

Championships. With an efficient staff of qualified officials available to all clubs in the remotest districts competitive ski-ing can be organized along more progressive lines, and the C.A.S.A. would be assured of an abundance of first class skiers from which to pick their representatives for international meets. Past experience proves that the lack of qualified judges and other officials has been a handicap in promoting competitive ski-ing, thereby hindering the C.A.S.A. in keeping abreast of the time. Canada has therefore not been able to capitalize to the desired extent on its facilities for ski-ing. With a better organization and many thousands of healthy young Canadians ready to tackle the hills and trails, a large crop of first class skiers could be produced from year to year.

Their performances with the resulting publicity of ski-ing would bring out the fans and the pleasure skiers, and this healthy winter sport would be growing by leaps and bounds.

As an indication of public enthusiasm, an example from the recent Dominion Champion-

ships at Banff proves that the true lovers of sport enjoy giving financial and moral support. A visitor from England made an unsolicited contribution of \$100 in cash to provide prizes for the next Dominion Championships, the prizes to be won outright. The C.A.S.A. is very much indebted for this fine gesture, and we earnestly hope that this example may be followed by others who are able and willing to support the promotion of ski-ing.

If the Canadian Amateur Ski Association expects to gain a place in the front ranks of the ski world a more ambitious plan of competitive ski-ing must be advocated. The Laurentian Ski Zone, under the leadership of Mr. Harry Pangman and Mr. H. Smith Johannsen has been doing good work in this respect, thus inspiring other Zones with gratifying results.

In getting well prepared for the coming season great improvements in ski-ing may be expected from year to year, but it must not be forgotten that sincere co-operation is the best foundation for future operations.

## The St. John Ambulance Brigade

By Major-Gen. Sir Percival Wilkinson

WHAT is the St. John Ambulance Brigade? What does it do? Who was responsible for its formation? Who controls it?

These are some of the questions which the man and woman in the street ask from time to time.

Although they are accustomed to the black and silver uniform they know little more than the fact that they meet the St. John Ambulance man and woman at football matches, at theatres and cinemas, at race-tracks, and anywhere else where the public congregate.

The origin of the Order of St. John lies far back in the remote past, before even Richard Cœur de Lion went crusading.

Religious, almost to fanaticism, many of these Crusaders, members of the most ancient families in Europe, threw in their lot and joined the little band of religious workers called the Poor Brothers of The Hospital, who spent their time in the care of the sick and poor of all races, classes, and creeds.

Out of this movement sprang the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, which was confirmed by a Papal Bull.

But as time passed, a Grand Master of the Order, realizing the increasing power of the Saracens, decided to place the Order on a military and militant basis.

In this manner the Knights of St. John (Knights Hospitallers) came into being.

The stories of their heroism and self-sacrifice are part of the history of chivalry.

These "military friars" won a respect from the Saracens, and within a decade the stories of their prowess in battle, their discipline and good faith had gone all over the known world.

The greatest families in Europe now began to send their sons to the Order of St. John as esquires to Knights Hospitallers.

And the Grand Masters of the Order were wise. They resolved that no political issue should affect the morale of their Order.

A Knight must be a Christian and he must obey the rules.

As the years rolled on the Order became greater and stronger. It organized itself as a seagoing force.

Its galleys, from the Hospitallers' base on Rhodes, harassed and worried the Turkish and North African pirates; convoyed pilgrim-laden merchantmen across the seas to the Holy Land.

It was from the great tradition and under the inspiration of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem—a title changed under a recent Royal Charter to that of "The Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in The British Realm"—that the St. John Ambulance Association sprang many years ago.

This association specialized in the teaching and organization of first-aid throughout the Empire.

Our police are trained and certified in first-aid by the association; so are the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the South African Police, and the Indian Police.

In the snows of the north and on the arid plains of India the hand of the Knights Hospitallers is still stretched out to all who are sick and helpless. Their motto "Pro Utilitate Hominum"—"For the Help of Mankind"—is as true today as it was twelve centuries ago.

Fifty years ago the progress and public interest in the Empire work of the association resulted in the formation of the uniformed "brigade"—the St. John Ambulance Brigade. When next you see a St. John Ambulance man or sister on duty remember these points:—

They are paid nothing; they give their services, their time and their enthusiasm free. They even buy their own uniforms!

In every part of the country a St. John Division is ready to be called out in an emergency, local or national, at any hour of the night or day, for a fee of—nothing!