

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-

built houses were severely damaged by the fierce water currents. The people rendered homeless have been forced to take shelter in hundreds of temporary relief centres set up in school buildings and at other places arranged by the Karachi administration. All social welfare organisations in Karachi mobilised their resources under the Social Welfare Directorate General of the Government of West Pakistan to avoid overlapping and duplication of efforts. The Pakistan Red Cross played its traditional role in alleviating human suffering in co-operation with other organisations having similar objectives and supplemented the Government's efforts in providing succour to the sick and suffering in this calamity.

The Society put into commission two mobile medical units, operated by its Karachi Branch, as an immediate measure to provide medical aid to the flood victims. Under the supervision of qualified doctors and other medical staff these units were fully equipped with all essential drugs and medicines and worked round the clock since the 26th July at eleven places where the homeless people were located. This prompt medical aid has considerably relieved the suffering of the rain victims and mass inoculation of the people against cholera, typhoid and smallpox by the Red Cross medical staff has immunised them from epidemics which were feared would break out.

In addition to the free medical services, the Pakistan Red Cross has distributed through its Karachi Branch large quantities of bedding, new and used clothing for men, women and children, pyjamas and kits of toilet items and is continuing to give what assistance it can to the flood victims.