

Some of the Work Done by the Japanese Red Cross Society



HEROES OF PORT ARTHUR IN RED CROSS HOSPITAL.

the emperor cherishes so much, and does everything in his power to help them in order to please the emperor by so doing. We owe to the emperor the independence and the prosperity of the empire which he maintains by means of his soldiers and the best way of paying back this immeasurable debt is to give aid to his soldiers while risking their lives on the field of battle. This is what the million members of our society have at heart."

"Yes, I don't doubt it. And this is the spirit which drew together these million men and women whose lives and income are being devoted today so cheerfully to this work. The Japanese are like most nations as much as one big family, and when a blow is struck by an alien at one of them it seems to be felt by the whole population. They may quarrel among themselves and abuse each other as they always have most surprisingly done, but if there is revenge to be taken or a difficulty with an outside power to be adjusted by force of arms, so complete is the unanimity of the people where the country's welfare is concerned that the least of them will be found accomplishing something toward the triumph of the all. And the 'spirit of Japan' is such perfect patriotism that it seems to absolutely obliterate individualism, to exclude all idea of personal ambition, and I do verily believe that if any one of the natural leaders, who have arisen to accomplish Japan's salvation in this war, thought he could better serve the country as the lowest soldier in the ranks or as a stretcher-bearer in the Red Cross corps, he would resign his command without a moment's hesitation and take up his humble duties with a cheerful heart."



SECTION OF CENTRAL RED CROSS HOSPITAL, TOKYO.

THE whole history of the Japanese empire is composed of tales of horror and bloodshed equal perhaps to any that darken the pages of the history of medieval Europe. Deep sympathy for brothers in affliction and an eagerness to alleviate suffering are marked Japanese characteristics, and yet until the year 1877 there is no record of any organization of any kind among this people that had for its object the mitigation of the distresses consequent to war, or any apparent attempt indeed to lessen the miseries of those who fought for the honor and glory of the always beloved country, and that is why the Red Cross society of Japan is more than ordinarily interesting, why the length and breadth of the civilized world, and strange to say Christianity has played no part in this most Christian development.

Less than twenty-five years ago Japan had no medical fraternity at all. Much less than fifty years ago surgery was a thing unknown in the empire, but today the progressive little country has its medical colleges equal in advantages to almost any in the world and physicians who have not only become famous among their own people, but throughout the length and breadth of the civilized world, and strange to say Christianity has played no part in this most Christian development.

fore the people in the form of immediate succor for the sufferers by modern foreign methods. At that time was organized the "Haitu-shukai," or "Society of Benevolence," for the purpose of giving assistance to sick and wounded soldiers without distinction of parties, and out of this society grew what is now the Red Cross Society of Japan, with a membership of about one-thirty-five of the whole population of the empire. Mr. Nagao Ariza, professor of international law in the Military and Naval academies of Tokio, set forth the purposes of this organization in a pamphlet a year or so ago, and the point from which he starts is interesting as illustrating the Japanese attitude in all things, an attitude which contains the key to the riddle of Japan the Undeclared.

Key to Japan's Success.

He says: "In Japan the emperor is the personal leader of the nation in arms and the soldiers are his soldiers, not in theory only, but in fact of historical tradition. Hence the nation which loves and respects the emperor literally as children do their fathers naturally loves the soldiers whom

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Example of Progress.

Japan is always preparing in times of peace for future emergencies and after the Russo-Japanese war, which was the first of the 'Society of Benevolence,' upon the advice of men who had been studying international military science abroad, decided to strengthen itself and get into condition to become a part of the empire's military organization, so it opened communications with the international committee of the Red Cross at Geneva and, after changing its name to the Red Cross Society of Japan and revising its statutes, it took full part

in the international convention of the Red Cross held at Carlsruhe in 1887. This advancement in ten years from nothing at all to full equality with all modern nations was characteristically Japanese and as a historical incident could not be matched perhaps by any other people except by the Japanese themselves, who display the same marvelous adaptability in everything they attempt.

Organization of the Society.

One of the imperial princes is the honorary president of the Red Cross society,

while the committee of women, which has a membership of many thousands, has for chief administratrix no less a person than Her Imperial Highness Princess Komatsu, who, with most of the imperial princesses, takes a lively personal interest in the work now being done by the society. The society has had small opportunity to grow to the perfection of working order that it displays today, for before 1894 there was never a ripple upon the calm surface of the country's history that was not caused by public calamity.

The first of these was the eruption of Mount Bandai, a great volcano up beyond Niho, which in 1888 killed and wounded some five or six hundred people. The then absolutely new Red Cross society hurried to the scene of the disaster and enjoyed a splendid opportunity, in a small way, for experimenting with its formidable and splendidly modern equipment. Then nothing happened until 1890, when a Turkish man-of-war was wrecked near the island of Oshima and 387 people were lost, including Osman Pasha, special ambassador from his majesty the sultan. At this time the people of the island rescued sixty-nine persons and turned them over to the Red Cross society, which quickly established a temporary hospital at the scene of the disaster. The following year came the great Gifu earthquake, which killed 7,200 people and wounded 11,500. At this time were started some of the hospitals that have since developed into institutions as finely equipped as modern medical science could desire. During the Japan-Chinese war and the Russo-Japanese war the society had valuable opportunities to test its organization, and, needless to say, the experience gained during these periods of activity has yielded its full profit of improvements in the hands of these little people who are not to be caught unprepared by any emergency.

