

improvisation in emergency feeding. A scale model of an emergency kitchen, to cope with meals for 1000 people demonstrated the necessity for constructive planning but also clearly indicated the simplicity with which available materials could be used to the very best advantage.

Although the State-wide emergencies of 1961 were small, compared with fires and floods in other parts of the world, the Western Australian Division of the Australian Society gained invaluable experience in emergency relief and the lessons learned during this period proved of great value to the course instructors.

All major emergency relief in this State is controlled by the Civil Emergency Service and the Red Cross Society is responsible for the Blood Transfusion Service and the traditional Welfare role.

These courses are being conducted by Red Cross staff, who, in addition, have themselves attended a special three weeks Instructors' Course at the Australian School of Civil Defence at Mt. Macedon in Victoria.

Ireland

On the occasion of the commemoration in 1963 of the Centenary of the Red Cross, the President of the Irish Republic, Mr. Eamon de Valera, addressed a message at the end of 1962 to the members of the National Society, in which he called upon the energy of all to extend the work which they were serving and render it ever more effective.

We now have pleasure in giving the text of this message below :

In the coming year, the International Red Cross will commemorate the hundredth anniversary of its foundation.

The Irish Red Cross Society proposes to participate in the international commemoration of the centenary to be held in Switzerland. It also plans to organise certain events at home to mark the occasion. The projects planned are eminently suitable and their success demands the active support of all our members.

Members of the Society could, however, add to them an even more worthy and permanent commemoration of the centenary by organising the formation of new branches where there are none, by recruiting new members to existing branches and by extending and perfecting the local activities of the Society.

I suggest, accordingly, that a special effort be made in 1963 to ensure that no town or parish in our country will be without an active Branch of the Irish Red Cross Society. Let us not wait for the occurrence of some emergency, or the coming of some new and terrible war, to increase the membership and extend the work of the Society.

It is not in war-time alone that work is found to be done under the standard of the Red Cross. An emergency, or sudden disaster, may occur at any time. The sick, the orphan, the disabled, the homeless are always there, yearning for consolation and relief, while the great precept of charity recognises neither racial nor territorial boundary. Moreover, in every country, work with the Red Cross means valuable national service, work which can provide training in citizenship and health for both young and old.

Let us therefore commemorate this centenary year by adding to the strength of our Society and by extending its influence to every corner of our country. In this way, we can best promote the aims and ideals of the International Red Cross. Thus, too, we can best be prepared to answer the call of our fellowman, whether at home or abroad, should the need arise.

To the work therefore, and may God reward each of you a hundredfold for his share.