

**XV INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE
TOKYO 1934**



SWEDISH RED CROSS

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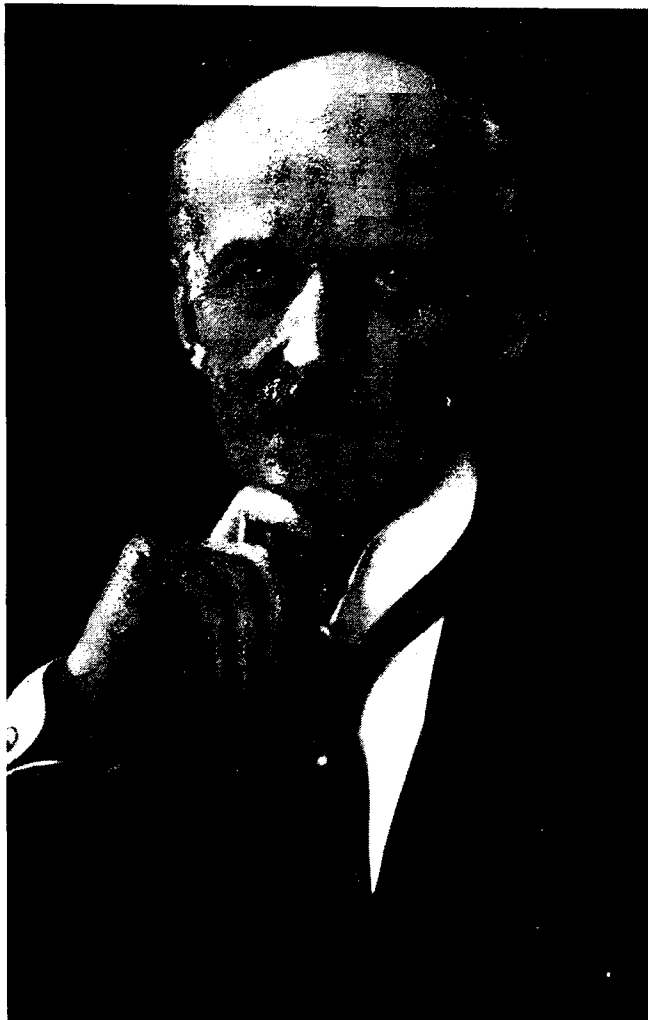
ACTIVITIES

1930—1933

STOCKHOLM 1934



His Majesty King Gustaf V of Sweden.
Patron of the Swedish Red Cross.



H. R. H. Prince Carl of Sweden.
President of the Swedish Red Cross.
Royal Commissary of the Volunteer Sanitary War Services.

SWEDISH RED CROSS ACTIVITIES

1930—1933.

The social-hygienic work of the Swedish Red Cross for the benefit of national health has, particularly in the last ten years, been characterized by rapid progress in every branch of activity and by considerable growth of membership.

Since the XIV International Red Cross Conference at Brussels in 1930, the *membership* of the Swedish Red Cross has risen by about 35,000 to something over 115,000, and is now almost 2 per cent. of the total population of the country. During the same period the total number of *groups* in the 23 Red Cross Districts has increased by 175 and is now 720. The same quadrennial period has seen the number of permanent establishments and auxiliary stations swell from 190 to nearly 300.

The Swedish Red Cross now controls:

- 1 *Hostel* for 400 Probationers and Nurses.
- 1 *Nursing Home* in which about 1,200 patients are treated annually, aggregating in 1933 18,000 days of treatment, with 1,800 operations performed.
- 1 *Large Cottage Hospital* with a maternity ward for 20 patients.
- 10 *Casual Wards*, in charge of District Nurses, with 4 to 6 beds in each, in the wilds of the far north and in the island districts. Number of treatment-days per annum about 8,000.
- 50 *Maternity Homes* in remote areas with poor communications, far from any hospital.
- 14 *Children's Homes and Convalescent Homes* for children, mothers with children, and for Red Cross Nurses and Probationers.
- 34 *Summer Colonies*, where city children can spend part of the summer in the country.
- 70 *Public and Vapour Baths*.
- 55 *Red Cross First Aid Stations* along the main roads.
- 50 *Auxiliary Aid Stations* with equipment and volunteer staffs.
- 4 *Refuges for the care of shipwrecked people*.
- 11 *Information Bureaux for Sailors* of all nationalities.

