

towards relief work among war victims. Dr. Wei Tao-min, secretary-general of the Executive Yuan, is head of this relief commission.

It is estimated that at the rate of \$3.00 per person per month, it will require almost \$2,000,000 Chinese currency to feed the large number of refugees already registered in the Shanghai camps for the next half year. Additional funds, of course, will be needed to improve the housing conditions, replenish medical supplies and obtain warmer clothes for the refugee camps already in operation. How much more money will be needed for the tens of thousands of hitherto unregistered refugees depends upon how long these people can continue to rely upon their relatives and friends for support.

Of the relief societies working in Shanghai, the majority of them have already launched financial campaigns to support war relief work. In spite of many hardships the

people in Shanghai have contributed generously in their endeavours to ameliorate suffering in the city. A perusal of Chinese newspaper acknowledgements will bring out many noteworthy examples of generosity and sacrifice. It is estimated that at least several million dollars have been collected and spent during the last three months for relief work among war refugees by the leading relief and charitable institutions in Shanghai, and much more (including \$17,000,000 of Liberty Bonds) has been donated to the nation's war chest. It is feared, therefore, that the Shanghai community is approaching the end of its resources, particularly because of the virtual cessation of international trade and the closing of many large factories. Unless handsome gifts can be counted on from new and foreign sources in the immediate future, the refugee situation in Shanghai and many other cities in China is bound to become extremely pathetic this winter.

## Wounded Soldiers' Hospitals in Shanghai

By F. C. YEN (顏福慶)

A DINGY, mud-smear'd truck drove up to the gate of an equally dingy and weather-beaten building. The engine stopped and the door of the car was thrown open. Instantly stretchers were taken out from behind the iron gate, while from the car one by one something in human shape clad in brownish grey, huddled almost into a lump, now groaning, now silent, was hurriedly placed into these stretchers and taken into the building. Twenty-three such figures were carried into this dismal building, from which some, perhaps, would never come out alive.

Then the truck slowly moved away, running none the smoother for having discharged its passengers. It went again on a second journey through smoke and fire to pick up another human load.

Life began to bustle inside the hospital. The day's work had already started, although it was not yet dawn. For the twenty-three wounded soldiers had just been sent in from the front, and the hospital, inadequately staffed as it was, must give them the emergency treatment they so badly needed.

The men had received their wounds on the Tazang front, where they and their comrades held out for weeks. Today the village had fallen into Japanese hands, but somehow they had managed to escape. Hiding themselves from the pursuing enemy, they lay on the field, half-unconscious until they were picked up and sent to this hospital.

Their wounds were very severe. Their faces were mutilated beyond recognition—eyes that might never see again; ears that were torn off; in a word, lives that were sacrificed for the defense of the country. One by one these wounded men were taken into the operation room and later came out with their heads bandaged, legs or arms repaired as the case might be. Even then they were still groaning!

The majority of the 424 soldiers in this hospital had suffered only light wounds, however, for most of the

severely wounded die before they are picked up from the front or reach the hospital. Of those who are admitted into the hospital, very few die. The rate of mortality is about 5%, it is learned.

It was a none too comforting feeling, nevertheless, to walk through the fifty-four rooms and see what was once the embodiment of health now lie helpless and virtually put to torture. Still there were smiles over features stricken with pain, and where one had gone another remained to perform the task of the two. If a leg had to be amputated, a crutch could take its place. Even if one fell in the battle, there was always the assurance that some one else would take up the flag. From Chapei, Lotien, Tazang these wounded soldiers came. Now that these places had fallen, the men cursed the wounds that held them back and wished they had fallen together with the towns.

