

that save human life, in time of peace as much as in time of war, and the very idea of the operation of Red Cross blood transfusion centres, based on blood given free of charge, has opened up a new dimension in the possibilities of therapy in this field". Examples of what has been achieved by the Haiti Red Cross include the training of over 2,000 first-aiders since 1967, the organization, in co-operation with the Ministry of Public Health, of infant welfare courses attended by 500 students, and the promotion of a successful campaign for the extension of Red Cross local branches to the interior of the country leading to date to eleven Regional Committees' being set up.

Iceland

After the volcano erupted on the Icelandic island of Vestmanna on 23 January, the island had to be evacuated and the entire population of more than 5,000 persons had to be accommodated in Reykjavik.

In close co-operation with government officials, the Icelandic Red Cross began administrative formalities including registration of evacuees, and resettlement. Seven schoolhouses provided temporary accommodation, as did available hotels. All registration and tracing data were computerized, immediately.

The movement of household goods and personal belongings was the next problem. The Red Cross was assisted by civic organizations and volunteers, until Civil Defence authorities took over.

Certain psychological problems were noted among the displaced persons, which led the Red Cross to organize a Consultation Service. Doctors, sociologists and jurists volunteered to help. On the initiative of the Red Cross, the University of Reykjavik conducted the social work investigation.

For the immediate future, the Red Cross plans to continue operating the consultation centre, kindergarten activities, social work, juvenile work, helping elderly persons, training and perhaps education.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Many organizations and individuals, all over the world, have shown great interest in helping the population of the island in its distress. Even though the National Society has not made a formal appeal to sister Societies, many Red Cross Societies have channelled spontaneous contributions to the Icelandic Red Cross.

As always, when the interest is aroused, new ideas pop up and are realized. A most interesting one started in Norway and has caught on in other countries. Pieces of lava have been put in small plastic bags and have been sold by clubs, for fund-raising purposes.

K u w a i t

The ICRC received from the Kuwait Red Crescent Society some interesting items of information on the work performed, from April to September 1972, by a medical team sent by the Society to Bagel Hospital, in the Arab Republic of Yemen. It is with pleasure that we inform our readers of this act of solidarity accomplished, under the emblem of the red crescent, by doctors in a country other than their own for the benefit of persons in need of medical assistance.

A surgeon of Kuwait together with his wife, also a doctor, received about 150 patients daily and examined about 40 pregnant women every week at twice-weekly consultations at the Antenatal Care Clinic. At the Preventive Services Centre, they performed vaccinations against several diseases and made periodical examinations of schoolchildren. A variety of surgical operations were performed, and a number of cases were treated in the urological section.

The Kuwait Red Crescent Society medical team, consisting of the surgeon and his wife, a male nurse and an assistant pharmacist, returned home in September 1972 and were immediately replaced by a new team.
