REPORT

OF

The American Women's Hospitals

ORGANIZED BY

The War Service Committee

OF THE

Medical Women's National Association

JUNE 6th to OCTOBER 6th

1917
Dear Doctor:

This report of our committee work is being sent to you in the form of a news letter. Please accept it as a personal letter, and by return mail answer all the requests it contains.

Although summer has intervened, and a number of the women, on whose co-operation we count to make thoroughly successful our Medical War Work, have been on their vacations, we have organized with the expectation of their helping us to develop our work in national committees, under each of the fifteen sub-divisions which were outlined in the June issue of the Women's Medical Journal.

The plan of work, with registration blanks, has been mailed to five thousand medical women throughout the United States. If you know of anyone who has not received a registration blank please send her name and address to our headquarters, 637 Madison Avenue, New York City. Here filing and cross-filing is now being done in order that if a physician is registered under more than one preference for service, we may have immediately at hand a card index of all the available women in each field.
Up to date, our registration has totalled eleven hundred and fifteen. Of these, 592 are for foreign service. They are sub-divided as follows: I, Women’s units, 160; II, Women’s units to Allies’ armies, 110; III, Service in established units, 103; IV, Maternity units to devastated regions, 84; V, Village practice, 25; for service in any of the above five, without choice, 110. There are, in the United States, between five and six thousand women physicians. A number of these are tied by home duties; some have retired from practice; and others are already carrying such heavy professional burdens that they cannot take on more, or change their work in justice to that to which they have already pledged themselves.

We think, however, it is desirable for every woman physician to put herself on record as willing to serve her country at this time, setting forth on her registration sheet the reason why she cannot serve, in case it is not possible for her to do so. Many have told us that they did not fill out and return the blanks for reasons above noted. We, however, believe that with a fuller understanding of what our war service is to be, a great many will register who have not already done so.

If the war continues any length of time there will be a need in every town in the United States for women physicians to give a certain number of hours a day to the Care of Soldier’s Dependents. The type of people who have been accustomed to going to clinics will still receive clinic treatment, but the class of people who have formerly gone to private physicians, and who will not, during the war, feel that they can afford to do so, we plan to take care of by having physicians in every city give one hour, or more, a day to this service, either gratuitously or for an especially considerate “Soldiers’ Rate.”

We therefore request that if you have not registered for work in Europe you will please send to our National Headquarters, at 637 Madison Avenue, New York City, a typewritten statement regarding your willingness to give this service, stating what hours, and what type of work, you prefer.

The women thus enrolling will make the total membership of our national committee for the Care of Soldiers’ Dependents. These will all be classified and arranged geographically. They will then be placed in the hands of the national chairman of our Committee for Soldiers’ Dependents Dr. Eleanora S. Everhard, The Calvert, Dayton, Ohio, and you will be requested to assist in this important work as soon as need arises.

The New York representative of this committee, Dr. Ethel Doty Brown, 26 Gramercy Park, N. Y. C., has gone into this division of our work very thoroughly with the heads of the Red Cross department, who are organizing for Civilian Relief in this country, and they assure us that they not only welcome our co-operation, but that they are depending upon it.

At present, there are interned in the United States men from the German ships which were in our waters at the time of our declaration of war. No women and children have been interned, as yet, as these men were unaccompanied by the members of their families. As the war progresses it is probable that it will be necessary to place German residents in the United States in a position where they will not be able to furnish information to our enemies, in which case whole families will be interned, as has already been done in the other countries at war.
We have planned, if the women and children falling ill in their camps, need the services of women physicians, to have at headquarters a list of doctors who have registered for this service. A copy of this list will be placed in the files of the chairman of our National Committee on The Care of Prisoners of War. The women who speak German, Hungarian, and Turkish, and who are of undoubted loyalty to the United States, will be of especial value, and are urged to register for this. The chairman of this national committee is Dr. Minnie L. Maffett, Dallas, Texas. The New York representative, Dr. Anna Hubert, 149 East 40th St., New York City.

Under our Committee on Sanitation, of which Dr. Eliza Mosher, 184 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, is chairman, we request all those who have done public health inspection work to register at once, stating whether they can give part or full time. Graded salaries, paid by the Red Cross, will be paid for this service, to doctors recommended by us and we wish to develop this committee immediately upon a national basis. The Director of the Red Cross Bureau of Sanitary Service is in correspondence with Dr. Mosher regarding this work.

