

GIVING GOOD GIFTS

WE save a little here, cut down expenses there, do without this, give up that. What before the war was styled "meanness" now goes by the name of "thrif," but it is not a virtue that we Canadians assimilate naturally. There is a scale by which bargainers are classified on the continent which runs something like this: "Six Jews, one Greek; six Greeks, one Armenian." If driving hard bargains is accounted righteousness, Canadians cannot qualify. Wasteful and extravagant we appear to other nations, and now we are learning our little lessons in thrif slowly and painfully. So when the call comes, "Help the British Red Cross," we gladly ignore our newly-memorized mottoes, and with the royal gesture of the kings in the story-books, fling down a purse of gold! The purse in question may be a grimy little fistfull of coppers or a crested envelope containing a cheque whereon the donor had started to write \$100—then paused and added another naught. For it isn't patriotism alone, it isn't only for the love of humanity. Each one of us knows at least one dear boy who is suffering cruelly at this very moment, whose sufferings would be a hundred times greater were it not for the Red Cross. Most of us are personally interested, also, in some doctor who has consecrated his services to the work of the Red Cross, some stretcher-bearer who daily risks his life in the battlefield and sees all the grim horrors of war and none of its glory; some nurse who spends all her days, and often her nights as well, in easing pain and suffering, and we want to give as they would have us give, unstintingly.

TO-DAY the Red Maltese Cross is lifted up above the Cross of Christ. Nations are accounted great in proportion to the reverence they show that Cross. The war has struck a blow against denominational religion, for we have Protestant England fighting against Protestant Germany; Catholic Austria against Catholic Italy. Toronto saw a remarkable incident not long ago when a Jewish rabbi gave an address in an English Church school-house, and the vote of thanks was moved by a Catholic priest and seconded by a Presbyterian minister. The Red Cross movement had its origin in Europe. After the battle of Solferino, in 1859, Henry Dunant, a Swiss gentleman, visited the battlefield and spent several days there assisting in the care of the wounded. He was much impressed by the sight of terrible suffering caused through the lack of sufficient appliances and help for the care of the wounded. In 1862 Dunant published a description of what he had seen; setting forth reasons for establishing in every country permanent societies for the relief of the wounded in war. His article was immediately translated into several European languages, and made a deep impression.

A SOCIETY in Geneva, Switzerland, appointed a committee, at the head of which was General Dufour, the general in chief of the Swiss Confederation, for the purpose of carrying out the proposals of Dunant. This led to an international conference at Geneva, in October, 1863, attended by delegates from sixteen countries, and which called an international congress that met in Geneva in August, 1864. The body drew up a treaty of nine articles, which has since obtained the approval of every civilized nation of the globe. This treaty looked to the neutralization of hospitals, materials, nurses and surgeons in time of war, and that these might be recognized a common design was fixed upon for the flags of hospitals and convoys, and the arm badge for persons. This was a red cross upon a white ground, a design adopted as a compliment to Switzerland, which has this design upon her flag, with colours reversed.

NEARLY a million pounds sterling has been spent by the British Red Cross on the purchase and upkeep of motor ambulances alone, and 3,200 sur-

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geons, nurses, hospital orderlies, stretcher bearers and ambulance drivers have been sent abroad by the same organization to help in a work which goes on tirelessly, without cessation, for the relief of the wounded brothers who are pressing back the great jagged line on the German frontier. There is, beside, a record of hospitals, store depots, rest stations, hospital trains, food and clothing sent to British prisoners-of-war in Germany, and little avenues of help which will probably remain forever unpublished, overshadowed by the greater undertakings. The wounded know, however, and every contributor to the great fund is speaking a word of practical sympathy to the man who is shell-shattered, shrapnel-pierced, war-scarred. The Red Cross works day and night, receives the wounded in the first-aid dressing stations behind the communication trenches, and drives them to the clearing stations. On the English front alone are five Red Cross convoys of 50 cars each. And the whole of the transport of wounded at the army's base in France is done by the Red Cross. Surely such work deserves the help of every man and woman in the Empire.

