

## ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

THE WORK OF RED CROSS ORGANIZATIONS IN RELATION TO  
THE PREVENTIVE MEDICINE OF THE FUTURE.

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IT is difficult to give, as I am invited to do, in brief space and without the detailed reports of proceedings in which I took part, a clear conception of the conclusions reached at the extremely important International Conference of Red Cross Societies which was held in Cannes during April of this year.

I shall endeavor, however, to state the conception which gave rise to the conference and to give some of the conclusions reached by the experts in a number of departments of medicine on which are being based the initial steps for the organization of a new departure in Red Cross work.

It is unnecessary to remind actual Red Cross workers of the vast amount of beneficent work, rendered possible by the gifts of possibly half the American population, which has been carried out by your agencies in the various belligerent countries. The record of saving life, of alleviation of suffering, and in other instances of prevention of greater suffering, is one calling for gratitude and congratulation. This work has been rendered possible by an unrivalled combination of trained and of relatively untrained workers. The trained workers were indispensable; but without the invaluable assistance of intelligent, previously untrained, voluntary workers, a vast mass of suffering would have been left unalleviated and unrelieved.

This work in the main has been directed toward the healing of the sick and wounded, but not entirely so; for most interesting and valuable work has been done among the civilian population of the belligerent countries, in providing medical assistance, in special work for the treatment of tuberculosis, in securing medical assistance and advice for mothers and their children, and in caring for those who have been rendered homeless by ruthless war. In America, also, Dr. Clark informs me, that around military camps in States in which public health administration is imperfect, an organization has been evolved, through co-operation between the Central Public Health Service and the American Red Cross, by means of which territories about camps have been "cleaned up," the risks of malaria and other communicable diseases, including venereal diseases, have been minimized, a good milk supply assured, and elementary sanitation established. It is evident, therefore, that