

distributed in the schools, initiate them into the history of the ICRC, in the development of their own National Society as well as the organization of the International Red Cross.

After more than half a century's existence, the Mexican Red Cross performs multiple activities, details of which were mentioned at a recently held assembly in Mexico City by Mr. Cesar Santos Galindo, President of the Society's Board of Governors. Thus the medical services cover numerous fields such as radiography, anaesthetics, a blood bank, clinical analyses. The numbers in these services of all categories reached a total, in 1963, of 159,256, namely 15,000 more than in the previous year. The ambulance services intervened on no less than 1,260,163 occasions during that period, that is to say 1,167 emergency cases each day on an average throughout the country. The Women's Committee works unceasingly and collects considerable funds for relief actions. It also organizes aid with clothing and food for the sick.

The Red Cross exists in order to show initiative and assume entirely new tasks. Then, once the moment has come, after having selflessly initiated new movements, it can stand aside and leave others to continue the work. The Mexican Red Cross is now playing an effective rôle in its own country and in various ways it is setting a fine example.

Sweden

The Swedish Red Cross has informed us of some of its recent activities which we now have pleasure in giving below.

On the occasion of the Centenary.—About three and a half million Swedish Crowns were collected as a result of Swedish Red Cross activities for different helping aims during the International Centenary in the autumn of 1963. A series of campaigns followed one after the other. The national inauguration of the yearly Red Cross week took place in the South of Sweden.

The Prime Minister made the opening speech and one of the Princesses was guest of honour. For several months people could ask for personal gramophone records in a special radio programme which collected money for the Red Cross. In this connection there were many other radio and TV programmes. One period stressed the help to Algeria and a special TV-film on Algeria was produced by the Swedish Red Cross.

With the paper "Our Red Cross" went a form by which money-gifts could be sent through the post. Such forms were sent with a number of other newspapers and magazines as well.

A well known broadcasting personality challenged the Swedish public in quizz-questioning and thus raised money for the Red Cross. In another programme those interested in sewing were encouraged to make layettes for Algerian babies. This year in connection with a popular December festival before Christmas, a fund raising campaign for the handicapped took place which produced nearly 200,000 Crowns.

Air-hostesses collected money for the Red Cross on board aircraft. The staff also gave money and the Air Company concerned gave an equivalent amount.

The Junior Red Cross.—Two young Swedish girls, aged 18 and 20 gave courses in cooking on spirit-stoves, short instruction in the art of painting houses, knowledge in jeep-driving on bad or non-existent roads and in clothes-washing in cold water to future junior delegates in African countries.

The girls came home just before the end of the year, after 6 months voluntary work in a children's home outside Nairobi. Both were enthusiastic about their tasks and only wanted to go back there—the need for help is immense.

Their journey to Kenya was an experiment in co-operation with the British Red Cross in order to obtain experience and basic knowledge for an activity which aims at centering the interest of young Swedish people to take part in work of assistance in under-developed countries. Both girls have worked in a children's home for handicapped and undernourished children. They have taken part in expeditions to villages to visit former patients and to give instruction in first-aid and public health in schools near Nairobi.

To make known the Red Cross and the Convention.—Just in time for the International Red Cross Centenary a brief and popular book about the Red Cross was published in Sweden. Entitled “Strife without violence”, it mainly describes the international humanitarian work, especially the last ten years’ relief work in connection with natural disasters.

Last autumn the Swedish Red Cross also published a pamphlet called “Life or Death” together with a sound film strip. This material describes the four Geneva Conventions in a lively and thorough manner and gives concrete examples of when and how they should be applied.

We would point out that “Life or Death” is an illustrated booklet of 32 pages full of varied information on the Geneva Conventions and their application. Here are some of the chapter-headings: “The wounded must be cared for”, “Protected by the emblem of the Red Cross”, “Maritime warfare”, “What information should a prisoner give?”, “The Fourth Convention”. The booklet ends by drawing attention to the present responsibilities of the Red Cross in time of peace as well as in time of war.

Switzerland

“*La Croix-Rouge suisse*” (No. 3) the Swiss Red Cross Review, published in Berne, announces the building of a school for practical nurses at Chaux-de-Fonds in the Canton of Neuchâtel. It will be recognized officially by the Swiss Red Cross and will be able to accommodate 40-50 students. The ground-floor will comprise the secretariat, the superintendent’s office, a common room for the doctors, a lecture-hall, practical instruction hall, a lounge and a library. The next three storeys will each contain 13 single bedrooms and appurtenances. The fourth floor will contain living quarters for the Matron and ten other rooms.

What is the practical nurse’s function? It is a profession which is comparatively new to Switzerland.