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morning in instructing a family as to the necessity of a trench in their back yard and had then superintended its digging, when asked, "Do you consider that nursing?" replied unhesitatingly, "Nursing of the best sort. My morning's work may prevent an epidemic of typhoid." The nurses themselves little realized the effect of their stay in the city. We have been told on high authority that probably our work averted an epidemic. We know that the people were afraid to see us go, the presence of such a large body of trained workers giving them a feeling of confidence and security. The work of an occasional individual may have seemed small to her, but that is because she did not see it as part of a great whole. In that case she needs to remember the story of the relationship of the nail, the shoe, the horse, the rider, and the kingdom.

The great lesson is, then, that of being ready. We must have enrolled nurses in large numbers. Numbers are, however, not sufficient. Each local committee should devise a method whereby special study of disasters and their relief may be made as a preparation for the future. We need lectures which shall be not merely spectacular accounts of flood and fire, but which shall present careful studies of the application of the principles of relief. Let us study to make the experience gained in Ohio count for as much as possible in any future work we may do.

THE WORK OF THE CINCINNATI LOCAL RED CROSS NURSING SERVICE COMMITTEE.

BY MARY HAMER GREENWOOD, R.N.
Chairman of the Committee.

A meeting of all the enrolled Red Cross nurses of Cincinnati had been called for the afternoon of Tuesday, March 25, 1913. This meeting was to inaugurate the recent opening of the Red Cross headquarters at 220 W. Seventh Street and to bring together for better co-operation and understanding of the Red Cross work the nurses of the local nursing service. Fourteen nurses, of the total enrolment of 36, were present and the Local Chapter was represented by the secretary and treasurer, Annie Laws. The meeting was called to order by myself. Miss Laws was called from the meeting by an urgent telephone message, asking her what arrangements had been made by the Red Cross to send relief to Hamilton and Dayton, which were reported to have been overwhelmed by a disastrous flood early on the morning of Tuesday. This telephone message was received from the Times Star, a Cincinnati evening paper. This was our first intimation of the disaster. In a few minutes a tele-
gram was received from Washington, where word of the disaster had been received, requesting that the institutional agent of the Associated Charities be sent at once to Dayton. A communication was also received from the City Hall. Miss Laws returned to the meeting and reported the information she had received, and I immediately called for a registration of volunteers. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed among the nurses, and every one present desired to be sent on active duty.

The Dayton Situation.—On the following morning, Wednesday, March 26, Miss Laws and I attended, by special request, a called meeting in the Mayor’s office to consider the flood situation. The Board of Health had been officially placed in charge of medical relief, and six nurses from the City Hospital and several physicians were to be sent on a relief train leaving Cincinnati at 12.30. Miss Laws and I informed the Mayor and Dr. Landis, health officer, that we were prepared to handle the nursing situation through the agency of the Red Cross and that the Red Cross headquarters would be open day and night. At 11.30 A.M., the report was received that five Board of Health nurses had been added to the nurses to be sent by the City Hospital. These nurses had been put in charge of Ida Weller, a Red Cross nurse, by the order of the chairman, but on the receipt of this report I at once communicated with Dr. Landis and requested that Mary Blythe Wilson, superintendent of social service work of the City Hospital and an enrolled Red Cross nurse, be placed in charge of the entire group of nurses, numbering 17. I met the nurses at the station, gathered them together on the platform, and in the rain and snow formally installed Miss Wilson in charge of the entire group and asked from all of them their loyal support. The scene on the station platform beggars description. There were doctors, nurses, University students, anxious friends begging for a place in the train, appealing in despair to any one whom they thought could secure for them this privilege. The bitter cold, the uncertainty of what was before them, and the gloom and depression which hung over every one made of the departure of this first relief train to Dayton an occasion never to be forgotten.

Shortly before midnight, a message was received from the health office requesting that more nurses be sent to Dayton. Miss Reinecke and Miss Pierce, in charge of headquarters, immediately communicated with me and every effort was made to secure as many nurses as possible to leave in the morning at 8 o’clock, a confirmation of this order was also received from Miss Wilson, in a request for 25 nurses. A relief
corps of 22 nurses, under Miss Pierce, an enrolled Red Cross nurse, left for Dayton on Thursday morning, March 27. An additional group of eight nurses, in charge of Catherine Stier, an enrolled Red Cross nurse, was sent to Dayton on Thursday, at 1.30 p.m.

On Friday morning, another group of 15 nurses, in charge of Elizabeth Dooley, an enrolled Red Cross nurse, was also dispatched to Dayton. Each of these groups of nurses was seen off by Miss Pierce or myself, and the grand total of nurses sent on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday was 62.

I visited Dayton, in company with Miss Delano and Miss Wilson, on Friday, April 4, and brought back with me several invalid nurses.

Miss Delano had visited Dayton on Sunday, March 30, and relieved Miss Wilson from duty; Miss Gladwin, chairman of the state Red Cross nursing service, taking her place. The work of Miss Wilson in the organization of nursing work and the distribution of nurses cannot be too highly commended.