War Has Its Amenities.

The society, of course, has its hospital ships, which are second to none on earth in the excellence of their accommodation for the sick and wounded. It is a matter of great regret to the working staff of these ships that one of them was not upon the scene of action to do the first work of the society in the Russo-Japanese war at the naval battle off Chemulpo, but none of them were at hand and the French cruiser Pascal took twenty-four wounded Russians off the cruiser Varieg and landed them in the hands of the Red Cross society at Chemulpo. The story of these first prisoners of war is rather interesting. Twenty-two of them lived and as soon as they were able to travel were sent to the great hospital at Matsuyama in Japan. Here five of them were subjected to the operation of amputation of arms and legs, and her majesty, the empress, was so moved by their misfortunes that she presented them each with an artificial limb. They were afterward sent back to their homes in Russia at the expense, of course, of the Japanese government, and the Russian government sending expressions of gratitude for this courtesy through the French consul at Seoul offered to defray all the expenses incurred. But the Japanese government declined the offer and the only way left for Russia to get even was to subscribe \$2,000 to the Japan Red Cross society's relief fund. This little story has been told many a time and oft before, but it is interesting in this connection as an illustration of the personal, human side of a great political conflict like this and of Japan's complete freedom from animosity or bitterness toward the soldiers of Russia, who have been forced by the fortunes of war to face its always victorious armies.

Experience in Contrasts.

Through his excellency, Baron Komura, minister of foreign affairs, arrangements were made for me to visit the Central hospital of the society, which is situated in Tokyo, and there I passed through ward after ward where 3,000 little brown soldiers lay in all stages of convalescence and every possible form of physical mutilation. Seeing them all in all, the glory of their hermitism afforded me a great experience in contrasts. The day before I had been taken by the general director of prisons to look at the great penitentiary at Sagami, and there it was shown through a hospital ward full of men in ugly brick colored kimonos, the garb of shame, who hung their heads as we passed or covered them up altogether. The atmosphere of the place was frightfully depressing, and my heart ached for the poor fellows who had gone wrong and brought their lives to such a pitiable pass; imprisoned, disgraced and sick; hopeless for the whole space of their lives and eating their hearts out, most of them, with shame and regret.

Health on the Isthmus.

John Barret is sanguine as to the future health conditions of the isthmus. He knows the tropics well, and during his long stay in Siam had to deal with many of the conditions which prevail here. He says that the present arrangements are such that yellow fever and malaria will soon be so controlled that those who are careful will be as free from danger to their health here as they are in the United States. He thinks grip and pneumonia quite as bad as yellow fever and malaria, but at the same time urges all to take precautions against the latter diseases. He says one should take

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John Barret, the American Minister at Panama



MINISTER BARRET, ON RIGHT; JOSEPH LEE, CONSUL GENERAL AT PANAMA, AT THE LEFT.—Photo by F. G. Carpenter on Balcony of Legation at Panama.

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PANAMA, May 12.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—By the time this letter is published John Barret will be steaming up the Magdalena river, on his way to Bogota, to take charge of his new post as minister to Colombia. This appointment is an excellent one. Minister Barret understands all the ins and outs of Panama politics and Panama politicians. He realizes the feelings of the Colombians and he can do more than any other man to bring the two republics together and at the same time keep them both in harmony with the United States. He is a diplomat from the fuzzy hair on his semi-bald head to the leather soles of his white canvas shoes, and he has been wonderfully successful in dealing with the Spanish-American republics. This has been especially so here at Panama.

This little republic is to a large extent Uncle Sam's baby, and the minister has had to take the place of foster mother and nurse. Not only in its relations to Colombia, Costa Rica and other foreign countries, but in dealing with the government of our zone, Panama has relied upon our minister for counsel and advice. Such assistance had to be delicately rendered in order not to patronize or offend the officials of the Panama government, and in this respect Minister Barret has admirably succeeded. He has done much to develop a cordial feeling here for the United States and to bring the two nations together.

The Panamanians look upon him as their friend. His receptions are attended by as many natives as by Americans, and the American legation has been made a rendezvous for high Colombian officials. John Barret seems to understand the Latin character. The Panamanians say he is sympathetic, which means that he is in sympathy with them, and he has, I find, the close friendship of the president and the officials, who, although they may distrust each other, seem to have faith in him.

Revolution Which Failed.

In this connection I want to tell you how the American minister prevented a revolution here last winter. Panama, as you know, is a Spanish-American republic. Its citizens have sucked in the revolutionary spirit with their mother's milk. They have had, it is said, something like forty-seven revolutions in fifty-one years, and the common opinion is that there would be revolutions now, were it not for the fear of Uncle Sam's big stick. Panama has its political parties, and the one who want to get in just as they do in the United States. Early last winter the opposition party conspired with General Estaban Huertas, the head of the army, and planned a revolution, intending to overthrow the government. The general was little more than a boy, and his army was only 80 men, but the two were strong enough to have wiped out the government and to have caused an enormous amount of trouble, not to say bloodshed, had they been permitted to work in the ordinary South American way.

