

## THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

When war was first declared and the call for volunteers was made the public pulse was quickened and the hearts of the people thrilled more than ever with love for country and the flag. The youth of the land, fired with patriotism, were ready to offer their lives, the more conservative but no less patriotic men helped with money and supplies, and the women also saw a field of work opening for them in supplying wants and helping in the many comforting ways that only women can. The war department did not furnish among its rations the things the volunteer soldiers had been accustomed to or at first really needed, and complaints of hunger soon reached the ears of the sympathizing women. A meeting was called and a big entertainment given for the soldier's benefit, the sum of something over \$700 was raised in one night and divided among the boys, every one of whom was a hero right from the beginning. Then huge baskets of fruit and fine edibles were daily taken to their camp and distributed, but this kind of work was only trifling in the minds of some and they wondered how best to help the soldier boys and assist their country at the same time. A few of the women decided that by an organization greater good might be accomplished. Accordingly a call for a meeting to organize a Red Cross society was made. The call was signed by some twenty or more prominent women and asked the public generally to respond. The response was more than gratifying. Over a hundred women attended the first meeting and expressed a desire to organize a Red Cross society, but it took some time to get instructions for a thorough and permanent organization. In the mean time a temporary organization was effected and work begun. Under the temporary organization a work room was opened in the Progress building and Mrs. Marian Brooks was placed in charge.

The use of the room was given by Auerbach Bros. Chairs and tables loaned by the Dinwoodey company. Sewing machines by L. E. Hall, and Mrs. Moritz. Painting done by James Anderson, and printing by the Star Printing company. Material for comfort bags, scissors, ink, account books, and other little things were donated by different people at this time. Three hundred and seventy-six bandages and seventy-one comfort bags were made. After the permanent organization, Mrs. Julia Groo was made chairman of the work committee and a vast amount of work was accomplished as the following report will show—a report as full, complete and satisfactory as the work of Mrs. Groo always is. During the heat of summer months, she cut and planned and managed the making and saw to the distribution of the many supplies the report contains.

The Red Cross society began its work on the 31st day of May of this year. Since that date it has purchased 369 3-8 yards of flannel for bandages and has had some flannel donated. From this flannel has been made 1,116 bandages. There was sent in July some twenty bandages from the Payson society as well as about the same number of comfort bags. The box from Payson contained sheets, pillow cases, 15 bandages and comfort bags.

We furnished 306 men with comfort bags, giving one to each man who was enlisted in Utah.

After all these men were supplied with bandages and comfort bags, battery C, in addition, was supplied with 36 blankets, 3 dozen pairs socks, and 21 pairs of shoes.

In the comfort bags were put 1½ dozen buttons, white and black thread, wax, six safety pins, pins, needles, and a fine comb.

To Miss Barton we sent one dozen suits of pajamas, towels, sheets, pillow-cases, bandages and comfort bags. And the same to the San Francisco society.

Under the supervision of Mrs. W. J. Farrell numerous lunches were served the soldiers, those passing through the city as well as our own recruits. The wants of the inner man were well looked after, as the many remarks, such as "God bless the Red Cross," "How good you women are," etc., can testify. In all about 3,000 soldiers passing through the city were served, to fine lunches. The winding up scene of this most beneficent work was the sumptuous and elegant spread at Fort Douglas on the occasion of the return to our city of the gallant Twenty-fourth. Under Mrs. Dewey Richards's management, numerous entertainments for raising funds have been given, notably the barbecue at Calder's and the Saltair excursion, while many ladies, some of them not members of the society, have given social teas, musicales and lawn fetes at their homes. Our very able treasurer, Mrs. Julia Rawlins, reports a total of receipts and disbursements as follows: From May 28 to June 16, 1898, received \$158.13; disbursed, \$119.60; balance on hand, \$38.53. From June 16 to July 12, 1898, receipts, \$505.31; disbursed, \$291.94; balance, \$213.37. From July 12 to Sept. 10, receipts, \$494.16; disbursed, \$338.19; balance, \$155.97.

This is the treasurer's report up to Sept. 10, but since that time there have been numerous charities extended to the sick and needy families of volunteer soldiers which have greatly depleted the treasury. The correspondence of the association has been conducted by Mrs. Annie W. Cannon.