The 23rd Hospital for the Wounded, which was started as late as September 16, has handled 740 wounded soldiers, 316 having already evacuated. Of the latter, less than 20 died from their wounds. The hospital building, formerly a bank headquarters, is spacious, though old and dark. At first only three floors were made use of, the ground floor for administrative purposes, the first floor for the severely wounded, the second for the slightly wounded and the third for those who were almost ready to go out. The top floor was used as a recreation hall where victrolas, chess boards, and other games were assembled for the amusement of the soldiers. But later when more wounded came in than the hospital could hold, even the top floor was turned into a ward, and the emergency room, the registration office and the clerk's counter were all crowded into one room on the ground floor.

This expansion of space for the wounded necessarily creates the problem of more beds, bedding and hospital hands. There aren't enough boards to go round, not

to mention regular beds. Although the hospital is staffed with 54 nurses and 12 resident doctors, difficulty is often experienced in giving the patients the attention and urgent treatment which most of them require. Again, the hospital lacks modern equipment and medicines. If more cocaine were to be had, perhaps there would be fewer groans, and fewer painstricken faces.

To provide three meals a day for 12 doctors, 54 nurses, 90 helpers and some 400 patients a great deal of money is required. No less than \$5,000 a month is needed for the upkeep of such a hospital, it is estimated.

Since the outbreak of hostilities in Shanghai, thirty-one hospitals for wounded soldiers have been opened by the Red Cross Society of China, the World Red Swastika Society and the Shanghai International Red Cross. Of the thirty-one, two have just been closed and five have evacuated into such interior cities as Sungkiang, Soochow and Hangchow. The remaining twenty-four hospitals in the Shanghai International Settlement and French Concession are capable of accommodating about 5,000 wounded. Of the 5,000 beds in the 24 hospitals only 141 beds were vacant at the time this visit was made. With the influx of many wounded from the Western district of Shanghai last week, these vacant beds must have been filled up already. Indeed, many of the wounded men brought to the central reception station at Fenglingchiao (near the French Concession) every night had to wait a long time before they could be assigned accommodations in the local hospitals.

However, philanthropic bodies and individuals in the city have been contributing very generously, both time and money, towards the support of these hospitals, which, due to their location in the Settlement and Concession, do not come within the budget or administration of the Chinese Army Medical Service. Many of the hospitals for wounded soldiers are financed by local firms and clubs. Chinese boy scouts have done heroic service not only in rendering help to the various hospitals in the city but also in going into the field to pick up the wounded soldiers. Overseas Chinese, too, have contributed handsome sums of money and large quantities of materials for use among the hospitals, while friends in Hongkong have even despatched a special medical unit to Shanghai to meet the urgent need for trained personnel. However, as wounded men are continuing to pour into Shanghai at the rate of 300 to 1,000 a night, and as a minimum cost of 67 cents a day is required to take care of each wounded man (not including medicines and technical services), it is estimated that at least \$100,000 a month are required to maintain the existing wounded soldiers' hospitals in the city. At this writing it is reported that the first consignment of drugs has been sent to China from England through the Lord Mayor's Fund. It is hoped that further help, in money and in kind, will continue to come from sympathetic friends and organizations abroad. For unless such help does come, it will be difficult indeed to provide for the twenty-four Shanghai hospitals now serving a country bled white by aggression.



## A HELPING HAND NEEDS A HELPING HAND

The Shanghai International Red Cross (holding a charter from the Red Cross Society of China) is faced with the problem of providing immediate relief for thousands of Chinese and foreign refugees and wounded soldiers. These needs are bound to increase as winter approaches.

With a view to supporting its work for the next six months, the Shanghai International Red Cross is now launching a financial drive to raise \$10,000,000, from domestic as well as foreign sources.

Will you give us a helping hand in this humanitarian work? If so, please sign the following blank and send us your contribution today?

W. W. YEN, *Chairman*

J. E. BAKER, *Director*

SAO-KE ALFRED SZE, *Chairman of Appeals Committee*

To Shanghai International Red Cross  
505 Honan Road, Shanghai

Desiring to have a share in assisting the thousands of victims of war, I enclose herewith a check or postal money order for Dollars.....as my donation to the Shanghai International Red Cross.

Name .....

Address .....