

ue-half of them, physically unfit for full service in the field. It is not reported that the disabilities were the result of active disease; they were evidently in most cases the consequence of poor nutrition, neglect of personal hygiene and unsanitary conditions of working and living.

Record of Red Cross Raises Expectations

It was inevitable that serious consideration should be given to such an alarming state of affairs in respect to health and that action should be taken for the purpose of remedying it as soon and as far as possible. Remembering the great part which the Red Cross had played during the war as an auxiliary to the governments, the minds of statesmen and others naturally turned towards it as an organization which could help the governments immensely in the efforts which they must make for the improvement of health and the prevention of disease. In consequence soon after the Armistice in 1918, with the approval and endorsement of the Governments of the five Great Powers (Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and the United States) a committee of their Red Cross Societies was constituted "to formulate and to propose to the Red Cross Societies of the world an extended program of Red Cross activities in the interest of humanity."

Conference of World Authorities on Health

That Committee of Five called a conference of medical experts who met at Cannes, France, in April, 1919. The conference is regarded as one of the most remarkable gatherings of authorities on questions of health ever held. It included many of the foremost men of America, France, England, Italy and Japan.

One of the conclusions of the conference was in the following terms:

"Recognizing the prevention of disease and the protection of the health of the people as a primary responsibility and function of the Government, a non-political organization such as that of the Red Cross, will be able by the education of the public and many other ways to stimulate, support and aid the Government in its health-work."

League of Nations and League of Red Cross Societies

Following the Conference at Cannes, it was agreed by the five Great Powers, and the other nations participating in the Peace Conference at Paris, to include in the Covenant of the League of Nations an article whereby they agreed to encourage and promote Red Cross Societies which would carry on a peace-time program. Article XXV of the Covenant reads as follows:

"The members of the League agree to encourage and promote the establishment and co-operation of duly authorized voluntary national