

tical courses and a great many practical exercises, called for active participation by all delegates, who for a whole week went to a village where they carried out operations for the benefit of the inhabitants.

Since the Institute had not provided for any specific course on the Red Cross, the League and ICRC representatives made appropriate use of the Red Cross material which had been made available for the occasion. In addition to the League's posters, from the first day of the meeting the ICRC's sixteen posters and three notices concerning the Geneva Conventions were affixed in the halls where the courses were to be held. The participants were also supplied with a number of documents on the International Red Cross and saw the film "Red Cross on White Field".

The quality of the courses and the delegates' regular attendance made for the seminar's complete success and showed the value of the practical and theoretical work carried out.

RED CROSS MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ACTIVITIES IN RELIEF OPERATIONS

The Swedish Red Cross organized in November 1972 at Stockholm a conference of the Scandinavian National Societies, the League and the ICRC.¹ Its main purpose was to examine medical and surgical activities, at national and international level, in Red Cross relief operations. Among the different problems considered were the following:

Recruitment and training of delegates.—A majority of participants said they wanted to step up the recruitment of delegates in their own countries, and requested the international Red Cross organizations to take steps to train delegates in international relief work and to ensure more efficient co-ordination in dealing with the practical problems involved.

¹ Medical and Surgical Activities in Humanitarian Relief Works with the Red Cross—International Organization and Leadership and Preparation on National Level.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Integration of National Society medical teams in joint actions.—Several suggestions were put forward, including the following: this type of operation should have a strong central directorate; the international institutions of the Red Cross should clearly define responsibilities at all levels and draw up clear-cut plans; co-ordination, at Geneva and in the field, and liaison between the two, should be better than it is.

Technical questions.—Action should be taken to standardize equipment and data concerning pharmaceutical products.

Research and development.—National Society representatives suggested that a technical bureau should be set up at Geneva, that Red Cross Societies should keep in regular contact with each other and that the ICRC and League should as soon as possible define the exact role this newly-created bureau would be called upon to play.

The Swedish Red Cross undertook to draw up a report on the work carried out at the meeting and the suggestions put forward.

Philippines

The Philippine National Red Cross was inaugurated as a national organization on 15 April 1947. To commemorate the silver jubilee of that event, celebrations were held last year, and a special two-volume publication was issued by the Society. We are happy to pay tribute to the appearance of this book.

The first volume is entitled *Achievement and Progress*. In about 200 pages of text accompanied by many illustrations, it gives, first, a chronicle of the growth of the Philippine National Red Cross from 1899 and of its activities today in various fields (Nursing Service; Red Cross Youth; Disaster Preparedness and Relief Service; Safety Services; Blood Program; Home-Military Welfare Service; International Relations; Volunteer Service) and, in its second part, a record of the activities of its 71 provincial and city chapters situated strategically in various points of the country, all