The Hamilton Situation.—On Wednesday, March 26, I received a call from Dr. Landis, health officer, to send at once as many nurses as possible to Hamilton. Nine nurses, in charge of Abbie Roberts, superintendent of Visiting Nurses' Association and also an enrolled Red Cross nurse, were gathered together as quickly as possible and sent to the traction cars stationed on the south side of Sixth Street. Seven of these nurses returned at once to Cincinnati, acting on the advice of Mr. White, who was in charge of some portion of the relief work in Hamilton, owing to the fact that, in his opinion, these nurses were not needed. Miss Roberts and Miss Richardson remained, however, and opened a relief station at the Mosler Safe Works.

On the following morning I received the following telegram from Miss Roberts: "Send ten nurses at once. Urgent." In response, ten nurses were sent with instructions to report to Miss Roberts. Of these, however, four only reported to Miss Roberts, the remainder, Catholic Sisters and their pupils, going directly to Mercy Hospital.

The following letter was received from Miss Roberts:

"Have heard of threatened trouble in Cincinnati. Shall I return? Need here desperate! Confusion everywhere, but after a day of strenuous effort some sort of order prevails. Emergency hospital at Methodist Church opened with three nurses in charge and a large number of aides. Two branch stations, one in public school for contagious diseases—in charge of two women medical students; the other at Mosler Safe Co.—in charge of a nurse and a lay assistant and two doctors.
"Have now sufficient supplies but no heat of any kind. Oil stoves needed and hot water bottles. If more nurses cannot be spared, we four can manage, but need will probably be greater to-morrow than to-day. I am desperately needed here and unless need is imperative in Cincinnati, I think I should not leave here. Please send telephone message as to your wish in the matter to the Exchange. I will call for it.

"Words cannot tell of the terrible tragedy and distress everywhere, and each hour it seems to grow worse.

"Pardon haste. I am sending this with a man who is returning to-night and hope it reaches you.

"Sincerely,

"Abbie Roberts."

Every effort was made to get a message through requesting Miss Roberts to remain where she was, and we finally succeeded.

On Friday afternoon, in company with Miss Reinecke and Mrs. Holmes, I went in an automobile to Hamilton. The waters had only subsided on Thursday and the roads were all but impassable. We visited the Mosler Safe Works first, where we believed Miss Roberts to be stationed, and found that she had left Miss Richardson in charge of an emergency hospital of some ten beds. They had plenty of light and heat and, with the exception of the nurse, who had had no relief, were in fairly good shape. Under the guidance of an employee of the Works, we pushed our automobile toward the centre of Hamilton proper, and found that an emergency hospital had been established in the Central Methodist Church.

As long as I live the sight of that principal street of Hamilton on that Friday afternoon will remain with me. A long bread line, a long clothes line, waiting in silent patience in the bitter cold, with no rich, no poor, all class distinction levelled by a great disaster to a common need. Wrecked homes, muddy streets, the gruesome tales of our guide, told a story of catastrophe so great that the imagination was staggered.

Miss Roberts was found, with her small corps of three nurses, in charge of a hospital of which the organization could not have been better, considering the superhuman difficulties under which all had labored. The small rooms off the main body of the church and the kitchen, where very fortunately a coal range was in operation, had each been adapted to the varying needs of the emergency hospital. The temperature of the main body of the church was 26°, and as I stood speaking to Miss Roberts, who had been on duty for 48 hours, some man came hurriedly in with a dead baby in his arms which had been found
in the wake of the receding waters. Miss Roberts took the baby from him and, tenderly covering it, hurried away, intercepted as she went by a woman with frantic cries demanding news of her husband. In the midst of scenes such as this, Miss Roberts and her little band of nurses for 48 hours had been as ministering angels to all those who came to them for relief, whether of mind or body.

Immediately on my return to Cincinnati a relief corps of four nurses was sent to Hamilton. Early Saturday morning Miss Pierce was sent to Hamilton in a motor to take charge of the nursing work.

Late Sunday evening Miss Stimson, with a corps of 15 nurses, arrived from St. Louis. These nurses were quartered at Christ Church Parish House, and reported at headquarters at 8.30 A.M., Monday morning, and, acting on instructions from Miss Delano, proceeded at once to Hamilton to take charge of the nursing work and to relieve Miss Pierce.

The Cincinnati Situation.—On the morning of Thursday, March 27, a communication was received from Dr. Landis, health officer, by Miss Laws and myself, requesting that we secure at once 100 Red Cross nurses for relief work. The reports from Dayton, Hamilton, and surrounding towns, together with the rapidly rising river in Cincinnati, filled all minds with the greatest possible consternation. A telegram was immediately sent to Miss Delano, and on Friday morning the following answer was received:

"Orders have gone out for 25 nurses, St. Louis, 25 nurses, Detroit, 50 nurses, Chicago, to report Cincinnati."

On Saturday morning, March 29, Dr. Landis again communicated with me to the effect that, owing to the improvements in the reports of the flood situation so far as Cincinnati was concerned, the extra hundred nurses requested by him would not be required. It was, however, too late to countermand this order, as the nurses were already on their way.

