

REFUGEES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has published a pamphlet, entitled "Emergency 1967", on the wide scale relief action undertaken in June 1967 on behalf of displaced persons who had not previously been registered with the Agency. One extract reads as follows :

" Within days after the fighting broke out in the Middle East on 5 June, thousands of Arab families had fled from the areas occupied by the armed forces of Israel. For UNRWA, this meant new tasks and new burdens demanding urgent action.

At once, UNRWA began supplying urgently food and medicine for these newly-displaced people—many of them refugees for the second time in their lives—and resumed its services to the refugees already registered with UNRWA in the areas directly affected by the war. Elsewhere, UNRWA's services continued without interruption . . .

The emergency assistance for Arab refugees in the Middle East in 1967 has been a combined operation to which the Governments directly concerned, other donor Governments, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, UNRWA, UNICEF, the World Food Programme, the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, national and international non-governmental organizations and countless individuals in many parts of the world have all made essential contributions.

UNRWA has taken special measures for feeding and sheltering the refugees and for providing drinking water, medical care and sanitation services.

Before the hostilities, most refugees were able to supplement UNRWA's monthly issue of dry rations with vegetables and meat purchased from their meagre earnings. The majority of the newly-displaced persons are penniless and without work. UNRWA has therefore extended its distribution of milk and cooked meals.

Persons outside the camps as well as in them benefit from these services.

By agreement with the Jordan Government, UNRWA is now running six emergency tented camps in East Jordan, in which more than 50,000 newly-displaced persons are accommodated. Temporary shelter in tents has also been arranged for 10,000 newly-displaced Palestine refugees in Syria."

MEDICINE IN THE MODERN WORLD

The first World Medical Law Congress was held in Ghent from August 21 to 24, 1967, and was attended by representatives from thirty-six countries. Most participants were doctors but there were also many lawyers, moralists, theologians and sociologists who came to compare experiences and opinions on such topics as the doctor's place in modern society, medical experiments, the doctor's responsibility, medical practice in time of war, etc.

At the opening session the theme dealt with was *Medicine in the Modern World*. What makes discussion between legal and medical experts necessary is the renovation of medical science. Thought can and must be given to this renovation or innovation but we can say that it is medicine which is the new factor; it is medicine which sets the problems and must be called in question. The medical profession as a whole has found its feet, built up its own modern structure and earned its prestige and standard of living during the XIXth century. Whilst not unmindful of its historical and sociological origins, it has, nevertheless, had several reasons to consider the conditions which were provided for its exercise in the course of that period. The legal texts which professional circles have drafted over the last half century (the Medical Charter in France, the Principles adopted by the World Medical Association, etc.) are illustrative of these trends of thought . . . For tens of thousands of years sickness