

RED CROSS RUSHES QUARTERS AT CIVIC CENTER FOR USE AS HOSPITAL TO FIGHT INFLUENZA

Leaders Expect Conversion of Structure Will Be Completed by Monday, With 300 Cots and Mare Island Unit in Charge; Nurses Responding to Appeals

MRS. EZRA P. STIMPSON'S eyes flashed with pleasure yesterday. Graduate nurses were beginning to respond in something like adequate numbers to the cry of the Red Cross for experienced, scientific help in the hour of the city's need.

Mrs. Stimpson, herself a graduate nurse, married, and, until this malady struck San Francisco, mistress only of her own home, is now in charge of the nurses registering at 30 Montgomery street, where they find themselves at once in the midst of the biggest, most appealing and most necessary job they ever undertook.

Yesterday Mrs. Stimpson told of this incident:

"A piteous case had come to notice. The mother was dying. Her baby was uncared for. She needed at once an experienced, graduate nurse, competent to administer hyperdermic injections. She would die without such help and the baby would die, too, no doubt. I had none to send. I looked up, and there was a nurse at the desk waiting to register. She seemed to have been sent from heaven."

CASE IS SAVED

She was bundled into one of the waiting automobiles, a dainty girl in the uniform of a Red Cross motor girl took the wheel, and away they went. Mrs. Stimpson later said the case had been saved.

"But, oh for more of these graduate nurses to give first aid and take care of the case until the practical nurse can arrive" she said.

For that is the system at Red Cross headquarters.

A case is reported in. The graduate nurse is hurried to the place to do what she can and stay until she is relieved by an experienced nurse, who will remain. By that time another call in a remote section of the city will call the scientific nurse on a new errand of mercy, driven there by a Red Cross motor girl, whose principal aim in life before the war brought forth the need was to shine at functions and disclose her countenance in society columns.

MORE NURSES NEEDED

"We have but twenty of these splendid nurses and we need more. Please Mrs. Stimpson. Let those who are interested now but who have their

dents who have been pressed into service the Red Cross now commands the services of about 300. More will be needed.

In the motor department the needs are ample for the present, said Lieutenant Aileen Treat yesterday. In addition to the thirty-eight cars provided by the thirty-eight Red Cross motor girls, there are seventy-five cars constantly at the disposal of the Red Cross, contributed by citizens alive to the needs of the moment.

Even Mrs. Genevieve Murray, who presides at the door of 30 Montgomery street and divides the applicants for entrance into two classes, wore a smile yesterday. She had held in her lap a small box with pencils and paper and perhaps a hairpin or two. Somebody came along and dropped a \$5 bill into it.

"A donation to the Red Cross," said the passerby.

\$85.50 IN TWO HOURS

Mrs. Murray got a cigar box. She put the "five-spot" inside for a decoy and in two hours and a half had \$89.50 in it—voluntary contributions from citizens who have seen the results of the noble work that is being done under a system which waits to ask no questions but brings relief to all, without reference to race, color or condition. Neither is it pretty work in its outward manifestations, but the spirit of the Red Cross is holy; it sanctifies its task. The donations were silent testimonials of an awakened appreciation.

Announcement was made yesterday that probably by Monday the proposed conversion of the headquarters of the Red Cross at the Civic Center would be complete and the entire structure would be equipped as a hospital. Perry Eyre, purchasing agent for the Red Cross, was having difficulty in securing the required number of beds, there having been an unusual demand set up by the present emergency.

TO INSTALL 300 COTS

The plan is to install at least 300 cots in the big, sun-lit building. Also there was difficulty in securing the required number of steam-fitters to make the connections necessary if the building is to be used throughout as a hospital. These difficulties President John A. Britton hoped would be overcome, however, and the place ready by Monday for its patients.