

The Canadian Red Cross has about 750,000 women working in more than 10,000 groups throughout Canada.

Since the war began in 1939, volunteer women workers have produced millions of articles of comforts, clothing and medical equipment for the fighting forces and needy civilians. More than 25,000,000 articles have been shipped overseas, 6,285,467 in 1942 alone. Total distribution to units in Canada was 1,333,945 articles, and to Newfoundland 178,934 articles in 1942.

In five modern packing plants at Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor and Winnipeg, volunteers are packing 100,000 food parcels a week for prisoners of war. Each food parcel has a value of 2,200 calories and costs about \$2.50 laid down in Geneva. More than 500,000 acknowledgments of prisoners of war parcels from the Canadian Red Cross have been received.

Red Cross blood donor clinics, now numbering about 36, are staffed largely by women volunteers who take temperatures, sterilize bottles, handle records and prepare refreshments furnished to the donors. During 1942, 181,091 donations were given through 33 clinics. The average number of weekly donations for 1942 was 3,482. The record so far in 1943 has been 8,355 donations in the week of March 13. The objective for 1943 is 12,000 donations a week. There are two mobile blood donor units in operation visiting communities not reached previously.

Disaster relief equipment of the Red Cross is concentrated on the east and west coasts, with approximately 14 mobile surgical units and 34 25-bed emergency hospitals stored at strategic points where they can be rushed to localities not equipped to handle great numbers of casualties.

There are about 4,903 women serving in Canadian Red Cross corps in transport, nursing auxiliary, office administration and food administration sections. There is also a university section. The first contingent to be sent outside Canada arrived in Britain early in February and included representatives of each section.

During the 48 years it has been giving courses in first aid and home nursing, the St. John Ambulance Association has given awards to more than 706,000 men and women, and more than 321,000 of these have been given in the four years 1939 to 1942.