

sea—emergency services in hospitals—safe driving—air rescue—the transport of casualties—first aid in industry and at work—accidents in the home—the ethics of organ transplants—the peaceful use of atomic energy and its medical aspect.

These discussions gave participants opportunities to give accounts of certain specially interesting activities undertaken by their National Societies, showing that humanitarian initiative not only gives immediate and effective assistance but also demonstrates that the Red Cross is ready to intervene everywhere for those who suffer. Such activities which might be mentioned, to quote only a few, were described in addresses by Dr. H. Jeschonnek, on mountain rescue; by Dr. J. F. Apolinario, on first aid, solidarity and peace; by Dr. G. Rosen, on aviation in land and sea rescue service; by Dr. A. C. Santos, on road accidents and their prevention; by Dr. A. Villalon, on first-aiders and accidents at work.

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## Guatemala

*Mr. Amado Padilla, Executive Secretary of the Guatemalan Red Cross, in a statement which we take pleasure in summarizing below, describes the many useful activities carried out by that Society.*

A 24-hour medico-surgical clinic is run at Red Cross headquarters. In an emergency, patients can be visited by a doctor. A permanent medical service sets up first-aid posts on the occasion of some public event, and they keep in touch with one another and with headquarters by means of radiotelephony.

The Red Cross has auxiliary teams, field hospitals, food supplies, medicaments and clothing. It appeals to first aiders and to women volunteers in case of disasters such as fire, floods, epidemics or earthquakes. It is prepared for any situation where a disaster may occur or events lead to some internal disturbance in any part of the country. Its branch delegations and sub-delegations render

numerous services in the medico-social sphere. They have medical clinics, dispensaries and ambulance services (there are 45 ambulances for the country as a whole and 21 for the capital). In Guatemala City, each service is run by a doctor, and in answer to an appeal it provides immediate first aid for the sick or injured and conveys them to a hospital, clinic or nursing home. A special service is responsible for transferring patients who arrive by plane, rail or bus to one of those institutions or for taking them home.

To ensure that the international humanitarian rules are applied, the Guatemalan Red Cross has free access to places of detention and prisons. It visits them and does its utmost to see that the provisions relating to prisoners or persons detained for political reasons are respected. It provides fully equipped portable dispensaries for those school centres which have a Red Cross section and, where circumstances allow it to do so, donates special appliances to national hospitals and blood plasma to welfare institutions.

The Committee of Women Volunteers frequently supplies clothing for children in hospital and helps disaster victims regardless of their nationality. It provides food and medicaments for private or official centres which may be in need of them. The emergency medical service can thus count on the co-operation of qualified first aiders and women Red Cross volunteers in the delicate and arduous duties of the auxiliary nurse.

The Red Cross spreads knowledge about the general concepts of hygiene among the population, and it distributes posters and pamphlets on life and health protection. With the voluntary aid of members of the medical profession, it has set up schools for the training of first aiders, women Red Cross auxiliaries and home-care nurses. It holds periodic courses on relief work, first aid and home care, for groups of volunteers who receive a diploma on successfully passing their final examination. It ceaselessly opens new Red Cross Youth sections in State schools and private schools.

It may be added that the National Society recently founded a blood bank service. Under the direction of experts, this service is to carry out its activities at national level as soon as its resources allow it to do so.