

GUYANA

We quote, below, excerpts from a report by Leonard Isler, ICRC regional delegate, on his mission to Guyana in August. Other interesting information quoted hereunder, on the work of the Guyana Red Cross, is taken from that National Society's Annual Report for 1975.

Three of the National Society's main activities are the operation of a convalescent home for children, a school for handicapped children and a lending library for hospital patients. When the ICRC delegate visited the Princess Elizabeth Convalescent Home for Children, a score of children were there. Several were waifs who would remain in the Home until they were adopted. The Home, which employs eighteen people, is primarily for infants aged from 6 months to one year.

The David Rose School for Handicapped Children, also run by the Society, had on its roll at the end of the school year, July 1975, 153 children; nine of them blind, 61 mentally retarded, and 83 deaf. The Ministry of Education made specialist training available to several teachers on the staff.

The Red Cross founded, two years ago, a sheltered workshop where children and adults may receive training in woodwork, leathercraft, wirework, gardening and other crafts. When the workshop began its second year in January 1975, there were nineteen persons enrolled for training. The workshop has proved so successful that it cannot cope with the demand for places. From time to time the workshop organizes exhibitions and sales of work.

The ICRC has sent the Guyana Red Cross several tons of powdered milk provided by the Swiss Government. The milk is distributed daily at the convalescent home and the David Rose School.

As can be seen from the facts and figures given in its Annual Report, the National Society performs many other useful activities effectively, such as the training of VAD's, and courses in first aid and nursing to students and workers. In 1975, 187 certificates were awarded in first aid, 22 in mother and child care, and 33 in nursing.