In the cause of child welfare, the Swedish Red Cross has arranged extensive *dental treatment* for the school children in rural districts, particularly in recent years. The teeth of more than 25,000 children have thus been thoroughly overhauled by specially engaged dentists at more than 400 places in the country.

These efforts of the Red Cross on behalf of national health have in recent years been supplemented by the *medical examination* of school children which in many districts have also been arranged. In 1933 alone, over 8,000 children were carefully examined at 250 schools by doctors who at the same time gave advice and instructions for treatment to the parents and teachers present.

In the north of Sweden, away from existing railways and the as yet very few roads, large areas are entirely cut off from the rest of the country for a great part of the year. The Swedish Red Cross has therefore provided ambulance planes and arranged aerial transport, as described in Report II, to carry injured persons rapidly to the hospitals, which are generally situated in the coastal districts.

But the Red Cross has also done yeoman service in the transport of sick and injured in other parts of the country, and has provided ambulance and other motor transport for the conveyance of patients. At the present moment the Red Cross has nearly 200 such vehicles at its disposal.

In many ways the Swedish Red Cross tries to give instruction and training in simple domestic hygiene and nursing, and in first aid in accidents and sudden illnesses. From 1916 to 1933 inclusive, 4,000 *instructional courses* in simple hygiene and nursing have been held, attended by over 80,000 people. The Red Cross Central Committee has published numerous richly illustrated and popularly written pamphlets on hygiene and nursing, child welfare, care of the teeth, etc., e. g. »Hälsan är allt» (Health is everything), »Allt för barnet» (Everything for the child), »Tandvård och folkhälsa» (Dental care and National Health), and »Vår föda och folkhälsan» (Our food and the national health), in editions aggregating something over 600 000 copies. A number of handbooks have also been published, e. g. »Handledning vid olycksfall och sjukvård» (Hints on first aid in accidents and illness), »Medicinsk Uppslagsbok» (Medical Dictionary), and »Hälsa och friluftsliv» (Health and an open-air life), in all more than 50,000 copies.

With the assistance of first aid experts, the Swedish Red Cross has designed and supplied to the public *first aid outfits* for the home and for industrial establishments, motor cars, busses, etc.

During the recent severe crisis, the Swedish Red Cross organized extensive relief work all over the country, came to the aid of the youngsters by arranging a special distribution of *meals for children*, and also provided clothing for those who needed such. In 1933 alone, more than 600,000 kronor* were collected for this purpose, besides nearly 500 tons of provisions and over 300 tons of clothing (for full details see Report III).

In case of war the Swedish Red Cross puts at the disposal of the military medical authorities a large number of fully equipped and staffed permanent and ambulatory hospitals and dressing stations, in all nearly 300 establishments of varying sizes with 22,000 beds.

In case of epidemics or big accidents, the Red Cross will establish its own provisional hospitals, and will supply the civil medical authorities with nursing staff and materials.

For the equipment of such provisional hospitals, and for large scale lending to sick people in their homes, or to summer colonies etc., the Red Cross keeps a stock of nursing materials (including beds and bedding), special nursing appliances, etc. to a total value of over 2 ½ million kronor. In addition, there is a special store of war service material worth several million kronor.

For social-hygienic and nursing services in war and peace the Swedish Red Cross has a staff of:

<i>Red Cross Nurses</i>	1,859
also, on mobilization, nurses from other nursing institutions	900
<i>Auxiliary War Nurses</i> (V. A. D.)	350
<i>District and other nurses</i> in Red Cross employ	40
<i>Female Samaritans in the Wilds</i>	25
<i>Occasional helpers for domestic service</i>	55
<i>Voluntary ambulance staff</i> , male, for service on mobilization and in case of accidents	3,000

* 1,000 kronor is approximately £ 50.

The *financial position* of the Swedish Red Cross is good. The organization has more than 8 million kronor at call (bonds, etc.), real estate to a value of 5 million kronor, and nursing materials and equipment to a value of 5 millions, in all more than 18 million kronor. An average amount of one million kronor has in recent years been spent annually by the Swedish Red Cross on social-hygienic work.

On various occasions the Swedish Red Cross has submitted proposals for the promotion of peace and good understanding between the different peoples and nations, and for humanizing war, e. g. for the abolition of gas attacks and the amelioration of war blockades, though so far unfortunately without any tangible results.



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