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HUMANITY AND PATRIOTISM



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RED CROSS SOCIETY OF JAPAN

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THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

Its Organization and Activity in time of peace and war.

CHAPTER I.

Object of the Society.

Patriotism and Humanity are the thread and woof of the Red Cross Society of Japan. For the proper understanding of how a national object has been combined with a universal one it will be best to set forth the general principle which lies at the basis of the whole organization and imparts to it its life and strength. In Japan the Emperor is the personal leader of the nation in arms, and the soldiers are his soldiers, not in theory only, but also in accordance with historical tradition. Hence the nation which loves and respects the Emperor, literally as children do a father, naturally loves the soldiers whom the Emperor cherishes so highly, and does everything in its power to help them in order thereby to please the Emperor. To the Emperor is owing the independence and prosperity of the Empire, which he maintains by means of his soldiers, and the best means of paying back this incalculable debt is to give aid to his soldiers while they are risking their lives on the field of battle. This is what the one million six hundred and seventy two thousand members of our Society have at heart.

But, it may be asked, is not humanity, the love of mankind in general, opposed to patriotism, the love of one's own country and its soldiers? The way in which our Society answers this question is as simple as it is characteristic.

In the first place, there is the feeling of sympathy which makes the love for our own soldiers extend also to the soldiers of the enemy.

It indicates a very low stage of moral development, if the sorrow for misfortune befalling the immediate objects of our love does not call for the sorrow for the misfortune of other beings placed in exactly the same situation.

In the second place, there is the fact of reciprocity. No army, however victorious, can prevent some of its soldiers falling into the hands of the enemy, and the only way to make sure that the enemy will treat them well is to treat well the soldiers of the enemy who are prisoners in our hands. If these prisoners are sick or wounded, proper care must be given to them in order that the sick or wounded soldiers of our army may receive proper medical treatment at the hands of the enemy.

But, thirdly, there is a solid legal ground. To be patriotic is to be humane in all that concerns the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers in the field. For, to treat all with humanity and without distinction of party, is a duty which the Geneva Convention imposes on the Governments of the Signatory Powers, and the duty of the Red Cross Societies is simply to do whatever the military and naval authorities order them to do. The idea of a Red Cross Society searching on the field of battle for the wounded soldiers and distinguishing between those whom it ought to aid and those whom it need not, holds good only in countries where the relief services of the Red Cross Society are not yet incorporated in those of the Army and Navy. In all countries having an organized army medical service, the work of the Red Cross Society is placed under the strict control of the military and naval authori-

ties, so that it has no liberty of choice as to whom it shall aid and succor. It aims only at giving effective assistance to the sanitary service of its own Army and Navy, and is therefore essentially patriotic; but if this aid is effective, the Army and Navy can better fulfill the duty imposed by the Geneva Convention of helping the sick and wounded soldiers without distinction of nationality, and thus obey the dictates of humanity. Such we understand to be the meaning of the first article of the resolutions adopted at the Preparatory International Conference of Geneva in 1863, which says :

“There exists in each country a committee whose duty in time of war consists in rendering assistance with all the means in its power, in the sanitary service of the army.”

This is supplemented by article V., which says :

“In case of war, the committees of the belligerent nations furnish aid to their respective armies as much as their resources allow.” Thus patriotism and humanity unite in all that concerns the aid of the sick and wounded soldiers, and the Red Cross Society of Japan has made, not humanity, but patriotism, its starting point; and it is in this that it differs from most of the sister societies of Europe and America which make Christian charity their starting point. A state of war is not exactly what renders opportune and fruitful of results the preaching of humanity pure and simple; but patriotism and the love of the Emperor and his soldiers are the motives to which to appeal at the moment of national danger. Thus may be accumulated the greatest volume of resources with which to give effective aid to the nation's own soldiers as well as to those of the enemy who are under its care.



CHAPTER II.

Origin and Development of the Society.

The Red Cross Society of Japan, by universal recognition one of the best organized of the kind, had its origin in the "Hakuaisha", or "Society of Benevolence", founded during the civil war of Satsuma, in 1877, the aim of which was to give relief to the sick and wounded soldiers without distinction of party. Having asked for and obtained the authorization of the Commander-in-chief of the expeditionary forces, it immediately set itself to work by offering to co-operate with the medical corps of the Army. In the eye of the law, the Satsuma fighters were rebels, but His Majesty, the Emperor, took such a lively interest in the humane object of the Association that he contributed to its funds and authorized one of the Imperial Princes to become its Honorary President.

