

Dame Rachel Crowley

"It is not life itself but the courage you bring to it" - typical utterance.

In spite of poor health trained as a nurse - burning ambition to serve humanity. but ill health persisting the training never completed - did dispensary work - in hospitals, Provident dispensary & V.A.D. - 1909 - 12.

Charge of Red X. H.Q. Victoria St. - Great engagement centre for medical & nursing recruitment for war service - centre transferred to

Duke of Devonshire's house in Piccadilly
First V.A.D. unit went out with R. Crowley & K. Furse in Oct 1914

Rachel Crowley continued in charge of all V.A.D. work in France - "the little Commandant" much loved - few rules - much trust - never broke rules herself -

by ill health all the time in France - by end of 1917 - pleurisy & pneumonia five times in 18 months - Sent to Cannes: when "push" began in 1918 April she disobeyed doctors & returned to Paris & thence to Boulogne - Between 5000 & 6000 RAD in France by 1918.

Rachel Crowdy's work continued ^{nearly 12 months} after peace signed on Nov 11, 1918.

Peace Treaty 1919 June.

One of the 26 articles of the Covenant of the League of Nations concerns the international control of prevention of disease - Dame Rachel Crowdy put in charge of the work of this department - health & social betterment.

D. R. had to prepare plans for the establishment of a health organization choosing staff - linked up existing societies or institutions where they existed - national or international & created a "L. of N. Provisional Health Organization". Resigning the Secretaryship of this body she went to Poland on the Epidemic Inquiry, worked on the Opium Commission & as Secretary of Conference on "The Protection of Women & Children from Moral Harm" - 40 countries signing a Convention on methods of protection. This conference Dame Rachel regards as the Triumph of her life.