

Great Britain

The International Review has on several occasions mentioned the help given by the Red Cross in many countries to the handicapped. It published an article some time ago on the International Games for the Paralyzed organized in Tokyo in 1964. To their success the Japanese Red Cross contributed with effect through its juniors and the interpreters who established contact between competitors of different countries.¹ We think it to be of interest to give extracts of an article which recently appeared in the British press which proves that the Junior Red Cross is also most active in Great Britain and knows how to sacrifice part of its holidays to handicapped children.²

Thirty Berkshire school children went to school again last week—only a few days after they had broken up.

They were all boy and girl cadets of the Junior Red Cross, selected from volunteers to give a holiday to 26 handicapped children from all parts of the country.

I went down to Heathfield School, near Ascot, where, thanks to the governors, the camp was being held. The girls of Heathfield had sportingly helped to make the camp possible by contributing towards its cost.

The school's beautifully kept grounds were ideal for out-of-doors activities. There was a programme, flexibly planned, for every day of the week, with camp fires, conjuring, games, local trips, handicrafts, drawing and painting, film shows—and daily visits to the school tuck shop.

Each cadet was assigned a handicapped boy or girl to look after (there were also skilled nursing staff on hand in case of need).

¹ See *International Review*, April 1965.

² John Lucas - Sunday Telegraph, London, 6 August 1967.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Many of the children were spastics or victims of muscular dystrophy or polio and had to be taken about in wheel-chairs.

The cadets brought immense patience and understanding to their task. They began the day by bringing their charges a cup of tea in their rooms. They washed the children's clothes, waited on them at table, and helped to put them to bed—touches of luxury for those with little, and in some cases, nothing to look forward to.

The commandant of the camp said the camp—and the 30 other summer camps which the J.R.C. runs for handicapped children in Britain—had three aims: to give handicapped children a “carefree and adventurous” holiday, to give their parents a well-earned week's rest, and to help the cadets to fulfil their motto, “Serve one another.”

Many adults gave a hand, too. One of the veterans was a cadet officer who has helped to run five holiday camps of this kind. Part of his job last week was to act as lifeguard at the swimming pool. Handicapped children particularly enjoyed swimming, he explained, because the water “supported” them and enabled them to become more agile and to gain confidence.

On the afternoon I visited Heathfield, the cadets and children were looking on, not jumping in. A lively “water spectacular” was provided for them with as much skill as enthusiasm by young members of a Club.

Pakistan

According to a communication sent by the Pakistan Red Cross to the League, over one million persons were affected by the floods, in July 1967, while 200,000 were left homeless. Even strongly-