When the expedition came to an end the Society constituted itself into a permanent organization and decided to take advantage of the period of peace to make preparation for future emergencies. The Imperial Government having, in 1886, given in its adhesion to the Geneva Convention, the Society resolved to strengthen its basis and extend its operations, at the same time placing itself in connection with the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva and entering into fraternal relations with the similar societies of other nations. It then changed its name to "The Red Cross Society of Japan," revised its statutes and took full part in the International Conference of the Red Cross held in Karlsruhe in September, 1887.

Thus, the Society became one of the number of sister societies throughout the world, and in order to give to it a working vitality Their Majesties, the late Emperor and the late Empress-Dowager, condescended to take it under their most exalted patronage; and

it was so placed as to be under the supervision of the ministers respectively of the Imperial Household, of the Army and of the Navy. The new Civil Code of the Empire having been promulgated in the year 1898, the Red Cross Society of Japan constituted itself a legal corporation in accordance with that law, and revised its statutes, with the result that the Red Cross Society of Japan is now no longer a private undertaking of associated philanthropists, but a public organ, recognized by law and holding a definite position within the military organization of the realm.

This legal corporation was effected in December, 1901, when the Government passed an Act, No. 223, concerning the Red Cross Society of Japan, which was revised in 1910; and in conformity with this revised Act, the Society had to alter its constitution in some measure. The foundation of the institution was thus solidified, and ever since the Society has been prosperous.



CHAPTER III.

'Their Majesties' Patronage.

Not only did Her Majesty, the late Empress Dowager, encourage our work by words and deeds, but also His Majesty, the late Emperor, was pleased to endow the Society annually with money amounting to ¥ 10,000 for its Relief Fund, ¥ 10,000 for that of the Hospital, ¥ 5,000 in aid of the Free Patients treated therein. The Society thus developed steadily until, in 1912, its members came to consider that it would be opportune to request Their Majesties, through the agency of the ministers of the Army and

Navy, to discontinue one of the endowments granted to the Society, amounting to ¥ 10,000 annually, and the request received the Imperial sanction.



CHAPTER IV.

Organization of the Society.

In the formation of the Red Cross Societies, there were two systems, whose comparative value was the object of much discussion at the International Conference held in Petrograd. They were characterized respectively by the two words *centralization* and *localization*.

In most of the sister societies of Europe, detached societies were first founded in different localities each with its own independent organization and system of finance, and these detached societies were afterwards brought together by means of a so-called Central Committee for administering the affairs common to all. In Japan, the process of formation was just the reverse. Here, only one Red Cross Society was created for the whole of the Empire with headquarters in Tokyo, and the Local Branches afterwards formed in the several prefectures have had no separate existence, but are entirely subject to the control of the central governing body in all that concerns finance and the work of preparation and relief in time both of peace and of war. The chief business of the Local Branches is the recruiting of members and the gathering in of subscriptions, but the income thus obtained is taken into the central treasury, only a comparatively small portion being left for the use of the Local Branches.

A part of the personnel and also of the supplies of the Society as a whole is provided for in the provinces, but it is all entirely at the disposal of the authorities at headquarters, and no relief of the sick and wounded in time of war or of political disturbance can be rendered unless under the control and direction of the governing body in Tokyo. That this system is remarkably conducive to the efficiency of the work done, is amply proved by experience. Good or bad, we have adopted this system and an annual General Meeting is held, usually in Hibiya Park, Tokyo, which is honored with the presence of Her Majesty, the Empress.

The most important part of the proceedings at the General Meeting is the election of the thirty members of the Standing Committee, for terms of three years duration, from among the members resident in Tokyo. Membership in this committee is honorary, and as the members are eligible for re-election, generally the same names appear in the list from year to year, with only occasional and isolated changes due to death or other causes. The Standing Committee elects from among its own members ten Directors, of whom one figures as President and two figure as Vice-Presidents. To the President, Vice-Presidents and Directors is left the carrying out of the decisions of the Standing Committee. These offices are all honorary and of three years duration, the same as membership in the Standing Committee. Those holding them may be re-elected. At present, under His Imperial Highness, Prince Kan-in, Honorary President, Viscount Hanabusa is the President, and Baron Ozawa and Viscount Matsudaira are the two Vice-Presidents, all of whom after election were appointed to their offices by His Majesty, the Emperor. In addition, there are three Auditors, who are also elected from among the members resident in Tokyo.

