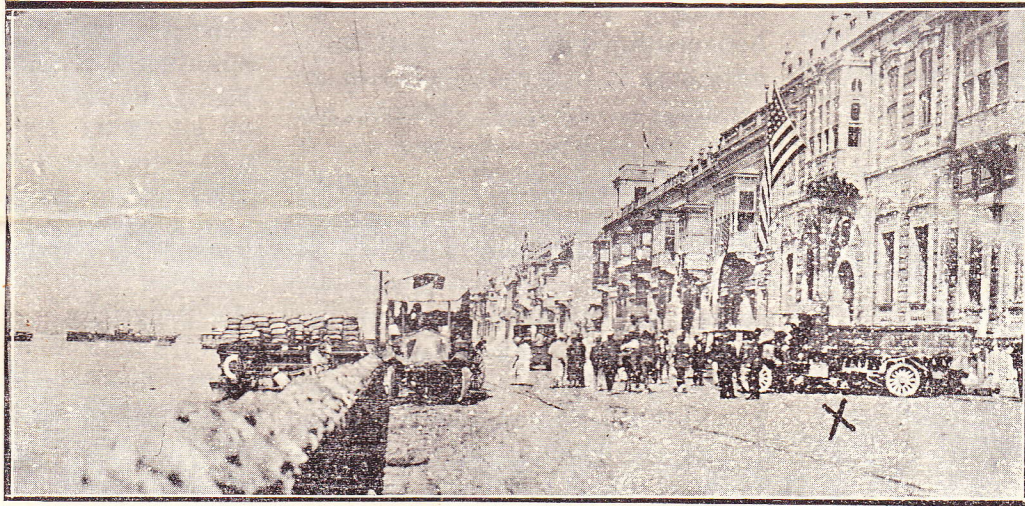


# Monthly Bulletin

N° 17

## Constantinople Chapter, American Red Cross

June, 1923.



Headquarters of the A. R. C. Disaster Relief Committee on the Quay at Smyrna  
(the House with the American Flag.)

### Smyrna Disaster Relief Committee.

CALEB W. LAWRENCE  
CHAIRMAN

On June 30th the Disaster Relief Committee which has operated in Smyrna since the disaster last September was dissolved, all its original members except two having left that city. Upon the Committee's liquidation, a complete report has been made of all its activities since the beginning, and the following is a brief outline of the work during this period.

The Committee was formed on Sept. 6th at the American Consulate in Smyrna to deal with the problem presented by the influx of many thousands of refugees. The officers were as follows: Chairman, Professor Lawrence; Treasurer, Professor S. L. Caldwell; Secretary, Mr. Chester Griswold. Mr. A. K.

Jennings and several American business men were asked to serve with the Committee. Money was collected from American firms and individuals, supplies purchased and relief work begun. On Sept. 9th Captain Hepburn, Major Davis, Mr. Jaquith and Mr. Prentice arrived from Constantinople, and the three last named were asked to superintend the work of the Committee, but they agreed to act with Mr. Jacob as Executive Committee, leaving the original Committee to continue its organization. After the burning of the city, Major Davis was appointed Chairman at another meeting at the Consulate. On Sept. 16th Mr. Jaquith left for Constantinople with several hundred orphans, and a little later Major Davis was recalled, leaving Professor Lawrence in charge.

The work of the Committee divided itself into the following heads: Relief of Refugees Awaiting

Evacuation; Evacuation of Refugees, Care of Refugees; Remaining in Smyrna and Hinterland; Prisoner of War Work; Inquiry Bureau; Delivery of Remittances.

During September several hundred thousand rations were prepared and distributed in the many camps of the city and suburbs. Supplies were brought by American destroyers or were purchased in the city; bakeries were opened and food was regularly distributed from a large warehouse on the Quay. A maternity ward was opened and special care given to the protection of women, girls and children. In some houses four to fifteen hundred people were packed until they could be evacuated and these houses were filled and emptied again and again during September and October.

With the burning of the city and consequent increase in the number



of refugees, the evacuation presented a tremendous problem. It was necessary to remove them before Sept. 30th or they were in danger of deportation. The Committee started work at high speed; chartered the "Constantinople" and sent some 1500 people to Mitylene; Mr. Jennings went on this ship and arranged with the Greek government for more ships to take away refugees. Several British ships were also chartered. The Turkish authorities permitted the Greek ships to enter the port under escort of American destroyers and even to tie up at the railway pier. Owing to the efficient service of the American Navy, with the kind assistance of details from the British warships in the harbour, it was possible to evacuate 43,000 in one day, and over 200,000 in one week. Later the American destroyers evacuated several thousand more in spite of their very restricted space, and the Committee has sent many scores of stragglers and released prisoners since by regular steamers.