Another branch of our service which is already very active is that under Dr. Caroline M. Purnell, 132 S. 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., who is Chairman of our Foreign Service, Civil and Military. This week ten women physicians of the American Women's Hospitals organization, are sailing for "Somewhere in France." We are not permitted to tell on what ship they sail, nor what their destination will be. Our cable address is "Awotal" (abbreviation of American Women's Hospitals), and they will be the first to use it.

There are also in readiness under our committee forty women physicians who may leave in October. Their uniforms, their equipment, and the many details which it has been necessary to arrange, have required a great deal of work on the part of our equipment committee; but this is more than compensated for by the fact that the Director of the Bureau of Medical Service of Foreign Commissions, of the American Red Cross, has assured us that he will turn to our national committee for the recommendation of all the women physicians under the Red Cross in foreign countries, as he will depend upon our recommendation of not only their professional ability but their loyalty to the United States, and their ability to adapt themselves to work under what may prove unusual or trying circumstances.

The standardization of the uniforms for Medical Women was put into our hands. Illustrations of these, together with lists for the equipment and the details of our insignia will appear in the next Women's Medical Journal, and may now be had on application to Headquarters.

We are receiving information from commissions now in France, Serbia, Russia, Roumania, and Italy. We were asked three weeks ago to have in readiness, in ten days, two units for Roumania, the entire personnel to be women, as this releases men for the military service. However, three days later a cablegram arrived saying that the Russian Government temporarily forbade the entrance of Americans into Roumania. We will, therefore, assemble these, also other, units on paper, in order to be in a position to recommend them at short notice as soon as the way opens. In the meantime, we have been asked to have ready for early departure to Roumania two women physicians, and also a pediatric unit for France. The French Law of 1892 forbids anyone who does not hold a French diploma from practicing among the civilian
population in France. M. Jusserand, the French Ambassador, however, assures us that this law is in the process of being changed as regards maternity work and the care of children. We have therefore been asked to be ready to respond to a call, which may come any day, to supply for France the personnel of women physicians and surgeons, ambulance drivers, and orderlies, for obstetrical service the nurses to be supplied by the Red Cross.

The plan is to assemble all women units which may be designated the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania Unit, The New England Hospital Unit, The Ann Arbor Unit, The Chicago Unit, etc., etc.

These will be known in America as the (name) unit of the American Women's Hospitals; in Europe as American Red Cross Unit (number). This is parallel to the formation of army units which are designated here by the name of the hospital getting up the unit and in Europe as U. S. Army Unit (number).

We may say where we wish these units to be established and this will be considered as far as possible; but they will all be under Red Cross orders and will be sent where the need is greatest.

Under our Reciprocity Committee, of which Dr. Elizabeth Johnson Van Slyke, 141 West 109th St., New York City, is chairman, we have sent every week, for the last three months, gifts to our Allies' hospitals. Members of our Committee who formerly sent presents individually, now send them through this organized channel to the same destination as formerly. Our Allies have done so much to protect us ever since the war began we think that all we can do may be summed up as Reciprocity.

Dr. Martha Welpton, 23 North State Street, Chicago, Ill., is national chairman of our Committee on Physical Examination. Many women can give extremely valuable war service at home, who are not sufficiently robust to go abroad and it would not be fair to the women or the work to encourage those who would be especially likely to fall ill to go to Europe; for this reason we have a committee with members in every state and large city to whom application may be made to determine whether you are unfitted for foreign service; slight and unimportant defects are not deterrents. Dr. Marie Chard, 616 Madison Avenue, is the New York representative.

We are asked by the Red Cross to have individual women, whose qualifications we can vouch for, ready to go wherever called and a number have been sent to Europe. You will see from this report that we are working in constant consultation with the Red Cross.