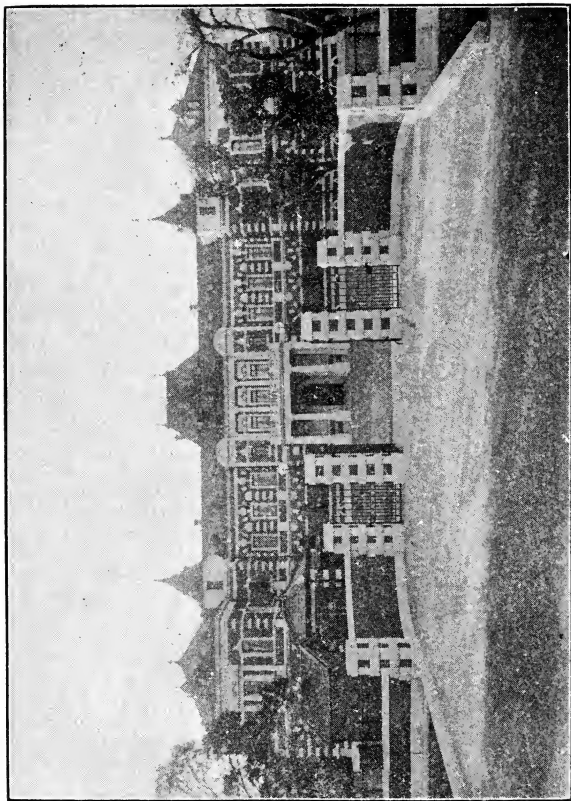
On the organization of the Society in 1887, His Imperial Highness, the late Prince Arisugawa, who was then temporarily occupying the post of Honorary President, explained to the Prefec-

tural Governors assembled in Tokyo why Their Majesties took the Society under their exalted patronage, and the late Prince Ito, then Minister of the Imperial Household, laid it upon them to become the chiefs of the branch societies established in their respective prefectures.

They all agreed, and from that day, it has been an unwritten law of the land that the governors of the prefectures shall be the chiefs, and their secretaries the assistant chiefs, of the Local Branches of the Red Cross Society of Japan. This gives to the whole organization of the Society a semi-official character, and has contributed not a little to its prosperity.

In Hokkaido, the forty-eight Prefectures and Formosa there are instituted Local Branches, the personnel of whose membership consists partly of the officials of the Local Governments and partly of the functionaries *ad hoc* of the Society. They are assisted in their work by councils composed of members who are influential citizens in the respective localities. Each local bureau is established either in a part of the Local Government itself or in separate buildings belonging to the Society. In the cities and districts or subdivisions of the prefectures, there are instituted Local Committees, and the Mayors and district chiefs are nominated to preside over them precisely as the Prefectural Governors are nominated to preside over the Local Branches. In like manner, there are instituted Committees in Chosen, Karafuto, Manchuria and other towns abroad such as San Francisco, Hawaii, Hankow and Shanghai, all managed, in compliance with our request, either by the Governors or Consul-Generals stationed there, with the single exception that in San Francisco the Committee functions are entrusted to the wife of the Consul-General.





Headquarters of the Red Cross Society of Japan in Tokyo.

CHAPTER V.

Membership.

The members are of three kinds: First, the honorary members, confined virtually to members of the Imperial Family; Second, special members, who have been recognized as such by the Standing Committee on account of services rendered to the Society or of donations of 200 yen or more made to its funds; and, thirdly, regular members, who pay the annual contribution of three yen for ten years or of twenty-five yen at any one time. One, who has rendered a conspicuous service or made a special donation to the Society is decorated, with the sanction of His Majesty, the Emperor, with the Order of Merit, being at the same time enrolled as a Special Member of the Society. Recipients of any of these medals or orders, conferred upon them in accordance with each different kind of membership as mentioned above, are entitled to wear the insignia on public occasions side by side with other decorations. Before these medals are conferred, the names of the proposed recipients are submitted to His Majesty, the Emperor, for His approval through the agency of the minister of the Imperial Household.

