

existing voluntary organizations. Its function is to strengthen and assist them. As one means towards doing that, grants of money have been made by the Red Cross to The St. John Ambulance Association, The St. John Ambulance Brigade, The Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, The Canadian National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, The Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene and The Child Welfare Section of The Canadian Public Health Association.

An Example from the Ottawa Branch

In carrying out that policy locally, the Ottawa Branch of the Red Cross voted \$1,000 to assist the Day Nursery, and an equal amount to the May Court Club. Both of these organizations have been carrying on very useful beneficent work in the city for many years. The Red Cross also voted \$1,000 to the Local Board of the Victorian Order of Nurses. These bodies are all undenominational and carry on service for health and relief which is beneficial to the whole community. The local Red Cross also granted \$500 to the Ottawa Centre of the St. John Ambulance Association. There is plenty of room and great need for all the good work which the various voluntary organizations can carry on. The best all such bodies can do working together will not be enough to meet all the existing needs.

Great Need for Health Reform

The need for health reform in Canada is greater and more general than any except a few specialists know. The problem is primarily one in the conduct of the individual life and it broadens from personal hygiene to home hygiene and public hygiene or Public Health. The greatest hindrance to progress is lack of knowledge and lack of willingness to apply it. The medical experts at their Conference at Cannes adopted a Minute announcing it as their opinion "that a great part of the world-wide prevalence of disease and suffering is due to wide-spread ignorance and lack of application of well established facts and methods capable either of largely restricting disease or preventing it altogether." The expenditure of much wealth is not needed to secure good health, but some energy, a certain amount of intelligence and a willingness to play the game are required. Most children are born with the possession of good health; the problem is to conserve that precious heritage. In backward civilizations a slow and continued waste of that priceless gift of nature begins from the time the baby is weaned; and scarcely any attempt is made to arrest the wastage. It ought not to be so in Canada. But some recent investigations fill us with surprise and anxiety.