The British Red Cross authorities tried to make



From a drawing in Red Chalk, by Kerr-Lawson.

THE NURSE

HERE in the long white ward I stand,
Pausing a little breathless space,
Touching a restless fevered hand,
Murmuring comfort's commonplace—

Long enough pause to feel the cold
Fingers of fear about my heart;
Just for a moment, uncontrolled,
All the pent tears of pity start.

While here I strive, as best I may,
Strangers' long hours of pain to ease,
Dumbly I question—Far away
Lies my beloved even as these.

—Punch.

their tag day on October the nineteenth Empire-wide. Thirty-five million flags were provided for its needs, and four millions of these offered for sale in London found ready purchasers. Half a million brooches and rings were made from the wire of the Cuffley Zeppelin and sold from 62 cents to \$5.25 a piece. Lady Paget organized a matinee at the Alhambra, which realized \$8,000. It was attended by Queen Alexandra and other royalties. The event of the afternoon was the auctioneering of a golden replica given by Lady Paget from the German medal struck to commemorate the sinking of the Lusitania, fetching \$1,500. Donations received at Red Cross headquarters included \$25,000 from the King and \$5,000 each from the Queen and the Prince of Wales.

In many sections of Canada the day was celebrated, particularly in Ontario and British Columbia. Toronto, whose record for giving last year stood highest among the cities of the whole Empire, at \$538,000, this year heads the list with \$700,000. Ontario's contributions amounted to nearly two million.

WE are very proud of the many Canadian girls who are serving their country as effectively as their brothers. Three more of our nurses have recently received from King George the decoration of the Royal Red Cross. They are Miss Eleanor M. Charleson, who has served as matron in England and France, at Lemnos and at Salonica. Miss Charleson was formerly superintendent at Toronto and Ottawa, and her decoration is of the first class. Miss Janet Andrews is a Calgary nurse who has served in England and France as nursing sister, received the second class, as did Miss Ethel Marie Holmes, of Montreal. All three nurses have brought honour to their profession and to their country, as well as the countless others who are performing very humble tasks, counting all work noble if only they may serve the cause.

A LETTER we have just received from a Canadian Doctor at one of our clearing stations gives such an interesting account of the work there, such a tribute to the fighting qualities of our men, and such a strong appeal for more recruits that we are publishing it in full:

"Work in our Clearing Station has lessened considerably lately, far different from the Somme, but you never can tell when something will go off Bang and every little while some spurt of bombarding is heard. Recently one of our big guns that are run up the railway, was in the neighbourhood banging away like a volcano, and then was pulled away to some other region. A big Bosche gun will make a target of a town near by, and then

we tell 'em to shut up, by banging some town ten miles or more away behind the enemy lines. Word comes from the Somme that the boys are in fine spirit in spite of losses. The feeling of a forward movement is inspiring and the big 'tanks' have given them a big boost while they demoralize the enemy.

"We now see Australians instead of Canadians, but I suppose after a few weeks our boys will be sent to us to recuperate. Out of 110 patients admitted to-day, seventy-five of them were sick, not wounded—pneumonia, jaundice, diphtheria, tonsillitis, kidney disease, heart trouble. Did you ever hear of an epidemic of jaundice during the civil war? We are having a lot of it now, just as they did. It is an interesting problem to solve and we'll find the solution yet. We practically never get acute rheumatic fever—just what ordinarily you would expect where men are in wet trenches.

"My work is to see the patients three times a day and keep records of them. There are three clearing stations located close together between a railway line and a main road. If you took two or three five-acre fields and put ten sheds 60 x 20 feet on each and some tents between the road and the railroad you would have the situation. Starting at 8.30 a.m. the ambulance motors bring the sick and wounded that have been gathered from the troops along the firing line or those in reserves, to one of the stations. Yesterday morning we took in 90, but an average is 150, and in the rush last June we had 700 and 800 in a night. Then special ambulance trains came up and would take away as many as

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