At the time when the change of the name of the Society took place, in December, 1887, there were only 2,100 members, but along with the propagation of the principle and spirit of the Society throughout the Empire, the number of members has increased by leaps and bounds, especially after the China war of 1894-5, the war of the Boxer trouble and the war with Russia in 1904-5.

In connection with each of these our relief services were substantially appreciated at home and abroad. At the end of September, 1914, the number of members was as follows:—

Honorary Members	45
Special Members	21,425
Regular Members	1,644,495
Subscribers	5,952

(This kind of membership was created before the present constitution had been put in force.)

Total 1,672,417 (inclusive of female members 71,127; Foreigners 17,170).



CHAPTER VI.

Relief Work of the Society.

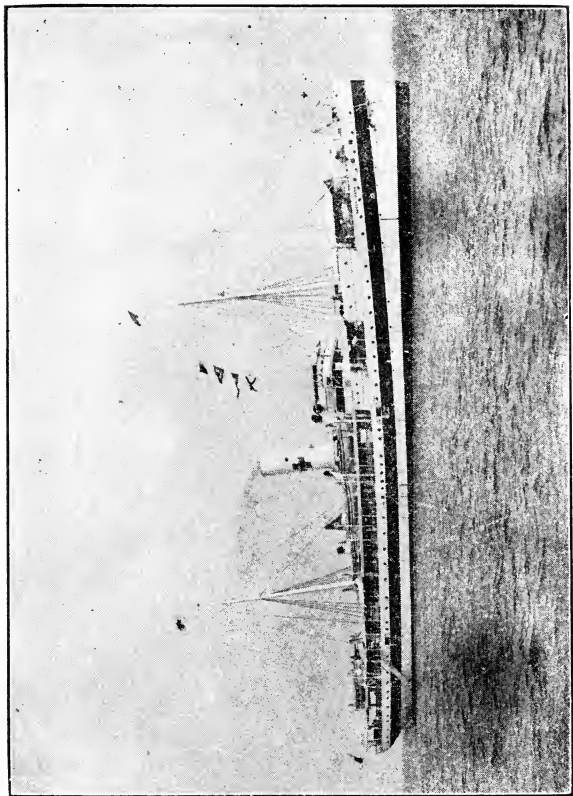
The total number of our Relief Corps which we despatched during the China War of 1894-5 aggregated 1,396 persons, who were placed at Hiroshima Reserve Hospital and nine other similar hospitals at home, and at what we technically call "Etape Hospitals", such as existed in Chosen and China, and at the Base-Hospitals at the front.

Besides, they worked in the War-Prisoners' Station in Tokyo and at three other places. At the time when the Imperial expeditionary forces were despatched to Formosa to suppress disturbances there, we also sent out our Relief Corps, which worked at the Etape Hospitals in that territory. Also during the Boxer trouble in China, we despatched a Relief Corps, which was made up of 591 individuals. These worked at the Hiroshima Reserve Hospital at home and in various towns in China abroad, serving, on the one hand, at such hospitals, and, on the other, on board

the two Red Cross Hospital Ships, "Kosai Maru" and "Hakuai Maru." We had no hospital ships during the China war and with the experience then gained it was deemed necessary to build hospital ships, and these were ready and were used practically during the Boxer trouble, and to the great convenience of the country, for transporting war victims from Taaku, China, to Ujina, Japan. During the War with Russia in 1904-5, we despatched 5,170 persons belonging to our Relief Corps. At home, they worked at Tokyo Reserve Hospital and eleven other reserve hospitals and at two naval hospitals in Kure and Sasebo, and abroad, or rather at the front, in such districts as were considered necessary in Chosen and China, numbering sixteen districts and seventy six districts respectively. They also worked on board the two Red Cross Hospital Ships plying between Ujina, Japan and various ports in Chosen and China.

Our relief services thus rendered were highly appreciated by Their Majesties, the late Emperor and the late Empress Dowager, who were graciously pleased to give the Society on each occasion Their august communications to that effect. So far as natural calamities are concerned, we have also rendered aid in connection with these in caring for the unfortunate sufferers, from volcanic eruptions, such as that of Mount Bandai, in Yuwashiro in 1888; from the ship wreck of a Turkish men-of-war in 1890; from the greatest earthquake our generation has witnessed, in the two provinces of Mino and Owari in 1891; from the great tidal wave which inundated the provinces of Mutsu and Rikuchu in 1897; from a great conflagration at Hachioji; from the earthquake of 1909 in Shiga, the flood of 1910 in the Kanto districts, the great fire of 1911 in Tokyo, another great fire in 1912 in Osaka, the flood of 1913 in Saitama, and, finally, from the terrible volcanic eruption of Sakurajima, an island near Kagoshima in 1914, etc.





