

## A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

paediatrics, sanitation and hygiene (public health), stomatology, and pharmacy. There were faculties of general medicine in all but ten of the institutes. There were 75 faculties of therapeutics, 30 of paediatrics, 20 of sanitation and hygiene, 24 of stomatology, and 17 of pharmacy. (There are now 86 medical institutes, including medical faculties in universities), 76 faculties of general medicine, 35 paediatric faculties, 25 faculties of sanitation and hygiene, 32 of stomatology, 17 of pharmacy and one of medical biology).

Approximately 180,000 students were attending the undergraduate courses of the five faculties, and the annual number of graduates from them was estimated to be about 30,000...

---

### **The Development Programme of the League in Sierra Leone, by G. G. Bolton, *The Red Cross World, Geneva, 1964, No. 1.***

As long ago as 1462 a Portuguese adventurer, Pedro da Cintra, gave Sierra Leone its name... the Lion Mountains. Today, an additional, description has been put on a recent postage stamp issue... « Land of Iron Ore and Diamonds ». The possibility of kicking up a diamond out of the dust in the Lion Mountains offers interesting possibilities to the prospective visitor !

Compared to Tanganyika and Nigeria, the two other African countries which I have visited, Sierra Leone looks very small indeed, the land area being only 28,000 square miles and the population two and a quarter million. Small though it may be, the people are showing an increasing drive in their determination to achieve better standards of life. There is a general spirit of friendliness and here people of many nationalities and colour work together in remarkable harmony. Though new roads are being built, many are still just laterite, deeply corrugated and dusty in the dry season, slippery and treacherous in the rains. Having driven for some 7,000 miles during my assignment and been stuck on the road for nine hours, I speak of conditions from experience.

The National headquarters of the Sierra Leone Red Cross are in Liverpool Street, Freetown. The road slopes steeply down. At the bottom is the Connaught Hospital with the sea beyond and ships which frequently come from that other Liverpool far away. The first group of freed slaves returning from America landed on the coast where Freetown now stands. The nearby village of Wilberforce perpetuates the name of that great champion of freedom. Many of the inhabitants of the area are direct descendants of the original settlers. Twelve completely

different languages are spoken, including Creole, which is a pidgin English.

**Basis of Society.**—The Society's President, Dr Davidson Nicol, is the Principal of Fourah Bay College, the University College of Sierra Leone, founded in 1827. He is a Foundation Scholar of Christ's College, Cambridge and a man of high intellectual attainment.

Mr Roy Macaulay, Chairman of the Executive, Acting Director of Prisons, was trained in the London School of Economics and has been a social worker all his life.

Mrs Gladys Brandon, National Secretary, has been working at National headquarters for ten years, has made study visits to England in 1960, attended the International Study Centre in Founex and the Centenary Congress in Geneva, in 1963. Recently she returned from a study visit to the American Red Cross.

In addition to the National headquarters, the Society has a Divisional headquarters in Bo, the second largest town in the country. New Divisional headquarters are being built in Kenema and Makeni, the former being donated by the Indian community in Freetown, the latter being built for the Society by the local Member of Parliament, the Hon. Massaquoi, whose wife plays a very active part on the Divisional Committee. Thus there will very shortly be four main centres from which the Red Cross can operate with training programmes, milk clinics, local relief operations and the like.

**Clinics fight malnutrition.**—Milk clinics are one of the greatest needs for nursing and expectant mothers and the many undernourished children. The Society has been making regular issues in Freetown and Bo. In the other two places, they have been rather spasmodic due to lack of facilities. These will shortly be overcome and the full benefit of the scheme will be felt by over 1000 adults and children. This figure will grow as more volunteers are recruited and possibly mobile milk clinics are organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Development. It is estimated that in some parts of the country many children die under the age of one due to malnutrition or allied causes. Even measles can be a killer to such children: in a recent outbreak over 40 died in one village, seven in one house alone.