An adequate relief work for the homeless people remaining in the devastated areas was planned and authorized, and carried out as far as possible, making another important and interesting chapter in the Committee's account. Flour, rice and milk were distributed locally, and about 1000 sacks of flour and cereals were sent to the ruined cities in the Hermus and Meander valleys. Two hundred bales of blankets sent out by the Friends Society were distributed through the Red Crescent. The diminished population of the district, the great exertions made by the local government, the vast latent resources of the district, the goods and stocks left by the departing refugees and the absence of serious epidemics have made the suffering caused by the disaster much less than might have been expected. It is anticipated that further supplies of food stuffs will be sent by the Near

East Relief to support refugees until harvest time. A school is also being built by the Near East Relief and the Red Crescent in a ruined village near Magnesia.

Much of the time and strength of the Committee has been devoted to ameliorating the condition and hastening the exchange of prisoners of war, both military and civil. The members have made many trips between Smyrna, Greece and Constantinople in order to facilitate the sending of money, letters and packages to prisoners, and also to hasten exchanges. The Committee has had free access to the Central Prisons of Smyrna and to certain camps where it has instituted inquiries, delivered money and packages and otherwise assisted prisoners. Thousands of postcards have been delivered and forwarded to Greece. The Committee has co-operated closely with the International Red Cross Commission and has secured substantial results, and it is known that this form of war service will always be held in grateful memory by the people of the Near East and that it will have a lasting influence upon American interests.

Owing to the difficulty of tracing people in Turkey at the best of times, it has not been possible to do much in answering the many hundreds of enquiries which have poured in. These have all been typed on printed forms and every effort has been made to trace people through the military authorities as well as through individuals. But as many people changed their names and also were moved from place to place frequently, even the authorities themselves were unable to give information.

During the burning of the city the books and papers of the Committee were destroyed, but the currency was saved and kept on board the U. S. Destroyer LAWRENCE. Few people realize the difficulty of

caring for large and bulky sums of money when it has to be carried to and fro in grain sacks, where there are no banks or safes, in times of disorder, when looting was by no means unheard of. A guard was furnished by American destroyers for the warehouse. Most of the Committee's helpers worked entirely without salary, and no rents were paid, so that the overhead expenses were kept as low as possible. The International College has generously given the services of six of its staff as well as the use of its automobile.

The work of the Committee would have been impossible but for the intimate and valuable support of the American Consular Staff, the officers and men of the American Navy, and the friendly relations with the Turkish civil and military officials. Each and every officer and man of the destroyer personnel has done his utmost to protect and care for American lives and property, and warm friendships have been formed and lasting admiration aroused for the courage and efficiency of the American Navy. The work of Committee was greatly facilitated by the help of Colonel Nadji Bey, Commander of the Place, and his officers, Captain Rifaat Bey, Commander of the Port, as well as other officials and the Director of the Turkish Red Crescent.

### Comments by Consul Treat

on Report of Smyrna Disaster Relief Committee.

"The preparation and submittal of this report by the Chairman, Professor Caleb W. Lawrence, virtually marks the close of what, in my opinion, is one of the most noteworthy and inspiring chapters of relief work that has been accomplished in the Near East."

"The Smyrna Disaster Relief Committee has conducted its work and administered relief in a manner which reflects great credit



on the active members of its personnel. The activities of the Committee have always been characterized by a display of absolute impartiality with respect to race or religion, the determining factor always having been one of pure need. The conscientious effort which has been made by every member of the Committee to subscribe to the needs of the destitute irrespective of his nationality, and to refrain from displaying partiality or preference in any form is worthy of special commendation; that this effort has been a successful one is evidenced by the general respect and prestige which the Committee enjoys."

Smyrna, June 13, 1923

#### American Evacuation Fund.

Work is proceeding steadily upon the task of sending the groups to America, although it is going more slowly than was expected owing to the ruling by the Consulate that only a limited number of visas could be given in each month. A considerable amount of time is also consumed in the consideration of the numerous petitions which are received from applicants, which in some cases materially alter the circumstances of their having been placed in one or other of the three groups. That is, details are now told of their personal affairs which should have been given in the first examination; or families who applied separately and were therefore treated as individuals now wish to be sent together, etc.

