

HELPS FAMILIES LEARN FATE OF MISSING MEN

"Prisoners of War Agency" in Switzerland Gets Thousands of Inquiries Daily.

Geneva, Switzerland, Dec. 23.—The office of the "Prisoners of War Agency" is about the busiest place in Switzerland. Here three hundred unpaid workers, men, women, boys and girls, are engaged in receiving and answering letters from those who have friends or relatives in the armies and who are seeking to know what has become of them. The agency receives lists of casualties and of prisoners taken from all the combatant countries. These lists are carefully indexed, and the information made available for replying to inquiries, many thousands of which are received daily.

At present about 10,000 letters from soldiers' relatives are received daily. Each day from 300 to 400 visitors from France, Russia, England, Belgium, or Germany call in person to make inquiries. Each day from 800 to 1,200 families are notified that the soldiers whom they have inquired after are safe, although prisoners in one or another of the belligerent countries.

The head of the agency, M. Ador, a wealthy Swiss, is devoting all his time to the work. Among other things, he has made extended investigation of reports of ill-treatment of prisoners, and is able to assure all inquiries that prisoners are being well treated in every country.

The agency now has on file more than 120,000 applications for information from Germany, and 100,900 from France.