representative in Athens, whose principal duty will be to study the problem of orphans and their education. It is hoped that some permanent benefit will result to these as yet unnumbered thousands of homeless children who remain as a legacy of the war.

Infant Welfare.—It is not only the orphan children of Greece who demand attention, but also the children in general. The mortality of children is unduly large throughout Greece. It is a country of large families, of unskilled midwifery, and of untrained mothers among the poorer classes. Seeing this condition the American Red Cross undertook, as one of its first tasks, the teaching of more hygienic methods of caring for infants. Infant Welfare stations were established in Athens, Patras, and Canea, in each case in co-operation with local committees of the Patriotic League. These stations are housed in suitable quarters, which are equipped for this purpose and stocked with such supplies as milk, soap and articles of infants' clothing, and each is in charge of a trained nurse, assisted by volunteer young women who have taken a course of training in the care of babies. Daily clinics for babies are

held; the baby is weighed, examined by a Greek physician (a child specialist), and the mother is given practical instruction in the care of her child by both the physician and the trained nurse. The clinic in Athens now has over 600 babies on its «active» list. Those in Patras and Canea are also well patronized. These stations were maintained by the American Red Cross until July 1, when the American nurses in charge returned to America and the stations were turned over, in accordance with the earlier agreement, to the local management. One American trained nurse, however, will be supplied to the Athenian station for a term of years.

MILITARY RELIEF AND HOSPITAL SERVICE

The early cessation of hostilities prevented our undertaking, for the care and comfort of the mobilized soldiers of Greece, any of the activities which had been originally planned and which have characterized the work of the American Red Cross in France and Italy. But for the soldiers who had done their duty, suffered, and had become maimed or ill, there remained two services which we could still perform, and these were undertaken by the Department of Military Relief and Hospital Service.

Artificial Limb Factory:—The Greek Government, assisted by private charity, had organized and was conducting in Athens, before the arrival of the American Red Cross, a comprehensive School for the Reconstruction and Re-education of the Mutilated. One of the departments of this School was a factory for the making and fitting of artificial limbs. Soon after our arrival we learned that this factory was handicapped by the lack of the necessary tools and materials, and that the leg which it was

turning out was, in consequence, heavy and troublesome to the wearer; also that difficulty was being found in procuring skilled mechanics and fitters. We were invited to co-operate with the School in order to remedy this situation. An American expert in the manufacture of artificial limbs was summoned from France. He brought with him two mechanics, specially trained in this business, and a supply of partly-finished limbs from the artificial limb factory which the American Red Cross was maintaining in Paris. The Commission agreed to pay the expenses of the foreman and of his two assistants until July 1, 1919, and to supply, free of cost, the rough set-ups for 400 legs and 50 arms—a number estimated as sufficient to provide for the Greek soldiers who had lost legs and arms in the present war. Meanwhile, the American foreman was to train a corps of Greek mechanics and fitters. This factory has been in successful operation since December, and by July 1 had fitted about 100 soldiers with new legs. The improved leg weighs about five pounds, as compared with the old leg of about twenty pounds' weight. The American foreman has entered into a contract with the School to remain in Athens during the year 1919-1920. There is thus an excellent prospect that the artificial limb factory in Athens will soon be recognized as the best institution of its kind in the Near East, and will be able to accept orders from the governments of the several Balkan States.

Hospital Relief.—The hospitals of Greece, both military and civilian, had been very hard hit by the war. Before Greece entered the war her ports had been blocked and her imports stopped. After her entry, the military hospitals increased in number and were full to overflowing. Drugs, medical supplies and hospital equipment were not to be had in the market nor could they be imported from France or Italy. The civilian hospitals were stripped

