The Red Cross blood program performs miracles in saving lives every day, John S. Sinclair, chairman, told the annual meeting of the New York Chapter yesterday. It takes half of the chapter's money, time and effort, he said, "but it is worth every bit of it in satisfaction."

Mr. Sinclair spoke to nearly 500 officials and volunteers in the Barbizon-Plaza Hotel. In the last six years, the New York program here has collected 400,000 pints for national defense, he said, and an equal amount for civilian use.

"The collection for national defense purposes will end or moderate during the next few months," he explained. "While we hope that never again will our Armed Forces be called upon to defend American liberties, we must be ready to expand the program once again should the need arise."

He said nearly 400 pints of blood were delivered daily to local hospitals in the continuous fight against civilian suffering and death.

Since the end of the fighting in Korea, the traditional peace-time services of the organization have contracted to normal size, he said, adding, however, that any thought of reducing them further was unrealistic.

E. Roland Harriman, chairman of the American National Red Cross, stressed the importance of continuing to merit public respect. With Mrs. Harriman as narrator, the activities of the chapter since its founding forty-eight years ago were dramatized by volunteers.

Mr. Sinclair and other officers were re-elected. The following were named to the board: George H. Coppers, Kenneth D. Johnson, James S. Rockefeller, Dr. William B. Parsons, Sylvan Gotshal, Mrs. Richard Rodgers, Mrs. Kenneth B. Turner and Mrs. Carl T. Hogan.