

For Mr. Greene -

By direction of Mr. J.D.R., Jr.


53, RUE DE VARENNE

10th March 1916

Dear Mrs. Barlow,

I have just received your second letter and at once made inquiries about the "Orphelins des Armées". The information I received was not particularly satisfactory and I do not advise you to make your appeal in behalf of that particular organization, as it does not appear to have achieved very interesting results as yet. Of course you will consider this confidential, for I know nothing whatever against the work except that others are apparently better managed.

The "Enfants des Frontières" is a much more interesting charity. It was founded by Mrs. Robert Bliss, and has been doing good work since the beginning of the war. Besides, this class of children is in infinitely greater need of help than any other, as they are all from the invaded provinces. The fate of the soldiers' child appeals to every one, and there are many more French charities for soldiers and their wives and children, than for any other class. It seems that American help is much more needed in other directions, and it is for that reason that I took up the question of the refugees, which naturally appeals less to the popular imagination than any charities connected with soldiers.

 There is another work to be done, and which can be done only by America, because France is too heavily burdened to undertake it. It is the care of the soldiers who have contracted tuberculosis in the trenches and have come back to return to their own families and scatter the disease over France. At the present time there are 60,000 of them, of whom only about 8,000 of the worst cases are cared for by the Government. This is undoubtedly the most urgent need in France at the present day, but it is a work which must be started on a large scale and which can be realized only if we can get support from the Rockefeller fund and other big philanthropic institutions.

53, RUE DE VARENNE

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If you can interest anyone in the question, who is in a position to take it up energetically, you would be rendering France the greatest service imaginable

I am glad my letter of thanks reached you after all, for so many have never arrived.

Yours very sincerely

Edith Charlton