of their beds, linen, furniture and medicines in order that the sick and wounded soldiers might be cared for. And even when such drastic measures were resorted to, the Greek Army was still painfully deficient in hospital facilities and in the barest necessities for the care of her soldiers. As soon as our supplies began to arrive the Commission to Greece did what it could to relieve this situation. It studied the hospital needs of the civilian population, as well as those of the army, and, as a result of this study, made by the physicians and nurses of the Commission, distributed aid to a very large number of institutions. A summary of this work is found in Major Black's report, «A Survey of the Hospitals of Greece» (No. 7 above), which also contains an almost exhaustive study of the country's hospitals. Forty-seven military and forty-nine civilian hospitals are reported upon. The program of hospital relief was one of the most extensive of the undertakings of the Commission, and the «Survey» will make known to the American people the wide scope of the philanthropy of Greece, as illustrated in these institutions.

With a view to the improvement of the equipment and management of the hospitals in certain particulars in which they now seem deficient, a critique of the hospitals of Greece by Major Black (No. 6 above) has also been published.

THE SANITATION OF OLD CORINTH

The American Red Cross Commission to Greece came prepared to undertake, if necessary, the sanitary overhauling of villages or districts in case there should be an epidemic which could be wiped out by such means, for example, as the cleansing of the water supply, the draining of a marshy tract which bred the malarial

mosquito, or the like. It has actually undertaken, however, only one such project and that for a very special reason.

The site of ancient Corinth has been the scene of American archaeological activities for many years. The American School at Athens has uncovered the ancient market-place and the famous fountain of Peirene, which still discharges a large quantity of naturally excellent water. This water, however, has become polluted. The excavation itself is, in places, 20 to 30 feet below the modern level of the village. The excavated area thus constitutes a great pit in the center of the village. This pit was flooded by the heavy rains of last winter, which brought great quantities of mud into the excavations; and the ancient drain, which formerly carried off the surplus water of the fountain, became completely clogged up. The conditions were thus created for a pestilential, mosquito-breeding, swampy area, and the health of the community was seriously endangered; for malaria and typhoid fever have, for years, been endemic in Old Corinth.

It seemed, therefore, a duty of the American Red Cross to clean up the village, which had been rendered, as an indirect result of American activity, an unfit place for residence, and to restore to it its pure water supply. The village itself, the Government of Greece, and the American School at Athens, declared themselves ready to share with the American Red Cross, on an equitable basis, the expense of the work. The project was accordingly undertaken. The stagnant water has been drained off, the ancient drain cleaned out, and the water of Peirene purified. The ancient fountain now supplies the three fountains of the modern village.

HOME SERVICE BUREAU

The American Red Cross maintains in almost every country of Europe what is called a Home Service Bureau. This Bureau furnishes a liaison between the soldier of the American Army and his family at home. In the American Army are many thousands of soldiers of Greek birth, whose parents, brothers or sisters still reside in Greece. The Bureau conducted by the Commission to Greece has thus had a great deal of work to do. The soldier in France, for example, wishes information about the welfare of his mother, who perhaps lives in Larissa; he applies to the nearest station of the American Red Cross and the inquiry is sent to the headquarters in Athens, which secures the information and sends it back over the same route to the inquiring soldier. The Bureau also assists the dependent mother in Greece to secure the monthly allowance due her from Washington on account of her son, and gives the necessary advice and help regarding her son's insurance money in case he has lost his life while serving in the American Army. Thousands of such cases have been handled by the Commission to Greece. The work of this Bureau will be continued throughout the year 1919-1920.

AGRICULTURAL RELIEF

Greece, though largely an agricultural, rather than an industrial or manufacturing, country, does not normally produce enough food to sustain its own population — a fact which received painful illustration during the war. Wheat is by far the most important crop produced in Greece, both in acreage and in value, and it is also the

principal food of the people; but considerable quantities of wheat must be imported each year to provide enough bread for the population.

The trouble is not with the Greek farmer, primarily, but with the soil. The soil has been tilled for thousands of years and the elements which it should contain, if it is to produce abundant crops of grain, have been exhausted. The result is that the farmer must let his wheat-field lie fallow most of the time and that, when it is again sown to wheat, it yields only a scanty crop. The plant-food which the wheat requires is lacking.

