

to keep the temperature of the water as high as possible ; 2nd, to take care that the tubing does not kink in the glass jar ; 3rd, to make sure that the solution is flowing at all times. It is important that the utmost care be taken at all times because if there is an obstruction in the tubing the solution in the rubber tubing within the jar might reach too high a temperature and cause ill results. The method of administration of fluids, which I have attempted to describe, has the merit over previous methods in that the equipment is more simple, and with an additional foot of tubing the variations in the temperature of the solution are greatly lessened.

THE RED CROSS BY WIRELESS.

RELIEF TO THE VICTIMS OF DISASTERS.*

(From *The World's Health*.)

The havoc wrought by disasters due to natural causes is very often ignored. From time to time one reads in the papers that an earthquake has taken place or that an entire district has been ravaged by a cyclone, but the public does not fully realize the terrible consequences of such catastrophes. In four months, five earthquakes, three volcanic eruptions, three land-slides, twenty inundations, nine cyclones, six droughts, four famines, six severe fires and seven plagues of locusts took place in different parts of the globe. These figures, however, only include the most serious calamities, the number of victims being large enough to attract international attention. During the past year, disasters due to natural causes in different countries were responsible for the following numbers of victims : in Europe, 4,000 victims (500 deaths) ; in Asia, 300,000 victims (30,000 deaths) ; in Africa, 1,000 victims (100 deaths) ; in America, 2 million victims (5,000 deaths) ; in Oceania, 1,000 victims (600 deaths) making up a total of about 2,306,000 victims (representing the alarming number of 36,000 deaths) in a single year. It should be noted that these figures constitute only a minimum and that the total number of victims was probably much greater.

It may seem strange, but nevertheless it is a fact, that up till the present no serious or systematic effort has been made to relieve the victims of such catastrophes in an effective manner. It is true that numerous charitable persons and associations have contributed large sums of money at times when human sympathy has been aroused by some terrible disaster, such as the Japanese earthquake, but up till now no association has existed for the express purpose of organizing relief for the victims of calamities. This state of affairs has naturally involved a tremendous waste of good material.

The President of the Italian Red Cross, Senator Ciralo, having witnessed the horrors of the Messina earthquake, recently conceived the idea of instituting a federation of Governments and nations to organize relief for the victims of disasters and to establish an international fund for the latter.

* Wireless talk by M. B. de Rougé, broadcast from Paris, April 5, 1925.

Human sympathy, unfortunately, dies down after a certain time, and if there is no definite organization for the administration of systematic relief, it is impossible to cope with the task in hand. Thanks, however, to Senator Ciraolo's scheme of organization, which is at present being studied by the League of Nations, a methodical system of mutual aid in times of disaster is being evolved, and it will be the means of saving thousands of human lives.

The Ciraolo plan stipulates that each Government, in recognition of the right of stricken populations to receive universal assistance, shall subscribe a certain sum each year for the purpose of providing, under the auspices of the League of Nations, an international insurance fund against calamities. It also provides that nations subject to disasters shall be supplied with the personnel, material and funds necessary for relief work in times of emergency.

The carrying out of this magnificent scheme will be entrusted to the Red Cross. The national Red Cross Societies in each country are already preparing themselves for this task, but although, by reason of their prestige, their experience and the personnel they possess, they are particularly well-fitted to fulfil this rôle, up till the present they have not had the necessary funds at their disposal. The fulfilment of Senator Ciraolo's plan will, however, bridge this gulf.

In 1919, the national Red Cross Societies, realizing the important part they might play in peacetime, joined together and formed an association which is known as the League of Red Cross Societies. The object of this association, the headquarters of which is in Paris, is to unite all the Red Cross Societies in a common effort to mitigate the sufferings of humanity throughout the world.

It has already been shown that the most serious calamities are due to Nature. They obviously cannot be prevented, but it is possible to mitigate the sufferings they bring in their train. In order to do so, however, it is necessary to make preliminary preparations. This task has been undertaken by the League of Red Cross Societies which studies and keeps the Red Cross Societies posted with regard to the most effective and up-to-date methods of relief; it also supplies specially trained workers and aids the national Societies to achieve a system of organization which will permit of immediate relief to the victims of catastrophes. In spite of its comparatively recent creation, this association has intervened in most of the disasters which have ravaged humanity since 1919.

By these different methods the League of Red Cross Societies is paving the way for the execution of the Ciraolo plan which it supports and encourages with all the means at its disposal. If this scheme of mutual aid between the different nations comes to fruition, it will not only render the greatest service in times of calamity, but will also act as a bond of brotherhood to humanity in general.