

adopted by the Civil Defence organization to be incorporated in the first-aid courses organized jointly by the Luxemburg Red Cross and Civil Defence.

Switzerland

Looking through the *Report of the Swiss Red Cross for 1960*, in French and German, one cannot help being struck by the large number of regional branches and voluntary institutions which have been set up throughout the country ; it thus gives a general impression of work carried out in a spirit of unity and solidarity, in the villages as in the towns, for the well-being of the nation as a whole.

On a national level, a large part of this report is taken up with the recruitment and training of volunteers for the *Voluntary Medical Service of the Army*. In 1960, 120 Red Cross recruits took part in preliminary courses in which they learnt the rudiments of their future work ; this was followed by a supplementary course and for the first time four Red Cross units attended the technical courses. The training programme for this Voluntary Medical Service consists of optional exercises as refresher courses in this technical training, a Red Cross staff course for group leaders and another for head nurses.

A further important section is that concerned with *hospital equipment* : beds, bedding, linen for the patients, etc. These stocks are stored in 73 different places, chosen with a view to easy distribution in the event of war, disaster, etc.

The Blood Transfusion Service run by the Swiss Red Cross continues to grow : by the end of 1960 some 150,000 donors had given their blood freely. In cases of necessity, especially in rural areas, mobile units of the donors department take blood on the spot. These units are very active, since there is a growing demand in the clinics and hospitals of the large urban centres.

In the field of *nursing*, the Society hopes to see an increase in the number of candidates for the professional schools. The report

points out in this connection that the number of students has indeed grown, but due to the ever increasing demand, recruitment must be intensified, as well as training for auxiliary nursing personnel.

Elementary courses in home nursing have met with considerable success and in several towns they are included in the official programme of the higher schools and domestic science colleges. Moreover, to remain in the field of teaching, we should like to mention an interesting innovation: *the courses for voluntary aids*; after theoretical training and a period of practical volunteer work, girls and young women are thereby able to give useful support to the professional nursing personnel in the event of disaster, epidemics or war. We should like to point out in this connection that the Swiss Red Cross can rely on voluntary personnel already in action: the voluntary Red Cross workers who give care and attention to the disabled, old people living alone and chronic invalids.

Still on the national level, we should mention this Society's important action within the social welfare and relief services in the event of disasters. By way of example we could quote the "Sponsorship for Swiss children" and especially, within this action, the "Beds for Swiss children" which was launched in 1954 and continues to grow: by the end of 1960, 3,369 fully-equipped beds had been distributed and a further 2,570 packets of additional bedding, representing in all a value of 1,260,000 Swiss francs; these figures alone prove the worth of this action. The Swiss Red Cross participates in the activities of different associations on behalf of Swiss children and needy Swiss families; as regards the latter, requests from over 500 families were answered with consignments of clothing, linen, beds and other pieces of furniture.

Under the heading *Activities abroad*, the report mentions, first of all, the "Aid to children", which grew up at the end of the last war and still continues to function by constantly adapting itself to new circumstances and the needs which these create. The scope of the work to be done in this respect has been considerably extended, for now not only children affected by the war are aided, but

also those from under-developed countries. Also in connection with children from abroad, among other interesting and efficient initiatives, a home was set up in Gstaad, where nearly 3,000 tubercular or tubercular-threatened children have already been received. The progress achieved in the field of anti-tuberculosis prophylaxis now makes the home less necessary for this purpose, but the house remains open to all children affected by diseases requiring a stay at a high altitude.

The relief action abroad is equally important. Among other things, the report mentions the aid to Algerian refugees in Morocco and Tunisia, which takes the form of distribution of foodstuffs, clothing and blankets. The International Rehabilitation Programme which was created in 1960 on behalf of Moroccans paralyzed by adulterated cooking oil has given interesting results ; the Swiss Red Cross played an important part in treating the victims, in particular by sending specialized personnel (doctors, physiotherapists, nurses, etc.). As already mentioned in the *Revue internationale*, this Society was represented in the Congo ; it has also generously come to the aid of aged refugees and families in Northern Greece, of the victims of earthquakes in Iran and Chile, and of the floods last year in Eastern Pakistan and India. Finally, as the result of an appeal to the population, the Swiss Red Cross received a total of 1,417,000 francs on behalf of the victims of the earthquake at Agadir ; this sum enabled it to participate in the reconstruction of the hospital and, jointly with other Swiss organizations, to play an important part in the building of a " Swiss city ".

A large part of this report is taken up with the activities of the numerous branches of this Red Cross Society and of its auxiliary institutions. The latter are particularly interesting since they bear witness to the close co-operation which can be established between a Red Cross Society and organized groups—such as the Swiss " Samaritan " Alliance, for example—whose aims are similar and sometimes identical ; this close co-operation eliminates the danger of dispersed efforts, which can be so detrimental to the efficiency of humanitarian work.