

staff comprises five laboratory assistants, two nurses and a secretary. Several doctors give their services to keep the centre open day and night. The Red Cross hopes this year to harvest 2,000 flasks of blood and if the public does respond favourably to its appeals it plans to collect blood in other towns.

India

Last year the Indian Red Cross celebrated its 50th anniversary. On 5 November 1970, in the large Vigyan Bhavan room in New Delhi, an official ceremony was attended by the leaders of the National Society, delegates of local branches, and representatives of the international Red Cross institutions, of thirty National Societies and of the diplomatic corps.

In an eloquent opening address, Shri K. K. Shah, Minister of Health and Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society greeted the Society's guests and all who supported its daily work, after which he evoked the ideal of the Red Cross according to which all men were members of a single family. The future of Red Cross and the future of peace were interminably entwined. If the world was to survive everyone must respect that ideal expressed in the words: "above all nations is Humanity". The history of the Red Cross was the history of the victory of generosity over hate, of life over death, of health over sickness and of peace over war.

The ICRC representative, Mr. Jean C. Ott, then read a message from Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the International Committee, conveying congratulations, good wishes and also a testimony of gratitude: "When, in 1961, the International Committee of the Red Cross awarded the medical team sent by your Society to the Congo a medal in recognition of their dedicated services, it also intended thereby to express its praise for all the members of your Society, which supported that team in its humanitarian work right

to the very end. Such solidarity with fellow-men abroad is proof of your Society's maturity and vitality. The various ICRC delegates who, since 1960, have visited the Indian Red Cross Society are unanimous in their recognition of the value of its members and their spirit of fellowship.

We hope that your Society's example over the past fifty years will inspire other National Societies and that in your own country the whole nation will ever support the high ideal for which you stand and will always help you in carrying on your noble mission as diligently as in the past ”.

On behalf of the League of Red Cross Societies, Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, Vice-Chairman of the League Board of Governors and President of the Australian Red Cross Society, recalled the important contribution of the Indian Red Cross to the common cause and also the team-spirit which it had so amply demonstrated. The Indian Red Cross had not only effectively accomplished a wide variety of humanitarian tasks in India; it had responded generously to appeals to Red Cross solidarity. The League joined wholeheartedly in the congratulations and good wishes for the Indian Red Cross.

The Minister of Information, Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, then presented the stamp issued by the postal authorities to commemorate this Golden Jubilee. The President of the Republic then paid tribute to the National Red Cross of which he is the Honorary President.

He first referred to Henry Dunant and his relief work for war victims more than a century ago. That work had expanded and today, although the Red Cross was born on the field of battle, its programme in time of peace was also constantly developing. Congratulating the Society for the work it had carried out in many fields, Shri V. V. Giri continued:

“ The appeal of the Red Cross movement is universal because it is based on human fellowship. To us in India the ideal of oneness of humanity forms the bedrock of our age-old culture. Our saints and seers have repeated this message time and again . . .

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

... The alternative before the world today is peace and progress or annihilation in a nuclear war. In this strife-torn world, an organization like the Red Cross, dedicated to the ideals of peace and goodwill, has a great role to play. We have to create a climate of peace and I hope the Red Cross movement will become a great factor in the achievement of lasting peace . . .

... The Indian Red Cross can look back with satisfaction on its record of service. Its Golden Jubilee is no doubt an occasion for joy, but it is also an occasion for calm reflection and introspection about how you can improve your services. ”

The ceremony was followed by a two-session seminar on 5 and 7 November, also in New Delhi. The substantial discussions were based on three themes:

- 1) League's Development Programme in the context of the Challenges of a Changing World;
- 2) Red Cross as a Major Factor in Social Work and Role of Youth in it;
- 3) Role of the ICRC in International and Internal Conflicts. This last topic was the subject of a paper by Mr. Michel Barde, representing the ICRC at the seminar which was attended by several important members of the Red Cross movement.

There were several receptions generously offered to the participants, as well as demonstrations of first aid which showed clearly the National Society's excellent organization. On 7 November, the closing ceremony was enlivened by junior members of the Indian and other Red Cross Societies.