These facts are well known in Greece, but less attention has been paid here than in America to the problem of replenishing the soil so that it will be capable of producing the desired crops in greater abundance. The Greek Government therefore suggested, when the Red Cross Commission was being formed, that we might render an important service if we should include in our mission an expert in soil fertility. Through the courtesy of the University of Illinois, whose Department of Agronomy and Agricultural Chemistry is generally regarded as the best in America, we secured the services of the head of the Department, Major Cyril G. Hopkins. Major Hopkins has analyzed the soil of large areas of farming land in the various parts of Greece and is conducting experiments, both in the field and at the Botanical Gardens in Athens, which give promise of excellent results. He is convinced that the fertility of the soils of Greece can be greatly increased by the application of scientific methods of fertilizing, such as can readily be understood and followed by the farmer of average intelligence. Greece may easily become self-sustaining so far as wheat is concerned, and the national wealth thus greatly enhanced.

The methods by which this highly desirable result can be obtained are set forth in a practical handbook on the

treatment of the soil by Major Hopkins, which has been issued in the Greek language under the title of «How Greece Can Produce More Food» (No. 8 above).

THE TRAINING OF NURSES

The trained nurse has become so important a factor in American life, and the American Red Cross nursing service has played so large a part in the work of that organization during the war, that the Commission to Greece very early turned its attention to the nursing situation in Greece. Our physicians, nurses and social workers, as they went about inspecting hospitals and charitable institutions, visiting the homes of the poor and, in the various ways described in the preceding pages, seeking out those who were the proper objects of their care in the communities of Greece, soon discovered that the profession of nursing, as we understand the term in America, scarcely exists in this country. A few of the best hospitals endeavor to supply their own needs by conducting a course of training for women, but the standard of these schools is not high either for admission or for graduation and they attract very few women of education and social standing. During the war, it is true, a large number of Greek women of the best class took a short special course of training and volunteered as nurses in the military hospitals; but, at the close of the war, when the emergency was over, these gradually went back to their homes. The sick in the hospitals, both civilian and military, have the best of medical care everywhere in Greece, for the physicians are an able and highly trained class; but, as a general rule, the nursing service, if the term can be used at all, is very inferior, so that medical skill and good equipment fail in that measure to achieve their proper results for the benefit

of the sick, and this defect is naturally more evident where the poor are concerned. As regards district nursing, school nursing and social-welfare nursing in general, these are hardly to be found even in the larger cities.

The reasons for this situation need not be discussed here, but they are largely of a social nature. Few women of the best class go into nursing as a profession and those who seek this career must get their training abroad. For many years the Greek Government has been sending a few girls to America for this training, but, for various reasons, the experiment has not been wholly successful. What is needed is a high-class training school for nurses in Greece, in connection with one of the best hospitals — a school which will exact high educational and personal qualifications for admission, maintain a thorough course of instruction, both theoretical and practical, and create for its diploma a prestige which will overcome the existing prejudice against the career of nursing.

The subject of such a nurses' training school, conceived on the American plan, was early broached to the Commission by various citizens of Greece, and special studies were undertaken by the Commission with a view to ascertaining the conditions essential to the success of such an institution. A special committee of Greek citizens was appointed through the mediation of the Greek Red Cross, and with this committee, with leading physicians, and with the directors of the best hospitals, frequent conferences have been held during the last four months. We found that the desire to have in Greece an institution of this kind, embodying the American ideals, was quite widespread and that there was an excellent prospect, if such a school could be established and maintained for a few years under the best auspices, of attracting a sufficient number of women of the desired qualifications into the profession of nursing.