Through the interest of the Ambassador and Madame Jusserand and M. Liebert, the Consul General, in New York, we are now in touch with the French Minister of the Interior, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the diplomas (held by women physicians whom we can thoroughly recommend, and who have graduated from medical colleges with the same standards as those in France) may be, on presentation to appointed French authorities in this country, so registered as to enable their holders to practice in France for the duration of the war. This work will, of course, not compete in any way with a French physician’s practice, as in the majority of the French villages there has been no physician for two or three years. The service, so far as the people of France are concerned, will be gratuitous; the work will be volunteered by those physicians who can afford to do so, or salaries will be paid by our organization, or by the Red Cross, according to the necessities of the
case. We expect every woman who can wholly, or in part, meet her expenses for travelling and maintenance, to be willing to do so, for the privilege of rendering at this time a service to those whose countries have been devastated, and who have been subjected to such pitiable physical and mental suffering.

We have bought an ambulance, and have in hand the money for a laboratory, a dental outfit, and other equipment to send to Serbia. The Red Cross assures us that as soon as they have heard from the Serbian commission, the way will be open for us to send relief to that heroic country.

Through acquaintance made last year, while Dr. Morton was rendering war service in Macedonia, our committee is now in correspondence with the Chief of the Service Sanataire Serbe who is in command of the Serbian Army and civilian hospitals, and with the Surgeon General of the French Army in Salonica; The French High Commission, and other important officials.

We are in touch with the Tuberculosis Commission now in France, and desire to add as rapidly as possible to the registration of physicians who are particularly interested in this line of work.

Two members of our American Women's Hospitals organization, both of whom were chairmen of sub-divisions, Dr. Esther Lovejoy, of Portland, Oregon, and Dr. Alice Barlow Brown, of Winnetka, Ill., are now in France making a study of conditions for our War Service Committee.

Instead of continuing to have a division in our Foreign Service under two National Sub-committees, it has been found best to concentrate the Civil and Military foreign service under one head in order that there may be no delay in placing those who offer for either service. Many have done this wishing to be among the first to go into which ever field the earlier opportunity opened.

This makes our Sub-divisions now number fourteen. This is emphasized in the flag which has been designed for us by Miss Brenda Putnam, a New York artist, who is a niece of one of our most brilliant pioneers, Dr. Mary Putnam Jacobi.

Our Committee on Substitution in Private Practice will work closely with our foreign service committee, in order that when it is desired arrangements may be made for the practice of a Doctor, leaving home for service, to be carried on a percentage basis by a colleague. The basis we suggest is, after deducting all expenses incident to the increased practice to pay to the bank account, or dependents, of the absent doctor, fifty per cent. of the collections. We would be grateful if you would send your opinion on this to the National Chairman, Dr. Edith R. Hatch, 2620 Main St., Buffalo, N. Y. The New York City representative is Dr. Mary McMillan, 137 East 63rd St.

Dr. M. Louise Hurrell, of Rochester, our first chairman of this subdivision, is sailing shortly under the American Women's Hospitals and the American Red Cross to Europe. May God protect and guide "Our Women," that they may do much to lessen suffering and save life across the seas and our prayers go with each that they may come safely home again.

Those who work at home will render as vital war service as those who sail and we ask that you will help us so arrange all the sub-divisions of our organization that no further alterations in our widely distributed National Committees and Sub-Committees will be necessitated by a
change from home to foreign service. We want to help all who wish to go abroad to have that opportunity, and we wish equally to have our work so organized throughout the United States that every National Chairman will have a fixed list of committee members in every state and town on whom she can depend for continuous service until the end of the war. We want you to join us in making the American Women's Hospitals organization distinctive in that it represents War Relief organized by Women Physicians. The Scottish Women's Hospitals were organized and are maintained by a lay organization.

We urge that if you are not a member you at once join the Medical Women's National Association. We are allied with our Government and the American Red Cross. We are working on a National Scale. The certainty of our service is guaranteed.

We request that all women who wish foreign service in any of our Allies' countries should send full data regarding their qualifications and preference, especially the languages they speak, to Dr. Caroline M. Purnell; sending, in every instance, a carbon copy of their letter as well, in order that Dr. Purnell may retain one for our national committee files, and hold the other in readiness to send either to the representatives of the various countries, or to such other authorities as may be necessary.

Since we have had laid upon us the great responsibility, as well as the great privilege, of recommending women for foreign service, we are asking the co-operation of every woman who wishes this service, to see that all records which would be useful in helping us to place the best women in the right place, are sent without delay to Dr. Purnell.