An encouraging event was the arrival of a cablegram from the Committee in New York, as follows: "Canada and King Alexander received; good passage. People in fine shape and high in praise your Committee. Our hearty congratulations."

Such a message makes the work seem well worth while and we hope that the groups leaving in July will be equally well received.

During June 307 persons were sent to America, clothing and special relief was provided in 10 cases from the Fund, and medical aid and hospitalization for 2. From the sum set aside for transportation to other countries, 59 persons were evacuated. Thus a total of 366 were evacuated from this city.

#### Mrs. Bristol's Report.

The calls upon Mrs. Bristol's two funds continue to be varied in character. In June the regular aid to institutions was given. A group of invalids were given transportation to Bulgaria, and another group of military invalids at Therapia was given the necessary money to build a bath-hut. Madame Neratoff's School in Bulgaria and Madame Onou's Home in Serbia were also substantially assisted.

The number of individual cases were 65 in number; 20 were assisted with living expenses, 20 for cure, 17 for transportation, 3 for rent, 1 for clothing and 4 for working materials and appliances. An outstanding feature is the increase in the number of applicants who needed treatment. In summer there are frequent cases of epidemic and gastric diseases, and refugees who are naturally weakened by insufficient nourishment, privations and work of an unaccustomed kind, are peculiarly liable to fall victims to these illnesses.

#### Information Service.

MRS. STEARNS

We have been notified from Headquarters that Colonel Ernest P. Bicknell has been placed in charge of the administration of Insular and Foreign Chapters and thereby becomes our Director. This is particularly gratifying because of Col. Bicknell's knowledge of our local situation, and the opportunity which his visits to Constantinople have given the Staff to make his acquaintance.

He has recently returned to America from Paris where he attended the meeting of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, representing the Chairman, Judge Payne.

When Dr. Peet left for his vacation at the end of June he carried with him a full report of all the relief activities of the American organizations operating in the area of Constantinople, most of which was furnished by this department. This included reports of the work of the A. R. C. Commission under Major Davis from the time of his arrival in January 1920; of the Constantinople Chapter; of Mr. Thomas Whittemore, Miss Mitchell, and the Y. W. C. A.'s Russian work. Looking back over the period of three years, the list of organizations is an imposing one, comprising no less than fifteen in all. Some of these such as the Mennonite relief under Mr. Stoltzfus and the Russian Mayak under Mr. Areson having been liquidated some time ago, no detailed reports were available, but the statistics given in last month's Bulletin on the progress of the evacuation show very clearly the results of the co-operated work of all these units. Dr. Peet expects to speak on the whole relief situation in this area during his trip.

The New York Times Magazine for June 10th printed an article by James C. Young entitled "The Inrush of the Russians" which describes very sympathetically the Russian emigres' experiences in New York. One of the illustrations is that of a carved head called "The Commissar" done by P. Novitsky, which was done in the little Russian wood-working shop in Galata, and first exhibited here at one of the shows of the Union of Russian Artists in Macmahon Barracks. Constantinople plays a large part in the memories of most of New York's Russian colony, and little restaurants and tea rooms, sales



shops and art exhibitions are springing up there such as we have been so familiar with here.

### Clothing Distribution.

A very welcome gift of clothing was received from Mrs. Robert Imbrie and also from Mrs. Brewster, for the Chapter's work. Mrs. Bristol received cases of clothing from Mrs. Lansing and Mrs. Whiting.

### American Red Cross Nurse.

MISS MARSHALL

It has been possible during June to begin the trial of well baby clinic work and prenatal instructive work in the Turkish poor district of Top-Capou. After only two days' notice 16 mothers appeared with their babies, which seemed most gratifying until we learned that behind the scenes cocoa was being served as a special inducement to attend the new class. The second week the attendance increased to 21, but on our request no cocoa was served. We await the reaction, which of course is to be expected from people to whom the procuring of food is almost the sole aim in life. The prenatal class had a total attendance of 8 women all of whom seemed eager to learn about themselves and their babies. It is of course much too early to judge the acceptability of this work, for it will be a long and difficult piece of work to teach these people that something besides material relief is of value.

The pupil nurse who gave full time to the public health work made 284 home visits, and 8 babies were given nursing care in the clinic.

