

Schlotterbeck That is true, Mr. Allphin. This year does mark a change in Red Cross approach to the aquatic accident prevention problem. In order to give you a clear picture as to why this change is taking place it is necessary to tell you something of the origin of the Red Cross Life Saving Service. It was at the request of the Boy Scouts and Y.M.C.A. that Red Cross first entered the Life Saving field in 1914. At that time we were confronted with the problem of promoting a life guarding type of program, as there were some 456 public bathing facilities in this country that were not adequately supervised. Life Saving technique as such was poorly understood and taught in most of our swimming areas. The Red Cross with its wide organization and many contacts was the logical organization to undertake the problem of standardizing life saving methods and of beginning the momentous task of water-proofing America.

Our first efforts were made by setting up standards of life saving methods and teaching the same to members of our volunteer life saving or life guarding societies that we organized within our local chapters throughout the United States. After some 15 years of this effort operators of public pools and beaches were convinced of the necessity of obtaining professional and well trained supervision at most of our bathing beaches. No longer was it necessary for Red Cross Chapters to furnish a corps of volunteers to do this work. But now we were confronted with the responsibility for developing a program that would train the masses in adequate swimming skills so that they could more readily take care of themselves, and that would at the same time train the more expert swimmers in how to save persons in peril of drowning.

Allphin Well, Mr. Schlotterbeck, this takes us up to about the time of the big crash. What happened after that?

Schlotterbeck This marked the beginning of a much broader educational type of effort. More persons were taught to swim, more expert swimmers were taught how to save life by swimming rescue and by other methods. Signs during the past five years have positively indicated that the time was approaching when the Red Cross in its peculiar capacity as a great repository for information accumulated over 25 years of experiment, study, and above all, experience, should synthesize the material at its command and put it into a more suitable form, to be given to the American public thru its great army of instructors and examiners. To this end two new textbooks, one on "Life Saving and Water Safety", and the other on "Swimming and Diving", were prepared. In them an attempt has been made to place a body of knowledge and aquatic skills which make of aquatic sports a skillful, pleasant and above all a safe experience for anyone in any form of aquatic activity that he or she might pursue.

Allphin Mr. Schlotterbeck, I have been a senior life saver of the American Red Cross since 1922. I qualified in the test at Chautauqua, New York, under Captain Fred Mills, who is safety director of the Boy Scouts of America, and Captain Charles Scully, director of First Aid