On Sunday, March 30, Miss Delano arrived from Washington with ten Red Cross nurses. In the party were Secretary of War Garrison, Major-General Wood, Major Lynch, and Miss Mabel Boardman. A conference was held with the members of the Local Chapter, Mr. Fleischmann, Mr. Schmidtlapp and Miss Annie Laws.

Miss Delano and I conferred with regard to the nursing situation, and Miss Delano and six nurses left shortly afterward for Dayton.

On Monday morning, March 31, Miss Boardman, Miss Delano, Miss Laws, Dr. Landis, Dr. Brown and I held a conference at the Red Cross headquarters. Miss Delano assigned Miss Stimson to do duty in Hamilton to relieve Miss Pierce and, later in the day, on receiving a
telephone message from Miss Stimson, I dispatched the St. Louis corps of nurses to Hamilton to report to her. Immediately after the conference Miss Delano and Miss Boardman left for Columbus.

On Monday afternoon Miss Wheeler and Miss Kelly arrived from Chicago with a corps of 30 nurses. These nurses were quartered at Christ Church Parish House to await orders from Miss Delano.

On Tuesday morning, April 1, a message was received from Miss Gladwin asking that 15 more nurses be sent to Dayton. I established communication with Miss Delano in Columbus, and the four Washington nurses, together with ten nurses from Chicago, all in charge of Miss Kelly, were sent by the 8.05 A.M. train on April 2 to report to Miss Gladwin.

On Tuesday afternoon a conference was held at the Red Cross headquarters. There were present Annie Laws, secretary and treasurer of the Local Chapter, Miss Ellison, of the Red Cross Nursing Committee, Dr. Elizabeth Campbell, president of the Visiting Nurses' Association, Miss Wilson, Miss Roberts, Miss Pierce and myself. Miss Delano, chairman of the National Red Cross Nursing Service, presided, and reports were submitted to her by Miss Roberts, Miss Pierce, Miss Wilson and myself. At the conclusion of this conference, Miss Delano addressed the Chicago nurses, and nine of them were ordered to proceed to Columbus in the morning and report to Miss Tuttle, an enrolled Red Cross nurse, and superintendent of the Visiting Nurses' Association of Columbus.

Numerous appeals for nurses were received from outlying towns, the most important work in these towns being that undertaken by Miss M. M. Russell, supervisor of operating rooms, Jewish Hospital, enrolled Red Cross nurse, who, in company with Miss Heatherington and Miss Dooley, both enrolled Red Cross nurses, went to Catlettsburg, Kentucky, on the night of April 5, and on the morning of Sunday, April 6, began a house-to-house visitation in this town of 5000 inhabitants, where only fifteen houses had been untouched by the waters of the flood. Miss Russell, with the aid of the health officer, organized the distribution of clothing and food, and on her departure from Catlettsburg, at the end of a week, was presented with a memorial, to the value of her services and those of her co-workers, signed by the Mayor and all the prominent citizens.

The total number of Red Cross nurses and volunteers sent out by the Local Red Cross Nursing Service Committee on the four days of March 26, 27, 28, and 29, was 84; and the grand total of all nurses sent out by the Local Committee from March 26 to April 15, was 95.

On Wednesday, March 26, after the meeting at the Mayor's office
at the City Hall, and the offer of Miss Laws and myself to handle
the nursing situation through the agency of the Red Cross, a card
register of nurses, both enrolled Red Cross and volunteers, giving
the name, address, and telephone number, and name of nearest friend,
was kept at headquarters. As soon as it could be established, a constant
communication was kept up between the nurses in charge in the different
cities and towns and the chairman of the Local Red Cross Nursing
Service Committee, either by telephone, telegram, or letter.

The nurses of Cincinnati volunteered with the greatest possible
alacrity, each one of them volunteering for any kind of duty. After the
morning of Thursday, the names of all nurses who registered at the
City Hall with Dr. Landis, health officer, were turned over to the Red
Cross, and after that date, all volunteers were referred directly to our
office, Dr. Landis and Dr. Peters co-operating with the Red Cross Nursing
Service Committee in every way in their power.

Every corps of nurses that left Cincinnati for Dayton, Hamilton, or
smaller towns was sent in charge of enrolled Red Cross nurses, and
was seen off on the relief trains by either Miss Pierce or myself. In-
structions were given these nurses to render faithful and loyal service,
and to promptly report to the nurse in charge of relief work.

Each nurse sent out from the Red Cross headquarters was instructed
by Miss Reinecke, Red Cross nurse in charge of local headquarters, or
Miss Pierce, to take with them the following: a light suitcase, contain-
ing one complete uniform, with extra aprons and cap; a nurse's
emergency case (pocket), and such other articles as she thought she
might require, bearing in mind the need of making everything as light
as possible. She was also instructed to wear warm underclothing, heavy
shoes and rubbers, short woollen dress or skirt and a heavy coat or,
preferably, a sweater and raincoat.

I cannot speak in too high terms of the readiness with which
Cincinnati nurses volunteered their services in the great calamity
which befell the state of Ohio. The quickness and readiness of their
response to the call for help will ever redound to their credit.