Hospital Ship of the Red Cross Society of Japan.

CHAPTER VII.

Preparation of Relief Staff.

It will be seen that the providing of persons properly trained for relief service and ready to come forward under the Red Cross flag on the first call is the most important work to which the Society's energies are devoted in time of peace. At the end of September, 1914, the Headquarters and Branches together possess a Relief Staff preparation as follows :

- 2 Hospital Ships,
- 116 Relief Detachments consisting of trained nurses,
- 26 Relief Detachments consisting of trained attendants;

and the personnel of all these include :—

- 196 Medical Officers (inclusive of 2 head medical officers),
- 2 Pharmacists,
- 2 Sub-Directors,
- 2 Nursing supervisors,
- 8 Clerks,
- 2 Assistant Pharmacists,
- 315 Head nurses,
- 61 Head attendants.
- 3,064 Nurses. and
- 866 Attendants.

Total, 4,518 persons.

In addition, there are 1,081 female probationers and 27 male probationers for nurses and attendants respectively.

As to relief supplies for use in time of war as well as in time of peace, the following will show our state of readiness for meeting emergencies. There are :—

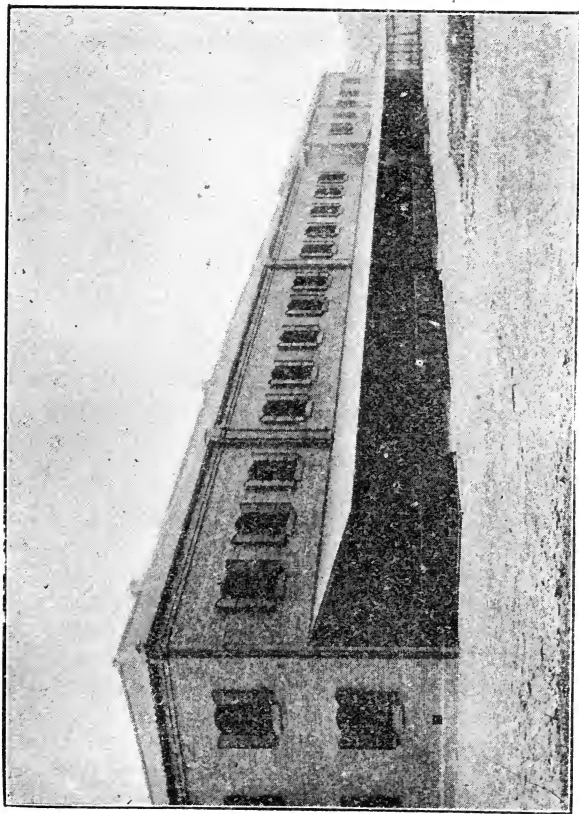
2	Hospital Ships,
1,197	Medical and Surgical instruments,
21,416	Patient's garments,
31,621	Articles of bedding,
844	Miscellaneous articles,
4,563	Working suits,
62	Stretchers, and
165	Tents.

CHAPTER VIII.

Tuberculosis Campaigns of the Society.

So dreadful a disease is consumption that it is recognized as one of the chief causes of death in Japan as in other countries. No little attention, therefore, has been paid by our Society to measures for its prevention as well as to methods of treatment. And especially since the VIIIth International Red Cross Conference held in London in June, 1907, at which the following resolution was passed:—

“Il est désirable que less Sociétés de la Croix Rouge participent, en temps de paix, à la lutte contre la tuberculose, en vouant plus particulièrement leur attention aux hommes refusés au recrutement, ainsi qu'aux soldats éliminés de l'armée comme tuberculeux ou suspects de le devenir. A cet égard l'appui des autorités civiles et militaires est nécessaire pour réaliser une prophylaxie efficace.....”,



*Store-House for Relief Supplies at the Headquarters
of the Red Cross Society of Japan in Tokyo.*

have we been paying special attention to the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis, building up new detached wards at our Central Red Cross Hospital for this kind of patients, and, in accordance with the resolution, distributing literature, since 1912, through such channels as the Regimental Districts, Naval Hospitals, Medical or Sanitary Departments of the Government or headquarters, in Formosa, Chosen, Manchuria and Karafuto, and other like places. Moreover, we drew up a special regulation relative to anti-tuberculosis campaigns in June, 1913, since which the Local Branches have been permitted to make their own rules for conducting local campaigns and for doing whatever else they may think proper, subject to ratification by the headquarters in Tokyo. Some Local Branches have already established what are commonly called "Sanatoriums."



