

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

BRAZIL

The Brazilian Red Cross has recently resumed publication of its official review, *Cruz Vermelha Brasileira*.

The new editor, Professor A. Antonino Jaber writes stressing the determination of the National Society to develop its activities. To this end, the new Committee has resumed contact with the different heads of local committees where it met at its headquarters in Rio de Janeiro the Presidents of branches of the States of Sao Paulo, Parana, Rio de Janeiro and the towns of Belo Horizonte, Bahia and Paty de Alferez.

It is satisfactory to learn from this Review that the Red Cross has again organized training courses for voluntary first-aiders and appointed a doctor in charge of this instruction. The 5th training course started on 25 March 1969 at the Society's headquarters with a ceremony at which the wife of the President of the Republic was present.

As regards relief action, the Brazilian Red Cross intervened effectively during the recent floods at Alagôas and distributed clothing and food to the homeless. It should also be mentioned that it is continuing to co-operate closely with the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva over inquiries on persons missing in Brazil.

BURMA

A supplement to the Rangoon newspaper The Working People's Daily was devoted to the Red Cross and its work in Burma. Articles by the President and several leading members of the National Society described the volunteers' function in our movement and the constitution of what is called the International Red Cross. The Society's Executive

Secretary, in a wide survey, evoked the ever greater tasks accomplished in Burma, particularly since 1959. We believe our readers will be interested in a summary of some passages of his article on the usefulness and effectiveness of Red Cross voluntary workers.

At first the most important thing was the recruitment of members. But prospective members had first to be taught what the Red Cross stood for and what it intended to do; in a country where health problems are so important, knowledge of first aid and home nursing is essential.

With assistance from the Directorate of the Medical Services of the Armed Forces, a first aid text book was published. This has since been revised and brought up to date with the assistance of the Directorate of Health. More than 60,000 persons of all ages and occupations have already been trained in first aid, and the number of courses and trainees increases each year.

With the approval of the education authorities, Junior Red Cross Societies are being organized in most middle and high schools to promote health, to undertake certain social welfare activities and increase international understanding among young people of all nations. First aid and home nursing classes and first aid posts were organized in schools. School Red Cross ambulance units were formed and measures were adopted for the prevention of accidents and disease.¹ In addition, through the social welfare programmes, juniors become aware of the existence of the physically-handicapped, of the socially unfortunate and of the sick, especially among children, and of the need to lighten the burden of such persons.

Red Cross ambulance work has become so popular that there is hardly any important public gathering in the country without a Red Cross ambulance unit in attendance. All members of the Red Cross are volunteers. They have to be trained in first aid and are subject to near-military discipline while on Red Cross duty.

The most remarkable feature of these Red Cross volunteers is that ambulance work is only one of the duties. They serve also in other fields: in repair and maintenance of dykes during periods of

¹ *Plate.*—Red Cross volunteers play an important role in the prevention of epidemics by ensuring the vaccination of the population.

BURMA



Photo League of Red Cross Societies Geneva

Red Cross volunteers play an important role in the prevention of epidemics by ensuring the vaccination of the population.

PAKISTAN



Photo League of Red Cross Societies Geneva

Red Cross volunteers receiving equipment against regional impending cyclones and floods : transistor sets, sirens and other instruments enabling them to give warning in time for the inhabitants to take shelter.

flood; they perform rescue and relief work in time of disaster; they disseminate health knowledge; they demonstrate the construction of latrines and the protection of water resources; they collect food, funds and relief supplies for victims of fires, floods and storms; they volunteer their labour for constructive work; recruit blood donors and give their own blood when required. . . .

The Burma Red Cross works side by side with the public authorities for the prevention of epidemics. The work of Red Cross volunteers is important in the prevention of epidemics by carrying out vaccination campaigns when an epidemic threatens and providing first aid in the event of natural disaster.

During the last ten years, in spite of its slender resources, the Red Cross has distributed funds and food to sister societies to help the victims of disasters. In the same way, other National Societies have helped the Burma Red Cross in time of need. In 1961 for instance, when large areas were flooded, Societies donated money and goods. In a recent cyclone disaster, the Society collected relief goods, some of which it already had in store at Akyab at the time of the disaster and which was airlifted as soon as the bad tidings reached Rangoon.

There are Red Cross Societies in practically every township and in some 2,000 villages. The Burma Red Cross roots spread throughout the whole population for the sole purpose of alleviating distress.

PAKISTAN

The preparation of relief as a precaution against disasters is an important task undertaken today in certain countries by the National Societies. It is also an essential part of the programme of the League of Red Cross Societies, whose Relief Section published the following circular relative to East Pakistan:

The Swedish Red Cross, in conjunction with the League, offered to assist the Pakistan Red Cross Society with its pre-disaster