**Teachers train as first aiders.**—Four courses in first aid and general Red Cross knowledge were organised in the last two months I was there, in Kenema, Makeni, Bo and Freetown. The very real interest of those attending was borne out by the fact that out of the 163 who came regularly (only those who attended every session were allowed to take the exam), 129 passed, 38 with credits. The exams were conducted by doctors or qualified nurses. As many of the successful candidates were either fully qualified teachers or from teacher-training colleges, most of

## A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

the 30 schools I visited to form new Links will now have the necessary instructors to give the children a sound basic knowledge upon which to build. These courses also included information on blood donor panels, Red Cross organisation and relief work in various parts of the world, illustrated by films loaned by the League, the British Council and the United States Information Service which also loaned me a projector and screen for four months.

**Tragedy of ignorance.**—The very great need for first aid knowledge was illustrated in tragic fashion not long ago when a little girl, who had fallen in the bush and cut her lip on a stone, was brought to a mission hospital near Bo by some schoolboys who did not know how to stop the bleeding. She died shortly after admission due to loss of blood. Simple digital pressure would have saved her life. On another happier occasion, just as we were about to start a course in Kenema, a motor-cyclist fell off his machine right outside the hall where we were training. He received immediate assistance, thus providing the chance to show the class that what we were teaching was really practical, and at the same time easing the pain for the injured man.

**Field officers recruited.**—I visualise, in course of time, small groups of trained Red Cross members in many of the villages along the main roads, whose presence will be indicated by signs similar to those seen in Europe. Part of my work was to help with the training of two recently recruited Field Officers and a third who has been working alone in the country for some time. These three young men have already started work up-country and will be able to further this programme in the coming years. At the same time, they will be able to follow up the work among Juniors. So much depends upon these youngsters whose minds are free from many of the superstitions which still loom largely in the ideas of their elders.

I left Sierra Leone feeling that the work had been well worth-while, that I had made some most valuable friends and confident that, given proper support and encouragement, the Society will eventually take its place among the most progressive African members of the League.

The enervating climate is a big factor and places a heavy strain on anyone after a certain time. But the most wearying feature, as I could see very clearly while I was there, was the fact that the delegates must always be at the heart of the work. They must be everywhere at once, guiding, supervising, occasionally scolding, otherwise the work would simply not be done. The key word in their assignment is « operational ». Every achievement they gained was made because they « rolled up their sleeves ». They set the example by working side by side with the refugees on the houses, in the fields and in draining the marshes. This meant that they spent most of their time travelling around the centres. They were constantly at the wheel, battling along roads which are less than

cart tracks. Under these conditions, every mile to be covered is an adventure.

The delegates have done more than their duty : they have worked not only with their heads and hands but also with their hearts. They began from scratch and have built up the centres with their experience and determination...

---

**The Story of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation** by Marjorie Killby, *International Nursing Review*, London, Vol. 10, No. 6.

... The overall objective for the Foundation as defined by the first " Florence Nightingale International Foundation " (FNIF) Council within the International Council of Nurses (ICN) was :

" To improve nursing throughout the world through the stimulation and improvement of education for nursing."

The specific objectives of the Foundation were described as

- 1) The creation of a centre of information in regard to nursing and nursing education.
- 2) The development of a bibliography pertaining to the life and work of Florence Nightingale.
- 3) The promotion of research and conduct of studies in nursing...

From 1951 to 1957, four studies in nursing and nursing education were undertaken, resulting in the following reports :

" An International List of Advanced Programmes in Nursing Education " (1951-52) ;

" How to survey a School of Nursing ; A suggested method illustrated with samples of five Post-Basic Schools " (1954) ;

" Post-Basic Nursing Education ; Principles and Practices of Nursing Education " Vol. I-II (1954-57) (1957) ;

" Basic Nursing Education ; Principles and Practices of Nursing Education " (1954-1958).

Also in that period the extensive work on a Bibliography of Florence Nightingale was started.

At the ICN Congress in 1957 it was decided that the Florence Nightingale International Foundation should come more closely within the administrative framework of the ICN and it was decided that the ICN should establish an Educational Division of its own to be called the Florence Nightingale Education Division, to undertake the current educational work of the organisation including a consultative service in regard to nursing education, and fairly extensive field work ;