

## The Winnetka Dispensary

The Winnetka Dispensary was established in November 1917, through the generosity of donors from that town in America. It was organized by Dr. Alice Barlow-Brown who had two able assistants in Madame Delebecque and Miss Van Acken; to these three women should be given great credit as they inaugurated the work of the American Fund for French Wounded dispensaries.

Nancy, chief city of the French Lorraine, was chosen for the center and the work extended through the factory towns of Champigneulle, Pompey, Jarville, Frouard, Pont-a-Mousson, and Tomblaine, which lie along the Moselle river.

### Personnel

From time to time the personnel at Nancy was added to and changed, Dr. Brown leaving in April to take charge of a home for refugee children at Chavaniac. At this time the American Fund for French Wounded dispensaries came under the supervision of the American Red Cross medical staff and Dr. Esther Parker of that organization was placed at the head of the Winnetka dispensary. Dr. Parker made a splendid name for herself in this work and it was a great loss when she was compelled to return to the United States for personal reasons. A tribute of thanks is due this excellent physician and charming woman for the tact, sympathy and skill which she displayed and which brought the dispensary up to a very high standard. On her departure, Dr. Atley of the American Red Cross took over the work and during the few months he was there, was very successful.

On January first the American Red Cross withdrew all their doctors from civilian work in the Meurthe and Moselle and the Vosges and the personnel of our dispensaries necessarily underwent a distinct change. We were very fortunate, however, in coming in touch (through the Service de Sante) with the

### Women's Overseas Hospitals

The women of this organization had been doing work with the French army and when, with the signing of the Armistice the military situation was changed, these women were free to take up civilian work. We arrang-

ed with the Unit's representative, Dr. Raymond Brown, to work in cooperation with this excellent staff of women surgeons, doctors and trained nurses. The result, has been most satisfactory, and much credit is due to the ability, tact and patience of Dr. Marie L. Lefort, the medical director of the work in the Meurthe et Moselle and the Vosges. American Fund for French Wounded nurses who have been with this very successful dispensary are Miss Grace Yates and Miss Van Dyck.

### Work Accomplished

The total number of patients treated from the opening of the dispensary in November, 1917, to August 1, 1918, is 3,995. The total number of treatments given to August 1, 1918, is 12,324. After August the manner of recording cases was changed by the Physician in charge, the numbers growing too unwieldy, and weekly and monthly totals of treatments given were sent in to the Paris depot. From August 1 to the present writing the number of treatments given by the Winnetka dispensaries averages 1,178 a month.

In the reports that reach us, the cases are divided into the "new" and the "old." It has been interesting to follow the changes on these records; at first the cases marked "old" were much in evidence. Many were chronic illnesses and the sufferers returned every few days to the dispensaries for renewed treatment. Then as the fame of the Winnetka Dispensary spread abroad, new patients flocked daily to the hospitable doors and on the records of "old" cases disappeared, cured. Today, in these little villages on the Lorraine Front, a chronic case is rare. The French officials of this district have testified to their approval and gratitude in many letters which have been forwarded to America.

In connection with the Winnetka Dispensaries, a Vestiaire was established at Nancy. The hospital supplies and refugee clothing which comes from America is sent to our central depot at Nancy and any dispensary case which needs clothing, etc., is brought to the attention of our delegate and necessary articles sent over at once. Thus the poor

and needy found in the chain of dispensaries receive not only medical attention but also clothing, and leave us better able to cope with the difficulties before them.

Another excellent work was started by one of the Dispensary doctors who ordered milk and eggs for the tubercular children of the neighborhood. This unfortunately had to be given up after a short period as the expense incurred was too great. However in that time several dozen children were brought back to normal state of health and the dread disease checked.

Again in connection with the Dispensary, a splendid institution, the Health Babies Clinic, was established by Madame Delebecque at Nancy. Here babies were weighed, proper foods given them, and advice was eagerly sought by mothers. In cases where a mother was about to have another child, arrangements were made to send her to the Red Cross hospital at Toul. This hospital was under the direction of Dr. Maynard Ladd of Boston who founded at Toul one of the most successful activities undertaken by the American Red Cross in France.

All this has improved the health conditions of Nancy and its environments, and in leaving their work the Winnetka committee can be proud that it came to the rescue in the Meurthe and Moselle at a time when all France was discouraged by the appalling mortality of the children and weakened condition of the women.

Another important factor in the success of our dispensaries, was the Tubercular Sanatorium established by

Mrs. Arthur Ryerson of Chicago. Tubercular children who were patients in our dispensaries were brought in the early morning to this sanatorium, placed on side verandas filled with comfortable chairs, cushions, and coverlets, and cared for by excellent nurses who gave them the best of nourishment. This worked wonders for our tubercular patients and was continued until the fall of 1918.

The work of the Winnetka Dispensary will continue with the present personnel until the first of April or until such time as the French physicians will return to their civilian work after having been demobilized.

We add herewith a brief account of the total credits and expenditures of the Winnetka Dispensary, a detailed financial report having been sent the committee by Miss Vail on January 18.

October, 1917—January 1, 1919. Total credits 50,747.15 Francs. Total expenditures 57,975.02 Francs. The deficit of 7,227.87 Francs was made up by us from our General Dispensary fund.

### Rhodes Recovering

E. N. Rhodes, who recently resigned as superintendent of the Winnetka Public schools because of ill health, is recovering from a severe illness in New York City.

### W. C. T. U. Meeting

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union will meet with Mrs. L. C. Norton, 370 Walnut avenue, Winnetka, on Monday afternoon, April 21, at 2:30 o'clock. Mrs. Langdon, Evangelist superintendent, will be the speaker.

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