Our Hospital Substitution Service, Chairman, Dr. Edith Eareckson, 922 Madison Avenue, Baltimore, Md., has already been called upon, as many doctors in going to Europe have left the home hospitals short staffed. Recently we received a telegram from a hospital in New York State asking us to supply immediately twelve interns. A number of clinics are asking for assistants in various lines. All doctors who register for this service will have occasion to come in contact with the latest methods of work, and will thereby have an interesting opportunity to supplement their education, in a manner which has hitherto been difficult on account of the limited number of hospitals with clinics open to women. These positions will probably not have a salary attached, but will have other advantages, and in many instances may be filled by women who will continue at the same time with their private practice.

As the war continues, many Medical Colleges will open to women in the United States as they have in England. The need for more women to study medicine is apparent. Each woman, now practicing, and those who have retired, should make it their duty to urge as many as possible to go to a Medical College at once or to immediately prepare to go. Detailed information on Medical College opportunities for women may be obtained from Dr. Mary Sutton Macy, 101 West 80th St., New York City.

One of our very active lines of service which has already had many demands upon it is that of Laboratory Work. Dr. Martha Wollstein, 1 West 81st Street, New York City, national chairman, has formed a committee of leading women pathologists throughout the United States. These women are to recommend for service bacteriologists, pathologists and laboratory technicians. Already we have been
requested to supply fifteen bacteriologists for the zones surrounding the
cantonments and camps. The Red Cross has undertaken to safeguard
the food and water supply of these areas. A great deal of laboratory
work has to be done. Graded salaries are attached to this service. The
chief of that department has expressed his appreciation of being able to
turn to our national committee, as we are in a position to say which
women are qualified for this work, and to assign them to the localities
which they prefer. All women who are trained along the lines of the
various divisions of laboratory work are requested to write immediately
to Dr. Wollstein, as there is an increasing demand for their services.

We have opened laboratory courses at the Women's Medical Col-
lege of Pennsylvania, Women's Hospital, New York, and at the Research
Laboratories of the New York City Board of Health, for the training
of college women who have had education in chemistry and biology, to fit
them, at a nominal expense, to become laboratory technicians, and to
assist our physicians. Any physicians connected with laboratories which
offer such courses in the different parts of the United States, and women
wishing to apply for this training, are requested to take the matter up
immediately with Dr. Wollstein.

Under our Committee on Dentists, of which Dr. DeLan Kinney,
576 Fifth Ave., N. Y. C., is national chairman, we are in touch with
three hundred women dentists throughout the United States, who are, as
their war service, putting into condition the teeth of enlisted men. Many
of these women have been gratuitously working for two and a half
months, six or more hours a day. Many of our committee members
have been examining the eyes, ears, noses, and throats of enlisted men,
also gratuitously.

Surgeon-General Gorgas, of the United States Army, has expressed
his willingness to place in base hospitals, as Contract-Surgeons, women
physicians as anaesthetists, radiographers and laboratory workers, at a
salary to be arranged by contract, and not to exceed $1,800 per year.

Dr. Alma Vedid, 224 East 15th St., New York City, is chairman of
our sub-committee on Anaesthetists, and Dr. Gertrude Welton, 345
West 50th St., New York City, is the chairman of our sub-committee
on Radiographers. We hereby request all women with experience in
these lines to send their qualifications, without delay, to these two
chairmen, submitting at the same time letters emphasizing the extent
of their experience. The women accepted for radiographic work in base
hospitals will probably be required to take the six weeks' course which
is now being given to all men, whatever previous experience they may
have had in this line. It is interesting to report that one of the physicians
who is an instructor in one of these army courses is a woman.

The chairman of our committee on Army Hospitals in the Home
Zone, both for acute and convalescent cases, is Dr. Mary Almira Smith,
33 Newbury St., Boston, Mass. We have in Boston, two hospitals in
readiness for convalescent cases and several others near New York.
The Women's Army General Hospital of New York has its personnel
and equipment recorded in the War Department in Washington. We
have been told by Surgeon-General Gorgas that we will be notified when
this is needed, and that it has the same status as all other army hospitals
in the home zone. He, however, writes that the present intention is
not to bring home the acute cases; in which case this division of our
service will probably be utilized in Europe. It is not reasonable for us
to expect to form women's hospital units for service to the United
States Army at present, because there are a sufficient number of base hospitals established in Europe and staffed by men physicians to fill the present need. We may, however, follow the precedents set by the Scottish Women’s Hospitals by sending an army unit to Serbia or France. This will be determined by the commissions at present in those countries.