The clinic patients treated during the month numbered 1991, of which 281 were new cases; the children's clinic had a total of 241, and the well babies clinic 95. The prenatal class met 4 times with an attendance of 129, of which 44 were new

members. Clothes were given to 4 babies and 2 adults. Milk has been given regularly to one child who is predisposed to tuberculosis, and to one baby.

One health talk was given at the Stamboul Y. W. C. A. Center to a group of about 30 girls, on the topic "Thinking for Health."

### Lending Library.

A large package of books and magazines was received from Mrs. Brewster, the latter being designated for the American Hospital, which is regularly supplied by a visitor from the Chapter. Mrs. W. M. Miller also gave us a generous gift of magazines. The library has been under the care of our telephone operator, Madame Oustomovitch, who has made a little catalogue of all the books and keeps the records.

### Tubercular Children in Serbia.

A pathetic appeal has been received from Madame Iliine who is now living in Belgrade, Serbia, on behalf of the tubercular children in the Russian refugee colony there. There are no relief organizations operating in that country, and no one to whom these unfortunate babies can look to for help. To quote from the letter:

"Owing to exceptionally bad conditions of life, lack of means, starvation and bad climate, all sorts of disease are widely spreading among the refugees here, and especially tuberculosis in all its forms. Tuberculosis of the lungs is already so widely spread that it is hardly possible to cope with it, and demands too long a cure. . . . But there is a form of tuberculosis which can be cured, even rather rapidly, if done in time; a form that attacks mostly children. It is coxitis, or tuberculosis of the bones. When once contracted and not cured, it means slow and painful death or complete invalidism for

life. There are a number of children (mostly small children) who suffering from coxitis. All the doctors here state that a cure of 12 months, the cost of which is 120 dinars per month or about eleven dollars — \$22. for two months — one of the sanatoriums situated on the seacoast of Dalmatia, often gives results of complete cure or at least of great amelioration. It is really heartbreaking to see these little invalids. There are no local means available to help them and many of them suffer and die without complaining and without any hope of being helped."

It is of course understood that our relief funds here are for the most part designated for local needs only. But there may be some among our readers who is interested in the world-wide fight against tuberculosis, and who will realize how important it is for the future to save the children. Most of the parents among the refugees here have known would far rather sacrifice themselves everything for the future of their children, on whom the future of their country will depend and in these cases where a complete cure is possible it is after such a small amount which is shared between the babies and the parents. Twenty-two dollars means a child's life. We shall be very glad to admit any contributions to Madame Iliine, or put any interested person in direct correspondence with

### Chapter News.

A visitor to Constantinople has shown her interest in the work in a most substantial way. Mrs. Anson Phelps Stokes of New York. Mrs. Stokes is a sister of Miss Mitchell and has been instrumental in gathering funds for the work here, and it was a pleasure to receive her. Trip was arranged for her to visit the clinics which have become almost indispensable in the course of the relief work here, and the Russians there



contributed several interesting items in the way of entertainment.

—On June 12th a sale of Russian objects was arranged by Mrs. Miles in the Chapter Room. As it came during the week of the college commencements the attendance was rather disappointing on the day itself, but many visitors have called since to see the display. Embroidered dresses and table linen were shown from which orders can be taken, also pottery and woodwork, and some objects of great artistic and historic value were on sale. There were several among these which would have been centers of interest in one of the great antiquity

shops of New York or London; for instance a music box which was a gift from Napoleon to Alexander I, who in turn gave it to one of his Admirals in whose family it has been for generations; a unique revolving seal originally given by Catherine II to one of her favorites; a set of amethysts which Napoleon gave to one of the Galitzin family, and a historic miniature with its long story written out and attached. There were also several very exceptional pieces of old lace.

—The Junior Red Cross scholars at the two colleges departed on June 23rd to spend the summer holidays at their homes.

—One day in the middle of the month a picnic was organized by Major and Mrs. Miles for the entire staff of the Red Cross with their families, about 30 people in all. Through the kindness of Admiral Bristol a boat was given and the party went to Beicos for supper. This occasion is remembered with the greatest pleasure by all the participants.

—Major Davis, Mrs. Stearns, Mr. and Mrs. Ringland and Miss Mitchell are all recipients of decorations from General Wrangel, conferred through the Russian Ambassador, in appreciation of their relief work for Russian refugees.

شوق و محاوره هندی  
از مؤلفین

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