

full protection, with a guard assured each house, which shall open its doors to the care of the wounded, of either army. Thus every house becomes a furnished field hospital and its inmates nurses. Each nation, upon its accession to the treaty, establishes a national committee, through which it will act internationally in its various relations.

This corporate body adopts a constitution, in the formation of which it seeks the best methods for serving humanity in general, together with interests of its own people. At first no national constitution covered more than the direct ground of the treaty, viz, the prevention and relief of suffering by war. The founders of the Red Cross of America foresaw that the great woes would not be by war.

While the Old World countries are continually menaced by battle, the United States is comparatively exempt from such danger, by reason of geographical and political situation; therefore she also wisely provided for calamities from fire, floods, famine and pestilence, drought, earthquake and tornado. Since then the forty odd nations including Japan and Turkey, have adopted what is known as the "American amendment." Switzerland, the mother country of the Red Cross order, is its head center. The Swiss society being the only one that is international occupies itself with the general interest of its branches and carries on correspondence with them in all languages.

After a government has signed the Treaty of Geneva, its first act has been to form a national central society. Each of these societies are independent, and makes its own regulations, except as it owes allegiance to the international society of Switzerland in a few fundamental principles essential to unity of direction. In each country, auxiliary societies are formed to co-operate with its central society. In Europe the Central society is under the patronage of men and women of rank, often members of royal families; in America, Miss Clara Barton—than whom a nobler woman was never born—is the head, front and chief worker. Germany took the Red Cross to her heart from the first; France threw herself with ardor into the good work; and even the "unspeakable Turk" has closely followed its precepts. During the first ten years of its existence the Red Cross was a prominent factor in five great wars, and in every subsequent campaign has proved its incalculable usefulness. The treaty has triumphantly stood every test to which it has been put. The France-German war of 1870 and 1871, furnished the first opportunity for its practical application. Both nations were in the compact, and there was perfect accord between the military and the Red Cross relief. No hospital nor medical work was afforded on either side, except through and under the treaty of Geneva. The Red Cross brassard shown on the arm of every agent of relief, from the medical director at the headquarters of the king, to the boy carrying water to his wounded lieutenant; from the noble Empress Augusta and her court, and poor Eugenia while she had a court, to the tired nurse in the wayside tent. (Augusta, grandmother of the present emperor, was the head of the first Red Cross society formed in Germany, and today her granddaughter the Grand Duchess Louise of Baden fills the position.) Says Miss Barton: "No record of needless cruelty to sick and wounded soldiers stain the annals of that war. I walked its hospitals by day and night. I served in its camps; I marched with its men, and I know whereof I speak. The German, and the Frenchman, the Italian, the Arab, the Turk and the Tonaue were gathered tenderly alike, and lay

side by side in the Red Cross palace hospital of Germany."

The United States did not accept the international treaty of the Red Cross until eighteen years after it was first presented to our government; and that we finally came into the fold is due entirely to Miss Barton. When our Civil War began she was a young lady of wealth, spending some time in Washington. At the first news that northern troops were en route to the capital had been fired upon in Baltimore, she, with several others, volunteered to go and care for the wounded. That day her life-work opened. Thereafter she was found in the hospitals, and soon came to be recognized as a nurse of uncommon ability. In her quiet, self-contained way, she went unchallenged wherever soldiers needed assistance. She met the wounded as they poured in from Virginia and took care of them in camp and field. Military trains were at her service. She was present at the battle of Cedar Mountain, Second Bull Run, Antietam, and Fredericksburg; was eight months at the siege of Charleston, at Fort Wagner, in front of Petersburg, and in the wilderness; also in the hospitals near Richmond, and on Morris Island. When the war ended, her labors were not over. In obedience to the most tender of human sympathy, she remained many weeks at Andersonville, engaged in the herculean task of marking as many as possible of the graves of the 13,000 Union prisoners there buried. Then her health broke down completely and her physicians ordered her to Europe. Before she was half recuperated, the France-Prussian war broke out, and she immediately joined the relief corps of the Red Cross in the field, where she did heroic service during all that stormy period.