In all about one hundred letters have been received and answered. The work of the recording secretary devolved upon Mrs. Annie W. Young, to whose papers we constantly refer for references of dates and events connected with the work of the meetings of the general society.

But for the whole, the work of these various committees and officers, efficient as they are in themselves, would be far from the required standard were it not for the indefatigable and earnest work of the president, Mrs. Priscilla J. Riter, who has given so liberally of her time, means and labor. In the workroom, at entertainments, at the stations where the soldiers passed through, departed or came, everywhere her influence and help have been felt, and equally so has been the work of our two vice presidents, Mrs. Rachael Siegle and Mrs. Annie Adams, always ready, always willing. The work of the executive board during the past summer has been at times arduous, but none the less willingly performed. Many cases of sickness and want among the families have been attended to carefully and sympathetically. There is no report from Dr. Ferguson, the chairman of the sick committee, but the ladies of the board have personally taken care of different cases, and with their own dainty hands, and from their own well supplied larders have waited upon and served these worthy poor. Conspicuous among these must be mentioned our president, Mrs. Riter, who even at present is constantly attending to the needs of one family, and has moved them into her neighborhood, that she might better see to their wants. Our first vice president, Mrs. Siegle, has one particularly sad case under her constant care and watch, and Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Roberts.

It has not been the intention in this paper to dwell at any length on any one person or persons' work, but to summarize and tell so far as possible the work that has been accomplished during the summer by the society.

There are many others, whose names are worthy of mention, who have given much time, as well as means, to the society. Among these should be mentioned Mrs. Lawler, our press reporter, and the many ladies who assisted in the workroom, taking turns at the machines and attending to the constant needs of that department. Their names I do not know, but frequently among them might be seen Miss Edna Cohn, who, though on no special committee, has rendered great aid in every way, and been always ready to work when needed.

The amount of work completed is sufficient evidence of the need of a Red Cross society, and while it is to be sincerely hoped that, the war being ended, there will be found not only an army of men to defend the flag, but an army of women to assist them.

ANNIE W. CANNON.

## WAR WEAPONS NO LONGER USEFUL.

Col. Theodore Roosevelt killed a Spaniard with his revolver in the charge near San Juan Hill on July 1st. This is apparently the only case in which that weapon was used with effect by either side in the whole campaign. Nearly all the officers in both armies, or, rather, three armies, to include the Cubans, carried swords or machetes, yet there does not seem to have been a single wound inflicted with one of these. Thirdly, all the infantry carried bayonets, but it is believed not a hurt made with one of these was dressed in any hospital, American or Spanish. These three arms were carried by the thousand; they cost a great deal of money; with the ammunition of the revolver they involved the transportation of thousands of pounds of weight, and nowadays, especially in a tropical region, the object is to burden the soldier with as little baggage as possible. To the mind of a Santiago correspondent of the New York Tribune, the question asks itself, Why are they borne? Certainly the primary object of all three is to wound and to kill. If in an entire campaign, in which several thousand men were injured more or less severely, the revolver, sword and bayonet did virtually no execution whatever, ought they continue part of the military equipment in actual warfare?

As for the revolver, there are not lacking officers who think that, on the whole, it is almost as much of an incumbrance as a use. It is well enough in a military post, and carries a certain weight of authority, just as the sword does. Perhaps no man, except of high rank, would want to go into the enemy's country entirely unarmed. He might be sent on some duty at night, or encounter a stray soldier of the other side in the daytime. The emergency would probably never arise, but the feeling of security given by a good, big pistol would be worth all the trouble of carrying it.

In the fighting around Santiago, officers were conspicuous in leading their men in charges. But as one of them expressed it, if a commissioned soldier had time to fire a weapon he was neglecting his duty of observing and commanding his men. The charge in which Colonel Roosevelt took part was exceptional in the way in which the men of the different regiments were mixed up, and in the nearness of a few of the Spaniards. Anything like hand-to-hand conflicts is extremely unlikely in a battle in which both sides use modern rifles. Their range is measured in miles. From 800 yards down, their accuracy in the hands of skilled marksmen is frightful. They can be aimed and fired six or eight times a minute. The zone of fire is so large that victory is virtually decided before the revolver could be used with accuracy.

In the charges at El Caney and San