

Austria

The Austrian Junior Red Cross has for the fifth time held a seminar on the Red Cross and international humanitarian law. It took place at Strobl, St. Wolfgang, on 5 and 6 April 1974. Mr. F. de Mulinen, representing the ICRC, and Mr. F. Wendl, a National Society legal adviser, spoke on the Geneva Conventions. Mr. de Mulinen also described the duties of the ICRC. The discussions which followed centered on the most effective way of teaching humanitarian principles in schools and the import of Red Cross action in the world today.

The meeting was attended by thirty teachers of history (secondary education) and by representatives of several military schools and of the Austrian Ministry of the Interior. "Pax", an ICRC film, was shown during the seminar, and a lively discussion ensued. The film, which is meant for adults and the young alike, illustrates some essential rules of the Geneva Conventions.

The National Society sponsored a meeting, held at Ischl and Litzelberg on 7 April, of schoolchildren who volunteered to act as spokesmen for the Red Cross in schools. The ICRC representative reviewed the principles of the Red Cross and described ICRC activities to the boys and girls, aged fourteen to seventeen, who showed a keen interest in the problems outlined.

Bahrain

In September 1972, the International Committee officially recognized the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, which had been founded two years earlier. The Society's Information Committee recently issued a statement about some of the activities carried out over the past four years. This information is given below. One of the Society's immediate priorities is to establish trade schools, a

hairdressing school and a school for the training of typists. For the latter, some fifty students, both men and women, have been selected for the six-month course. Courses will begin when an adequate number of typewriters has been acquired.¹

We might add that representatives of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society attended the recent International Conference of the Red Cross, in Teheran, and took part in the proceedings concerning community services.

* * *

In 1972, the Society held its first International Charity Bazaar, in which eight Arab and European countries participated.

It rendered assistance during the anti-cholera campaign recently conducted in Bahrain.

Health committees were formed to spread health education among Bahraini families, under a programme including the showing of films, visits to homes, and other activities such as promoting health awareness about rural latrines in villages. The Society rendered aid to needy families in Bahrain after the condition of each family had been studied by the Social Committee. In addition, help in the form of clothing and foodstuffs and monthly allowances was given to certain people.

The Society also sent aid to the victims of war or disaster in Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

Some members of the Society sewed clothes which were distributed to poor girls in government schools. A sewing course was organized, and the first group of pupils passed the test at the Sewing Centre. The course will enable poor girls to improve their living conditions and provide them with a means of earning a living.

Social service and health education courses have been arranged for members of the Society, and the members of six first-aid groups have graduated.

Arrangements are being made for a long-term programme of collecting used clothing. A special committee will be responsible for collecting, preparing and distributing such clothing.

¹ See *Panorama*, League of Red Cross Societies, 1973/7.

The Blood Bank established by the Society plays an important part in supplying the Government Hospital with blood donors. In Bahrain thanks to the efforts of the Blood Bank, there are enough blood donors to cover all requirements.

The Bahrain Red Crescent has arranged for a medical team to visit Nabi Saleh island. An ambulance is sent over every week, during sports events, to attend to casualties in case of accidents.

Five volunteers have been sent to Jordan to attend courses in management, organization and social services.

Spain

The *Revista de la Cruz Roja Española*, in its February 1974 issue, published an interesting article on the history of nursing from its beginnings. The article lays stress on the spirit of service with which every nursing trainee must be imbued if she is to carry out her duties well.

It pays a tribute to Florence Nightingale, beside whom it evokes the figure of Concepción Arenal, a Spanish woman of the same period whose activities were eminently humanitarian. As a sociologist and writer, she was appointed general visitor of women's prisons by Queen Isabel II, and, like Florence Nightingale in England, concerned herself with the social status of women in her country.

The Spanish Red Cross has always been very active in the sphere of nursing care. In 1918 it founded the first school for nurses, which was officially recognized in 1922. Subsequently, the Red Cross nursing unit was formed. There is also a body of Red Cross women voluntary aids, founded in 1917, which now has 30,850 members. Further, the Red Cross is planning to train nursing aids.

Here are a few figures which sum up the National Society's work in training nurses in an ever-larger number of schools, which award officially recognized diplomas.