CHAPTER IX.

Hospitals of the Society.

The Central Hospital of the Red Cross Society of Japan, the best institution of its kind in the Far East, is the work of a single man, on whom was bestowed the gracious patronage of Their Imperial Majesties. When the late Viscount Dr. Hashimoto made a tour of Europe in order to study the Army Medical Service of several countries, he was struck with the necessity of having a well arranged civil hospital for training the medical staff of the Army, and immediately after his return he published a

pamphlet entitled "The Red Cross" and in it proposed that a civil hospital should be established by the Red Cross Society. Our Society, which at that time still went by the old name of "Hakuaisha," approved the idea, and under the direction and aid of successive ministers of war, the first hospital was built on a piece of ground beside the War Office with funds contributed by the Army medical staff.

It was opened on the 17th. of November, 1886, and Her Imperial Majesty, the late Empress Dowager, accompanied by the Princes and Princesses of the Imperial Family, attended the ceremony of inauguration. In the establishment of this hospital, three objects were kept in view: the instruction of relief corps, the broadening of the experience of physicians through treatment of the sick and wounded and the utilization of the hospital as a reserve hospital for the Army in time of war. The surgeons of the Army served in the hospital side by side with civil physicians belonging to the Society. Only patients from well-to-do families were made to pay for their treatment and food, all others were treated free.

But to the great renown of the late Viscount Dr. Hashimoto as a medical practitioner, he did not allow the hospital to remain long what it was first intended to be, namely an essentially charitable institution.

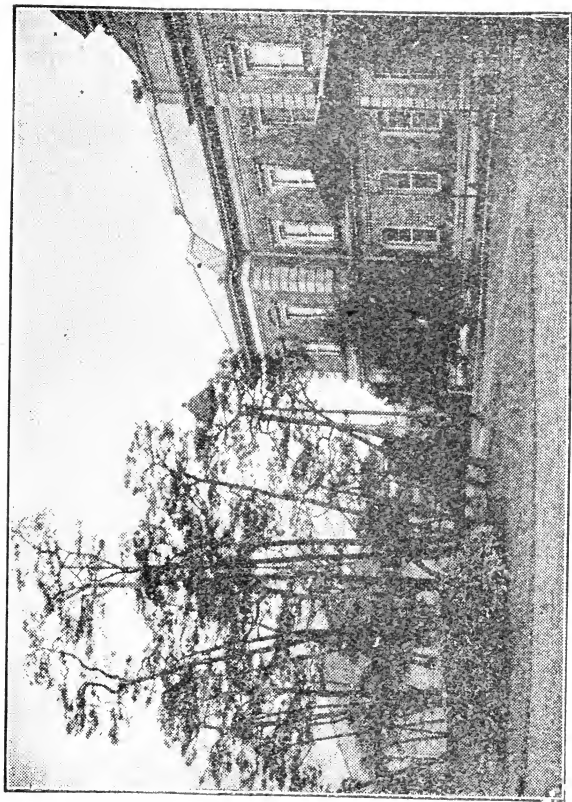
Not only the poor, but the rich and the noble eagerly flocked into it to enjoy the rare opportunity of being treated under the care of so famous a doctor; and the establishment soon proved to be altogether too modest in its plan.

This reached the ear of Her Majesty, the late Empress Dowager, who graciously presented 100,000 yen to the Society for a hospital fund on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, and in addition granted the free use of an immense tract of land situated in the suburbs of Tokyo for a hospital site. With

this munificent Imperial gift the new building was immediately commenced on the model of the University Hospital in Heidelberg, Germany, and was opened by Her Majesty on the 10th of May, 1891. Since then, further donations have been made by Their Majesties, the late Emperor and the late Empress Dowager. Hence the Central Red Cross Hospital in Tokyo owes its existence to the energy of the late Viscount Dr. Hashimoto and the gracious liberality of the Imperial Family.