In 1869 Miss Barton went to Geneva. The fame of her splendid work had preceded her, and she was at once called upon by the president of the Swiss International Red Cross Society. He asked an explanation of the anomalous fact that the United States which in its own Civil War had shown such unparalleled care of the wounded and organized a sanitary service on a scale hitherto undreamed of the world over—yet held aloof from the Red Cross and refused to sign the treaty under whose banner twenty nations were already enrolled. Miss Barton replied that she had never even heard of such a thing, and she doubted if the people of the United States (whatever might be said of its officials) were aware that any proposal to unite such an organization had been submitted to the government. When all had been made plain, her humanity-embracing heart at once became aflame with enthusiasm and she resolved that if she lived to return to her native land the Red Cross principles should at least become known there. But she came home a suffering invalid and hovered for years between life and death. When at last nature rallied, she had to begin life anew, almost like a little child, and acquired even the power to walk. The mind, however, was as clear and the heart as warm as ever. She went to Washington as soon as she was able and presented the subject of the Geneva treaty to President Hayes. This was in 1877. Her efforts won no response from the Hayes administration; not until four years later. Then another goldier President, Garfield, was in the chair, and she met with encouragement. The late Secretary Windon laid the subject before the cabinet. The President's "silent partners" were cordially interested; Secretary of State Blaine wrote warm letters of approval, and in his first message to Congress Garfield recommended our accession to the treaty. This was seventeen years after the first presentation of the subject to our

government. But the end was not yet, by reason of President Garfield's untimely death. His successor incorporated a plea for the Geneva treaty in his first message to Congress. The Senate committee on foreign affairs (of whom were Senators Morgan, Edmunds and Lapham), received it favorably, and on the first day of March, 1882, President Arthur had the happiness of signing the treaty.

It was found that a modification of and some additions to the original treaty as it exists in Europe were necessary to adapt it to the needs of our country. In the Old World, where war is a continual menace, the Red Cross has kept to its first purpose—that of caring for the sick and wounded of belligerent armies. The United States, though comparatively exempt from the dangers of war by reasons of geographical and political situation, has other national calamities to contend with. Floods, fires, cyclones, pestilences come without warning, and to avert vast suffering relief must be swift. In order to accomplish the most good, complete provision must be always ready to meet any disaster caused by the unchained elements. The first great disaster after the American Red Cross came into being (a year before President Arthur had signed the treaty), was the forest fires in Michigan. When the words flashed over the wires that thousands, fleeing for their lives from burning buildings, were without food, Miss Barton, president of the central society in Washington, telegraphed the committee in Milwaukee and Chicago, to hasten to the scene. In a few hours they were en route; while she, and as many assistants as she thought necessary, at once set out, with carloads of provisions and all essentials.

Twelve great national calamities have already claimed the service of the American Red Cross. After the Michigan fires came the Ohio and Mississippi floods, of 1882. Then the Mississippi cyclone; again the floods of 1884; the Virginia epidemic; the Texas drought; the Charleston earthquake; the Johnstown flood; the cyclone and tidal wave on the Sea Islands of South Carolina, etc. And everybody knows the great work which the society accomplished among the Russian peasants in '91 and '92 and later among the persecuted Armenians. When the great floods in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys occurred and it was ascertained that widespread suffering existed, Miss Barton sent a notice to the Associated Press that she would go to the rescue. Immediately supplies and money by the thousands poured in. Boats were chartered and loaded with every description of supplies, including forage for cattle. Down the long rivers they steamed, stopping at all the towns and villages along the way where want was known to prevail. Quickly the citizens were called together and a committee organized to distribute supplies; and then the boat steamed on. The first intimation that the inhabitants had that relief was coming was when the boat with the magical Red Cross emblem upon it, drew up to their shores, and Miss Barton, with the same hazon on her arm, stepped over the gang-plank and began to assemble the stricken people. Truly, she must have seemed like an angel from a better world.

The vital idea of the Red Cross is not charity—it scorns the word, but helpfulness, friendliness. It is a privilege to do for those in trouble, for in the good Samaritan sense, they are neighbors. Human brotherhood is the Red Cross creed, and the religion of Jesus Christ, as embodied in the words, "Love one another," is its animating principle. FANNIE B. WARD.