

Libya

The International Committee announced its recognition of the Libyan Red Crescent in a circular dated September 9, 1959. The Society's mission was to give emergency relief in the event of disaster, to contribute to the struggle against disease, to train medical personnel and to promote our common ideal.

During a recent mission to Libya, Mr. Pierre Gaillard, ICRC Delegate, met the leaders of this National Society who explained to him the tasks at present being undertaken in the country. These are summarized below for our readers. They demonstrate the efforts which have already been exerted and also the firm resolve of the Central Committee to pursue those efforts actively.

In Benghazi, the Red Crescent has set up in its headquarters a school for deaf and dumb children. This is the first institution of its kind in the country and Mr. Gaillard was able to observe how useful was the teaching given to the fifteen pupils by the school mistress.

Two medical clinics are operating in the poor quarters of the capital ; these too are the first of their kind in Libya. Both are in two storey buildings. The patients are treated free of charge and each clinic is run by doctors remunerated by the Red Crescent and assisted by nurses.

In addition, the National Society is planning to set up a further clinic in Benghazi and a fourth at Barce. This town, which was completely destroyed by an earthquake in 1963 has now been almost entirely reconstructed and a permanent medical social service would be desirable. A further detail: the Libyan Red Crescent intends to train more first-aiders and to set up Junior Red Crescent sections in a number of places.