

The Colonel presiding over the Council takes his seat and calls the assembly to order. The members put on their masks, stand in ranks on the right and left and keep strict silence.

The Grand Sentinel stands at the door, and when the candidates approach calls—Halt! who comes there?

*Conductor*.—Friends who seek admission to the tents of the Soldiers of the Red Cross.

*Grand Sentinel*.—Advance friends and give the counter-sign.

The Conductor advances, gives the counter-sign, and enters with the candidates, and with them approaches the seat of the Colonel, who rises. At the same time two guards, clad in uniform, advance from the right and left and stand erect with shouldered arms at either extremity of the line of candidates.

*Colonel*.—Why do you seek this tent? Do you flee for refuge hither, or do you come as spies?

*Conductor*.—They have heard of the Red Cross soldier, and came to join its ranks.

*Colonel*. He who would be a soldier of the RED CROSS must know himself, his purpose must be high, and just and pure; his soul resolved; his hand prompt to execute all that his heart will urge. He must be generous and brave. He must forbear and sacrifice, as well as toil and dare. When he wears on his breast the Cross of Red, symbol of our cause, chastened and strengthened by suffering and blood, he will have devoted himself to a great and holy aim, and entering this tent where our brotherhood meets in council, he must leave all doubts and fears and meaner thoughts behind. When he becomes a Soldier of the RED CROSS he becomes the guardian of the right, the champion of people. This is a solemn and mighty trust you undertake. Think well can you sustain it?

*Candidates*—We can and will.

*Colonel*—You seek shelter now from the lawless power which desolates the land. We will, perhaps, require you to resist or assault it. You have fled from the mutterings of the storm. We will bid you face the bursting thunders of the war cloud. We welcome you to the ranks of the Red Cross, but be ye well resolved, for though we rest now in silent tents, at the first bugle blast we go forth to battle to accomplish the fiat of justice and to light the fires of retribution. Are you resolved?

*Candidates*—We are.

The Colonel then reads the Constitution of the Order and administers the oath, then dismisses the candidates with these words:—"Soldiers of the Red Cross your service has commenced; go join your comrades."

HEADQUARTERS S. R. C., DEPT OF KY.,  
August 12, 1868.

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. —.

I. The following instructions are hereby published for the governance of the S. R. C.

ORDER OF BUSINESS WHEN IN TENTS.

1. Calling of the Roll.
2. Initiation of Members.
3. Reading of Orders.
4. Unfinished Business.
5. Motion.

II. The Adjutant shall call the roll of his regiment. As each man's name is called, he shall step to the front and confront the Colonel, who shall inspect him and cause him to remain in line with his comrades until the calling of the roll shall have ceased. The ranks shall then be broken at the command of the Colonel.

III. The Colonel, or, in his absence, the next senior officer present, must conduct the ceremony of initiation into his regiment.

IV. Motions must be written and signed by the member desiring to propose them, handed to the Colonel, and by him referred to the Director, who, endorsing his approval or rejection thereon, returns them, in his option at the same or at the next regular meeting, to the Colonel who then submits them, if approved, to the Convention. No motions shall be entertained unless they concern the welfare of the S. R. C.; nor will they be submitted to the Convention unless they involve considerations beyond the province of the Director to decide. When any question is submitted to consideration of the Convention, it must be voted upon without debate.

V. Members are held enlisted so soon as they have matriculated by signing the roll of the S. R. C. They are hereby earnestly enjoined to bear in constant remembrance the "articles of faith" they have adopted and the oath they have subscribed; they must not mention the name of this order to recruits, nor divulge its objects for recruiting purposes; and they must not discuss any matters connected therewith upon the streets or in any place where they are liable to be overheard by the inimical or untiated.

VI. The Committee on Membership is hereby discharged. Twenty men will forthwith be appointed by the Colonel pro tem, whose duty shall be to act as recruiting agents of this command. No others shall under any circumstances approach any one with a view to enlist him. This detail will also act as the Committee on Membership to whom must be referred the names of all persons whom members desire to have initiated.

VII. Visitors, though in good standing as Soldiers of other regiments of this Order, or of similar organizations in the State, must not be introduced into the regimental tent of the S. R. C. except by the Director or Colonel commanding said regiment.

By order of the Director.

A. Gen. & Chief of Staff.

*Other*