

world relief emergencies will, as a matter of course, have a large share of the program, but much of the effort will be directed not only toward relieving human suffering and distress, but towards preventing it.

GOVERNMENTS IN SYMPATHY.

The adoption of the program by the Geneva delegates is almost a certainty. The governments of the five powers are in sympathy with the movement and other nations with Red Cross organizations or relief societies are expected to follow the lead of Japan, Italy, France, England and the United States. This being the case, a few facts concerning the Red Cross of the various countries, should prove of interest.

The International Red Cross Committee at Geneva—the parent of all Red Cross organizations—is the body through which the world program will be carried out. A permanent staff of health and relief specialists is to be maintained at Geneva following the world congress. Geneva will be the clearing house for discoveries along lines of Red Cross work, the place to which each organization will forward all information that may be of value to the others, and where research work having for its object the best means of preventing and combatting disease and minimizing distress will be continuous. The International Committee of the Red Cross of Geneva was organized in 1863, being the realization of the merciful conception of Henry Dunant, the Swiss philanthropist. The committee did splendid work during the recent war, the most trying four years of its history. Gustave Ador, president of Switzerland, is also president of the International Committee.

Because of its great achievements in the world war the American Red Cross has been accorded leadership in the world movement by the Red Cross of other countries. The organization now has a membership of 17,000,000 adult and 9,000,000 junior members, this imposing total being divided among 3,864 chapters and thousands of branches and auxiliaries, no part of the country being too remote to be without its Red Cross organization. Dr. Livingston Farrand, who will direct the part the American Red Cross is to play in the universal program, is now at Cannes.

STRONG NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

The Red Cross Society of Japan was organized in 1886 and now, with a membership of more than a million and a half and a splendid equipment, ranks as one of the foremost relief organizations. Always in the vanguard of humanitarian activities, the Italian red Cross was never stronger than it is to-day after the great struggle in which it played such a heroic part. At the end of 1918 the organization had more than 300,000 members. Its complete co-operation with the American Red Cross at a critical juncture of the war proved a great help to the Allied cause.