In accordance with the plot, the general told President Amador that he must dismiss his minister of foreign affairs. This was done. General Huertas then made more details, which led to the belief that he intended to take control of the government and compel the president to make appointments and issue orders as he should dictate. At this time the American minister was called in for advice and co-operation. Mr. Barret took the position that the constitution of Panama gave our treaty give the United States the right to interfere to maintain order, and I understand he told the president that Uncle Sam would certainly interfere if occasion demanded. He advised President Amador to order the army to disband, and to ask the commander-in-chief to resign his office. He told the president that the army would always be at least a dangerous element, and that it was of no particular value to the state, as our government would protect Panama from foreign invasion, and as the local police, stationed by our marines, could always keep order.

How Panama Lost Its Army.

Upon that President Amador decided to disband the army and there was great excitement in consequence. Rumors of resistance by the soldiers were rife, and a company of American marines was brought in from Empiro to Ancon, on the outskirts of Panama, to be ready for any emergency. Certain of the hot-heads wanted the marines brought right into the city and stationed around the president's house for his protection, but Minister Barret objected. He said it was best to prevent actual interference by the American forces if possible, and that it would be better to let the Panama government control the situation itself, as a matter of international credit. He also wished to avoid the charge which might be made by South America and by the opposition party in the United States that President Roosevelt, now that he was re-elected, was using the big stick without regard to consequences.

It was at Barret's suggestion that President Amador then sent word to the soldiers that if they disbanded without trouble they would have sixty days' pay in addition to the amount due them, and also that half of this would be given when they disbanded and the remainder a week later if there were no further disturbances. The hour for disbanding was fixed, but the soldiers failed to come. They sent word that they wanted the sixty days' pay in a lump, and that as soon as they gave up their arms. With this the president was inclined to comply, but our minister objected, saying it would give no assurance of peace.

Uncle Sam's Big Stick.

A little later the soldiers came to the palace of the president and demanded their pay. The president asked Mr. Barret to go out and address them. He did so. The scene was a sensational one. In company with General Guardia he went down and faced the army and the mob behind it. General Guardia announced to them that the government could not change its attitude and he thereupon introduced Minister Barret, who made a speech, saying that while the United States wished to protect the rights of every individual Panamanian, whether he was a citizen or a soldier, it was determined that law and order should be kept. He said that the soldiers must accept terms offered them by the government or take the consequences. He gave them to understand that the United States, with all its forces, stood behind President Amador, and would support him. This speech did the business. At its close the soldiers said they would accept the terms offered and the army was disbanded. The guns and other weapons were given up, and



UNITED STATES LEGATION AT PANAMA.

are now stored in our warehouse at Ancon. A police force has taken the place of the soldiers, and the chief element of possible revolution on the isthmus has been done away with.

John Barret, Preacher.

I have seen much of the American minister during my stay here. He is one of the most strenuous officials of our strenuous administration. He has kept two typewriters clicking away at the legation day in and day out, and at all times the work went on far into the night. Barret has a stenographer whom he pays out of his own pocket, and also several clerks to help him with his work. He is systematic in everything, and in addition to his official duties he has been making regular visits to the hospital, giving dinners, calling upon Americans and Panamanians, and last, but not least, has had his share in the church movements on the isthmus. He is one of the chief elements of the Young Men's Christian association work here, and every week you may find him at the several American churches. I attended church with him one Sunday. We first went to the Catholic church at Ancon, where Father Russell of Panama and Fa-

ther Boyle, formerly of Washington, officiated. Later on we attended the Protestant Episcopal church, held in one of the hospital wards and presided over by Colonel Gorras. At the end of the first or second lesson, I am not sure which, Colonel Gorras said that inasmuch as there was no person present he would ask the American minister to read him a sermon from some famous divine. He thereupon handed the minister a book, and Mr. Barret, in stentorian tones, gave us an excellent discourse.

Participants in the Recent Interscholastic Debate Between Representatives of the Omaha and Beatrice High Schools



CHARLES BROME, OMAHA.

JAMES A. AYERS, BEATRICE.

ARTHUR PROCTOR, OMAHA.

SAMUEL M. RINAKER, BEATRICE.

C. E. VAN SANT, OMAHA.

LAWRENCE WEAVER, BEATRICE.

Red Cross Fully Grown.

However, I have run miles from the subject directly under consideration, which is the excellence of Japan's Red Cross hospital system, full grown in such tender youth. From the time Commodore Perry forced a way for America enterprise through Japan's 250 years' seclusion until the year 1877 there was constant fighting in the country among the various clans, who were opposed to or in favor of the admission of foreigners, but not until this latter date, when the last blow was struck for the old order of things by a little band of rebels in Kagoshima, was an object lesson in Christian kindness placed be-

ELEANOR FRANKLIN.