While we hope that peace may come soon, there is every reason to expect the war will last for several years and we have been told in the Surgeon-General’s office and at Red Cross headquarters that there will be need for the war service of every woman physician in the United States. We are organizing to meet that need. Any arguments which may have been valid in the past, against the organization of women physicians, have been swept aside by the terrible crisis which we are now preparing to meet. In order to do this adequately we beg that all of the local organizations of women physicians throughout the United States will unite with us, that their president or some other officer will become at once a member of our American Women’s Hospitals organization, and, individually, or as representing her organization, officially urge each member of her organization to comply with all the requests contained in this report.

The men physicians of this country are so well organized that when a call went out for men pediatricians it did not take forty-eight hours to have the data in the hands of the Washington authorities. Application was made to the Pediatric Societies. These had on file all particulars regarding age, college, date of graduation, clinic and other connections of each of their members.

We must not delay. We must immediately collect by the means described above all important data of the women physicians of this country. There are surely far more than eleven hundred and fifteen who are not only qualified, but eager, to render war service. This is no time for a division between the regular and homeopathic schools. We have many splendid graduates of homeopathic colleges who are members of our American Women’s Hospitals. When the War Service Committee was appointed, the President of the Medical Women’s National Association graciously said that everything which had to do with the development of the work would be left entirely in the hands of our Executive Committee, as it would not be possible to delay many important matters which we would otherwise wish to lay before all the officers of the Medical Women’s National Association, that would, however, only be possible at annual meetings. ‘We have kept in touch with the President, Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen, and have taken weekly council with the Honorary President, Dr. Eliza Mosher, and the President-elect, Dr. Anganette Parry.

The Executive Committee adopted the following platform which was sent to Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen, the President of the Medical Women’s National Association, and recorded in Washington, July 11th, 1917:

1. “That our work be so arranged that it would be solely for the purpose of meeting existing needs and of making provision to meet needs which will arise if the war is prolonged.
2. That a registration sheet be sent to the women graduates of colleges of high standing throughout the U. S. to obtain a classified list of well-qualified women of experience, this list to be given to the American Red Cross, to the Surgeon-General of the Army, and to the U. S. Army Public Health Service, in order
that the women so registered shall pass through these channels to civilian and
army relief as they may be needed.

3. It was stipulated that, as events are moving rapidly, it would not be possible
to confer with anyone except the officials in Washington regarding the develop-
ment of the work. It would therefore have to be understood that the entire
guidance of the work be entrusted to the Executive Committee of the War
Service Committee of the Medical Women's National Association, with full
power to act regarding its membership, scope of work, and complete de-
velopment.

4. That this Committee carry no propaganda except that it stands with the
Red Cross to render the best service possible.

5. We request that the women physicians and surgeons of the United States
be accepted as members of the Army Reserve Corps, but we do not make
it a condition of service, for we realize that by so doing we handicap our
opportunity for immediate service, at home and abroad, which is our main
desire in volunteering and in making a classified registration of the service
we are fitted, and willing, to render."

In view of the fact that the war service of the women of Great
Britain is being made known to the world, under the name of Scottish
Women's Hospitals, it was decided by our Executive Committee, after
consultation with the authorities in Washington, that we would establish
an organization entitled The American Women's Hospitals, through which
the war service of the American women physicians would be recorded, so
that eventually, although the service may be rendered through channels
which differ to some extent from the activities of the Scottish Women's
Hospitals, in that we are organizing for civilian as well as for military
relief both at home and abroad, yet, when the medical history of the
war is written, the American women will be found to have rendered as
much medical and surgical service as the splendid and inspiring work
which has been, and is being, accomplished by our colleagues of Great
Britain.

At this time, when there is a necessity for concentration in all
things, it is very important that through our American Women's Hos-
pitals organization, we should be in a position to recommend women
physicians who, as pioneers, will ably represent all other medical women.
Some will be scattered through Army and Red Cross hospitals at home
and abroad; many of them will do civilian and army work in the United
States; some will work with mixed units; some in units entirely of women.
It is obviously very important that there should be a central organization
through which all this work will be summed up, in order that it will
be recorded in a manner worthy of the Medical Women of America.

