

How Red Cross Aids in Fight Against Epidemic

IN the following statement there is a clear presentation of what the Red Cross is doing to aid in checking the influenza epidemic in San Francisco:

By **JOHN A. BRITTON**,
Chairman San Francisco Chapter,
A. R. C.

To the People of San Francisco:
San Francisco Chapter, American Red Cross, owes to you, its subscribers, a statement of the measures it is pursuing to curb the prevailing influenza and to afford such relief as it is qualified to render.

When the malady first threatened to assume alarming proportions, the chapter's executive committee was prompt to act by appointing the following special committee on Spanish influenza:

E. H. Lestock Gregory, (chairman); Charles W. Fay, William H. Crocker, M. H. de Young, Jesse W. Lillienthal, O. K. Cushing, Arthur H. Barendt, Dr. W. C. Hassler, Dr. T. W. Huntington, Dr. W. C. Willings, Major J. Wilson, Shields, Harry R. Bogart, Mrs. M. C. Sloss, Miss Julia Hinkle, Miss Mary Sweeney.

This committee, whose personnel shows that it is working in perfect accord with the local, state and federal health authorities, was equipped with an emergency fund of \$50,000, and by unanimous vote of his fellow-members, the chairman was given authority to use it as his judgment dictates when confronted by calls for immediate expenditure.

As fast as they can be obtained, 500 beds for influenza patients are being placed in the San Francisco Hospital and other city institutions.

A corps of graduate nurses has

been organized to inspect homes where help is wanted and to determine how such aid can be most expeditiously given.

A registration bureau has been established to secure graduate nurses, practical nurses and housekeepers, hundreds of whom are still needed; also a bureau for registering medical students to supplement the work of graduated physicians.

Members of the chapter's motor corps have been assigned to special duty as ambulance drivers, and the service is being augmented as fast as extra vehicles can be procured.

To relieve the extra strain on the Associated Charities and kindred organizations, the chapter is furnishing food, medical and nursing care and all other needed aid to destitute families and individuals stricken by influenza.

Overcharging for drugs intended to prevent or cure influenza is being thwarted by every means at the chapter's command.

All of these activities are directed from the committee's headquarters, 130 Montgomery street, where offers of service and applications for aid are received between 9 a. m. and 6 p. m. daily, Sundays included.

In this emergency the American Red Cross is sustaining its fame as the world's most thoroughly-equipped relief agency, and San Francisco Chapter will ever be ready to quickly respond when called on to succor the needy and afflicted.