The American Red Cross in Washington, desiring to transmute its interest in Greece and the Greek people into some permanent contribution to the welfare of Greece, has acted favorably upon the recommendation of the Commission to Greece for the establishment of such an institution. Plans have been perfected which are mutually acceptable to the Greek Red Cross and to the American Red Cross, and in the course of the year 1919—1920 the school will be established. The American Red Cross will select a staff of teaching nurses and will maintain them in Greece for a period of years; the Greek Red Cross, on its part, will establish a school of the desired standards in Athens, in connection with the new Red Cross hospital which is soon to be put into operation. It is sincerely to be hoped that the experiment will prove to be an unqualified success and that, in the course of a few years, Greece will be amply supplied with a body of women trained in this most attractive—and, for the social order, indispensable—branch of social-welfare work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to take this opportunity to give public expression to the thanks of the American Red Cross for all the courtesies which the Commission to Greece has received from the Greek Government and people. A catalogue of the services which the Government has rendered, through its Ministers, Governors-General, Governors, Prefects, officers of the Army and Navy, and other officials, would be a long one; but no list would adequately reveal the value of such services, much less the generous spirit and thoughtful consideration which have characterized the relations of the Government of Greece to this mission.

A few items, however, must not be left unmentioned. The Greek Government has furnished free transportation to Greece of all Red Cross shipments from America and also from French and Italian ports; and has provided free of cost transportation of all supplies shipped by steamer or by rail from Piraeus to other parts of Greece. All lighterage and dock charges have been met by the Government and, of course, all customs duties have been waived. Furthermore, our personnel has traveled free of charge; and the Commission has enjoyed the free use of the Government's telegraphic and postal services. In our operations in Eastern Macedonia, which necessitated the overland transportation of supplies from Kavalla to all the regions served, the camions of the Greek Army have been placed at our disposal and the needed pack-animals, carts and teams have also been furnished. In Athens and Piraeus our own transport service has been constantly supplemented by camions loaned by the Greek Army. Our warehouses, offices, and frequently the residences of our personnel at the several relief stations have been requisitioned for our use without cost to the American Red Cross.

It is not the policy of the American Red Cross to burden the country, to which it sends a commission, with the responsibility of providing the means essential to the effective work of the commission. On the contrary, each commission is supposed to be so equipped as to be, so far as possible, independent of local help, in order that it may lighten, not increase, the country's burden. A complete motor-transport service was indeed provided in America for the Commission to Greece, but such was the condition of ocean shipping that the greater part of it never reached this country.

To the citizens of Greece who have hospitably entertained us; to the officers and members of the Greek Red Cross, which has so worthily carried on the traditions of

that noble institution during the late war; and to the many individuals who, in private or in official capacity, have furthered our efforts, have labored side by side with us for the alleviation of suffering and distress, and have helped make our work in Greece not only fruitful but also pleasant, the Commission to Greece extends its cordial thanks and grateful acknowledgements.

(Signed) *Edward Capps*

Lieutenant-Colonel, American Red Cross
Commissioner to Greece.



PUBLISHED REPORTS OF THE
AMERICAN RED CROSS COMMISSION TO GREECE

- The American Red Cross in Greece, by Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Capps.
Final Report of the Department of
Civilian Relief, by Major A. Winsor Weld.
- Relief Work in Eastern Macedonia:
Organization; the Bulgarian Stations, by Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Capps.
The Period of Full Activity, by Major Horace S. Oakley.
The Last Phase, by Major Henry B. Dewing.
Statistical Summary by Major Henry B. Dewing.
- Relief Work among the Villages of Mount
Pangaeon, by Lieutenant Grosvenor C. Barry.
- Relief Work on the Aegean Islands, . by Major A. Winsor Weld.
- The Typhus Epidemic in Eastern Mace-
donia, by Major Samuel J. Walker.
- The Hospitals of Greece (a critique), by Major Carl E. Black.
- A Survey of the Hospitals of Greece, by Major Carl E. Black.
- Πῶς μπορεῖ ἡ Ἑλλάς νὰ παράγῃ περισσό-
τερη τροφή (How Greece Can Pro-
duce More Food), by Major Cyril G. Hopkins.

Copies of the above reports may be obtained by application
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