It is our hope that we may be able to establish in the devastated
portions of our Allies' countries a series of dispensaries which shall
be tributary to central general hospitals, with a view to taking care
of a great many cases at a minimum expense; those not needing hospital
care to be looked after through dispensary practice, the acute cases being
taken by ambulance to the central hospital which shall be equipped for
general service in all lines; surgery, internal medicine, gynecology, chil-

scribe's diseases, maternity, eye, ear, nose and throat, and dental work;
the patients, when they become convalescent, being returned to their
homes and looked after from the dispensaries as out-patients of the hos-
pital. The American Fund for French Wounded has officially asked us,
in case this could be arranged, whether we would co-operate with them
in the following manner: hospital clothing, surgical dressings and social
service to be supplied by the American Fund for French Wounded, who
will have a play-room and recreation centre near the dispensary; our
doctors to direct the social welfare regarding diet and other factors
relating to health rebuilding; the American Fund for French Wounded, to supply the necessary food and necessities of life which they have been so ably supplying since the beginning of the war, to many of the stricken people of France. Miss Anne Morgan, now in Paris, is taking this up with Major Grayson Murphy, head of the Red Cross Commission to France.

We have plans for similar co-operation with other relief organizations in connection with our dispensaries and hospitals in other countries.

The need of general hospitals is emphasized in the following letters from Dr. Alexis Carrel, and from Miss Emily Simmonds, a Red Cross nurse, with whose work the chairman of our committee was in touch at this time last year.

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH  
66th & Avenue A  
New York  
July 25, 1917.

Dr. Rosalie S. Morton,  
701 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.  
Dear Doctor Morton:

I am very much interested to know of the plan of the American Women's Hospitals, especially that of having a central hospital with surrounding dispensaries in the portion of France which has been devastated by the enemy. The section of the country from which the Germans have retreated is filled with people in need. A great many of them have tuberculosis.

Your hospital should be a general hospital for all types of village cases, in order that none should feel discriminated against. I would advise you to put yourselves directly in touch in these small towns with the mayor, the priest and the teacher, or, if these executives have been taken by the Germans, with the most representative citizens. They will know the people and can, therefore, be of assistance to you in the good work you are purposing to do.

Nothing could more increase the good feeling existing between France and America than the women physicians and surgeons, representing the people of America, going directly to the people of France, who, through war conditions, have necessarily had to suffer so greatly.

I can hardly mention to you one town, for the need is everywhere.

Madame Carrel will be very much interested in your project and glad to give you advice. Hoping you will be able to send your units across the sea.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) Alexis Carrel.

New York City, July 14th, 1917.

My dear Dr. Morton:

I have just returned from Salonica from the Serbian front there, where I have been engaged in Civilian Refugee work, dealing mostly with women and children who have come down from the villages, now occupied by their enemies. We have one camp about 100 kilometers from the front where we are housing, feeding and partly clothing fourteen hundred of these refugees. One of our greatest needs at present is for doctors, as all doctors are taken for the army, leaving the villages without any medical care at all.

This would be a wonderful field for women physicians and lay workers, especially for maternity and child welfare work, and social service, for giving out Red Cross food supplies, seeing that the clothing is suitable as to needs and size, running soup-kitchens in the winter, also canteens for soldiers.

When we first started our camp at Voden, I had to make three journeys to Salonica and at the end of two weeks I succeeded in obtaining a doctor temporarily. I was told that all doctors were needed for the army and none could be spared for civilian work. Many women, children and old men die for lack of care.

When Serbia opens up, which we hope will be very shortly, there will be a very large field for women who are adaptable and can meet emergencies. I have been in this work 2½ years from the commencement of the war and have met many devoted women who were in Macedonia for the work's sake. In conjunc-
tion with this, I should like to mention the Scottish Women's Hospitals which are entirely staffed by women, who have done splendid work on the Balkan front.

I would suggest that anyone volunteering for the Balkans would secure two outfits, as the weather is extremely cold in winter and just as hot in summer. Also a knowledge of the French language is advisable and women preferably, who can drive their own automobiles, as one can get repairs done, but it is hard to find a chauffeur.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) EMILY SIMMONDS.