During the China War of 1894-5 and the War with Russia of 1904-5 the hospital was changed into a section of the Reserve Hospital of Tokyo and the sick and wounded from the two wars were treated there.

The Society also possesses fourteen Red Cross Hospitals in connection with its Branches, in Osaka, Hyogo, Gumma, Miye, Shiga, Nagano, Akita, Toyama, Wakayama, Kagawa, Yehime, and Formosa, and in Port Arthur and Mukden, the last two, however, training no relief corps.



Central Red Cross Hospital in Tokyo.

CHAPTER X.

The Ladies' Volunteer Nursing Association of the Society.

This Association was founded in 1887 by lady members living in Tokyo, who are all either Imperial Princesses, wives and daughters of nobles or ministers of State, or who hold high social position at home and abroad. It will be well to mention why this particular institution was established.

In Europe and America, the history of nursing the sick and wounded is closely connected with the idea of Christian charity, and as the Sisters of Charity are respected, so is also the profession of nursing to which they devote themselves. But, in Japan, the same history does not exist, and the Buddhist nuns care little for nursing. Besides, in our society the relation between the sexes is such that outside the sphere of family relationship a woman cannot volunteer to nurse a man unless in the capacity of a hireling, much as with amahs for children. Among the ladies, the idea of holding strictly to the rules of good society is much stronger than that of humanity, or at least it was so when the work of the Red Cross was first instituted in Japan, so that only women of an inferior class could be induced to come into the hospital wards and nurse whatever patients chanced to be there. But this was not what the Red Cross Society wanted.

What it wanted was that ladies of refinement and intelligence and self-respect, should devote themselves to the work, not for pay, but in the interests of patriotism and humanity. Hence, in order to produce the requisite change in social feelings concerning this matter, it was necessary for the ladies of the highest position to set the example and cause the public to see that nursing is no

mean, mercenary profession, but a noble and honorable one, indeed, almost the only profession to which a woman can aspire if she would be of direct service to the state in time of war. For this purpose the members of the Association both in Tokyo and the Prefectures become the moral guides of the professional nurses trained in the hospitals of the Society. They undertake the care of their education and supervise their conduct when at home and also when engaged in service.

The members of the Association are themselves subject to a fixed course of training in the dressing of wounds, the preparation of bandages, etc., usually under medical officers detailed from the Army, and occasionally they take part in actual ambulance or hospital work side by side with the trained nurses; but the great object for which they exist is, as here indicated, rather moral than material. In short, the object of this Association is to render aid in propagating the spirit and principle of the Red Cross Society of Japan and in actual relief work in time of war as well as in time of peace, although in point of efficiency such amateur nurses cannot for a moment compare with regularly trained ones such as are found in the Red Cross Hospitals.

Her Imperial Highness, Princess Kan-in, is the Chief Administratrix of the Association and Marchioness Nabeshima the acting Administratrix, and they are assisted by almost all of the Imperial Princesses. The Association has now forty-nine Branches and sixty-seven Sub-Branches throughout the Empire, managed in the main by the wives of the Prefectural Governors or by those of the Mayors of the cities and districts respectively. Both the Headquarters and these Branches and Sub-Branches seize every opportunity to make themselves useful in cases of war or natural calamity. For instance, on the occasion of the great earthquake in Mino prefecture, the headquarters in Tokyo made a gift of 3,000 complete sets of clothing for the sick and wounded. During the China war of 1894-5, the ladies met in the Central Hospital of the Society even in the

hottest days of summer and made up with their own hands and their own expense large quantities of antiseptic bandages, and had them distributed among the hospitals of the Army and the Navy. So did they also during the Boxer trouble in 1900, and the War with Russia in 1904-5. Not only that, but they also waited on the sick and wounded at the Rest Stations, temporarily established close to, or at, the railway depots, and also in hospitals in various ways. It is already a well known fact that Her Majesty, the late Empress Dowager, was greatly interested in humane works. Not infrequently, she condescended to visit personally our Central Hospital in Tokyo, in a part of which the lady members were engaged in making bandages, and thereby gave them much encouragement. When in each of these cases war came to an end Her Majesty sent to the ladies her messages of appreciation. It gives us great pleasure to state here that this Ladies' Volunteer Nursing Association has become so prosperous along with the Red Cross Society in general that it has secured a total of 133,486 members at home and abroad.



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