

THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE.

This is practically a second reserve for the Royal Army Medical Corps, and consists of companies of uniformed men trained in First Aid and hospital nursing and drilled in field ambulance exercises, and commanded by a chief commissioner. There were in 1907, 16,068 officers and men in many divisions scattered over Great Britain and the Colonies. In connection with the brigade is a large corps of female nurses, who are uniformed and trained in their respective duties. It may be stated as an evidence of the importance of the work of the brigade that during the Boer war 2,048 trained men were sent to South Africa to supplement the work of the Royal Army Medical Corps, or to man volunteer hospitals; 68 of the men lost their lives during the campaign. In connection with the brigade there is also maintained the Royal Sick Berth Reserve, who perform at sea similar duties to those of the brigade on land. Its strength is 669 officers and men.

THE ST. JOHN INVALID TRANSPORT CORPS.

There occur annually in the streets of London upward of 10,000 accidents, irrespective of the special occasions when great crowds gather. Until recently the usual mode of conveyance was a shutter, door, or the four-wheeled cab. None of the great hospitals were provided with ambulances; now, thanks to the Order of St. John, this has been changed. The Order maintains an Invalid Transport Corps, wheeled ambulances, wheeled stretchers, and ambulance posts, where men are on duty night and day. I think sufficient has been said to justify the statement that the Order is living up to its motto, "Pro utilitate hominum." To be a member of the Order is not only a great honor, but a great responsibility.

The Canadian Centre was established by Dr. G. Sterling Ryerson in 1894, Sir George Kirkpatrick becoming first president. On his death he was succeeded by Sir James Grant, and he again by Sir James Whitney, Premier of Ontario. Sub-centres have been authorized in the following places:—Ontario—Toronto, London, St. Thomas, Peterboro', Stratford, Kingston, Oshawa, Owen Sound, Berlin, and Brantford. Quebec—Montreal, Westmount. Manitoba—Winnipeg, Brandon. Alberta—Calgary, Edmonton. British Columbia—Vancouver, Nelson, Victoria. New Brunswick—Fredericton. Nova Scotia—Halifax, Sydney Mines.

There is now in Canada one division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade—at London, Ontario. Upwards of 5,000 persons have taken the course of instruction in First Aid and home nursing, and many thousands of text books have been sold. The head office for Canada is at 66 College Street, Toronto.