

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Ecuador

As part of the League Junior Red Cross Bureau's five-year plan (1965-1970) a new formula has been tried out in Ecuador for accident prevention and first aid training. The JRC took the initiative in this pilot project, with the help of an instructor on loan from the American National Red Cross.

For six weeks (13 February to 23 March 1967), 264 persons holding key-posts in education, the police, the army, public health, as well as students, met every day for an hour to learn more about accident prevention at home and at work and the steps to be taken in case of emergencies. After joint instruction on the first day, the participants were organised into five groups, following separate courses.

Three Ecuadorean Red Cross nurses assisted the instructor during the courses; their co-operation had already proved most useful during the preparatory phase in establishing lecture material as well as visual aids which helped to make instruction clearer.

The professional experience of the majority of participants enabled them not only to attend as students but also to help train their course colleagues in subjects such as national health campaigns, fire protection, first aid, accident prevention in connection with electrical installations, etc.

Another fruitful aspect of this course was the involvement of persons from different organisations in round-table discussions and informal talks. Health education, sanitation in public markets, civil defence and safety were thus discussed in detail.