The Shanghai International Red Cross

By W. W. Yen (顏 惠 麗)
(Chairman, Shanghai International Red Cross)

ON September 18 (a memorable date in the annals of China) of this year an international group, including one lady, met at the Park Hotel in Shanghai, and discussed the question of organizing an International Red Cross Committee to meet the situation created by the military conflict between Japan and China. It was felt that such a committee would be highly useful not only in starting new hospitals and camps for tending the sick and wounded and for taking care of the very large and ever increasing number of refugees, but also in cooperating with and co-ordinating the very excellent work already being done along these lines by municipal authorities and private enterprise. After discussion, it was agreed to study the constitution of such a body before going further into its functions. Out of those present at the meeting an executive committee was appointed to study the question. Subsequently a constitution was drawn up, as well as the form of the provisional charter to be secured from the Red Cross Society of China, and both were duly accepted by the General Committee. In this manner on October 2 the Shanghai International Committee of the Red Cross Society of China saw the light of day and formally commenced its activities.

It is believed that, as the work on hand is of unusual magnitude and the situation at Shanghai is largely international in character, such a committee can deal with it in the most effective and expeditions manner. Local resources having been more or less exhausted, it is necessary to make an international appeal, and the committee, on account of its composition and standing, will not only reach a larger circle of supporters throughout the world, but will also be more likely to gain their confidence.

The need of such a committee is now generally admitted, and the Chinese government has been the first to grant a large donation to the work, namely, a million dollars.

In addition to the usual officers, a number of sub-committees have been organized, such as the Finance, Appeal and Publicity, Medical (comprehending Wounded Soldiers, Civilian Hospitals, and Medical Supplies), Epidemics, and Membership, all headed by experienced and energetic chairmen, while at the same time the International Committee has been very fortunate in securing the voluntary services of Mr. John Earl Baker, of the China International Famine Relief Commission, as director of the work to be undertaken.

We earnestly hope that all those, whom it is possible to reach with this appeal will respond generously with their moral, material and financial support for the work of mercy undertaken by the Shanghai International Committee. On behalf of the sick and wounded soldiers and civilians and of the hundreds of thousands of pitiful refugees, we wish to express in advance our gratitude for public sympathy and help.