On June 24th, at the request of Dr. Franklin Martin, Chairman of the General Medical Board, Dr. Morton presented to that body in Washington the outline of work for the American Women's Hospitals at home and abroad. This was received most favorably and a copy of the address was left with the Secretary of the General Medical Board at his request to be incorporated in the minutes of the meeting, and a copy was also left with Colonel J. R. Kean, Director-General, Department of Military Relief of the American Red Cross at that time. Colonel Kean examined in detail the report of our outline of work and marked after each division the channels through which we would enter the service when called.

Surgeon-General Gorgas, of the Army, expressed great interest regarding our work and the necessity which unquestionably would arise for the services of women physicians of America in the Military Hospitals. He asked how many there are and was astonished to hear there are over 5,000. Dr. Morton said she believed that 50 per cent. of these would volunteer for some kind of service for our country in her need of physicians.

General Gorgas said that he had received a great many applications from women physicians throughout the country but had been obliged to say that at present there was no duty to which he could assign them, and seemed especially pleased that a representative national organization had been formed to systematize their activities in such a manner as to make them available to the Government.

The attitude of that entire Board of physicians from all over the United States was cordial and all seemed impressed with the breadth and scope of the work that had been planned.

On July 10th, Dr. Morton received a letter from Dr. Franklin Martin, asking her to become a member of the General Medical Board, to represent the women physicians of the United States. He requested her to send him a list of twelve names from which he said he would select other members of the committee. They are as follows:

Dr. Rosalie Slaughter Morton, of New York City, Chairman.
Dr. Adelaide Brown, of San Francisco, Cal.
Dr. Florence N. Ward, of San Francisco, Cal.
Dr. Mary Lapham, of Highlands, N. C.
Dr. Marion Craig Potter, of Rochester, N. Y.
Dr. Emma B. Culbertson, of Boston, Mass.
Dr. Caroline M. Purnell, of Philadelphia, Pa.
Dr. Caroline Towles, of Baltimore, Md.
Dr. Cornelia Brant, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

The Chairman is a member of the General Medical Board. The other members are not. She presents a report to the Board formulated by the committee, according to the advice of the Chairman of the Board. As this committee's members are representative of different parts
of the United States, it is not possible for them to meet except through proxies. They have no committee stationery and every letter which is sent out must be formally approved by Dr. Franklin Martin.

The committee has had two meetings, July 29th and September 9th. A registration card was sent to the women physicians of the United States with a view to ascertaining how many would be willing to serve in base hospitals as contract-surgeons under one of four heads, anaesthetists, radiographers, laboratory-workers, and dressers of wounds. These cards are now being filed in Washington for reference in case need arises to place women in base hospitals to release men for field hospital service.

The following are the regulations regarding contract practice:
2. The Government pays for transportation, quarters, heat and light, the same as furnished the 1st lieutenants.
3. There is no additional pay for foreign service; the contract specifies where the service is to be and the amount to be received for this specific service.
4. $1,800 a year is the maximum, the minimum being whatever agreed to for the particular service to be rendered.
5. The amount is regulated by agreement; the surgeon states his price and the Government accepts or rejects; or vice versa.
6. The immediate superiors are commissioned officers of whatever rank in command at the station where the contract-surgeon serves, even though they be only 1st lieutenants.

The Surgeon-General's office expressed an interest in knowing how many women wished to become members of the Army Reserve Corps, and a letter was sent by the General Medical Board Committee of Women Physicians to the presidents of medical women's organizations asking an expression of opinion on this subject. The result was a general expression of preference for this service, but comparatively few made their offer of war service absolutely contingent upon their becoming officers in the Army Reserve Corps.

As part of the work of the American Women's Hospitals, by the able direction of Dr. Augusta Vedin, 224 East 15th Street, New York City, a petition which was circulated to secure five hundred names, was completed some time ago, and the signatures were placed together, making a document thirteen yards long, the signatures totaled 511. More have come in since. The circulation of this petition was, as you may recall, started at the suggestion of Dr. Franklin Martin. It was, on its completion, presented to him, but as he said that he did not consider this the proper time to bring it to the attention of the Surgeon-General of the Army, it was returned to Dr. Vedin to be used later. We hope that additional signatures will be added to this, as a general expression from medical association presidents cannot carry the same weight that would be carried by the signatures of all the members of each organization. We, therefore, ask that each association will circulate a copy of the following petition, and, after it is signed by those members who have not already signed a similar petition, that it be forwarded to Dr. Augusta Vedin. Chairman of our sub-committee on Admission to the Army Reserve Corps.

PETITION

We, the undersigned, offer our services to the Secretary of War as members of the Medical Reserve Corps, to be utilized to the fullest extent for home, or foreign service, as indicated after our names; by the United States War Depart-
ment in the present war. We desire that opportunities for medical service be given to us equal to the opportunities for medical service given to medical men, as members of the staffs of base hospitals and otherwise, and that we be given the same rank, title and pay given to men holding equivalent positions.

In answer to many inquiries regarding the relation of these two National Committees as a parallel:

The Committee of Women Physicians of the General Medical Board may be regarded in the light of a congressional committee, its constituency being the women physicians of the United States. If they wish to have force and efficiency, organization is necessary. That committee of nine members is not permitted to increase its membership, and therefore, the extensive work which is going forward under the American Women’s Hospitals organization, and which we hereby call on you to make more extensive and more thorough, will be exceedingly valuable to that Committee of the General Medical Board; as we are now, and will soon be still more, in a position to supply the data which is necessary to supplement that on the cards which were sent out, and which are now on file in Washington.

When the General Medical Board calls for data regarding women physicians in fields of work other than the four mentioned above, the War Service Committee of the Medical Women’s National Association will be in a position immediately to furnish proof that women physicians are competent to fill every position of responsibility which may have to be carried in the present war by thoroughly trained physicians and surgeons.

Miss Bertha Rembaugh, a distinguished woman lawyer of New York, is the councillor of the American Women’s Hospitals organization. She strongly advised us to incorporate under the name—American Women’s Hospitals, as, in order to carry forward the extensive work we have undertaken, it is necessary to raise funds and also to be protected from any misrepresentations. The name, American Women’s Hospitals might be utilized by persons who are not loyal to our country, and in time of war every precaution must be taken.

We have organized a lay membership in the American Women’s Hospitals, called American Volunteer Aids, and we have a registration form on which must be entered all data concerning women who wish to be laboratory assistants, ambulance drivers, stretcher-bearers, interpreters, dieticians, clerks, etc. A number will be needed in the units we have already been asked to have in readiness. In England, the women who are doing this work are called V. A. D.’s, which means that they belong to the Volunteer Aid Department. Our lay assistants will be called A. V. A.’s, and we have a distinctive uniform for both their protection and identification. The doctor’s uniform is now being made in consultation with the Red Cross.

We have received in donations specified for definite purposes, $5,000 and for running expenses of printing, stenography, typewriting, postage, etc., approximately $1,000. Many of the New York City doctors have contributed from $5 to $50 each. We urge every woman physician in the United States to join us and for this patriotic service to send not only her own contribution, but also to raise funds to support this great national and international undertaking.

It is estimated that the equipment of a Unit costs $50,000, and when only the personnel must be provided, the cost is approximately $1,000 for all overhead expenses, and it usually takes two months to assemble the personnel for a Unit. As we have been asked to have
Units ready to go on a two weeks' call, we need immediate help. All contributions should be made payable to the American Women's Hospitals, or to our Treasurer, Dr. Sue Radcliff, 21 Morris Street, Yonkers, N. Y.

We have headquarters in three adjoining rooms which have been donated to us for that purpose, at 637 Madison Avenue, New York City, where we have our meetings at three o'clock every Thursday afternoon. This meeting is followed by a Council meeting of the members of the Executive Committee and the Chairman of National Committees, their New York representatives, and officers of the Medical Women's National Association, whenever they are in New York.

This report of our committee work is being sent to you in order to put you in touch with our summer's work. Future reports will appear in the Women's Medical Journal.

Any detailed information which you may wish, we shall be glad to furnish if you will write to us.

Please make your first business, after reading this report, a compliance with the urgent requests which it contains. This is not the work of a few women. It is the work of the medical women of our nation. It is planned on a scale to give every woman her opportunity to register her patriotism and the privilege of serving her country. We need your help and we feel sure that we can count upon it.

Rosalie Slaughter Morton, M.D.
Emily Dunning Barringer, M.D.
Mary Merritt Crawford, M.D.
Frances Cohen, M.D.
Belle Thomas, M.D.
Sue Radcliff, M.D.

October 6th, 1917.
New York City, U. S. A.